



## 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.

### May is Mental Health Month

We will welcome Dr. Robin Blair as our guest preacher on Sunday, May 3 to kick off Mental Health Month. She is well known to most of us as a former member of South Joplin CC, but now resides in Carthage and teaches at Pitts-  
burgh State University as a licensed clinical psychologist and director of the clinical masters program. Prior to that she worked for Rapha International as their after-care director helping with client services.

Robin will be reflecting on the Gospel lectionary reading for the day from John 14:1-4 and sharing from her wealth of knowledge and experience.

Chalice Press, our denominational publisher has three books focused on breaking the silence about mental illness written by the same author, Sarah Griffith Lund. The titles are *Blessed Youth: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness with Children and Teens*; *Blessed Union: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness and Marriage*; and *Blessed Are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness, Family, and Church*.

Sarah Griffith Lund is passionate about loving her family, God, and being part of faith communities. She is an ordained minister currently serves as Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice on the national staff of the UCC and as senior pastor of First Congregational UCC of Indianapolis, IN. You can find her book along with free discussion guides on the Chalice Press website [chalicepress.com](http://chalicepress.com)

Additionally, the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) dedicates programs and ministries to sustain mental health in congregations and communities. Their commitment for an integrated vision of wellness says that communal and individual wellness are interdependent, and that time and space for respite, play, joy, relief, revelation and reflection are necessary for good mental health.



We encourage our members to find time to nurture these qualities, especially within the fellowship of our congregation, as we seek “to welcome and accept all people along a journey of faith and service.” You may find respite or relief in walking the trail or prayer labyrinth on our property, revelation and reflection in our worship and Bible studies, and plenty of joy and friendly fellowship across tables at potluck or Sunday mornings, adding to your spiritual and mental health.

Peace be with all who are on the journey!

### Scripture Readings for May:

May 3 John 14:1-4, May 10 John 14:15-21, May 17 John 17:1-11,  
May 24 **Pentecost** Numbers 11:24-30, May 31 Psalm 8

### 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 MEETING in person, Tuesday May 13, 6:30 PM**



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

# EVENTS/OTHER

## CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

**Christian Women's Fellowship** will meet on Wednesday, May 6 Karen Kemp, hostess. The special offering is for the Alliance of Southwest Missouri.



### FELLOWSHIP MEAL, Potluck SUNDAY May 17th

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



**Crosslines:** Workday for SCC volunteers is May 28 @ 9:45am. Sojourners and PLC contributed 77 pounds of food to Crosslines in April; thank you! The suggested donation for May is canned soups.

**GREEN TIP- Shoal Creek Conservation Education Center** will host a native plant sale on *Saturday, May 23rd* starting at 10am. Now is the time to get planting!



**NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

**certified wildlife habitat®**

**WE'RE CERTIFIED!** Thanks to the dedicated stewardship and conservation of members of Peace Lutheran Church prior to our partnership and to Cyndi Cogbill for following through with application for our property to earn certification as a wildlife habitat, meaning our property meets the criteria for providing food, water, cover, and plant life to wildlife in our area as well as maintaining sustainable practices in conservation. Plans are underway for a joint celebration between our congregations in the near future.

### PENTECOST OFFERING



The Pentecost Offering helps support New Church Ministry and your Region to nurture emerging and affiliating faith communities. Through these ministries, new spaces are created where people can encounter God, build meaningful relationships, and serve their neighbors with compassion. Your gift helps these communities grow in neighborhoods seeking connection and hope. Thank you for giving, praying, and helping the Spirit continue its work among us.

On Saturday, April 25 at the Interfaith Coalition panel at Sojourners CC, a check in the amount of \$17,000 was presented to Solace House of the Ozarks from the proceeds of the Bake Sale and Luncheon held in March. Thanks once again to all our members who contributed, volunteered, or purchased from the sale.



## SAVE THE DATES

# BEYOND: LOVE SURPASSING

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

### 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



**The Book Club** will meet on Thursday, May 28 at 6:30pm to discuss the novel *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Join us at the home of Ellen Broglio, 811 N. Byers Ave.



