



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.

Pastor Colleen’s Column

By now, most of you are aware of the announcement of my planned retirement, not sooner than February of 2027. As stated at that time, I have negotiated with the church leadership to remain on staff here at Sojourners until a call is accepted by the next pastor who will be honored to serve this remarkable congregation. While such a transition is not typical, I believe it to be beneficial for the sake of pastoral continuity of care and minimal disruption in congregational life.

When I came to Joplin in 2014, I was uncertain if I wanted to remain in ministry, and the year served as your transitional minister enabled me to prayerfully discern God’s direction for my life while you also prayerfully conducted your congregational assessment and faithfully completed the necessary interviews and selection of your next pastor, who providentially turned out to be me.

During that year of transition, I was able to fulfill my pastoral responsibilities here and participate in congregational life while not interfering with the search process unless asked for an opinion by the search committee. The process going forward now will be similar, in that a search committee will be named, but I will not serve in any capacity in the workings of that committee.

What we all can do together is to covenant to pray for Sojourners Christian Church and for clear and concise discernment for future ministries as well as pastoral leadership. I fervently believe there is great potential for this church which is yet to be realized, but it won’t come without intentional development. The energy and wisdom that will require is beyond my tenure, but well within God’s grace.

I thank the elders of the church in particular for their wisdom in honoring my wishes for retirement but also suggesting a way forward that will ensure continuity of care for the membership. We have a world-class eldership here at Sojourners, and I can say without hesitation that they are faithful shepherds and guides, even to their pastors.

In prayer and gratitude,

Pastor Colleen

Scripture Readings for June:



June 7 – Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26 “I Desire Mercy”

June 14 – Matthew 9:35-10:8 “Disciples’ Handbook”

June 21 – Matthew 10:24-31 “Plain Talk”

June 28 – Matthew 10:40-42 “Rewards”



**NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
FEDERATION**

**certified
wildlife
habitat®**

Celebration of Wildlife Habitat Certification – Saturday, June 20; 10AM Please make every effort to attend the joint celebration of Peace Lutheran Church and Sojourners Christian Church in recognition of our certification as a Wildlife Habitat. We believe we are the first faith-based entity in the Joplin area to be certified as such.

The public and press will be invited to hear what the designation requires and how we intend to maintain and expand the benefits of the environment we steward here on the property. There will be a brief time of worship and thanksgiving led by both pastors. We will have refreshments and some appropriate gifts as well as offer tours of the trails and natural amenities. Feel free to invite others who may have interest in this endeavor.

To assist in any way with preparations or the event itself, please contact Cyndi Cogbill or Pastor Colleen.

A word of caution to anyone accessing the outdoor trails – please protect yourself against ticks and insects

Board Reports are DUE MONDAY June 8, Please submit to Shelly by 2pm that day. Thank you!

EVENTS/OTHER

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Christian Women's Fellowship will meet June 3 at 9:30 AM with Karen Kemp, hostess. Blessing Boxes are due for the year, and the special offering is for Loving Grace transitional home for women. CWF does not meet in July or August.



FELLOWSHIP MEAL, Potluck SUNDAY June 21st
Join us! Suggested items to bring are done by last initial,
Main Dish S-Z, side and salad A-L, dessert M-R



Crosslines: The suggested contribution for June is canned pasta. Our next date to provide volunteers is June 25, and we could really use extra helpers. 9:45AM to 2PM or a portion thereof.

GREEN TIP- It is even more important now. Check your tire pressure regularly for the best gas mileage.



Book Club will not meet until August 28 at 6:30pm. The book to be discussed is *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Happy summer reading!

General Assembly Online – July 10-11 “Beyond: Love Surpassing”

Registration is now open for the newly formed online General Assembly. We are entitled to up to three delegates in addition to pastoral staff, but anyone may register to join the planned virtual events. We have funds available to pay the required \$30 fee, and ask that you inform Pastor Colleen asap if you have interest in serving as a delegate or just to participate without vote. For information about the assembly, go to <https://disciples.org/2026-general-assembly-beyond-love-surpassing/>

Ageism For Real

A Free Webinar Presented by
Older Adult Ministries

Wednesday, June 17th
12:00pm ET/11:00am CT



Webinar on Ageism – June 17; 11AM

The National Benevolent Associate of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is hosting a webinar entitled “Ageism for Real” on Wednesday, June 17 at 11AM. This webinar, hosted by Older Adult Ministries, will feature an intergenerational panel discussing what ageism is, share experiences, and offer ideas to help push back.

