Welcome Veronica Jones

Ms. Veronica Jones is a St. Louis native, currently finishing her Bachelor's of Music Education with a vocal emphasis at Webster University. During her time at Webster, she has been a recipient of the Jean Senor Memorial Scholarship, Peggy Fossett endowed scholarship, and the Buder Foundation scholarship for both her academic success and performance skills. She has also held numerous leadership roles at the University, such as being President of Webster's Chapter of the National Association of Music Education and being the alto section leader in Webster University's flagship ensemble, Chamber Singers. Ms. Jones was also the selected winner of the Concerto Aria competition through Webster University, and has been a selected soloist for major works such as Vivaldi's Gloria. Ms. Jones has taught piano and voice lessons both privately and at Oakville High School and Parkway South High School, and currently still works with the St. Louis Children's Choirs as an ensemble assistant and substitute music reading teacher. For the foreseeable future, Ms. Jones will be applying for high school and middle school level choral teaching jobs in the St. Louis area and is excited to open this new chapter of her education career.

Join us in a Lenten Journey - The Path from Lament to Hope

Prayer Stations - Now Open!
We invite you to visit the church building once, weekly or daily to engage in outdoor Lenten prayer stations. The three prayer stations, located in front of the church, will be open Ash Wednesday through Holy Week. The Memorial Garden will also be open for quiet contemplation and prayer. Each station is child-friendly. If you prefer to experience these at home, you may find them at wgpc.org/lent-prayer-stations.

Worship Services:
Palm Sunday, March 28th, 9:30am
Maundy Thursday, April 1st, 7:00pm
Good Friday, April 2nd, 7:00pm
Easter Sunday, April 4th, 9:30am

Lamenting Toward Hope - A Biblical Journey
Sunday mornings, February 21 - March 28, 10:45am on Zoom

This six-week adult education series, facilitated by Rev. Susan Andrews, will define the power of lament, and engage participants in a dialogue with scripture and the current landscape of our lives.

February 28th - Lamenting for Life

All are welcome, even if you haven't previously register. Register at wgpc.org/get-involved or email Susan Andrews at sra@wgpc.org with questions. The Zoom link is provided at the bottom of the Friday Flash
News from our Social Advocacy Team:

Join the Moms Demand Action Missouri virtual Advocacy Day event Tuesday, March 2 at 10:00am on Zoom for a discussion of legislative priorities and their upcoming meetings with state legislators as well as ways that you can become a more effective advocate for gun violence prevention. Advance registration is required. See wgpc.org/ministries/advocacy-team for more information.

Absentee Voting for April 6th
An application for absentee ballots for the April 5, 2021 election is available at wgpc.org/ministries/advocacy-team/voting-information. Applications for absentee ballots must be received by 5:00pm on March 24th at the St. Louis County Board of Elections.

Paying Per Capita
As members of the Presbyterian Church, we understand "polity," the form of government that unites us across our own presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy and to the Office of General Assembly. But who is responsible to pay for the services of the larger church which keeps us connected and working together for the greater good? The answer is each and every member of the Presbyterian Church USA.

If every member contributes to the per capita fund, WGPC would reduce its operating cost by over $21,120 and that would allow more funds to do God's work here.

Your donation helps keep us connected for the good of the whole body, here and around the world. It is a pledge we make as Presbyterians to the greater church. Go to wgpc.org/give/paying-per-capita to give.

Mask Makers have Moved to a New Endeavor
Some of the WGPC mask-makers have switched over to making pot holders for Home Sweet Home. If you're interesting in a new sewing project, there are many easy patterns online and any pattern is fine. Home Sweet Home can always use them. Just drop your pot holders off inside the Hale Entrance. The doors are open Monday-Thursday 8:00am-3:00pm.

