



Disciples Care Newsletter Sept 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.

From the Elders: Sojourners’ elders proposed to the August Board meeting that SCC finalize the process to be designated as an “Open and Affirming Congregation” recognized by Alliance Q of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The congregation, more than 10 years ago, completed a study and discussed the meaning of this, but took no formal action because of financial concerns.

Today is a different day, yet the need remains. O & A simply means Sojourners welcomes and fully integrates members of the LGBTQI+ community into the fellowship and life of the congregation. Our Welcome Statement is an affirmation that we seek to be an agent of inclusivity, demonstrating the love and compassion Jesus shared with his followers. The statement was a key factor in our decision to relocate our congregation to a place where even the differently abled are welcome and accommodated, and continues to bring seekers to our church on a regular basis. How would this change SCC? It wouldn’t. We are already living into most of the steps needed for this official recognition. The Board, at the August meeting, took one more step by adopting an inclusive personnel hiring policy – again, aligning with our Welcome Statement.

The very last step is a congregational vote to adopt the Open and Affirming designation at a congregational meeting. We plan to offer that at the December congregational meeting.

Official recognition will include an \$1,800 annual gift to support the ministry, witness and programs of Alliance Q. This will be allocated from our outreach budget.

Why do this now? As the Pastor Search Committee does its work, it will help potential clergy candidates understand who we are. Some candidates may only consider an O & A congregation. Others may not, and describing ourselves this way will save the committee and potential candidates time and energy.

If you have a question or want to learn more, please reach out to an elder or Pastor Colleen. The elders, as spiritual leaders of this congregation, believe SCC is ready to take this step to show others our hearts beat in rhythm with the One who created and sustains us in our journey of faith and service. We are called to proclaim the Good News to a community that has been disenfranchised – even shunned – that the God of love has a place for them along with all others in Christ’s church.

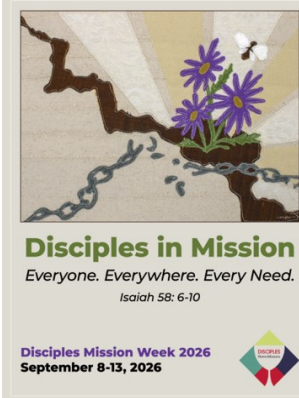
Jim Cullumber, Elder chair

Elders: Ellen Broglio, Leanna Carrol, Darlene Coit, Margie Fitterling, Mike Fitterling, Sandy Meadows, Betsy Wheeler

Disciples Mission Week 2026 - September 8-13 Day of Volunteering – Saturday Sept. 12

Disciples Home Missions is sponsoring a Mission Week for congregations to educate and motivate greater involvement in congregational outreach denomination-wide. Daily webinars are offered weekday evenings on the topics of Food Insecurity, Healthcare Equity, Housing Insecurity, and Disability Equity. Additionally, churches are challenged to designate Saturday, September 12 as a Day of Volunteering. We are free to choose our mode of service, and report our actions to DHM.

We’ve had some difficulty finding a suitable local charity with Saturday volunteer options, so I have taken the liberty of designing an opportunity that will meet our capabilities and encourage those on the front lines of social justice. Saturday, **September 12 at 10AM** at the church, we will be packing goodie bags for people who will be canvassing in Springfield, Kansas City, and St. Louis through PROMO to advocate for the rights of trans Missourians. You need not bring anything with you, other than a personal drink or snack, and our work should conclude within an hour. Please direct any questions to Pastor Colleen.



Joplin Interfaith Coalition Panel Discussion Saturday, September 19, 10AM United Hebrew Congregation 702 S. Sergeant Ave. Topic: Why and How We Engage in Interfaith Activities: Practices and Philosophy. The session will start with an overview of the origins of Joplin Interfaith Coalition and our range of activities. Panelists will then discuss how interfaith gatherings and dialogue tie in with the teachings of their respective religions. All are welcome!



EVENTS/OTHER



FELLOWSHIP MEAL, Potluck SUNDAY Sept 20th

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

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



CROSSLINES: Sojourners and PLC donated 121 pounds of food (mostly canned pasta) the month of August. Thank you! There were an additional 32 items of clothing for back-to-school kids. The suggested donation for September is boxed baking mixes such as breads, cakes, muffins, pancakes, etc. Our volunteer day is Thursday, September 24. 9:45am.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CWF meeting will be Sept 2nd @ 9:30am
Hosted by Susan W & Patt H.



GREEN TIP- Shop locally at farmer's markets, craft fairs, and small businesses. Look for produce, honey, eggs, baked goods, meat, clothing, decorations, and gifts for example.



BUNCO BLAST for CROSSLINES!

Tues. September 22nd @ Joplin 1st Church
4th and Byers 5:30pm. \$25 entry fee, come enjoy an evening full of fun and prizes!
(food, drink and desert provided)
RSVP CARRIE@CROSSLINESJOPLIN.ORG

Little Free Library: The Little Free Library on our premises could use some donations. Why not clear out your gently used reading material for the fall and pass along to someone else? Bring donations to the box in the church lobby or place directly in the LFL.



JOMO Pride Festivities

Sojourners CC once again is a proud sponsor of the Joplin Pride observance on Friday-Sunday, September 4-6. We are signed up to walk in the parade and will share in leading a brief worship service at Landreth Park on Sunday at noon.

Parade: Those planning on walking in the parade should meet Pastor Colleen between 6th and 7th Street anytime after 6PM on Friday. Bring

pride flags if you have them. We will be passing out stickers and invitations to the worship service on Sunday. The parade route is only four blocks long, but the forecast calls for excessive heat so please take steps to stay hydrated.

