



Disciples Care Newsletter July 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.

Pastoral Search Committee

The Church’s Executive Committee, grateful for Pastor Colleen’s flexibility at retirement, has appointed the following persons to the Pastoral Search Committee:

Shari Cullumber, chair; Daniell Sanders; Raymond Reaves; Anita Frieze; Will Delahanty; Debora Reed; Penny Al-drighetti; Laney Reaves; and, as ex-officio, Betsy Wheeler (Board chair) and Mike Fitterling, (Board vice chair).

The Executive Committee believes this group fairly represents the spectrum of Sojourners Christian Church membership. The Search Committee, with assistance from the region, will identify potential candidates, conduct interviews and make a final recommendation to the Church Board. The Church Board will then recommend the final candidate to the congregation.

Much of the Search Committee’s work will be done in high confidence as potential candidates likely will not want their current congregation to know they are part of a search process until a final decision is made.

The process is complex but very achievable. The Search Committee must prepare a congregational profile and a community profile. The committee also will survey the congregation on key attributes members want to see in a new minister and potential 5-year goals.

In partnership with the regional office, the committee will begin to read information provided by interested potential candidates, trying to discern the best fit for Sojourners. Likely Zoom and face-to-face interviews with the committee and candidate will be held. If the Church Board accepts the committee’s recommendation, the expectation is that the candidate will have an opportunity to meet the congregation prior to the congregational meeting to call the candidate.

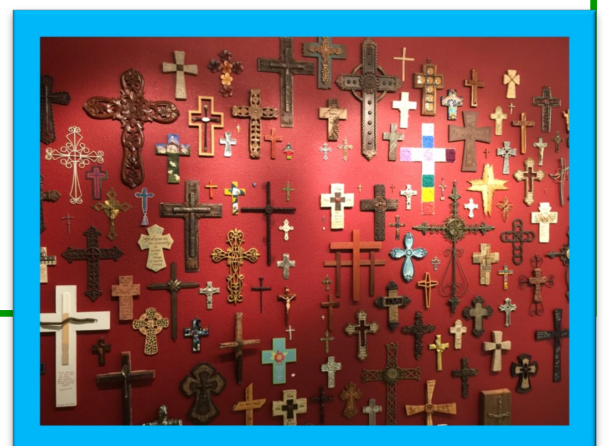
Here are 3 things the congregation can do to assist this process:

- Pray for the Search Committee as we are called to discern the pastoral needs for our diverse congregation;
- Pray for that unknown candidate to feel called to make a change in their current situation, thus being open to relocating to Sojourners Christian Church;
- Pray for Pastor Colleen as she prepares for her new calling called “Retirement” in 2027.

Should you have any questions, feel free to call or email me.

Shari Cullumber, PSC Chair

317-408-2384



Sundays in July:

While the chancel choir takes a break during the summer, we welcome individuals or groups who can provide special music (instrumental or vocal) or inspirational readings. Please be mindful that due to livestreaming and copyright concerns, not all selections may be appropriate for use in worship. Speak to Pastor Colleen to schedule a date.

July 5	Psalm 145:8-14	“God’s Everlasting Kin-dom”
July 12	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	“Parable of the Sower”
July 19	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	“Seeds and Weeds”
July 26	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	“The Kingdom of Heaven is like . . .”

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

EVENTS/OTHER



FELLOWSHIP MEAL, Potluck SUNDAY July 19th

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

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



Crosslines: 119 pounds of food was delivered to Crosslines in June – Thank you church! The suggested donation for the month of July is socks and undies for school-age kids. Work-day is Thursday, July 23 from 9:45-2pm
Volunteers Needed!

The Choir will not meet in July, nor will they sing a Choral Anthem during July. They will resume meeting on August 5th.

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!

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CWF does not meet in July or August.

Next meeting will be Sept 2nd



GREEN TIP- Reduce plastics by switching to bar shampoo, conditioner, and soap.



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/>

Wildlife Certification Celebration

Thanks to beautiful weather and the generous efforts of Cyndi Cogbill, Green Team chairperson, we enjoyed a beautiful morning on June 20, celebrating our certification as a Wildlife Habitat via the National Wildlife Federation. We heard briefly about the qualifications for certification, participated in a mindful breathing exercise led by Pastor Colleen, and a prayer of dedication led by Pastor Rich. Guests could also play a learning game about lightening beetles, prairie crayfish, and eastern bluebirds which can all be seen on the property.



