Disciples Care Newsletter Nov 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



The final two Sundays for the series on Disciples are November 1 and 8, with a follow-up Sunday on the 15th. Since so much information on a variety of topics has been presented, Pastor Colleen would like the chance to entertain questions from the congregation for a culmination on the final Sunday. Please submit your questions in writing through email (pastor@sojournerschristianchurch.org) or via a note on Sunday the 1st or 8th, and she will attempt to work responses into a meaningful sermon to help us celebrate our identity as part of the "movement for wholeness in a fragmented world."

We still have extra copies of the book available for anyone with interest. Look for them on the hymnal cart outside the sanctuary.

November 22 Open and Affirming Sunday

Sojourners' Elders recently put forth a motion for our congregation to officially affiliate with the Disciples Alliance Q as an Open and Affirming congregation. Communication regarding this action has been communicated to the congregation, along with copies of the narrative description of the process that began in 2013 and continues today as we live into our **understanding of what it means to welcome and accept all people on a journey of faith and service.**

On Sunday, November 22, James Knudston will bring the morning message as their testimony of attending two Alliance Q retreats, most recently in October. We urge your attendance to hear the message and better understand the benefits of partnering with our LGBTQI+ siblings and allies in the Disciples.

As promised earlier, the congregation will have an opportunity to vote on the application at the annual congregational meeting in December (tbd).

Advent begins Sunday, November 29! Our worship theme this year is a book by Erin Wathen entitled *Witness to the Light.*

For many, Advent and Christmas are celebrated in the darkest time of the year. The experience of waiting and longing for the first glimmer of sunlight over the horizon serves as a poignant and perennial metaphor for the human quest to find hope amid sorrow, hardship, and fear.

The prophets knew this feeling well and spoke hope to God's people with the power to sustain them—and us—through uncertain times. Some sang of God's faithfulness, some spoke of a messiah, all cast a vision for when current trials were no more because God's kingdom will have come to earth. As we await the birth of Jesus, our Messiah, we carry the heaviness of daily life and listen for the voices of those witnessing to the light.

This Advent study features the words and stories of prophetic figures in Scripture, from Major Prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and John the Baptist to lesser-heard voices like Miriam, Joel, Ezekiel, and Anna. Weekly themes—reveal, renew, rejoice, and return—guide readers through an Advent practice that speaks ancient comfort to modern souls, turning our heads toward the signs of life these biblical heroes proclaimed: flowing water in the desert, a vibrant branch from a felled stump, a virgin with child, a dawn to shine in the darkness.

Copies of the book are available from www.wjkbooks.com for those who wish to dive deeper in study and contemplation.

November 1 – All Saints Day - "With Faith and Purpose:
History and Global Presence" Acts 1:6-8
November 8 -- "To Be the Church God Wills: Congregations and the Wider Church"
Romans 12:3-8
November 15 – "We Call Ourselves Disciples" conclusion Ephesians 2:17-22
Thanksgiving Offering #1
November 22 -- Open and Affirming Sunday – Thanksgiving Offering #2
November 29 -- First Sunday of Advent
"Reveal" Luke 21:25-33

EVENT/OTHER

FELLOWSHIP MEAL, Potluck SUNDAY Nov 15th

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

We look forward to fellowshipping with you!

CROSSLINES: SCC and PLC donated **134** pounds of pasta in October. Thank you! The suggested donation for November is Canned tomato products and "sides". There are no scheduled dates for volunteers from Sojourners in Nov or Dec due to the holidays, however volunteers may go at your leisure on other dates.

Christian Women's Fellowship: CWF meets on Wed. Nov 4th at 9:45am. This month will be hosted by Ellen Traver, Service Project is Woodhaven, and the Study is "With Gladness and Thanksgiving" pp.41-44

Green Tip: If you haven't done it, change the batteries in smoke detectors, clean the furnace filters, look for and seal leaks around doors and windows, and replace light bulbs with LED bulbs.

Special thanks to Cyndi Cogbill for teaching our kids on October 25 about pollinator puddles and petrified rocks. Our "Junior Green Chalice ambassadors" are learning!



Book Club will meet on Thursday, November 5 at 6:30pm at the home of Betsy Wheeler to discuss *Land* by Maggie O'Farrell and choose their next read. Newcomers welcome! Wheeler's address is 205 S. Mina Ave, Joplin.

Nominating Committee for 2027 Leadership

The nominating committee has been named to begin identifying people within our congregation that are gifted for leadership in the coming calendar year. They will need our prayers and cooperation as they do their work which will enable our important ministries to move forward in a very important transitional year. They welcome suggestions from the congregation for all elected positions. Representatives are as follows:

Elders: Darlene Coit and Sandy Meadows

Diaconate: Sherry Crumbliss and Megan Bever

Members At Large: Jennifer Reaves, Penny Aldrighetti, Margie Fitterling

The Thanksgiving Offering supports Disciples colleges, universities and theological institutions. Disciples have a long history of post-secondary and theological education. This offering provides a direct connection to 15 colleges and universities, 7 seminaries and theological programs. Gifts from this offering continue the Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the Church. The offering will be collected on Sunday, November 15 and 22.







