



## WELCOMING AND ACCEPTING ALL PEOPLE ALONG A JOURNEY OF FAITH AND SERVICE.

“Welcoming and accepting all people” – is a reminder of our Welcome Statement and genuine hospitality, in the present tense so it is always relevant. “*along*” – is an invitation to join together side by side. “*journey of faith*” – implies that arrival is a myth; we are always growing “*service*” – is a natural outcome of faith and inseparable from our commitment to discipleship.

### **Thanks be to God for our congregational leaders in 2024!**

**Chairman:** Sandy Meadows

**Vice Chairman:** Raymond Reaves

**Treasurer:** Daniell Sanders

**Assistant Treasurer:** Shari Cullumber

**Financial Secretary:** Leanna Carrol

**Assistant Financial Secretary:** Anita Frieze

**Board Secretary:** Anita Frieze

**Elders:** Margie Fitterling, Leanna Carrol (2024) Jim Cullumber, Patt Hinds (2025) Ellen Broglio, Mike Fitterling, Betsy Wheeler (2026)

**Diaconate** (Sherry Crumbliss, Chair)

(2024) Joe Prater, Charlotte Quarles, Don Smith, Carolyn Theil, Tom Wheeler, Susan Wolfenbarger (2025) Judy Akeman, Les Davenport, Connie Abraham, Megan Bever, Sherry Crumbliss, Tom Hamm (2026) Jessica Fletcher-Fierro, Terry Plossl, James Knudtson

**Junior Diaconate** Taylor Reaves (2024)

#### **Ministry Teams**

Faith Formation: Karen Kemp and Darlene Coit

(Green Team: temporarily suspended)

Hospitality: Ellen Traver and Lois Nickols

Outreach: (vacancy)

Property: Jeanie Morrison and Ken Moser (Rental Committee: Judy Schneider, Ken Moser)

Stewardship: Mike Fitterling

Worship: Megan Bever and Shari Cullumber

#### **Permanent Fund Trustees**

Sandy Meadows (2024) Judy Akeman, Will Delehanty (2025) Jennifer Reaves, Anita Frieze (2026)

**Memorial Committee** (Margie Fitterling, Chair)

Judy Akeman (2024) Margie Fitterling (2025) Charlotte Quarles (2026)

#### **Child Protection Committee**

Patt Hinds (2024) Tom Wheeler (2025) Abigail Jones (2026)

#### **Christian Women’s Fellowship**

Ellen Traver, President; Anita Frieze, Secretary/Treasurer

#### **Senior Pastor Sabbatical Committee**

Mike Fitterling, Daniell Sanders, Ellen Broglio, Megan Bever

**Installation of 2024 leadership** will take place in worship on January 14 during the 10:45 morning service. All persons elected or appointed to leadership are encouraged to attend that we may prayerfully affirm your guidance and God’s blessings for the coming year.

#### **January Sunday Scripture Passages:**

January 7	Mark 1:4-11	“Ripples”
January 14	Psalm 146	“God of the Sojourner”
January 21	Hebrews 11:8-10	“Journey of Faith”
January 28	Hebrews 13:1-3	“This Is the Way”

#### **Adult Faith Formation**

Adult SS will resume discussion of chapters from Daniel Horan’s book, “*God Is Not Fair and Other Reasons for Gratitude*” on Sunday mornings in January. Grab a cup of coffee and join us in the fellowship hall for lively and meaningful discussion at 9:30AM. Books are provided, and no advance reading is needed.

## EVENTS/OTHER

### **Confronting Christian Nationalism: Unraveling Religious and American History**

In response to recent General Assembly resolution #2341 "Calling the Church to Oppose Christian Nationalism," National Avenue Christian Church in Springfield is offering a three-part workshop on Sundays, January 21st, 28th, and February 4th from 5-7pm.

The hope is to bring awareness of how religious/church backgrounds and the United States' background & history interact with each other for good, or not for good. All are welcome to this event, including those from different religious backgrounds, non-religious backgrounds, clergy, or anyone else who wants to learn more about the effect of Christian Nationalism in the U.S.