Please share the news of our certification with those you know who may have interest, including members of other churches who might follow suit and consider certification. Homes and businesses may also seek certification through nwf.org.

Child Protection Training is for everyone!

Sojourners Christian Church has a policy in place that guides how we try to ensure the safety of all children when they are on our property. While it's most important for our volunteers who work directly with the children and youth, we think every participant at church could benefit from understanding our “best practices.” Therefore, the Child Protection Committee invites *anyone* with interest in learning about the policy and guidelines to attend the training on **July 8 at 6:30PM** in Fellowship Hall. Please let Pastor Colleen know of your intent to attend so appropriate supplies can be on hand.

Prayer Requests

Sympathy: Roger Traver (June 4)

Medical: Carol Bach, Tom Hamm, Grace McIntire (Frieze)

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; Nikki Fleetwood, (Fortson); Sandy Meadows; Sara Metts (Randall); Michael Miller (Cogbill); Arlene Nash; Willa Randall; Jayne Sanders; Lou Starks; Sue Sterrett; Tammy Adamson; Connie Sullivan; Pat Tikkanen (PLC) Michael Wallace (Randall); Pat Wolfenbarger

Other: Pastoral Search Committee



Global Ministries Focus:
5 – Fiji
12 – France
19 – Colombia
26 – South Africa

RESPONSIBILITIES

Elders

July 5	Darlene Coit
July 12	Jim Cullumber
July 19	Margie Fitterling
July 26	Ellen Broglio



Diaconate

July 5	Communion Prep-Connie Abraham and Jessica Fletcher-Fierro Homebound-Susan Wolfenbarger
July 12	Communion Prep-Les Davenport and Terry Plossl Homebound-Donny Smith
July 19	Communion Prep-Judy Akeman and Megan Bever Homebound-Tom Wheeler
July 26	Communion Prep-Sherry and Joyce Crumbliss Homebound-Tom Hamm

Camera & Sound

July 5	Judy Schneider and Darryl Coit
July 12	Jennifer Reaves and Ken Moser
July 19	Terry Plossl and Don Smith
July 26	Sandy Meadows and Ray Reaves

Kid’s Church Preschool thru 6th Grades

July 5	Darlene Coit & Mike Fitterling
July 12	Darlene Coit & Laney Reaves
July 19	Kid’s in Family Worship
July 26	



Children Worship & Wonder

Children in Family Worship all of July and August



Birthdays

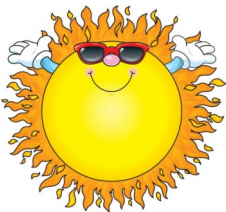
6 Margie Fitterling
6 Jennifer Reaves
8 Ken Moser
14 Shari Cullumber
20 Carol Bach
23 Sam Jones

Anniversaries

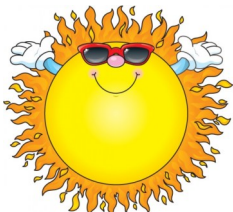
6 Fred and Jessica Fletcher-Fierro
11 Connie Abraham and Carol Bach
22 Raymond and Jennifer Reaves



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30 (5:30 pm WW)	1 	2	3 Office Closed Pastor's day off	4)Fitterling & Eckhardt's 4th of July Extravaganza @ The Fitterling's home
5 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kid's church	6	7 (5:30 pm WW)	8 6:30pm Child Protection training	9	10) Gen Assembly Office Closed Pastor's day off	11) General Assembly (online)
12 8:00am Elders 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/ Kid's Church	13 <u>Board Reports</u> 6pm Life together TF 6:30pm Pastoral Search Committee	14 (5:30 pm WW)	15	16	17 Office Closed Pastor's day off	18 
19 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:15 Kids Bells 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Children in Family Worship 12:00pm Fellowship Potluck 	20	21 (5:30pm WW)	22 	23) 9:45am Crosslines work day	24 Office Closed Pastor's day off	25 
26 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kid's church 6:30pm Elders on Zoom	27	28 (5:30pm WW)	29	30	31 Office Closed Pastor's day off	1 August



PLEASE NOTE
Office Hours
9am to 2pm



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

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