

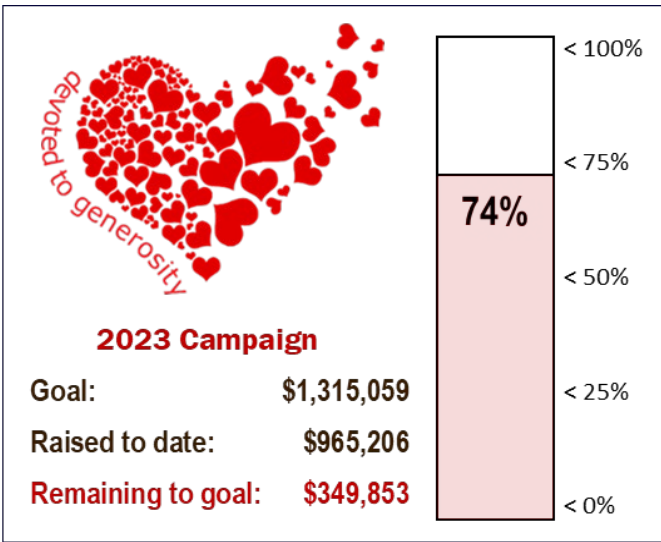
January 15, 2023 Announcements

WORSHIP

Plan to Attend the Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 29, following Worship and by Zoom
Please plan to spend a few minutes with your church family at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation called by Session in the Sanctuary following Worship on January 29. You can also attend by Zoom using the link found in the Friday Flash.

“Devoted to Generosity” Update

Our pledge campaign for 2023 is ending on a high note by reaching almost 74 percent of our goal – which is ahead of last year’s pace. The pledge tally as of January 10 is just over \$965,000 toward our goal of just over \$1.3 million. This year’s budget will be finalized soon, reflecting the latest pledge numbers. We thank our church members for demonstrating their generosity and reflecting God’s love. The money will be used to pay for our missions, activities, and our staff as we seek to fulfill Jesus’ call to help those in need.



Per Capita Giving

As Presbyterians, we embrace the concept of "polity," the form of government that unites us with our own presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy and the Office of General Assembly. To support the operations of the broader Church, each member is asked to donate \$35 per member per year. This reduces the amount WGPC must pay toward these services and allows more funds to remain for our ministry here. Please make your donation at wgpc.org/give/paying-per-capita/.

Music in a Great Place, 2022-2023 26th Season, Upcoming Events

The Mazzoni Duo

Matt and Jennifer Mazzoni

**Next Sunday, January 22, 2023
9:30 a.m. Worship Service**



Inspired by the beauty around them, the Mazzoni Duo has been presenting music as a dynamic flute and piano ensemble for over 15 years. After meeting in a theory entrance exam in 2003, Matt and Jennifer have brought a "fluid and seamless blending" of their instruments to concert stages nationally and

internationally. Recent winners of the Artist Presentation Society, the duo seeks to present engaging repertoire that energizes and uplifts its audiences. The duo has recorded two albums: *Morning by Morning* (2017), a collection of hymns for flute and piano, and *Love's Pure Light* (2020), a Christmas album for flute and piano.

FELLOWSHIP

What is the Gathering Spot?

Join us January 29 before and after the 9:30 a.m. service for coffee and donuts in the Gathering Spot (formerly the front office) and see for yourself! If you need to leave the Sanctuary on a Sunday morning, it's a comfy space to relax with toys, books, coffee, a changing table, and a live-stream of the worship service. But it's so much more! The Gathering Spot is always open to everyone – to catch up with friends over a cup of coffee (or tea and hot chocolate) from the coffee station or have a small meeting. Books from the former adult and children's libraries are incorporated into this space, and you are welcome to borrow any of them or sit and read here. You can even find a charging station at the desk if your phone's battery is low. If you are a history buff, our Church Archive is located inside the GS, and we'll be featuring fun church history facts and photos near the coffee station. And if you need to drop off or pick up some mail, you'll find a new mail room here too. Come see all this for yourself on Sunday, January 29 – or any time at all.

The Gathering Spot Team

Do you have an hour a month you could devote to keeping our new Gathering Spot (old office) organized? Join our team and pick your time. Team members will come in once a month to shelve books; rotate books among the Playground, Red Cart in the Narthex, and the Gathering Spot; and generally straighten up. If you'd like to learn more, please stop by the Gathering Spot on January 29 or contact Michelle Lepak at 314-962-9210 x3102 or mml@wgpc.org.

WGPC Archive Angels

Would you like to explore WGPC history? Will you share an hour or two each quarter to help keep the Archives (inside the new Gathering Spot) organized and help find fun history facts to highlight in the Gathering Spot? If you'd like to learn more about being an Archive Angel, please stop by the Gathering Spot on January 29 or contact Michelle Lepak at 314-962-9210 x3102 or mml@wgpc.org.

Healing with the Arts

“Let’s Talk: Black Mental Health”

Friday, January 20, 7:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Join us for a free evening of music, dance, poetry and rap focusing on mental health and performed by local artists. Presented by Arts & Faith St. Louis.