## Prayer Requests

**Sympathy:** Pattie Griton (Fortson)  
Willa Randall's brother David

**Medical:** Ashley Humphry  
(Meadows); Carol Bach; Darlene  
Coit

### Ongoing:

Kittie Blankenship; Bill Burns  
(Randall); Cyndi Cogbill; Darlene  
Coit; Rachel Eckhardt; Micah  
Evans (Cogbill) Joan Fitterling;  
Margie Fitterling; Kyle Ford  
(Wolfenbarger); Carolyn and Tom  
Fortson; Nancy Graham; Chris  
Greninger; Terry Hays; Holly Safe  
Family; Jack Passante  
(Schneider); James Knudtson;  
Sandy Meadows; Sara Metts  
(Randall); Arlene Nash; Willa  
Randall; Jayne Sanders; Lou  
Starks; Sue Sterrett; Tammy  
Adamson; Connie Sullivan; Pat  
Tikkanen (PLC) Roger Traver;  
Michael Wallace (Randall); Pat  
Wolfenbarger

**Other:** Jennifer Wright and son  
Seojun



### Global Ministries Focus:

May 3 - Jamaica  
May 10- Palestine  
May 17- Kenya  
May 24- Chile  
May 31- East Timor

## RESPONSIBILITIES

### Elders

May 3 Betsy Wheeler  
May 10 Darlene Coit  
May 17 Jim Cullumber  
May 24 Margie Fitterling  
May 31 Ellen Broglio

### Diaconate

May 3 Communion Prep-Connie Abraham and Judy  
Berry Homebound-Tom Wheeler  
May 10 Communion Prep-Megan Bever and Jessica  
Fletcher-Fierro Homebound-Donnie Smith  
May 17 Communion Prep-Les Davenport and Terry  
Plossl Homebound-Susan Wolfenbarger  
May 24 Communion Prep-Carolyn Theil and Susan  
Wolfenbarger Homebound-Tom Hamm  
May 31 Communion Prep-Sherry Crumbliss and Joyce  
Crumbliss Homebound-Patt Hinds

### Camera & Sound

May 3 Terry Plossl and Daryl Coit  
May 10 Judy Schneider and Don Smith  
May 17 Jenn Reaves and Ken Moser  
May 24 Terry Plossl and Ray Reaves  
May 31 Judy Schneider and Don Smith

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

May 3 Darlene Coit & Anita Frieze  
May 10 Jessica Fletcher Fierro & Mike Fitterling  
May 17 Kid's in Family Worship  
May 24 Robb Jones & Laney Reaves  
May 31 Abi Jones & Sandy Meadows

### Children Worship & Wonder




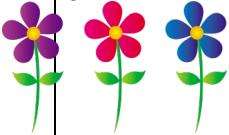
May 3 Karen Kemp and Judy Schneider  
May 10 Karen Fitterling and Taylor Reaves  
May 17 Kid's in Family Worship  
May 24 Laney Reaves and Taylor Reaves  
May 31 Kid's in Family Worship



### Birthdays

9 Lilly Delehanty  
19 Tom Hamm  
26 Roger Traver



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kid's church CW&W	27  SPRING	28 (5:30 pm WW)	29 6pm Choir	30	1) MAY Office Closed Pastor's day off	2
3 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kid's church CW&W	4	5 (5:30 pm WW)	6)9:30AM CWF 6:00pm Diffi- cult Dialogs Royale Cin. 6pm Choir	7	8 Office Closed Pastor's day off	9 
10 8:00am Elders 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/ Kid's Church CW&W	11 <b><u>Board Reports Due</u></b>	12 (5:30 pm WW) <b>6:30pm Board Mtg</b>	13) 6pm Choir	14	15 Office Closed Pastor's day off	16
17 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:15 Kids Bells 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Children in Family Worship noon Fellowship Potluck	18 	19 (5:30pm WW)	20 6pm Choir	21	22 Office Closed Pastor's day off	23) 10am Plant sale @ Shoal Creek Conser- vation Educa- tion Center
24 <b><i>Wear Red For Pentecost</i></b> 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kid's church CW&W 6:30pm Elders on Zoom	25) Memo- rial Day OFFICE CLOSED	26 (5:30pm WW)	27 6pm Choir	28) 9:45am Crosslines work day 6:30pm Book Club	29 Office Closed Pastor's day off	30
31 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kid's church CW&W 12:00pm Memorial/Permanent Fund meeting	1 June	2 (5:30pm WW)	3  6pm Choir	4	5 Office Closed Pastor's day off	6

**PLEASE NOTE**

**Office Hours**

**9am to 2pm**

**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!

