



Disciples Care Newsletter Oct 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



As a key preparation for the coming change in pastoral leadership, our elders suggested revisiting our denominational identity, for the sake of participants who may not be familiar with our history and guiding principles. As it so happens, our denominational printing press has just released a new study on this very topic, with updated resources for six-week congregational study and worship.

We will be using the materials in our adult faith formation class on Sunday mornings at 9:30AM as well as in worship the Sundays of October 4 through November 8, incorporating the weekly themes in our annual stewardship campaign as well as special Sundays of World Communion and All Saints. The themes are as follows:

Oct. 4 “Our Common Call: Baptism and Communion” Mark 1:9-11; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

Oct. 11 “To Live the Word in Deed: The Bible and the Work of Justice” Micah 6:6-8;
2 Tim. 3:15-17

Oct. 18 “As Pilgrims on the Way: Theology and Worship” Luke 24:13-35; Psalm 10

Oct. 25 “Poured Out for All: Unity and Inclusion” John 17:20-23; 1 Cor. 12:4-14

Nov. 5 “With Faith and Purpose: History and Global Presence” Acts 1:6-8; Psalm 90:1-2

Nov. 8 “To Be the Church God Wills: Congregations and the Wider Church” Rom. 12:3-8; Eph.
2:17-22

A printed study guide is available from Chalicepress.com for a nominal price for those who wish to do additional reading and study. Video testimonials from across the denomination will be shared, as well as a few from our own congregation. Please make every effort to be present for Sunday School and worship these six weeks and increase your knowledge and appreciation for who we are as Disciples!

Apple Pies are ready for purchase! Get an early start on your holiday desserts! Buy a pie!

That’s right apple pie! Hand made with tender loving care by the ladies of CWF. Contact Ellen Traver 417-439-3274 or Susan Wolfenbarger 417-439-1816, They’ll be happy to get you a pie! Pies are \$20 each.

PLC Car Show for Crosslines Celebrating 10 years!

Peace Lutheran Church will host their annual Car and Truck Show on Saturday, October 10 from 9AM to 2PM at the church. Lunch items will be available for purchase, and there will be raffle items, door prizes, and prizes for entry vehicles. SCC folks are welcome to volunteer to help, and especially to attend. Advertising flyers or registration forms are located in the box attached to the PLC office door.

EVENT/OTHER

FELLOWSHIP MEAL, Potluck SUNDAY Oct. 18th



Join us! Suggested items to bring are done by last initial,
Main Dish S-Z, side and salad A-L, dessert M-R
We look forward to fellowshipping with you!

CROSSLINES: Sojourners and PLC donated LOTS of baking mixes in September! Thank you all who donated! The suggested donation for October is CANNED PASTA Our volunteer day is Thursday, October 22. 9:45am.

Poverty Simulation: Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Joplin Public Library, attendance is free, registration is required:
<https://onejoplin.com/events/>

Christian Women's Fellowship: CWF meets on Wed. Oct 7th at 9:30am. This month will be hosted by Darlene Coit and Service Project is MSSU Food Pantry for Lion Co-op



Green Tip: Use natural materials for autumn and holiday decorations like leaves, gourds, pinecones, sticks, grass, and dried flowers. Compost them or save them for next year!

Stewardship 2026 – Living as Disciples

Often, in our time of worship, we sing together that “We call ourselves Disciples,” joining together “to live the Word in deed,” sharing water and bread with all who need it, working tirelessly until “God’s compassion and righteousness prevail, till all this planet’s people know justice without fail.”

Throughout the coming weeks, we’ll be exploring in depth our identity as Disciples, reflecting on how we work through scripture, worship, justice, communion, unity, diversity, and inclusion. As Pastor Colleen guides us through this exploration of our lives as Disciples each week, I would also invite us to reflect on how our commitment to living and worshiping together as Disciples shapes our approach to stewardship of our time and financial resources. This year our stewardship campaign will be highlighted in worship on October 11 and 19 and individual congregants from Sojourners will share testimonials in worship, reflecting on their experiences as living as Disciples. On October 25, our campaign will culminate with Commitment Sunday.

Estimates of Giving cards will be mailed to households in early October with a request to return them on or before October 25.

Please join me in prayerful planning and consideration of the ways that we can commit to using our resources “to be the church God wills” in the coming year. - *Megan Bever, Stewardship Chair*

Executive Summary for the World Café round table discussions

The responses reveal a congregation with a strong and widely shared sense of identity. Members consistently describe Sojourners Christian Church as an inclusive, welcoming, and compassionate faith community that seeks to embody Christ's love through service, acceptance, and justice. Participants expressed pride in the church's culture of hospitality, thoughtful worship, strong pastoral leadership, community engagement, and genuine care for one another.

At the same time, respondents identified several areas for growth. The most common concerns centered on attracting and retaining younger families, strengthening youth and children's programming, increasing visibility and community awareness, creating more opportunities for relationship-building beyond Sunday mornings, and expanding outreach efforts in practical and meaningful ways.