Volunteer opportunities: Pride organizers are asking for additional volunteers for the duration of the event. If you can volunteer, an orientation meeting is planned for Wednesday at 6:30 PM at Blackthorn Pizza. More information is available on jomoprideinc.com.

September Sunday Worship

6 Ephesians 3:18-21 "The Wheels on the Bus" (recorded sermon by Rev. Bob Howard)

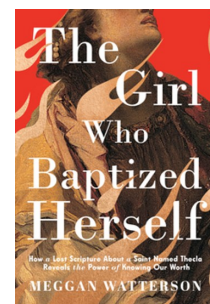
13 Isaiah 58:6-10 "Everyone. Everywhere. Every Need."

20 Philippians 1:21-30 "The Struggle Is Real"

27 (tbd) Ellen Broglio and Debbie Reed sharing from their experience at Wild Goose Festival.

Book Club

Reading enthusiasts are invited to read *The Girl Who Baptized Herself: How a Lost Scripture About a Saint Named Thecla Reveals the Power of Knowing Our Worth*, by Meggan Watterson. Discussion of the book will take place Thursday, October 1 at the home of Ellen Broglio, 811 N. Byers Ave.



Board Reports are DUE MONDAY Sept 7, Please submit to Shelly by 2pm that day. Thank you!

Prayer Requests

Sympathy:
Medical: : Ellen Broglio; Daryl Coit; Shaun O'Rourke and Catie Rooney (Umphenour); Candy Walter (White)

Ongoing:
Kittie Blankenship; Carol Bach; Darlene Coit; Rachel Eckhardt; Micah Evans (Cogbill) Joan Fitterling; Margie Fitterling; Kyle Ford (Wolfenbarger); Carolyn and Tom Fortson; Nancy Graham; Chris Greninger; Tom Hamm; Terry Hays; Holly Safe Family; Jack Passante (Schneider); James Knudtson; Grace McIntire (Freize); Sandy Meadows; Sara Metts (Randall); Arlene Nash; Harlow Pollard (White) ;Willa Randall; Jayne Sanders; Sue Sterrett; Tammy Adamson; Connie Sullivan; Pat Tikkanen (PLC) Michael Wallace (Randall); Pat Wolfenbarger

Other: Pastoral Search Committee; Robert Johnson;



GLOBAL MINISTRIES FOCUS:

Sept. 6 – India
Sept. 13 – Palestine
Sept. 20 – Haiti
Sept. 27 – Japan

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Elders**
Sept 6 Leanna Carrol
Sept 13 Margie Fitterling
Sept 20 Jim Cullumber
Sept 27 Leanna Carrol
- Diaconate**
Sept. 6 Communion Prep-Connie Abraham and Judy Ake-man
Homebound-Donnie Smith
Sept. 13 Communion Prep-Terry Plossi and Les Davenport
Homebound-Tom Hamm
Sept. 20 Communion Prep-Carolyn Theil and Susan Wolfen-barger
Homebound-Tom Wheeler
Sept. 27 Communion Prep-Joyce Crumbliss and Sherry Crumbliss
Homebound-Susan Wolfenbarger
- Camera & Sound**
Sept. 6 Jim Cullumber and Don Smith
Sept 13 Jennifer Reaves and Ken Moser
Sept 20 Judy Schneider and Ray Reaves
Sept 27 Terry Plossl and Darryl Coit
- Kid's Church Preschool thru 6th Grades**
Sept. 6 Laney Reaves & Darlene Coit
Sept 13 Karen Kemp & Margie Fitterling
Sept 20 children in family worship
Sept 27 Danieli Sanders & Anita Freize
- Children Worship & Wonder**
Sept 6 Karen Kemp & Judy Schneider
Sept 13 Karen Fitterling & Taylor Reaves
Sept 20 Children in Family Worship
Sept 27 Laney Reaves & TBA



- Birthdays**
- 3 Tom Wheeler
4 David Nickols
12 Raymond Reaves
16 Benjamin Cullumber
19 Jan Stuckey
22 Ellen Traver
- ANNIVERSARIES**
- 1 Les Davenport & Terry Plossl
25 Mike and Judy Schneuder

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 (5:30 pm WW)	2 9:30am CWF 6:00pm Choir	3	4) PRIDE PARADE Downtown Joplin 6PM Office Closed Pastor's day off	5) JOMO Pride 
6 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kid's church/ CW&W 12:00pm Worship@Pride (Landreth Park)	7) LABOR DAY Church office will be closed <u>Board Reports</u>	8 Disciple Mission Week (5:30 pm WW)	9 Disciple Mission Week 6:00pm Choir	10 Disciple Mission Week	11 Office Closed Pastor's day off Disciple Mission Week	12) 10:00 AM DAY OF VOL-UNTEERING Disciple Mission Week
13 8:00am Elders 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/ Kid's Church/CW&W Disciple Mission Week	14	15 (5:30 pm WW)	16 6:00pm Choir	17 	18 Office Closed Pastor's day off	19)10AM In-terfaith Coali-tion Panel (United He-brew)
20 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:15 Kids Bells 10:20am Fellowship 12:00pm Fellowship Meal 2:15PM Interfaith Cooking Circle (Islamic Society)	21 6:00pm Life Together Task Force Meeting	22  (5:30pm WW)	23 6:00pm Choir	24 9:45am to 2pm Crosslines Volunteer Day	25 Office Closed Pastor's day off Pastor out of town un-til Mon 28	26 Pastor out of town until Mon 28
27 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/ Kid's Church/CW&W Pastor out of town 6:30pm Elders online	28) National Good Neighbor Day	29 (5:30pm WW)	30 6:00pm Choir	1) October 	2 Office Closed Pastor's day off	3 



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!