



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.

Beginning Again

As Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes wrote in his meditation on April 28, “masters of resurrection are always beginning again.” This is timely for us as we mark the closing of one ministry and begin a new adventure.

Two weeks ago we bid farewell to the last family for whom we provided supervised visits in our Family Connections outreach ministry after they were given clearance for unsupervised visits with their children in foster care. Reunification is the goal which families work for, so we rejoice in the successful outcome for the family.

At this time the program seems to have run its course, and the Outreach Ministry Team along with Sandy Meadows, Family Connection coordinator for Sojourners, feel it best to close out the ministry. Referrals for new families are not being made and the organizers for Family Connection in Springfield have moved on to other ventures.

Before we move on to other ventures, we first express deepest appreciation to our volunteers who stepped forward to be trained and invested time on Sunday afternoons to provide supervision. Since the program began in December of 2022, our twelve volunteers supported eight families and twenty children in over 300 hours of time.

Meanwhile, Betsy Wheeler has been in contact with Royal Heights Elementary School to initiate a formal relationship with them as a partner with Bright Futures. They are very grateful for our interest and have already asked for our help in providing breakfast on the first day of Teacher Appreciation Week on May 5. Betsy is coordinating supplies and delivery for this first event. Please contact her if you are interested in contributing or assisting. Additional opportunities to provide support for teachers and students are being discussed. Many of our members have fond memories of volunteering at Irving Elementary, and look forward to new opportunities with a new partnership at Royal Heights Elementary as well.

As always, thank you to every one of our faithful servants who invest and reinvest their time and compassion in service to others.



Plant Giveaway a Big Success!

The Plant Giveaway on April 27 in honor of Earth Day was a huge success, thanks to everyone who contributed items and chose items to take home. There were plants, seeds, pots, garden gloves, and even some fresh eggs to choose from! Special thanks to Karen McKenzie for helping to set up and organize the giveaway. We anticipate similar giveaways in the future as we practice generosity and stewardship of resources.



Native plant vendors will be at Shoal Creek Conservation Education Center on *May 24 from 10am to 2pm.*

Scriptures for May

May 4 Acts 9:1-6

May 18 Acts 11: 1-18

May 11 Acts 9: 36-43

May 25 Acts 16: 9-15

EVENTS/OTHER

Life Together Task Force will meet at 6pm on Tuesday, May 6.

Adult Faith Formation

Sunday Mornings at 9:30: We will be watching a video of Richard Rohr entitled “How Jesus Interpreted Scripture” and looking at some key passages together. Join us in the room adjacent to the Fellowship Hall.

Book Club: The book to be discussed this month is *Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America from the Culture of Contempt* by Arthur C. Brooks. To be discussed on May 29, 6:30PM @ Ellen Broglio’s home: 811 N. Byers Ave. in Joplin.

Christian Women’s Fellowship
Wed. May 7 @ 9:30AM
Hostess: Becky Martino Service Project:
The Alliance of
SWMO



Board Meeting Reminder

The church board will meet in person on Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30PM at the church. Please ensure that your written reports are submitted to the church office no later than Monday, May 12. Thank you!

May Fellowship Potluck

Sunday May 16 at noon, Please consider dishes by last name: Main Dish A-C side or salad D-R, Dessert S-Z

Crosslines Ministries

86 lbs of dried and canned pasta were donated in April for Crosslines! The suggested donation for May is macaroni and cheese. Next date for volunteers is Thursday, May 22, 9:45AM-2PM.



General Assembly

The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will gather in person from July 12th to 15th, 2025, in Memphis, TN. Sojourners CC has resources to assist with registration costs for anyone interested in attending. Children and Youth programming is also offered throughout the assembly.

Wednesday Night Dinner May 14

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs are being served for the Wednesday night dinner on May 14 at 5PM. Feel free to contact Daniell Sanders if you’d like to help. 417-396-9519.

Green Tip

Instead of plastic containers, try 4, 8 and 16 ounce, wide-mouth glass canning jars for refrigerator food storage. They are readily available and it is easy to see what is stored inside.



National Benevolent Association

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)’s Mental

Health and Wellness Team will be hosting several events throughout the month. There is no cost to attend these events, but registration is required. Check out their schedule and register at <https://www.nbacares.org/stories/nbba-mental-health-awareness-month-events/>

Summer Camp Scholarships:

Sojourners CC has scholarship money to assist with registration fees for church camp. Deadlines begin in May, so please see Pastor Colleen asap if your child(ren) would like to attend this summer.

Summer Camp

Come join the excitement, games, and faith exploration at one of our amazing Mid-America Summer Camps!

