

September 19, 2021 Announcements

Music in a Great Place: Oikos Jazz Ensemble September 26, 9:30 a.m. worship service



The gifted musicians of the Oikos Ensemble celebrate stories of transformation and enlightenment from around the world. Join us next Sunday as Oikos paints vibrant soundscapes with the brush stroke of jazz improvisation.

Mission Weekend in Two Weeks! October 2 and 3

Despite the continued impact of COVID, we will join together for our annual Mission Weekend.

Physically-distanced projects include packing sack lunches and care packages at church, participating in the Deacons' Blood Drive, helping in the Isaiah 58 Ministries food pantry, mulching and gardening, and working in the Home Sweet Home warehouse. For more info and to sign up, see the Friday Flash.

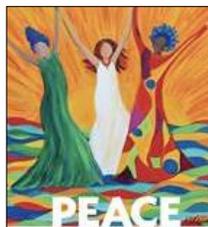
Deacon's Blood Drive

Saturday, October 2
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Please see the Friday Flash for more information and to register.

Peace & Global Witness Offering Sunday, October 3

WGPC will collect for the Peace & Global Witness Offering that empowers congregations and individuals to address anxiety and discord globally. Look for special envelopes in the pews, mail a check to the church office, or donate via our website by selecting Special Offering > Peace & Global Witness.



~In Appreciation~

Thank you for all the prayers and cards received expressing your condolences on the recent death of my father, Carl "Dede" Portell. Your expressions of care have been overwhelming to me and my family and are deeply appreciated. Dad hasn't been at the church in a few years, however I am so glad that many of you were able to meet him as he was here from time to time. In regards to me and my musical gifts shared with you each week, he would always tell you, "I taught him everything he knows!" That is probably true, but musically . . . I am not sure if he could carry a tune!

- Shawn Portell

Welcoming our Afghan Neighbors

We are so happy to say that partners from the "Churches Together for Justice" group (Emmanuel Episcopal, Christ Lutheran, and Peace UCC) are joining us in our effort to welcome our new Afghan neighbors. As many as 1,400 Afghan refugees will be coming to St. Louis in the coming weeks, and our goal is to raise funds to purchase grocery and Metro gift cards to help the International Institute assist them. Donations can be made through **October 15** by bringing or mailing a check to WGPC (please note "Afghan Neighbors" on the memo line) or donating online at wgpc.org/give/ (just click "Special Gifts" and note "Afghan Neighbors" in the memo box). Questions? Contact Beth Kazlauskas at bok@wgpc.org or Julie Burchett at burchett.juliekay@gmail.com.



Medical Equipment Donation Drive Saturday, October 9, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Webster Groves City Hall

Do you have medical equipment that is not being used? Make a tax-deductible donation of your equipment to St. Louis HELP (Health Equipment Lending Program) that lends the donated home medical items to those in need at no cost. Drop-off point is Webster Groves City Hall on October 9, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Items accepted include: manual wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, canes/crutches/walkers, portable commodes, lift chairs, and Invacare-brand only electric hospital beds. For a larger list of items needed, please visit stlhelp.org for more information. Thank you!



Love Little Kids? We Could Use Some Help!

WGPC needs a volunteer to assist the staff teacher in the nursery on Sunday from 9 a.m. to noon. No planning or prep is necessary. Please contact Carrie Rao at gopackers4@me.com. Also, the ECC would like to hire a part-time teacher's aide for the Little Learners classroom (ages 1-3) to work Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. – noon. No experience necessary. Please contact Amanda Kingsbury at 917-312-7075 or ecc@wgpc.org for more info.



The Blessing of Birds

WGPC's Environmental Stewardship committee's topic 2021-2022 will be birds. Info will be shared in the Friday Flash. Did you know birds help keep our planet healthy by:

- Eating 400–500 tons of insects *per year* that are harmful to crops and millions of mosquitoes and other biting insects.
- Pollinating plants and dispersing seeds.
- Scavenging carcasses to reducing the spread of rabies and other diseases.
- Keeping mouse and squirrel population in check.



Helping Disaster Victims

In addition to your prayers, a good way to help people affected by hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and wildfires is to donate to PC(USA)'s Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). For more information, please visit <https://pda.pcusa.org/>.

Opportunities to Bee-Long at WGPC!

- Greeters, contact Leigh Ann Fleisher at la.fleisher3162@gmail.com
- Choir & Hand Bells, contact Shawn Portell at spp@wgpc.org
- Meals Ministry, contact Betsy Wacker at wacker.betsy@att.net



Masks in Worship

The CDC guidelines have been updated to reflect new data on the Delta variant of the coronavirus. Data suggests it is more potent and contagious than the Alpha variant and now much more common. COVID cases are rising and the positivity rate has increased in our area. Children in our congregation 12 and under as well as some immunocompromised individuals are unable to be vaccinated. For the sake of these in our church family, we are at this time asking all vaccinated and unvaccinated worshipers to please wear a mask during worship and as you move around the church. We ask you to also remain "socially distanced." While the risk remains relatively low for vaccinated individuals, we believe making this sacrifice for others in our church is a faithful action to take to express our love for one another. Thank you for your kindness, understanding, and patience. Encourage those you know who are not vaccinated to be vaccinated so we can get back to normal! Thank you. – Pastor Ed

LIFELONG Faith Formation

The nursery will be open until noon. For the full fall schedule, visit WGPC.org > Ministries > Faith Formation > Adult Ministries > Adult Education.

Adult Classes, 10:45-11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom

Attend the next two sessions of Do Black Lives Matter to White Christians? presented by Dr. Ruben Rosario-Rodriguez, Theology Professor at St. Louis University.

- TODAY: Reformed Theological Resources for Resisting Racism
- Sept. 26: Black Life Matter to God

Upcoming topics include: Coping with Pandemic Stress, Presbyterian Mission in Latin America, Gratitude in Tough Times, Advent Explorations, and More Light: Welcoming the LGBTQ+ Community, plus presentations from Environmental Stewardship and mission activities.

Children's Classes, 10:40-11:45 a.m. Drop-off and pick-up in Room 210

Children pre-k through 5th grade will participate in a weekly rotation of classes to Praise (music and worship leadership), Explore (art, science, yoga and more), Grow (gardening and cooking) and Serve (mission projects). Each of the four-week segments focuses on the same Biblical story or theme.

Youth Classes, Sunday evenings

- Celtics Middle School Fellowship: 4:00-5:30 p.m. in the Youth Lounge.
- Agape High School Fellowship: 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge.
- All youth will come together for a family meal from 5:00-5:30 p.m.

Host a Simple Dinner for our Youth! Sundays 5:00-5:30 p.m.

Can you provide a meal (30 servings with a vegetarian option) for the Celtics and Agape dinner on Sunday night? Order take-out, use the church kitchen, or prepare a meal at home then enjoy it with our youth who will set up and clean up.

For more info, contact Pastor Hannah at hmd@wgpc.org.

