

Disciples Care Newsletter Jan. 2025

Office: 1910 S. Wall Avenue, Joplin, Missouri 64804

Church: 3100 N. St. Louis Avenue, Joplin, Missouri 64801

Rev. Dr. Colleen Carroll, Senior Minister



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.

2025 Leadership

Sojourners Christian Church has been blessed with faithful leadership throughout our shared journey, and we express deep gratitude for all who held leadership positions the last twelve months. We especially thank Sandy Meadows, chair of the board, and Ministry Team leaders Megan Bever (Worship) and Karen Kemp (Faith Formation), who are stepping down for a while, along with elder Leanna Carrol. Thank you to each of these servants for your faithful ministries.

While our executive committee is still working to fill some vacancies, our newly elected or appointed leaders are as follows. Please prayerfully and actively support them as much as you are able.

Board Chair: Raymond Reaves

Vice Chair: (vacant)

Treasurer: Daniell Sanders

Assistant Treasurer: Shari Cullumber

Financial Secretary: Leanna Carrol

Assistant Financial Secretary: Anita Frieze

Board Secretary: Anita Frieze

Elders: Jim Cullumber, Patt Hinds, Ellen Broglio, Mike Fitterling, Betsy Wheeler, Darlene Coit, Margie Fitterling

Diaconate: Sherry Crumbliss (chair), Judy Akeman, Les Davenport, Connie Abraham, Megan Bever, Tom Hamm, Jessica Fletcher-Fierro, Terry Plossl, Daryl Felkins, Alecia Ratliff, Joyce Crumbliss, Donnie Smith, Carolyn Theil, Tom Wheeler, Susan Wolfenbarger, Robb Jones, June Neal, Taylor Reaves (Junior Diaconate)

Permanent Fund Trustees: Judy Akeman, Will Delehanty, Jennifer Reaves, Anita Frieze, Sandy Meadows

Life Together Task Force (rotates in July annually): Les Davenport, Jeanie Morrison, Jim Cullumber

Ministry Teams:

Faith Formation: Darlene Coit and Ellen Broglio

Green Team: Cyndi Cogbill

Hospitality: Ellen Traver

Outreach: (vacant)

Property: Jeanie Morrison; Rental Committee Judy Schneider, Ken Moser

Stewardship: Mike Fitterling

Worship: Patt Hinds and Les Davenport

Adult Faith Formation

We will return to our format of Scripture Lab on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the classroom adjacent to the Fellowship Hall. Using the Revised Common Lectionary passages for the day and supplementing with commentary from theological sources, we will practice reading scriptures with an inquisitive and open mind. Lively and thought-provoking discussion guaranteed!

Christian Women’s Fellowship

Due to the New Years Day holiday, Christian Women’s Fellowship will meet on January 8 at the church, not January 1. Please join hostess Karen Kemp and the other women at 9:30AM for a morning of fellowship, study, and service.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

January 15th @ 5 PM

Breakfast for Dinner is the meal provided for January’s Wednesday night dinner! Please contact Daniell Sanders, phone number 417-396-9519, with any questions or concerns.

CROSSLINES MINISTRIES January Challenge is: **Canned Goods** Crosslines day is January 23 9:45am - 2pm

For the month of January, we ask that everyone start collecting canned goods in preparation for the Super Bowl.
Thank you for your faithful support of Crosslines!

The Minnie Hackney Community Center at 110 S. Main is looking for volunteers to help staff the Center on the coldest nights of the year. When Joplin is due to experience 10 degrees or below for 3 nights in a row, the Center opens its doors to the unhoused. The Center remains open 24 hours under these circumstances, and shifts last 4 to 5 hours (or whatever you can give). Shifts begin at 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. for check-in. Lights out is at 10 p.m. Day shifts start with breakfast at 8 a.m. Since the Center also feeds the unhoused during these times, gifts of food or monetary gifts are welcome. Thank you. If this is a mission you’d like to help with or for information, contact Ellen Broglio (417) 439-9357.