Registration opens the evening of March 17th !
<https://www.mid-america-disciples.org/summer>

Scan here for registration and more info -> 

Faith Adventures	NEOLA at Jo-Ota	NW at Crowder	Canoe Camp
JVF, Chi Rho, and CVF July 21- 25th	Try It Camp June 6-7	Chi Rho June 29-July 3	June 15-19
Try It July 24-25	CVF July 7-12	CVF July 6-11	
	Elem/Jr July 14-18	123 Go July 13-15	
	Chi Rho July 28-August 2	Junior July 17-21	
		Combo (Junior & Chi Rho) July 23-27	
		Our Faith Our Bodies Info Coming Soon	

Prayer Requests

Sympathy: Joe Prater (4-9-25)
Mary Lou York (4-14-25)

Medical: Logan Reed; Lou Starks; JoHelen Umphenour

Ongoing:

Chastity Perry (White); Chris Greninger; Connie Abraham; Dave Gilmore (Ratliff); Debi Lorenz; John Asher; Carol Bach; Joan Fitterling; Judy Ballard; Kittie Blankenship; Gloria Brady (Abraham); Dayton and Daislee Cohen; Timicia Curtis; Lois Demaree; Margie Fitterling; Kyle Ford (Wolfenbarger); Alyxis Hefty; Darius Hughlett (Wilson); Daryl Hughlett; Roland Hughlett; Bethany James; James Knudtson; Lamley Family; Lisa Wise; Shirley Martin; Sara Metts; Missionary families (Huff, Reaves, Wilson); Arlene Nash; Bethany Newman; Jim Owen; Matthew Paulda; Josh Petty; Reese Prater; Cameron Ransom; 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; Willa Randall and all unspoken requests.

Global Ministries Focus:

- May 4 India
- May 11 Palestine
- May 18 Puerto Rico
- May 25 Philippines



RESPONSIBILITIES	
Elders	
May 4	Ellen Broglio
May 11	Jim Cullumber
May 18	Margie Fitterling
May 25	Patt Hinds
Diaconate	
May 4	Communion Prep-Connie Abraham and Megan Bever
	Homebound-Susan Wolfenbarger
May 11	Communion Prep-Joyce and Sherry Crumbliss
	Homebound-Tom Hamm
May 18	Communion Prep-Robb James and Susan Wolfenbarger
	Homebound-Tom Wheeler
May 25	Communion Prep-Carolyn Theil and Jessica Fierro-Fletcher
	Homebound-Don Smith
Camera & Sound	
May 4	Sandy Meadows & Darryl Coit
May 11	Judy Schneider & Ray Reaves
May 18	Jen Reaves & Ken Moser
May 25	Terry Plossl & Don Smith
Kid's Church Preschool thru 6th Grades	
May 4	Robb and Anita
May 11	Daniell and Kayci
May 18	Children in Family Worship
May 25	Karen McKenzie and Anita
Children Worship & Wonder	
May 4	Karen Kemp & Judy Schneider
May 11	Karen Fitterling & Alicia Ratliff
May 18	Children in Family Worship
May 25	Laney Reaves & Taylor Reaves



Birthdays & Anniversaries

<u>Birthdays</u>	
May 9 Austin Delehanty	
May 19 Tom Hamm	
May 26 Roger Traver	



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 8am Elders 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kids Church	28	29 (9am to 4pm Quilters) (5:30pm WW)	30 6 pm Choir	1	2	3 10:00 am Interfaith Panel (LDS Church)
4 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/CW&W/ Kids Church	5 7:00am Teacher Breakfast (Royal Heights ES) 6:00pm Worship Team Meet- ing	6 (5:30pm WW) 6:00 pm Life together Task Force	7 9:30am CWF 6 pm Choir	8	9	10
11 MOTHER'S DAY 8am Elders 9:30 Adult Faith Formation 10:20AM Fellowship 10:45 am Worship/CW&W/Kids Church 12pm Fellowship Potluck	12 Board Re- ports DUE	13 (5:30 pm WW) 6:30 pm Board Meet- ing	14 5:00 pm Fel- lowship meal 6pm Choir	15	16	17
18 10:15 am Kids Bells 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship (Kids remain in Church) 12:00 pm Potluck	19	20 (9 am - 4 pm Quilters) (5:30pm WW)	21 6pm Choir	22 Crosslines 9:45am to 2:00 pm	23	24
25 8am Elders 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kids Church	26 <i>Memorial Day (Office will be closed)</i>	27 (9 am - 4 pm Quilters) (5:30pm WW)	28 6pm Choir	29	30	31



PLEASE NOTE
Office hours for 1910 Wall
9am to 2pm
Mon-Thur



All activities at Sojourners Christian Church unless specified otherwise.

Our new website address is: www.sojournerschristianchurch.org
And find us on Facebook!