Pastor Colleen will host a viewing at the church for anyone with interest. Please let her know of your interest in advance so adequate preparations can be made. There is no cost to participate.

June 18 Third Thursday Downtown

“You Belong in Joplin” 5:30-8:30PM



JUNE IS
PRIDE
MONTH!



<https://www.easttowndreamsdistrict.org/junteenth>

There are THREE BARSTOOLS remaining, @ \$10 each, feel free to pick them up if you are interested in purchasing them. Thank you!

Prayer Requests

Sympathy: Carol Barber (Smith)

Medical: Ashley Benson, Nikki Fleetwood (Fortson), Judy Schneider, Michael Miller (Cogbill), John Smith (Smith), Bill Eichman (PLC)

Ongoing:

Kittie Blankenship; Bill Burns (Randall); Carol Bach; 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:

June 7 – Philippines
June 14 – Italy
June 21 – Namibia
June 28 – Laos

RESPONSIBILITIES

Elders

June 7 Leanna Carrol
June 14 Sandy Meadows
June 21 Mike Fitterling
June 28 Betsy Wheeler

Diaconate

June 7 Communion Prep-Connie Abraham and Judy Akeman Homebound-Susan Wolfenbarger
June 14 Communion Prep-Carolyn Theil and Susan Wolfenbarger Homebound-Donnie Smith
June 21 Communion Prep-Les Davenport and Terry Plossl Homebound Tom Hamm
June 28 Communion Prep-Joyce Crumbliss and Sherry Crumbliss Homebound-Tom Wheeler

Camera & Sound

June 7 Jennifer Reaves and Ken Moser
June 14 Jennifer Reaves and Ray Reaves
June 21 Terry Plossl and Don Smith
June 28 Sandy Meadows and Darryl Coit

Kid's Church Preschool thru 6th Grades

June 7 Daniell Sanders & Margie Fitterling
June 14 Darlene Coit & Karen Kemp
June 21 Kid's in Family Worship
June 28 Jessica Fletcher-Fierro & Anita Frieze

Children Worship & Wonder

June 7 Karen Kemp and Taylor Reaves
June 14 Karen Fitterling and Taylor Reaves
June 21 Kid's in Family Worship
June 28 Laney Reaves and TBA



Birthdays









10 Kyle Ford
10 Paula George
14 James Knudtson
20 JoHelen Umphenour
21 Karen Kemp
21 Robb Jones
23 Taylor Reaves
24 Dawn Cullumber
25 Sue Sterrett

Anniversaries

1 Megan Bever and Will Delehanty
5 Tom and Carolyn Fortson
8 Charles and Karen Kemp
19 Carolyn Theil and JoHelen Umphenour
27 Buddy and Leanna Carrol



June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kid's church CW&W	1 	2) 1pm Child Protection Meeting (5:30 pm WW)	3)9:30AM CWF 6pm Choir	4	5 Office Closed Pastor's day off	6 
7 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kid's church CW&W	8) <u>Board Reports Due</u>	9 (5:30 pm WW)	10)  6pm Choir	11	12 Office Closed Pastor's day off	13
14 8:00am Elders 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/ Kid's Church CW&W	15 	16 (5:30 pm WW)	17) 11:00am Ageism Webinar 6pm Choir	18)5:30 pm 3rd Thursday Downtown	19)Office Closed Pastor's day off Juneteenth Hope Park	20) 10:00am Wildlife Habitat Celebration. PLC & SCC Juneteenth Hope Park
21) First Day Of Summer & Fathers Day 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:15 Kids Bells 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Children in Family Worship 12:00pm Fellowship Potluck	22 	23 (5:30pm WW)	24 6pm Choir	25) 9:45am Crosslines work day	26 Office Closed Pastor's day off	27 
28 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kid's church CW&W 6:30pm Elders on Zoom	29 	30 (5:30pm WW)	1) JULY 9:30am CWF 6pm Choir	2	3 Office Closed Pastor's day off	4) 

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

And find us on Facebook!