



# Disciples Care Newsletter APR 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 Season of Easter

This year, the month of April inaugurates the liturgical season of Easter as the universal church celebrates the resurrection appearances of Jesus beginning on Easter Sunday and continuing until Pentecost Sunday on May 24. Unlike many retail outlets that line their shelves with Easter paraphernalia three months in advance and clear the shelves the day after, we celebrate Easter for seven weeks following, proclaiming over and over again that “Christ has risen indeed!”

Holy Week at Sojourners CC offers several opportunities to culminate the theme of “Walking with Jesus,” beginning with Maundy Thursday. In Latin, the word *mandatum* means commandment, and refers to Jesus’ new commandment given to his disciples to love one another. The occasion recalls the Last Supper as well as Jesus washing the disciples’ feet in John 13, both expressions of Jesus’ selfless love.

We will observe the Last Supper on **Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m.** in the fellowship hall around an expanded table. The service will include sharing food while listening to a reflection from Nadia Bolz-Weber on Judas and grace, concluding with Communion. For those who desire a more traditional service, Peace Lutheran Church extends an invitation to their service in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m., which will include optional foot-washing.

We are also invited to share in Peace Lutheran’s Good Friday service and Easter Vigil service on Saturday, both at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

On Easter Sunday our service will include music from the children’s bell choir and chancel choir, and sermon on “Back to the Beginning” from Matthew 28:1-10. Come early to enjoy fellowship in the narthex. Kid’s Church and Children Worship and Wonder are also scheduled for the children.

The following Sundays in April the scripture readings continue the resurrection appearance stories from the gospels of John and Luke: April 12 will be John 20:19-31 and April 19 will be Luke 24:13-15. Elder Jim Cullumber will bring the sermon on April 26 while Pastor Colleen enjoys a vacation.

Let’s all do our best to observe the Easter season with utmost intention and purpose, walking with Jesus as faithful followers even in our modern context for the sake of God’s kin-dom and the flourishing of all.



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**Easter Offering Collection: March 29 and April 5.**

*Your gift to the Easter special offering benefits general ministries, allowing us to do more together than we can alone. More ministry. More impact. More of God’s love in the world.*

### Summer Church Camp Opportunities

The Mid-America Region of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) provides multiple opportunities for children and youth to attend faith-based camps throughout the summer. Sojourners CC has generous scholarship funds to send our kids to these camps. We encourage families to make use of these funds and foster relationships with other Disciple youth and adults in the region.

There are “Try It” camps for pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, overnight camps for elementary through high school students as well as canoe camp for 6 through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. For a complete listing of offerings and locations, please visit [www.mid-americadisciples.org/summer](http://www.mid-americadisciples.org/summer). Many have early deadlines of June 1, so time is of the essence. To make use of SCC scholarships, contact Pastor Colleen.

The camping program is always in need of adult counselors with a heart for children and youth faith development, so speak to Pastor Colleen if you are interested in volunteering and are current with Child Protection Screening at Sojourners.



**Board Reports are DUE MONDAY Apr 13, Please submit to Shelly by 2pm that day. Thank you!**

# EVENTS/OTHER

## CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

**Christian Women's Fellowship** will meet on Wednesday, April 1 (no foolin'!) with Susan Wolfenbarger hosting. The service project is Webb City Farmer's Market (WIC) project.



### Best Choice Labels

The Christian Women's Fellowship collects and redeems Best Choice labels annually and welcomes contributions from everyone. Bring your labels to Pat Wolfenbarger or place them in the CWF box on the wall behind the door of the workroom at church.



### FELLOWSHIP MEAL, Potluck SUNDAY April 19

Join us! Suggested items to bring are done by last initial,

Main Dish D-L, side and salad M-Z, dessert A-C



**Crosslines:** Workday for SCC volunteers is April 23rd 9:45am. Sojourners and PLC contributed 160 pounds of food to Crosslines in March; thank you! The suggested donation for April is canned meats such as tuna, chicken, etc.

**GREEN TIP-**Bring your own drink mugs and beverage containers to cafes, restaurants, coffee shops, and church. Most places now allow it. You will keep billions of disposable cups out of landfills.



### Interfaith Coalition Panel Discussion

Sojourners CC and Peace Lutheran will co-host the next Interfaith Panel on *Saturday, April 25 at 10AM*, led by Pastor Rich Gates. The discussion topic will be earth and environmental care, coinciding with annual Earth Day (April 22). Volunteers who are able to help provide refreshments and hospitality are needed from both SCC and PLC.