EVENTS/OTHER

Interfaith Panel Discussion

The Joplin Interfaith Coalition will host its next panel discussion on Saturday, January 25 at 10AM at the United Hebrew Congregation, 702 S. Seargeant. The topic is religious practices related to death and afterlife. Possible questions to be addressed by the various faith representatives are:

- Are there particular practices your religion follows regarding care and interment of the deceased?
- What are the main features of funerals in your religion?
- Are there particular mourning practices for the family of the deceased?
- How should members of your community show respect for the deceased and support their family?
- What are your teachings regarding what happens after death? Is there an afterlife, and how do we know about it?

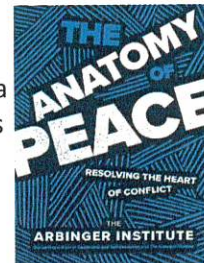
Does your religion teach that there will be a resurrection of the dead?

Members of UHC will provide refreshment for the morning.

Also, mark your calendars for the Interfaith Bake Sale: Saturday, February 22 at the Islamic Society of Joplin. This year's beneficiary is the Medical Loan Closet.

Book Club

Pastor Colleen will host a discussion of the book, *The Anatomy of Peace: Resolving the Heart of Conflict* (©2022 The Arbinger Institute) at her home on Thursday, January 30 at 6:30PM. The book uses a fictional story of an Arab and a Jew – each of whom lost his father at the hands of the other's cousins – to powerfully show us the way to transform conflict. We learn how they come together, how they help parents and children come together, and how we too can find our way out of the personal, professional, and social conflicts that weigh us down.



Fellowship Meal January 19th @ Noon

Watch out for the suggested meal items in the upcoming CareMail!

Family Connection

Thank You Family Connections

We received the following message in a Christmas card from one of our families in the Family Connections program:

"Thank you for all you do and have done for us. It is such a blessing for us to be able to meet at your church rather than the DCF building. God bless you, Cole, Heather, Bob and Linda."

We add our thanks to Sandy Meadows and our faithful volunteers for keeping this ministry going week after week!

Undecorating the Church

Everyone is invited to help the PLC Sanctuary Guild and Sojourners Worship Ministry Team in taking down the Advent and Christmas decorations and returning the church to its usual décor on Saturday, January 11 at 9:30AM.

New Year, New Ways

Many people resolve to start the new year by breaking unhealthy habits or learning healthier ones. Often these resolutions are for the benefit of personal wellbeing. But what if changing our practices could go beyond improving ourselves to actually helping others and the world?

Kathy Escobar, author, spiritual director and copastor of a Denver congregation has written a book entitled *Practicing: Changing Yourself to Change the World* (©2020 Westminster John Knox Press). She highlights ten practices that followers of Christ can embrace that help us to live out our faith in tangible ways, contributing to the healing of all creation.

Over the coming eight weeks from Epiphany to the start of Lent, we will be using Kathy's book as a springboard for our Sunday morning worship and providing suggested actions for those willing to "put skin in the game." Not all practices will resonate with everyone, but we hope God will be at work in at least one or more of the practices to help our congregation look and act more like the Christ we profess to each other and our community. Here are the topics for the series, along with scripture readings:

| | | |
|-------------|------------|------------------------|
| January 12 | Healing | 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10 |
| January 19 | Listening | Ecclesiastes 5:1-3 |
| January 26 | Loving | 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 |
| February 2 | Including | Acts 10:34-43 |
| February 9 | Equalizing | Acts 2:14-21 |
| February 16 | Advocating | Isaiah 58:6-7 |
| February 23 | Mourning | Job 2:11-3:1 |
| March 2 | Failing | Luke 22:54-62 |



Prayer Requests

Medical: Matt Paige (Coit); Alyssa Poteet; Lisa Wise; Jim Petty (Moser/Carrol)

Sympathy: Cheryl Gill (Moser); Candy Furnish (Meadows/Peterson-Sloan)

Ongoing:

Connie Abraham; Dave Gilmore (Ratliff); Debi Lorenz; John Asher; Carol Bach; Judy Ballard; Kittie Blankenship; Gloria Brady (Abraham); 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; James Knudtson; Lamley Family; Shirley Martin; Brett McCreary; 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; Jayne Sanders; Sue Smith; Lou Starks; Connie Sullivan; Mike Tesh; Roger Traver; Michelle Vorhees; Michael Wallace (Randall); Tova Wallace-Lee; Karen Patchin Watson; Birdie Woods; Mary Lou York, and all unspoken requests.