Pastor Colleen plans to attend and will offer transportation to others interested in attending. Please contact her if you would like a ride. There is no cost for the workshops but registration is requested at the link below, or contact Pastor Colleen directly.

[RSVP Form for Confronting Christian Nationalism: An Unraveling of Religious & American History \(google.com\)](#)

Lexington Theological Seminary is also presenting a webinar on the same topic on January 17, 2024 at 6:00 Central. One of the presenters will be Rev. Beau Underwood, former pastor of FCC in Jefferson City. For more information and registration, go to [lextheo.edu](http://lextheo.edu) under the "events" tab.



### **Interfaith Panel Discussion January 13**

The Joplin Interfaith Coalition will host a panel discussion on Saturday, January 13 at 10AM at the United Hebrew Congregation, 702 S. Sergeant Ave. Several Joplin educators will be participating in the session on Diversity and Inclusion in Public Education. Invite your friends!

#### **Save the Date:**

Saturday, March 2 is the Interfaith coalition Bake Sale and Lunch. We will need lots of volunteers as well as baked good. Make plans now to help in any way possible to benefit Bright Futures of Joplin.

### **Undecorating Christmas**

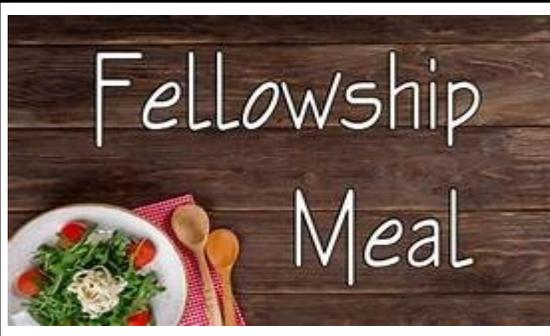
We will join PLC members in taking down the Christmas decorations on Wednesday, January 3 at 5:30 pm. Lots of hands make light work! Thanks in advance.

### **Creation Care at PLC**

Nathan Pesek, a local neighbor of the Peace Lutheran Church community, is leading an effort to cleanup and prepare the land where we gather for a new "springing up" of good, native plants and flora. This preparation needs both time and effort.

Nathan is offering the expertise of his training, interests, and skills in this work, and his leadership in this project was approved by the PLC congregation council. Michael Garoutte is serving as liaison to Nathan. In communication with both neighbors and the Joplin Fire Department, Nathan has begun the process with a few small burns that will help to remove some of the invasive vegetation and plant species that have been overtaking the land.

As this project of renewal proceeds, Nathan is looking for a few additional people who may be able to help him. This help will need to be coordinated since Nathan will need to be onsite and directly supervising all activities. More information and details on this are forthcoming; meanwhile, please consider who you may know (groups or individuals) who may have an interest in volunteering and cooperating with this type of outdoor activity and give them a "heads up." A sign-up sheet will likely be posted once there is more information from Nathan.



## Fellowship Meal January 21 - Noon

If your last name begins with:  
 H-P bring main dishes;  
 A-C bring and Q-W bring sides or salads; and  
 D-G bring desserts.  
 Just as a reminder that in keeping with our Green Chalice designation we encourage everyone to bring their own dinnerware.



South Joplin Christian Church,  
 Thank you for your donation and support of the MSSU Lion Co-op. We celebrated our 5th Anniversary in November and have been able to serve students the past 5 years because of donations like yours.  
 Andrew Cullers

Dear SJCC Congregation,  
 On behalf of the Lion Co-op at MSSU, I want to thank you all for the generous way you stepped in to provide dorm-friendly foods for our students over the break. When the students began arriving this week to get groceries, we were well stocked. I know that many of us long for more systemic solutions to food insecurity, but in the meantime, this every-day support helps tremendously.  
 Love, Megan

**CROSSLINES MINISTRIES**

Our challenge for January is dried or canned pastas with meat (ravioli, spaghettiO's, etc.); not sauces.

