March 14, 2021 Announcements

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.

March 7th - Lamenting for Shalom

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

Education Hour

*Sunday, March 14th, 11:30am - see Friday Flash for Zoom link*

Plan to join the Advocacy Team for the Education Hour featuring Denise Lieberman, General Counsel of the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition. Denise will speak with us about HR1, the For the People Act, a proposal designed to expand voting rights, change campaign finance laws to reduce the influence of money in politics, limit partisan gerrymandering, and create new ethics rules for federal officeholders. In March, the bill should be moving from the House to the Senate and Denise will let us know how passage of the bill would impact elections in Missouri. Denise will also address several voting related bills currently moving through the Missouri legislature.

(Note the later hour to allow for a special Lenten series at 10:45)

Food Collection for the Webster Groves School District

*Drive-Thru Donation Sunday, March 14th, 12”00-2:00pm - Hale Entrance*

During the month of March, we are collecting food for students in the Webster Groves School District. The district now has a food pantry to help families dealing with food insecurity, so these items will support their pantry. Items needed include:

- Apple sauce/canned fruit
- Canned ravioli/pasta
- Canned tuna
- Cereal
- Crackers
- Fruit cups
- Granola bars
- Peanut butter/jelly
- Juice
- Macaroni and cheese
- Oatmeal
- Pasta/pasta sauce (no glass jars)
- Popcorn

Items can be placed inside the bin in the Hale entryway, March 1-31. We will also have a drive-thru collection **Sunday, March 14th, 12:00-2:00** outside of the Hale Entrance.

Financial donations to our food pantry fund are always appreciated and will be used to purchase additional food for our supported food pantries. Simply make a donation to the church, either online at wgpc.org/give or by check, and indicate "Food Pantry Fund" in the memo.
Nursery Volunteers Needed

Important news from the Faith Formation Commission and the Reopening Task Force! Soon we would like to be able to offer nursery care for children under 3 during worship services, but in order to do that we need a patient, dependable, loving group of volunteers to hold those babies and toddlers! If you have any interest in this important mission, please contact Carrie Rao by email at gopackers4@mac.com or at 314-856-5118 for more information. We are developing a protocol for the nursery in order to minimize everyone’s risk of illness, and all volunteers will be required to complete Safe Sanctuary training (online). Come on out and play with us!

SLIP Volunteers Needed

Would you like to help high school students served by our Meyer grant partner the St. Louis Internship Program (SLIP)? They are currently seeking professional volunteers to assist with their mock interview sessions via Zoom on Saturday, April 24, 2021, and registration for volunteers needs to be done by Monday, March 15th.

Their students are seeking one of SLIP’s paid summer internships for summer 2021 and their ability to interview successfully is critical to securing one of these internships. Volunteers will join with a team of people to interview 5-7 students and then give feedback following the interviews. All of the questions and evaluative criteria are provided by SLIP. Volunteers are needed from 10:00am-1:00pm, and you can sign up at http://bit.ly/SLIPVolunteerInterviewers.

Seed Sharing at WGPC

All are welcome to join in a new project to benefit pollinators – a seed sharing initiative at WGPC! Starting this week there will be a box inside of the Hale Entrance with packets of pollinator-friendly native plant seeds, collected and shared by members of the Environmental Stewardship Committee. If you have a spot in your garden for some new native plants then stop by and pick up some seeds to get started! Later this spring look for annual milkweed seeds to support the beloved Monarch butterfly. If you are a gardener who saves seeds and has some to share, contact Beth Kazlauskas at bok@wgpc.org for details!

Join Us for Friday Night Black Lives Matter Vigils

Since last summer following the death of George Floyd under the knee of former Officer Derek Chauvin, members of our congregation have participated in Black Lives Matter vigils on Friday nights from 6-6:30 along with members of our sister churches along Lockwood. With the worst of the cold behind us and the longer evenings ahead, we invite all members to join us in these vigils. The trial of Derek Chauvin began this week and all eyes are on the trial and its outcome.
Thank you!

Thank you so much to all who contributed to our hygiene collection for the New American Academy students. We had an incredible response and were able to deliver two cars filled to the brim with soap, shampoo, period supplies, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant and much more. These supplies will help students who are new immigrants, and they will also be able to share the items with their families. Principal Kelly Moore was so grateful for our support and said that we have no idea how much it helps their students to have the items, and also to know that others in the community are supporting them.

When COVID allows for in person volunteering we would like to find more ways to connect with these new members of our community. Thank you for helping them to feel seen! We also loved the opportunity to see many of you as you dropped off your donations, so we hope more people will take advantage of our drive-thru collections to get a little bit of “socially distanced in-person” contact in the future!

Bee Knowledgeable

Did you know that you can help support Missouri’s native bees? Mowing less frequently or mowing higher helps bees by letting the clover, violets and other plants grow. By not mulching every inch of soil you allow access to the ground for those bees that nest in the soil.

Missouri Department of Conservation, MDC Urges Public to “Bee-Friend” Native Pollinators, Jill Pritchard, Apr 22, 2019.

Order your Easter Flowers

It's time to order beautiful hydrangeas and lilies for Easter Sunday, April 4th! The deacons will be providing hydrangeas to at home members. Orders can be placed for the sanctuary or at home members. Simply indicate in the memo field your flower preference of "lily" or "hydrangea" and whether your purchase is for the "sanctuary" or "home".

Orders may be placed online at wgpc.org/give (click the blue Give button, then choose the drop down for Flowers) or by calling the church 314-962-9210. Cost is $10 each. Deadline to order is Palm Sunday, March 28th.

Flowers purchased for the sanctuary may be brought home or picked up after Easter Sunday's service. Contact Jamie Scott at mjscott81012@gmail.com with any questions.
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. "In a connected church such as ours, per capita is the responsible way of sharing costs that equitably belong to the whole Presbyterian community," former Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons said.

The annual contribution of $32.00 per member is the primary source to fund the work of the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery that serves the churches in its care, the national Office of General Assembly that brings us together to discern the Spirit's leading, the Office of Stated Clerk that provides leadership for Presbyterians nationwide and the Presbyterian Mission Agency that oversees the work of the Presbyterian church for others here and around the world.

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 https://wgpc.org/give/paying-per-capita to give.

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.

Holy Week Worship Services:
Palm Sunday, March 28th, 9:30am
Maundy Thursday, April 1st, 7:00pm - Zoom
Good Friday, April 2nd, 7:00pm - Online only
  Faure Requiem - visit wgpc.org/ministries/music-ministries for details
Easter Sunday, April 4th, 9:30am