Global Ministries Focus:

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|------------|--------------|
| January 5 | Morocco |
| January 12 | Sierra Leone |
| January 19 | Brazil |
| January 26 | China |



RESPONSIBILITIES

Elders

| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| January 5 | Mike Fitterling |
| January 12 | Betsy Wheeler |
| January 19 | Darlene Coit |
| January 26 | Ellen Broglio |

Diaconate

| | |
|------------|--|
| January 5 | Communion Prep—Joyce Crumbliss & Sherry Crumbliss |
| January 12 | Homebound—Susan Wolfenbarger Communion Prep—June Neal & Carolyn Theil |
| January 19 | Homebound—Tom Wheeler Communion Prep—Les Davenport & Rob Jones |
| January 26 | Homebound—Tom Hamm Communion Prep—Judy Akeman & Daryl Felkins |
| | Homebound—Don Smith |

Camera & Sound

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|------------|-----------------------------|
| January 5 | Terry Plossl & Darryl Coit |
| January 12 | Judy Schneider & Don Smith |
| January 19 | Jennifer Reaves & Ken Moser |
| January 26 | Sandy Meadows & Ray Reaves |

Kid's Church Preschool thru 6th Grades

| | |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| January 5 | Darlene Coit & Margie Fitterling |
| January 12 | Karen Kemp & Sandy Meadows |
| January 19 | Children in Family Worship |
| January 26 | Daniell Sanders & Anita Frieze |

Children Worship & Wonder

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| January 5 | Karen Kemp & Judy Schneider |
| January 12 | Karen Fitterling & Alecia Ratliff |
| January 19 | Children in Family Worship |
| January 26 | Laney Reaves & Taylor Reaves |

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

| | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 4 | Kim Wood |
| 5 | Beatrix Jones |
| 5 | James Fletcher-Fierro |
| 8 | Donny Smith |
| 8 | Charlotte Quarles |
| 9 | Chris Greninger |
| 11 | Justin Lucietta |
| 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 |
|--|---|--|---|--|-----|---|
| 29 | 30 | 31 5:30pm WW | 1 New Years Day - Office Closed | 2 4pm MSSU Student Meal @ MSSU | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Epiphany Sunday 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/CW&W/ Kid's Church 4pm-6pm Family Connection | 6 | 7 5:30pm WW 6:30pm Worship Ministry Team Mtg. (Theil home) | 8 9:30am CWF 6pm Choir | 9 | 10 | 11 9:30am Undecorate Church |
| 12 8am Elders 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:20am PLC WGS Mtg. 10:45am Worship/CW&W/ Kids Church 4pm - 6pm Family Connection | 13 Board Reports Due | 14 5:30pm WW | 15 5pm Fellowship Meal 6 pm Choir | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:20am PLC Council Mtg. 10:45am Worship 12pm Fellowship Potluck 4pm - 6pm Family Connection | 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Office Closed | 21 9 am - 4 pm Quilters | 22 | 23 9:45am - 2pm Crosslines Workday | 24 | 25 10am Interfaith Panel (United Hebrew) |
| 26 8am Elders 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/CW&W/ Kids Church 4pm - 6pm Family Connection | 27 3pm Life Together Task Force | 28 | 29 6pm Choir | 30 6:30pm Book Discussion (Pastor Carroll's home) | 31 | |

All activities at Sojourners Christian Church unless specified otherwise.

Our new website address is: www.sojournerschristianchurch.org