Naming sadness and finding ways to honor it can bring joy back to life. In this free virtual webinar, co-leaders Rev. Lina Eddy, pastor and Silver Chalice Guide, and Rev. Kimberly Weir, chaplain and Executive Director of Florida Senior Enrichment Center, will gently guide you on a journey of sharing about the challenges of the holidays, ways to find comfort in busy days, and invite you to share your thoughts.

This free virtual event will take place on Wednesday, November 18th at 11:00am CT.

Go to nbacares.org for a link to register.

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Sympathy: Matt Townsend (Wheeler)
Medical: Kittie Blankenship; Diana Shields (Hinds); Ellen Traver; Kim Wood's daughter KD

Ongoing:

Carol Bach; Ellen Broglio; Eric Barber; 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; Jackie 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

Other: Pastoral Search Committee; Robert Johnson;

GLOBAL MINISTRIES FOCUS:

1 – Afghanistan
8 – Samoa
15 – Dominican Republic
22 – Zimbabwe
29 – Palestine

RESPONSIBILITIES

Elders

Nov 1	Ellen Broglio
Nov 8	Margie Fitterling
Nov 15	Jim Cullumber
Nov 22	Leanna Carrol
Nov 29	Mike Fitterling

Diaconate

Nov. 1 Communion Prep-Connie Abraham and Judy Akeman Homebound-Sherry Crumbliss
Nov. 8 Communion Prep-Carolyn Theil and Susan Wolfenbarger Homebound Mike & Margie Fitterling
Nov. 15 Communion Prep-Taylor Reeves and Sherry Crumbliss Homebound-Susan Wolfenbarger
Nov. 22 Communion Prep-Megan Bever and Jessica Fletcher-Fierro Homebound-Patt Hinds
Nov.29 Communion Prep-Joyce Crumbliss and Sherry Crumbliss Homebound Mike & Margie Fitterling

Camera & Sound

Nov. 1	Jennifer Reaves and Ken Moser
Nov. 8	Terry Plossl and Darryl Coit
Nov. 15	Judy Schneider and Don Smith
Nov. 22	Sandy Meadows and Ray Reaves
Nov. 29	Terry Plossl and Darryl Coit

Kid's Church Preschool thru 6th Grades

Nov 1	Darlene Coit & Sandy Meadows
Nov 8	Laney Reaves & Margie Fitterling
Nov 15	Children in Family Worship
Nov 22	Daniell Sanders & Anita Freize
Nov 29	Karen Kemp and Taylor Reaves

Children Worship & Wonder

Nov 1	Karen Kemp, Judy Schneider & Alice Fletcher-Fierro
Nov 8	TBA
Nov 15	Children in Family Worship
Nov 22	Laney Reaves & TBA
Nov 29	Children in Family Worship



BIRTHDAYS

1 Laney Reaves
3 Daryl Felkins
5 Penny Aldrighetti
16 Lois Nickols
18 Lilly Cullumber
18 Lucas Cullumber
29 Sam Jones



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Daylight Savings/All Saints day 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/Kid's church/ CW&W	**2** 6PM Nominating Committee Meeting	**3** *VOTE today* (530pm WW)	**4** 9:30am CWF 6:00pm Choir	**5** 6:30pm Book Club @ Betsy Wheelers	**6**	**7**
8) 8:00am Elders 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/ Kid's Church /CW&W 2:15 "Friendsgiving" Cooking Circle (ISJ)	**9** ***Board Reports Due*** 6:00pm Life Together Task Force Mtg.	**10** 6:30pm Board Meeting (530pm WW)	**11** 6:00pm Choir	**12**	**13** Office closed Pastor Day Off	**14** 6pm Interfaith Potluck @ First Presb
15 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:15 Kids Bells 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship Meal Pot Luck Thanksgiving Offering #1	**16**	**17** (530pm WW)	**18** 6:00pm Choir	**19**	**20** Office closed Pastor Day Off	**21**
22 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/ Kid's Church/CW&W Thanksgiving Offering #2 6:30pm Elders on Zoom	**23**	**24** (530pm WW)	**25** 6:00pm Choir	**26** Thanksgiving OFFICE CLOSED	**27** Office closed Pastor Day Off	**28**
29 9:30am Adult Faith Formation 10:20am Fellowship 10:45am Worship/ Kid's Church/CW&W	**30** **29th** is the first Sunday of advent, Tree assembly/decorating after service <<<<<<<<<<<<	**1 DEC** (530pm WW)	**2** 9:30am CWF 6:00pm Choir	**3**	**4** Office closed Pastor Day Off	**5**



PLEASE NOTE

All activities are at Sojourners Christian Church unless otherwise specified



Our website address is:
www.sojournerschristianchurch.org