



# Disciples Care Newsletter JAN 2026

Office Hours are 9am to 2pm, M-Th  
3100 N. St. Louis Avenue, Joplin, Missouri 64801



## 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.

### **The Time Between Christmas and Lent at Sojourners CC -**

Our General Minister and President, Rev. Terri Hord Owens has written to the church with a challenge to be the church we say we are. In her book published just last year, she reminds us of our roots and challenges us to deeper spirituality that transforms our ministries.

Here is one review of the book:

*Tired of the division and hypocrisy in the church today? Discover a new vision for a church grounded in love, unity, and prophetic imagination that welcomes everyone to the table. This book will inspire you to become a catalyst for change and build a church that lives up to its calling.*

*In a world of increasing polarization, the church is called to be a beacon of hope and unity. Staying at the Table challenges us to confront injustice, embrace diversity, and live out the radical love of Christ. How do we have difficult conversations? How do we dream together of a more vibrant faith, a more energized faith community, a better world? It starts with a church grounded in deep spiritual practice, Biblical engagement, and God's love and imagination. Staying at the Table is an essential guide for anyone who longs for a church ready to leave behind the tired, hollow words that have little impact on its community and to lean into an authentic faith that truly, deeply embodies the teachings of Jesus.*

With an engaging forward by Disciple's minister Rev. William Barber II of the Moral Movement, it has been recommended to every congregation in the denomination as essential reading.

We will use the seven weeks between the Christmas and Lent season to consider one chapter each Sunday in worship as follows:

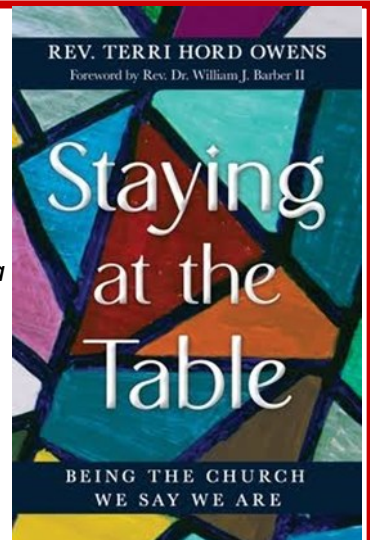
**January 4** “Everything Begins with God” - Ephesians 3:20-21

**January 11** “Start With Limitless Love” - 1 John 4:7-21

**January 18** “Imagine With Me” - 1 Corinthians 1:25-28

**January 25** “Let's Be the Church We Say We Are” - 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Copies of the book are available for purchase from Chalice Press or several other outlets if you want to read along and go deeper in your personal study.



### **Good News**

With the passage of the 2026 Sojourners budget, we will now be setting aside 10% of receipts to the General Fund for outreach ministries on a weekly basis (as opposed to 9% previously). Of those funds, 15% will be automatically designated to Crosslines Ministries. We rejoice in the opportunity to be more generous in our stewardship of resources with which we are blessed.

Additionally, Christian Women's Fellowship contributed a total of \$1,123.84 to various ministries in 2025. Thank you, faithful women of Sojourners!

**2026 Legislative Preview and Campaign Overview** sponsored by PROMO, which advocates for the rights of LGBTQ Missourians will be hosted online on Monday, January 12 from 5-6:30PM. Use this link to sign up: <https://mobilize.us/s/k11HpM>

**Life Together Task force** The next meeting of the Life Together Task Force will be 6 p.m. Monday, Jan 5, 2026

### **Interfaith Panel Discussion**

The Interfaith Coalition will host a panel discussion among faith leaders on January 31 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The topic is Sin, Repentance, and Redemption in the various religions. The event is open to the public and is from 10AM to noon.

**Board Reports are DUE MONDAY Jan 12, Please submit to Shelly by 2pm that day. Thank you!**

## EVENTS/OTHER

### CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

**Christian Women's Fellowship** will meet on January 7 at 9:30 AM with Darlene Coit, hostess. The service project is Disciple Women-to-Women



### **FELLOWSHIP MEAL, Potluck SUNDAY January 18**

Join us! Suggested items to bring are done by last initial, Main Dish A-C, side and salad D-R, dessert S-Z, we look forward to fellowshiping with you!

