

January 29, 2023 Announcements

WORSHIP

Please Stay for the Annual Meeting Following Worship Today

Please plan to spend a few minutes with your church family at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation called by Session which will immediately follow Worship in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the annual meeting is to receive the annual report, amend the WGPC Articles of the Association, approve bylaw changes, complete elections, approve the minister's terms of call, review the budget, and to hold the Annual Meeting of the Association.

Help Needed with Lenten Art Project: From Thorny Vines to Blooming Flowers



*Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
through Tuesday, February 21*

Volunteers are needed to work with tulle and curtain fabric to create two large banners of thorny vines for the season of Lent that will come alive with brilliant blooming flowers on Easter Sunday. Skills needed are using a paper pattern, cutting, pasting - and a little patience. If you can help individually or with a group anytime from Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., before the Ash Wednesday completion date, please contact Shawn Portell at 314-962-9210, ext. 3211. Let Shawn know when you will be in the Art Room, and he will give you some simple instructions.

FELLOWSHIP



Check Out Our New Gathering Spot TODAY!

Come visit our new Gathering Spot (formerly the front office) before and after Worship/the Annual Meeting and enjoy coffee and donuts while you mingle with friends! 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! We've added books from the former adult and children's libraries, a charging station for your phone, and the church mail boxes in a connecting mailroom. The Church Archive is located in the Gathering Spot, and we'll feature fun WGPC history facts and photos near the coffee station. Come stop by!

Let's Celebrate WGPC: Our Faith, Our Friends, and Our Future!



Please save the dates now and plan to join us! Attend a special worship service to be followed by brunch and other festivities on **Sunday, March 5**. Join in a new way for WGPC members to connect through small groups on **Tuesdays,**

March 14, March 28, and April 11. Lots of details will follow in the upcoming weeks. It's sure to be a celebration!

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 Prayground, 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, ext. 3102, 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, ext. 3102, or mml@wgpc.org.

MISSION

2023 Agape Mission Trip to Lexington!

*Sunday, June 11, through Friday, June 16
(registration ends Sunday, February 12)*

This summer, our youth will participate in the Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church Mission Immersion located in Lexington, Kentucky. All who are completing 8th through 12th grade this year are welcome to join us. The cost is \$425, but scholarships are available as the cost should not prevent anyone from attending. To reserve your spot, email Cherstin Byers at chb@wgpc.org by Sunday, February 12, and submit a \$100 deposit online at wgpc.org/give > "click here to give," and choose "registration fees." Payment can also be made by check with "Agape Mission Trip" noted in the memo. More details about the trip (and paperwork) will be available as the trip approaches, but feel free to talk with Matt Miller or Pastor Ed if you have any questions.

The Gift of Mission Through Endowments

While our current members contribute to our annual budget to provide regular support to our mission partners, endowment gifts allow us to go beyond this giving. The Mission Endowment Fund was originally created by the Maull family in 1984 with a gift of \$35,000, and the principal has grown over the years as others have contributed through memorials and bequests. The fund now provides approximately \$30,000 in investment income each year for the Mission Outreach Commission to support a variety of needs around the community and world.

Examples include \$10,000 to Sanctuary in the Ordinary to rehab a studio apartment in St. Louis city, \$10,000 to the PC(USA) fund to help in Ukraine, \$3,060 to support three students at Nyaka School in Uganda, \$3,142 to help Old Community Baptist Church with their wheelchair lift, and \$1,000 to purchase the shelving units that we built for Home Sweet Home. These are just a few of the hundreds of needs we have addressed over the last 37 years! If you would like to know more about supporting any of our endowment funds, contact Jan Scheurer at jls@wgpc.org.

Rise Against Hunger All Church Mission Project!

*Sunday, February 12, in Fellowship Hall following
Worship*

Help us Rise Against Hunger by joining us in this popular mission project for all ages! With your help we will package 10,000 just-add-water, fully nutritious meals for people in need of critical aid across the globe. To sign up for a volunteer shift, please visit wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links.



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/.

FAITH FORMATION

FAITH FORMATION THIS WEEK

(see full details on the next page)

Sunday	Thursday
Coffee and Conversation 8:30 a.m. Nones, Millennials, Gen Xers following the Annual Meeting Sunday School 10:40 a.m. Celtics 4:00 p.m. Agape 5:00 p.m.	Disciples Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Join Us for the 2023 Women's Retreat

Saturday, April 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Mercy Center (registration ends Friday, March 17)

All women of WGPC and their guests are encouraged to attend the 2023 Women's Retreat where we will learn more about the Enneagram, a tool used to gain greater understanding of yourself and others which many have found helpful in their spiritual journey. The session will be led by Brian Kuhn, MA, LPC, of Care and Counseling, who is well known to our faith community. Cost is \$37.50 per person which includes lunch and breakout snacks, but financial assistance will be available, if needed (contact Rev. Susan Andrews at sra@wgpc.org). Mercy Conference and Retreat Center is located at 2039 North Geyer Rd. Sign up at wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links by March 17. For questions and information, contact Deb Grossman at grossmandeborah5@gmail.com.

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?
Today, January 29, following the Annual Meeting, 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? How might churches like WGPC respond? Explore these questions with Rev. Ruben Rosario-Rodriguez, Professor of Theological Studies at St. Louis University.

Practice Joy!

Sundays, February 5 and 19, 10:40-11:45 a.m. in the Parlor and by Zoom

Christian joy is more than a feeling. Scripture invites us to practice joy not as a passive response but as a faithful choice. Paul writes, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice"—not because life always unfolds in delightful ways, but because, no matter what else may be happening, "the Lord is near" (Philippians 4:4). Come learn, explore, and discuss how we Rejoice in God's Mercy (February 5) and See Joy in God's Creation (February 19). Led by John Hughes, Harriet Hall, and Jan Phillips.

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.

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

Tuesday, 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.