Overall, there is significant alignment between what congregants believe God is calling the church to be and where they believe future energy should be focused.

The Search Committee's next meeting will be held on Sunday evening October 4th. If you have anything you would like to share on this summary, please contact me, Shari Cullumber, or any one of the Search Committee members. We hope to complete the Congregational Profile at this meeting.

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

Life Together Task Force Report to SCC Board

The Life Together Task Force met Sept.21. The Task Force discussed :Steps possibly needed to repair lights to the stained cross in the sanctuary Plans for the Car Show to benefit Crosslines Oct. 10. Set-up will be Oct. 9. The show will run 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Oct. 10. A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be on a bulletin board in the welcome area. SCC help is requested to help with selling food, welcoming visitors and event cleanup. Took an early look at Advent scheduling, including purchase of poinsettias. PLC make sure the Advent Wreath is in place on the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29. SCC after that service will set up the sanctuary tree; decorations will be done the following week by volunteers from both congregations. Undecorating will happen the week of Jan. 4. Additional details will be finalized at the next meeting, 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Sympathy: : Pierre Damas Bel (Haitian refugee); Maddie Gilman (Meadows); Grace McIntire (Frieze); Janet Nichols (Cogbill);

Medical: Daryl Coit; Gloria Brady (Abraham); Matt Townsend (Wheeler) Eric Barber (Akeman); Joy Finley (Frieze)

Ongoing:

Kittie Blankenship; Carol Bach; Ellen Broglio; 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; 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); Candy Walter (White); Pat Wolfenbarger

Congratulations! Birth of great granddaughter Ella to Ellen Traver

Other: Pastoral Search Committee; Robert Johnson; James Knudston (Queer and Called retreat)



GLOBAL MINISTRIES FOCUS:

Oct 4 – Sri Lanka
Oct 11 – Mexico
Oct 18 – Democratic Republic of Congo
Oct 25 -- Germany

RESPONSIBILITIES

Elders

Oct 4 Sandy Meadows
Oct 11 Jim Cullumber
Oct 18 Betsy Wheeler
Oct 25 Darlene Coit

Diaconate

Oct. 4 Communion Prep-Carolyn Theil and Susan Wolfenbarger Homebound-Donnie Smith
Oct. 11 Communion Prep-Les Davenport and Terry Plossi Homebound-Susan Wolfenbarger
Oct. 18 Communion Prep-Megan Bever and Jessica Fletcher Fierro Homebound- Tom Wheeler
Oct. 25 Communion Prep-Joyce Crumbliss and Sherry Crumbliss Homebound-Tom Hamm

Camera & Sound

Oct. 4 Jennifer Reaves and Ken Moser
Oct. 11 Sandy Meadows and Ray Reaves
Oct. 18 Judy Schneider and Don Smith
Oct. 25 Terry Plossl and Darryl Coit

Kid's Church Preschool thru 6th Grades

Oct 4 Karen Kemp & Leanna Carrol
Oct 11 Karen Fitterling & Taylor Reaves
Oct 18 Children in Family Worship
Oct 25 Laney Reaves \$ TBA

Children Worship & Wonder

Oct 4 Jessica Fletcher-Fierro & Sandy Meadows
Oct 11 Darlene Coit & Mike Fitterling
Oct 18 Children in Family Worship
Oct 25 Karen Kemp & Darlene Coit



BIRTHDAYS

12 Jessica Fletcher – Fierro
13 Mike Schneider
14 Joyce Crumbliss
18 Keaton Simmons
22 Jim Cullumber
25 Megan Bever
28 Kittie Blankenship

ANNIVERSARIES

22 Spenser & Dawn Cullumber
31 Paula George & Kim Wood

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1) 6:30pm Book Club (Ellen Broglio home)	2 Office closed Pastor Day Off	3
4) 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kid's church/CW&W Reconciliation Offering #2 World Communion Sunday	5	6 (530pm WW)	7) 9:30AM CWF 6:00pm Choir	8	9 Office closed Pastor Day Off	10 9:00am to 2:00pm PLC Car Show
11) 8:00am Elders 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kid's Church/CW&W 3pm Permanent Fund	12 <i>Board Reports Due</i>	13 (530pm WW)	14 6:00pm Choir	15	16 Office closed Pastor Day Off	17
18) 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:15 Kids Bells 10:20am Fellowship 12:00pm Fellowship Meal Pot Luck 2:15pm Interfaith Cooking Circle TBD	19	20 Pastor on vacation (530pm WW)	21 Pastor on vacation 6:00pm Choir	22 9:45am Crosslines Pastor on vacation	23 Office closed Pastor Day Off Pastor on vacation	24 Pastor on vacation
25) Commitment Sunday 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kid's Church/CW&W 6:30pm Elders on Zoom	26	27 (530pm WW)	28 6:00pm Choir	29	30 Office closed Pastor Day Off	31



PLEASE NOTE

Office Hours 9am to 2pm Mon-Thurs

All activities are at Sojourners Christian Church unless otherwise specified

Our website address is:
www.sojournerschristianchurch.org