**Crosslines day for January is the 25th**

**9:45 am - 2:00 pm.**

**New volunteers are always welcome!**

**Diaconate Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 14 following Worship**

All diaconate are asked to attend the annual organizational meeting on Sunday, January 14 after worship to set the schedule and go over training for new diaconate.

For questions contact Sherry Crumbliss at 417-437-5613

The UHC Sisterhood would like to offer our next cooking club program on Sunday, Jan. 28th at 2pm at United Hebrew Congregation. We will be preparing latkes (potato pancakes) served with sour cream and/or apple sauce. Space is limited so response is highly appreciated. Please let Pastor Colleen know if you would like to reserve a spot.

**Save the Date: Colors of Hope Mini-Retreat**

James Knudston would like to share experiences from the Colors of Hope retreat last October in North Carolina. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, February 10. Time to be determined.

**2024 Camp Dates**

<b>Faith Adventures</b> July 22- 26th - JYF, Chi Rho, and CYF Try It- July 25-26	<b>Jo Ota</b> Try It Camp- June 7-8 CYF - July 7-13 Elem/Jr - July 15-19 Chi Rho - July 28-August 2	<b>North West</b> Chi Rho- June 29-July 3 CYF- July 6-11 123 Go- July 13-15 Junior - July 17-21	<b>Our Bodies Our Faith</b> July 28-August 2 at Camp MOVAL  <b>Regional Sons &amp; Fathers Retreat</b> Oct. 11-13 at Shannondale
<b>Regional Canoe Camp - TBA</b>	<b>Regional Young Adult</b> (18-24)- Eve of June 24- Morning 27th At Jo Ota	<b>Combo (Junior &amp; Chi Rho)</b> July 23-27	



Camps for the Christian Church of Mid-America have been scheduled as listed. For more information go to [ww.mid-america-disciples.org/](http://ww.mid-america-disciples.org/) summer. SJCC provides scholarship assistance by request.

## Prayer Requests

### Medical:

Bill Howell (Frieze); Ola Faye Lane (George); Debi Lorenz; Christina Perkins (Traver); Lou Starks; Malik Taylor (Curtis)

### Military:

Michael Crofford; Corey Irwin; Josh Robb; Gary Wald

### Joy:

Felix Daniel Poteet born to parents Alyssa and Morgan Poteet and great-grandparents Charlie and Karen Kemp

### Ongoing:

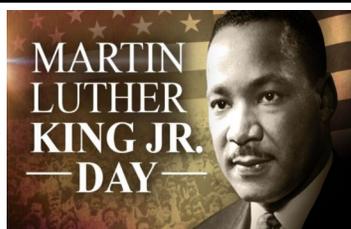
Connie Abraham; John Asher; Carol Bach; Judy Ballard; Kattie Blankenship; Dani Bowen (Meadows); Gloria Brady (Abraham); Janet Burns; Veronica Carnahan; Betty Coan; Dayton and Daislee Cohen; Timicia Curtis; Lois Demaree; Bailee Evans; Margie Fitterling; Kyle Ford (Wolfenbarger); Alyxis Hefty; Darius Hughlett (Wilson); Daryl Hughlett; Roland Hughlett; Bethany James; Betty Kemp; James Knudtson; Lamley Family; Shirley Martin; Betty McKelvey; Sara Metts; Missionary families (Huff, Reaves, Wilson); Arlene Nash; Nancy Nauser (Fitterling); Bethany Newman; Jim Owen; Matthew Paulda; Josh Petty; Reese Prater; Todd Prater; Cameron Ransom; Nancy Righthouse; Sue Smith; Lou Starks; Connie Sullivan; Mike Tesh; Roger Traver; Michelle Vorhees; Michael Wallace (Randall); Tova Wallace-Lee; Karen Patchin Watson; Charles Wilson; Birdie Woods; Mary Lou York, and all unspoken requests.