Need a WGPC Name Tag?

Please contact Michelle Lepak at mml@wgpc.org.

MISSION

Agape Donuts and Detergent Drive-Thru

Today, January 15, 10:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on the WGPC parking lot at the Hale entrance

Our drive-thru will be open today after Worship until 12:30 p.m. to accept laundry detergent donations in exchange for a free Krispy Kreme donut (limit one per person in your car). Agape has set a **goal of collecting 100 jugs of laundry detergent** to help Isaiah 58 families after learning that detergent is always in short supply at food pantries. Thanks to all who brought donations to Worship this morning!

Help Build Bird Feeders After Worship

Today, January 15, in Fellowship Hall

Are you looking for a way to help the birds in your neighborhood? Then join Environmental Stewardship after Worship as we spread our generosity toward God's creatures by making bird feeders. All are welcome and Sunday School kids can join in the fun following their class!

Thank You to Our Furniture Builders!



What an amazing crew we had Sunday night for our furniture build for Home Sweet Home!! Everyone had a great time and learned a lot about the organization, and we ended up with 18 nice storage units to donate. Thank you to all who shared their smiles, hard work, and good humor figuring out the IKEA instructions!!

Rise Against Hunger is Back!

Save the date: Sunday, February 12, in Fellowship Hall following Worship

After taking a break during the pandemic we are happy to announce that Rise Against Hunger will resume in February! This much enjoyed congregation-wide mission event will take place in Fellowship Hall after Worship where we will package up 10,000 nutritious meals to be distributed to children, families, and communities facing hunger around the world. Everyone can take part! Mark your calendar!



Give-A-Meal-A-Month Menu for January

Help provide a healthy meal for those served by Webster-Rock Hill Ministries. Purchase a bag of menu items and drop it off in the Mission Hub. January menu is canned pasta (ravioli, spaghetti with meatballs, etc.), canned mixed vegetables (low or no salt), canned peaches (lite or in fruit juice), one can of soup, and hot chocolate mix. Additional needs: Diapers, wipes, and diaper rash ointment are always appreciated.

FAITH FORMATION

FAITH FORMATION THIS WEEK		
<i>(see full details following chart)</i>		
Sunday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>Coffee and Conversation 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>Nones, Millennials, Gen Xers 10:40 a.m.</p> <p>Sunday School 10:40 a.m.</p> <p>Celtics 10:45 a.m. (service project)</p>	<p>Wednesday Evening Book Study 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Disciples' Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p>

SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION

See the Friday Flash for the current Zoom link for Sunday Adult Education classes.

Coffee & Conversation with the Lectionary
Sundays, 8:30-9:15 a.m. in the Parlor and by Zoom
Participants will consider Biblical texts used in the day's worship and explore historical settings and the people and issues involved. Leaders: Jeff Buck, Deb Grossman, and Pete Putnam.

Nones, Millennials, Gen Xers: Where Are They?

Sundays, January 15, 22, and 29, 10:40-11:45 a.m. in the Parlor and by Zoom
During the last few decades, involvement in Christian churches has diminished, particularly among those 50 and younger. Why are the younger generations leaving active involvement in faith communities? Do they still believe even if they don't belong? How might churches like WGPC respond? Explore these questions with Rev. Ruben Rosario-Rodriguez, Professor of Theological Studies at St. Louis University.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

Sundays, 10:40-11:45 a.m. in Room 210
Children pre-k through 5th grade gather for "Follow Me," a curriculum based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers. Each class also features music that prepares the children to sing in worship services throughout the year.

Sunday Evenings, Youth Lounge

- Celtics, (6th through 8th grade), 4:00-5:30 p.m.
- Agape (9th through 12th grade), 5:00-7:30 p.m.

No meeting tonight, January 15, for Celtics and Agape.

Youth today are seeking answers. Centered in Jesus Christ, Celtics and Agape ministries provide safe space for spiritual discussion as well as fellowship and fun while developing friendships. From 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. each week, all youth come together to break bread with a meal provided by church members. Interested in providing a meal? You can sign up at wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links.

OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE WEEK

Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays, January 24 and February 7, 7:00-8:00 a.m., by Zoom

Facilitated by Rev. Dale Kuhn, former director of Care and Counseling. For more information, contact Frank Bloemke at ekmeolb@gmail.com.

Wednesday Evening Book Study

3rd Wednesday of the Month, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Parlor and by Zoom

A discussion of the book *Do I Stay Christian?* by Brian McLaren will be completed, and the next book *An Altar in the Word: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor will be distributed. Discussion is led by rotating leadership. For more information, contact Rev. Susan Andrews at sra@wgpc.org.

Disciples Bible Study

Thursday Mornings, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor and by Zoom

This lively and interactive group will explore the Gospel of Matthew. Facilitated by Rev. Susan Andrews.

Social Justice Film Club

2nd Tuesdays in February (14th) and May (9th), 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. by Zoom

Discussion about the impact of a film focused on a social justice issue (which is watched in advance). Film titles will be forthcoming and links will be published in the Friday Flash. For more info, contact Janice Seele at seelestl@aol.com.