**Crosslines:** Thank you, Sojourners and PLC for contributing 123 pounds of food to Crosslines in December, the bulk of which was peanut butter and jelly as suggested. For the month of January we encourage contributions of canned protein like Spam or tuna. Our next scheduled workday is January 22, 9:45AM to 2PM.

**GREEN TIP-** For an outside light - Does it have a purpose? Does the light point only where needed? Is it only as bright as needed? Is it only on when needed? Is the light warm-colored?



The Church office will be closed Monday January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King's birthday.

### **Leadership for 2026**

With thanks to those who faithfully fulfilled their leadership roles in 2025, and to those who will continue or step into new positions, we are invited to pray and support the following persons in their ministry on behalf of our congregation.

Chair of the Board: *Betsy Wheeler*

Vicechair of the Board: *Mike Fitterling*

Financial Secretary: *Leanna Carrol*

Assistant Financial Secretary: *Anita Frieze*

Treasurer: *Daniell Sanders*

Assistant Treasurer: *Shari Cullumber*

Board Secretary: *Anita Frieze*

Elders: *Ellen Broglio, Mike Fitterling, Betsy Wheeler (2026); Darlene Coit, Margie Fitterling (2027); Sandy Meadows, Leanna Carrol, Jim Cullumber (2028)*

Diaconate: *Jessica Fletcher-Fierro, Terry Plossl, Daryl Felkins, Joyce Crumbliss (2026) Don Smith, Carolyn Theil, Tom Wheeler, Susan Wolfenbarger, Robb Jones (2027) Judy Akeman, Les Davenport, Connie Abraham, Megan Bever, Sherry Crumbliss, Tom Hamm (2028)*

Junior Diaconate: *Taylor Reaves (2026)*

Permanent Fund Trustees: *Jennifer Reaves, Anita Frieze (2026), Sandy Meadows (2027), Jim Cullumber, Raymond Reaves (2028)*

### **Ministry Teams**

Faith Formation: *Ellen Broglio and Darlene Coit co-chairs*

Green Team: *Cyndi Cogbill*

Hospitality: *Ellen Traver and Sandy Hays co-chairs*

Outreach: (vacant)

Property: *Susan Wolfenbarger and Don Smith co-chairs*

Stewardship: (vacant)

Worship: (vacant)

Life Together Task Force (terms run July through June)

*Jeanie Morrison (2026), Jim Cullumber (2027), Les Davenport (2028)*

As you can see, we still have some leadership vacancies and invite your prayers for workable solutions to remedy those gaps.

### **Book Club**

The Sojourners Book Club will meet on Thursday, January 29 to discuss Heather Cox Richardson's book, *How the South Won the Civil War: Oligarchy, Democracy, and the Continuing Fight for the Soul of America*. Ellen Broglio hosts the discussion at her home on 811 N. Byers Ave.

### **Church Van for Sale**

The church board has voted to sell the church shuttle bus. Feel free to share the following information with persons you may know with interest. 2003 gas Ford E350 chassis 55,700 miles manufacturer built minibus seating 15 including driver. \$9500. Contact Jeanie Morrison at 417-434-7760 and leave a call back number.

**SAFETY TEAM** We are looking for people who would like to be part of the Safety Team in 2026. We welcome your thoughts, suggestions and participation in the coming year. If you have thought about being part of a team that works together to make and keep our church a Safe Place, let Donny Smith or Susan Wolfenbarger know.

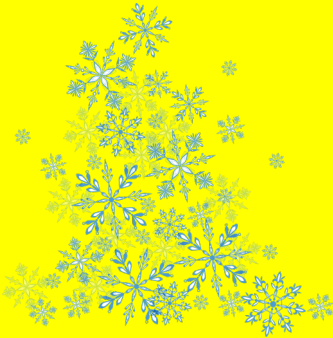
Prayer Requests

Sympathy: Peggy Barrett (Kemp); Jill Carter (Schneider); Tony Hill (Hinds); Debbie Lorenz

Other: Mark Felkins

Ongoing:

Jan Heil Blankenship (Cullumber) Kittie Blankenship; Bill Burns (Randall); Rachel Eckhardt; Joan Fitterling; Margie Fitterling; Kyle Ford (Wolfenbarger); Carolyn and Tom Fortson; Nancy Graham; Chris Greninger; Terry Hays; Jones’ neighbor’s baby; James Knudtson; Sandy Meadows; Sara Metts (Randall); Arlene Nash; Chastity Perry (White); Willa Randall; Jayne Sanders; Lou Starks; Sue Sterrett; Connie Sullivan; Pat Tikkanen (PLC) Roger Traver; Michael Wallace (Randall); Pat Wolfenbarger



Global Ministries Focus:  
Jan 4- EGYPT

RESPONSIBILITIES

Elders

Jan 4 Mike Fitterling  
Jan 11 Betsy Wheeler  
Jan 18 Darlene Coit  
Jan 25 Ellen Broglio

Diaconate

Jan 4 Communion Prep-Carolyn Theil & Susan Wolfenbarger  
Homebound-Don Smith  
Jan 11 Communion Prep-Les Davenport & Terry Plossl  
Homebound-Tom Wheeler  
Jan 18 Communion Prep-James Robb & Megan Bever  
Homebound-Susan Wolfenbarger  
Jan 25 Communion Prep-Joyce & Sherry Crumbliss  
Homebound-Tom Hamm

Camera & Sound

Jan 4 Terry Plossl & Ken Moser  
Jan 11 Jenn Reaves & Ray Reaves  
Jan 18 Judy Schneider & Darryl Coit  
Jan 25 Terry Plossl & Don Smith

Kid’s Church Preschool thru 6th Grades

Jan 4 Robb Jones & Anita Frieze  
Jan 11 Abi Jones & Karen Kemp  
Jan 18 Children in Family Worship  
Jan 25 Daniell Sanders & Mike Fitterling

Children Worship & Wonder

Jan 4 Karen Kemp & Judy Schneider  
Jan 11 Karen Fitterling & Taylor Reaves  
Jan 18 Laney R & Taylor Reaves  
Jan 25 Children in Family Worship



Birthdays

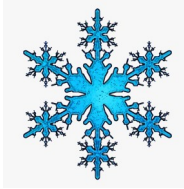





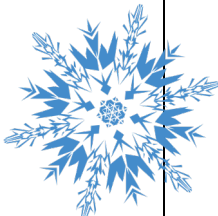
4 Kim Wood  
5 Beatrix Jones  
5 James Fletcher-Fierro  
8 Donny Smith  
8 Charlotte Quarles  
9 Chris Greninger  
11 Justin Lucietta  
17 Teresa Cleaver  
19 Daniell Sanders  
20 Arlene Nash  
24 Betsy Wheeler  
27 Charles Kemp

Anniversaries

11 Phil & Lisa Wise  
25 Tom & Betsy Wheeler





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kid's Church No CW&W	29 	30  (5:30 pm WW)	31  <i>No Choir rehearsal</i>	1 JAN Office Closed  	2 	3
4 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kid's church CW&W	5 6pm Life Together Task Force	6  (5:30 pm WW)	7) 9:30AM CWF  6pm Choir	8 	9	10
11 8:00am Elders 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kid's Church CW&W	12 <b><u>Board Reports DUE</u></b>	13  (5:30 pm WW)	14  6pm Choir	15	16 	17
18 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:15 Kids Bells 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/ Children in Family Worship 12:00 Fellowship Potluck	19 (Office Closed for MLK Day) 	20  (5:30pm WW)	21  6pm Choir	22 9:45am Crosslines work day	23	24
25) 8:00am Elders 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kid's Church CW&W (2:15pm Interfaith cooking circle @ISJ)	26	27  (5:30 pm WW)	28  6pm Choir	29 	30	31 12pm (Interfaith Panel @ LDS Church)

PLEASE NOTE

Office Hours For

Sojourners' Christian Church

3100 N. St. Louis Ave.

9am to 2pm

Mon-Thurs



All activities at Sojourner's  
Christian Church, unless otherwise specified

Our website address is: [www.sojournerschristianchurch.org](http://www.sojournerschristianchurch.org)  
And find us on Facebook!