### Other:

Peace in war-torn countries—Ukraine, Israel, Gaza

### Global Ministries Focus:

Jan. 7: Mozambique  
Jan. 14: Haiti  
Jan. 21: Thailand  
Jan. 28: Hungary



Office Closed  
January 15

## RESPONSIBILITIES

### Elders

Jan. 7: Mike Fitterling  
Jan. 14: Betsy Wheeler  
Jan. 21: Leanna Carrol  
Jan. 28: Ellen Broglio

### Diaconate

Jan. 7: Communion Prep—Judy Akeman and Charlotte Quarles;  
Homebound—Susan Wolfenbarger  
Jan. 14: Communion Prep—Carolyn Theil and Sherry Crumbliss;  
Homebound—Don Smith  
Jan. 21: Communion Prep—Les Davenport and Terry Plossl;  
Homebound—Tom Wheeler;  
Jan. 28: Communion Prep—Jessica Fletcher and Susan Bever;  
Homebound—Tom Hamm

### Camera & Sound

Jan. 7: Sandy Meadows and Don Smith  
Jan. 14: Jenn Reaves and Ken Moser  
Jan. 21: Judy Schneider and Darryl Coit  
Jan. 28: Sandy Meadows and Ray Reaves

### Sunday School (K thru 5)

Jan. 7: Darlene Coit and Karen Kemp  
Jan. 14: Leanna Carrol and Anita Frieze  
Jan. 21: Karen Kemp and Sandy Meadows  
Jan. 28: Daniell Sanders and Karen Kemp

### Children Worship & Wonder

Jan. 7: Karen Kemp and Judy Schneider  
Jan. 14: Karen Fitterling and Taylor Reaves  
Jan. 21: Laney Reaves and Leanna Carrol  
Jan. 28: No CW&W



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

4- Kim Wood  
5 - Beatrix Jones  
5 - James Fletcher-Fierro  
8 - Donny Smith  
8 - Charlotte Quarles  
9 - Chris Greninger  
12 - Lisa Wilcox  
17 - Teresa Cleaver  
19 - Daniell Sanders  
20 - Arlene Nash  
24 - Betsy Wheeler  
27 - Charles Kemp

### Anniversaries

11 - Phil & Lisa Wise  
25 - Tom & Betsy Wheeler

# January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Change in Office Hours</b></p> <p>For the week of January 8 through January 12 SJCC office hours will be 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 pm in order for our Administrative Assistant to participate in Nana duties. Hours will return to 10:00 am until 3:00 am on January 15th.</p>	1 <b>New Years Day - Office Closed</b>	2	3 9:30 am— Noon CWF  5:30 pm Removing Christmas Decor 6:30 pm Choir	4	5	6
7 9:30 am SS 10:20 am Fellowship 10:45 Worship/CW&W 4:00-6:00 pm Family Connections	8 <b>Board Reports Due</b>	9 1:00 pm Worship Team Mtg. (Theil home)	10 6:30 pm Choir	11 8:30 am Snack Pack	12	13 10:00 am Interfaith Panel (United Hebrew Congregation)
14 8:00 am Elders 9:30 am SS 10:15 am Children's Bells 10:20 am Fellowship 10:45 Installation of Leadership/Worship/CW&W Diaconate Mtg Following Worship 4:00-6:00 pm Family Connections	15 <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Office Closed</b>	16	17 6:30 pm Choir	18	19	20
21 9:30 am SS 10:45 Worship/CW&W Noon Fellowship Dinner 4:00-6:00 pm Family Connections	22	23 6:30 pm Sabbatical Cmte. Mtg. (SJCC Office)	24 6:30 pm Choir	25 9:45 am - 2:00 pm Crosslines	26	27
28 8:00 am Elders 9:30 am SS 10:20 am Fellowship 10:45 Worship 2:00 pm International Cooking Club (Hebrew Congregation) 4:00-6:00 pm Family Connections	29	30	31 6:30 pm Choir	<b>All activities at Peace Lutheran Church</b>		