### Thrive Summit April 16, 8:30-Noon

Sojourners CC is looking for a few representatives from our congregation with interest in partnering with One Joplin's Thrive project, which was unveiled last month. A Summit will take place at Joplin Expo Center, North Park Mall on *April 16* where project leaders will present key findings from recent research on community health and avenues of working together to dismantle barriers and build a stronger Joplin. Let Pastor Colleen know of your interest, and register to attend on the One Joplin website: [OneJoplin.com](http://OneJoplin.com).

**The Life Together Task Force** at its March 2026 meeting discussed several items:

There should be no schedule conflicts with use of the sanctuary for Maundy Thursday and Easter; PLC also will offer a Good Friday service and a special Easter Vigil service Saturday evening.

Reported the south door at the church entryway does not always close properly, with people reminded to push both doors shut if the last one to leave the building.

Saw the concrete bench has been placed near the Little Library, and that donations of gently used books are needed as use of the library seems to be on the increase.

SCC invited PLC to join in volunteering at Crosslines on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, and PLC will be invited to join in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday fellowship dinners.

Learned denominational leaders from the Disciples of Christ and the ELCA are continuing a series of dialogues. The group meets twice a year, once in person and once via Zoom. Jim Cullumber from SCC and Pastor Rich from Peace will reach out to lift up our partnership as an example and see if they would like to hear how the two congregations share space.

**The next meeting will be 6 p.m. Monday, May 4.**

**SAVE THE DATES**

**BEYOND: LOVE SURPASSING**  
JULY 10-11, 2026

Save the dates for the 2026 General Assembly online, July 10-11, 2026! The theme, **BEYOND: Love Surpassing (Ephesians 3:14-21)**, builds on the work that God began last year and marks the first General Assembly of the new triennium as we live into our new structure. Plan to join us online alone or with others at a local assembly gathering in your area for vital worship, discernment, and connection.

Mark your calendar now and plan to participate as we are further "rooted and established in love" that surpasses knowledge. More details to come.

**OTHER DATES**

Tech Training for Regional and Congregational Tech Leaders  
February 26 & 28, 2026

Registration Opens  
March 2026  
(\$30 per person)

Information Session for Congregational Leaders & Delegates  
March 2026 - TBA

Portal to enter Congregational Delegates in ALEX opens  
April 2026



### Welcome, Rev. Teresa Spear!

We rejoice to receive Teresa Spear into fellowship at Sojourners CC on March 15.

Teresa has moved to Duenweg (408 Molly Dean Dr., 64841) and is making Sojourners her church home. What a pleasure to welcome her back.

**Shoal Creek Conservation Education Center** will host a native plant sale on *Saturday, May 23rd* starting at 10am. **SAVE THE DATE!**



## Prayer Requests

**Sympathy:** Renee Baldwin (Fortson)

**Medical:** Darlene Coit; Pattie Griton (Fortson); Sarah Harris (Wolfenbarger); Shirley Martin; Holly Sage family (Wheeler); Lou Starks; Roger Traver; Charlie

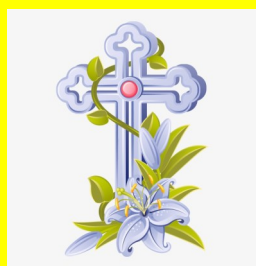
Kemp, Jacki Passante (Schneider)

**Daily at noon:** National Council of Churches invites us to pray – “Deliver us from evil.”

### Ongoing:

Kittie Blankenship; Bill Burns (Randall); Cyndi Cogbill; Rachel Eckhardt; Micah Evans (Cogbill); 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; Willa Randall; Jayne Sanders; Lou Starks; Sue Sterrett; Connie Sullivan; Pat Tikkanen (PLC) Roger Traver; Michael Wallace (Randall); Pat Wolfenbarger

**Other:** Jennifer Wright and son Seojun; flooding in Hawaii; wildfires in Nebraska;



### Global Ministries Focus:

Apr 5 – Japan  
Apr 12 – Lesotho  
Apr 19 – Armenia/Middle East  
Apr 26 – Indonesia

## RESPONSIBILITIES

### Elders

Apr 5 Jim Cullumber  
Apr 12 Leanna Carroll  
Apr 19 Sandy Meadows  
Apr 26 Mike Fitterling



### Diaconate

Apr. 5 Communion Prep-Connie Abraham & Judy Akeman  
Homebound-Don Smith  
Apr. 12 Communion Prep-Carolyn Theil & Susan Wolfenbarger  
Homebound-Tom Wells  
Apr. 19 Communion Prep-Megan Bever & Jessica Fletcher-Fierro  
Homebound-Susan Wolfenbarger  
Apr. 26 Communion Prep-Sherry & Joyce Crumbliss  
Homebound-Tom Hamm