Tablets for Older Adults
Adults 75 and above can apply to receive a "GrandPad tablet" for one year from the St. Louis County Library. It comes preloaded with software and built-in 4G LTE service that allows users to access email, make phone calls, participate in video calls, take, send and receive photos, and access the internet. The application form can be completed by the person who would receive the device, or by a family member or friend on behalf of the user. Visit www.slcl.org/using-the-library/grandpads for more information.
A Letter from the Reopening Task Force

Dear Friends in Christ,

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church plans to reopen soon with one service of worship at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Please refer to the Friday Flash and the website for the specific date when in-person worship will begin.

The reopening will be a welcome event for many of us who long to worship together. Our primary concern is for the safety of all.

For those who prefer to worship in the safety of their home, we will continue to provide the live stream worship service on the “Online Worship” page of our website at WGPC.org. We understand your concern and respect your decision; the Church gathers in worship in many places and ways!

The committee planning the reopening of the church has formed the following procedures to help people worship safely. Please take note of these procedures before attending worship:

**Sign up to attend**

To meet the recommendations of St. Louis County for the number of people allowed in the building, those who plan to attend church on any given Sunday should register in advance. A Sign Up Genius registration will be online and a link to it will be in the Friday Flash. You also may register by calling the church office (314-962-9210). Some seats will be reserved for members who do not use the Internet and people who may walk in from the community. Everyone who enters the building for worship will be asked to sign in.

**Masks**

For the sake of all, those planning to attend church **must be symptom free and have not had contact with a person with COVID-19 for at least 14 days.** Masks are required. Worship leaders will wear masks except when speaking.

**Entering and Leaving the Church**

Use the Memorial Garden door and the Hale entrance for entering and exiting the church. **As you enter or exit, please practice social distancing allowing at least six feet between you and other people in the congregation.** At each doorway, Greeters will check names off the registration sheet. If you have not pre-registered, you will be asked to complete a registration form. Greeters will practice social distancing – providing guidance and information but not shaking hands.

Please use the hand sanitizer available at each entrance when entering and leaving.

**Those entering from the parking lot** through the Memorial Garden door should come into the sanctuary through the back door, down the outside aisle and fill the church from **front to back.** Every other pew will be marked to ensure social distancing.

We encourage those with mobility issues to use the Memorial Garden door to avoid the elevator.

**Those entering through the Hale entrance (under the atrium)** should come in the pastor’s door, travel down the outside aisle and fill the church from the **back to front.** Ushers will be present to guide worshippers as needed.
When the worship service is over, the congregation will be dismissed by rows through the same doors they came in. Although we have deeply missed worshiping together, we urge those in attendance to avoid gathering for conversation inside the building! Weather permitting, you may chat in the parking lot with masks on and observing social distancing recommendations.

**Worship**

The worship service is a special time for all our members, but there are necessary changes designed to help keep each other safe.

During the **passing of the peace**, congregants should not leave their pews or offer handshakes or hugs. A smile and a nod or a friendly hello across the aisle can serve as a physically-distant sign of peace. We encourage creativity!

For the **offering**, we encourage everyone to give their contribution online. No plate will be passed during the service. Designated offering receptacles will be near sanctuary exits if you prefer to give in person.

The sacrament of the **Lord’s Supper** is typically held on the second Sunday of the month. We are working to create safe ways for us to share this important ritual. Stay tuned!

For a **baptism**, please make an appointment to discuss the event with a pastor.

Please bring your Bible. For the time being we will be removing materials from the pews.

The following activities and programs remained closed: **Fellowship Hour, Children’s and Adult Library, Christian Education, Nursery, Pray Ground, and activity bags for older children**. Families are invited to bring their own quiet activities for use in the pews.

Greeters, ushers, liturgists and staff will be trained for their roles. Our custodial staff is working to ensure our church is clean and ready.

We look forward to seeing you, worshipping with you and being God’s holy church in person and online! If you have any questions about attending worship or the procedures as outlined in this letter, call one of the pastors or Betsy Wacker.

Peace and good health to you and your families!

The Reopening Task Force