

January 1, 2023 Announcements

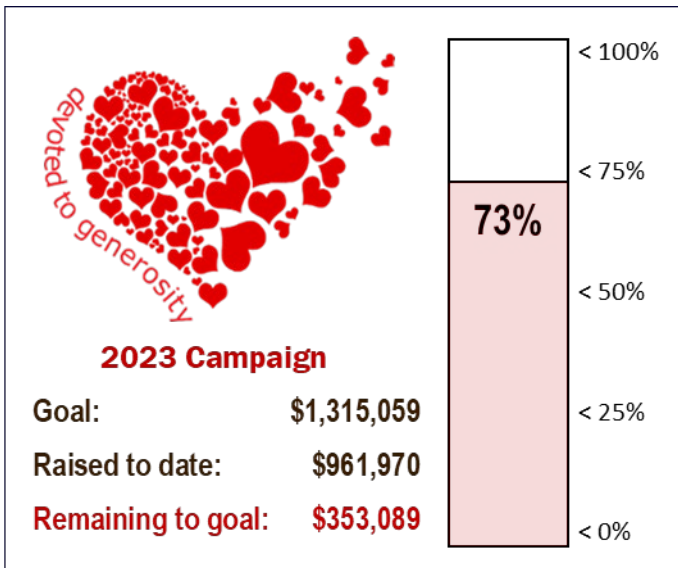
WORSHIP

Nursery and Office Hours

The church nursery will not be staffed for today's service. Children are always welcome in worship! But if you need to step out of the Sanctuary, the new Gathering Spot (formerly the front office) will be open with a comfy place to relax with toys, books, coffee, and a live-stream of the Worship service. **WGPC offices will be closed on Monday, January 2.**

“Devoted to Generosity” Update

As we enter the New Year, we thank all who have pledged for 2023 and encourage members who are prayerfully considering their pledge to do so as soon as possible.



FELLOWSHIP

“Women of a Certain Age” Group is BACK!

First Outing: Wednesday, January 18, 10:00 a.m.
What's a "certain age" for this fellowship group? Any age! The first outing of 2023 will be for a docent-guided tour at the St. Louis Art Museum. Join us to connect with old friends, meet new friends, and enjoy WGPC fellowship. Please sign up by Tuesday, January 17, using the link found in the Friday Flash. For more information, contact Michelle Lepak at mml@wgpc.org.

Free MLK Concert at Powell Hall

Monday, January 16, 2023, 7:30 p.m.
Powell Hall, 718 North Grand Blvd.

Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra at a free, one-hour, tribute concert with conductor Stephane Deneve and featuring the IN UNISON chorus directed by Kevin McBeth. Reservations are required and can be made by visiting shop.slsso.org/7439/7440. Parking at SLSO is \$20, but carpooling (leaving from WGPC at 6:45 p.m.) is being arranged by Julie Burchett who can be reached at burchett.juliekay@gmail.com. For more information, contact Janice Seele at seelest@aol.com before January 8 or Julie Burchett after January 8.

A Note of Appreciation

“Christmas came to my door! I couldn't answer the elves as I was down with a very bad cold. But the beautiful poinsettia they left brightened my whole holiday, as I'm sure it did for all of the others who received them. Thank you to all of those who lovingly gave us such a lovely Christmas gift. The Deacons keeping us close to our church is so appreciated with their cards and phone calls. I wish you all a happy, healthy New Year.” – Jan Carver

MISSION

Thank You for Helping Others!!



Thank you to everyone who donated material and monetary gifts to our partner agencies via our Giving Tree program. Your gifts will bless our neighbors served by Beyond Housing, Presbyterian Children's Homes

and Services, Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition, Home Sweet Home, our Nicaraguan ministry, Webster-Rock Hill Ministries Urban Sprouts, and EnergyCare.

Furniture Assemblers Needed

Sunday, January 8, 5:00-7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Do you love assembling IKEA furniture? Or just want a chance to partner with our youth? Then join us for our assembly event as we put together IKEA storage units for Home Sweet Home. We'll enjoy a pizza dinner together and then divide into small groups to work together on a fun challenge! Cloth bins will be added to make nice clothing storage units for children served by HSH. Sign up using the link in the Friday Flash. For more info, please contact Beth Kazlauskas at bok@wgpc.org.

Agape Donuts and Detergent Drive-Thru

Coming Sunday, January 15

Mark your calendar for January 15 and help our Agape Youth with their Martin Luther King Day of Service project! On Mission Sunday in October, Agape helped sort and size clothing donations for Isaiah 58 and learned that laundry detergent is always in short supply at the food pantry. Agape has set a goal of collecting **100 jugs of laundry detergent** to help Isaiah 58 families have clean clothes. We know everyone loves Krispy Kreme donuts, so we will be at the Hale entrance on the church parking lot from 10:45 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on January 15. Drive up and hand your detergent out your car window, and we will give you a Krispy Kreme donut! (One per person in your car). We'll also be at each entrance before Worship, if you'd rather bring your detergent with you when you come to the service. Watch the Friday Flash for reminders.

We Need Your Help

Those of us working with our Afghan family have a special request as we near our one-year anniversary of partnership. The program granting visas to Afghans who helped the U.S. Military is at risk of ending next year after an extension was left out of the annual defense policy bill. While we are working hard to get the family the status needed to continue on the path to U.S. citizenship, there are 60,000 Afghans in the same position and the government wheels turn very slowly. Please take a moment to contact our legislators and urge them to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act to allow the path to citizenship to move forward and the risk of being deported to cease. Their numbers are:

- Senator Josh Hawley (202) 224-6154
- Senator Roy Blunt (202) 224-5721
- Congresswoman Ann Wagner (202) 225-1621
- Congresswoman Cori Bush (202) 225-2406

Holiday Light Recycling

Now through January 8

If you find burned out Christmas light strands this season, bring them to church for recycling. There is a bin outside of the Hale entrance marked for this purpose. Let neighbors and friends know about our community recycling bin, and together we will save these items from our landfills.

FAITH FORMATION

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.

Gun Violence Prevention: How Are Presbyterians Responding?

Sunday, January 8, 10:45-11:45 a.m. in the Parlor and by Zoom

Join Rev. Susan Andrews and the Advocacy Team for a presentation on Gun Violence Prevention including our Presbytery's upcoming 2023 plans addressing this important issue. There will be an opportunity to write postcards to our elected officials about upcoming bills in the Missouri Legislature. This presentation will go over gun violence statistics nationally and locally, summarize statements and policies adopted by the PC(USA) General Assembly in the last 20 years, and offer examples of Presbyterian congregation responses (including WGPC).

Nones, Millennials, Gen Xers: Where Are They?

Sundays, January 15, 22, and 29, 10:45-11:45 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.

OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE WEEK

Please note: Men's Bible Study will not meet on Tuesday, January 3.

Deadlines for the Bulletin and Friday Flash

Please submit announcements by the end of Tuesday prior to the desired Sunday. For the bulletin, contact Barbara Fischer at baf@wgpc.org. For the Friday Flash, contact Cherstin Byers at chb@wgpc.org.