### Camera & Sound

Apr 5 Jenn Reaves & Ken Moser  
Apr 12 Judy Schneider & Daryl Coit  
Apr 19 Terry Plossl & Don Smith  
Apr 26 Jenn Reaves & Ray Reaves

### Kid's Church Preschool thru 6th Grades

Apr 5 Robb Jones & Sandy Meadows  
Apr 12 Abi Jones & Margie Fitterling  
Apr 19 Kids in Family Worship  
Apr 26 Daniell Sanders & Karen Kemp

### Children Worship & Wonder







Apr 5 Karen Kemp & Judy Schneider  
Apr 12 Karen Fitterling & Taylor Reaves  
Apr 19 Kids in Family Worship  
Apr 26 Laney Reaves & TBA



### Birthdays

1 Benjamin Delehanty  
4 Judy Schneider  
5 Lou Starks  
6 Pat Wolfenbarger  
8 Rachel Eckhardt  
9 Connie Abraham  
15 Anita Frieze  
19 Becky Martino  
23 Shelly White  
24 Cyndi Cogbill  
30 Jeanie Morrison



| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Mon                                                                                     | Tue                                                  | Wed                                                                                                                                                | Thu                                                                                                      | Fri                                                                                       | Sat                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 29<br>9:30am Adult Faith Formation<br>10:20am Fellowship<br>10:45am Worship/Kid's church<br>CW&W                                                                                                              | 30<br> | 31<br><br>(5:30 pm<br>WW)                            | 1<br>9:30AM CWF<br><br>6pm Choir                                                                                                                   | 2) 6:30pm<br>Sojourners CC<br>Maundy Thurs.<br>worship<br><br>7:00pm PLC<br>Maundy Thurs.<br>worship     | 3)7:00pm<br>PLC Good<br>Friday wor-<br>ship<br><br>Office<br>Closed Pas-<br>tor's day off | 4) 7:00pm<br>PLC Easter<br>Vigil wor-<br>ship                                              |
| 5 Easter Sunday<br><br>9:30am Adult Faith Formation<br>10:15 Kids Bells<br>10:20am Fellowship<br>10:45am Easter Worship<br>  | 6                                                                                       | 7<br><br>(5:30 pm<br>WW)                             | 8<br><br>6pm Choir                                                                                                                                 | 9                                                                                                        | 10<br><br>Office<br>Closed<br><br>Pastor's<br>day off                                     | 11<br> |
| 12<br>8:00am Elders<br>9:30am Adult Faith Formation<br>10:20am Fellowship<br>10:45am Worship/ Kid's Church<br>CW&W<br><br> | 13 <b><u>Board<br/>Reports<br/>Due</u></b>                                              | 14<br><br>(5:30 pm<br>WW)                            | 15<br><br>6pm Choir                                                                                                                                | 16<br><br>8:30am-<br>noon Thrive<br>Summit<br>(Mall)                                                     | 17<br><br>Office<br>Closed<br><br>Pastor's<br>day off                                     | 18                                                                                         |
| 19<br>9:30am Adult Faith Formation<br>10:15 Kids Bells<br>10:20am Fellowship<br>10:45am Worship/Children in<br>Family Worship<br>noon Fellowship Potluck                                                      | 20<br>Pastor on<br>Vacation                                                             | 21<br>Pastor on<br>Vacation<br><br>(5:30pm<br>WW)    | 22) <i>Earth Day</i><br>Pastor on<br>Vacation<br><br>6pm Choir | 23) Pastor on<br>vacation<br><br>9:45am<br>Crosslines<br>work day<br>6:30pm Book<br>Club Broglio<br>Home | 24) Pastor<br>on vacation<br><br>Office<br>Closed<br><br>Pastor's<br>day off              | 25) Pastor<br>on Vacation<br><br>10:00am<br>Interfaith<br>Panel<br>(here)                  |
| 26 <i>Pastor on vacation</i><br>9:30am Adult Faith Formation<br>10:20am Fellowship<br>10:45am Worship/Kid's church<br>CW&W<br>6:30pm Elders on Zoom                                                           | 27) Pastor<br>on vacation                                                               | 28) Pastor<br>on vaca-<br>tion<br><br>(5:30pm<br>WW) | 29<br><br>6pm Choir                                                                                                                                | 30<br>              | 1 MAY<br><br>Office<br>Closed<br><br>Pastor's<br>day off                                  | 2                                                                                          |

**PLEASE NOTE**

**Office Hours  
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!