

DISCIPLES CARE NEWSLETTER

April

Rev. Dr. Colleen Carroll, Senior Minister
Rev. Kathryn Wilson, Minister of Mission & Outreach



South Joplin
Christian Church



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 Our Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Colleen Carroll

I belong to a Facebook group called "Things They Didn't Teach Us in Seminary." Members are restricted to clergy, and it's generally a site for mutual support and idea sharing.



The changes brought about by the COVID - 19 crisis definitely qualify as one of those topics I was not instructed about in seminary! No one ever taught a class on what to do if you had to shut down church for up to eight weeks and maintain "social distance," especially at the height of the Lent and Easter seasons. But one of my professors *did* like the answer to almost every question with the response, "Ministry is messy." Thank you, Peggy Way.

I'm at a loss on what to write in this space. I can't say for sure that we will be able to gather for worship in April, or what the plans will be if we either do or do not meet. If we are still under cancellation recommendations, we will continue some options for online meditations and possibly some small outdoor gatherings if the weather is cooperative. Our choir will not be able to rehearse, but our organist, Chris Greninger, will surely not disappoint with appropriate worship music if we are able to worship together. We will make due with whatever the circumstances allow.

I am reminded of the timely verse from Luke's gospel which takes place during Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a colt. Some Pharisees were annoyed at the noise of the crowd, and told Jesus to silence his disciples. Jesus responded, "*tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.*" (Luke 19:39-40)

Spring is coming, pandemic or not. The birds are still returning and building nests; flowers are blooming and trees are budding. The cancellation of worship - even on Easter - cannot erase the testimony that God loves the world, including the world of nature. If we are able to resume corporate worship in time for Easter, I will rejoice. If we must postpone or make alternative plans, I will still rejoice. Resurrection is about the triumph of grace over the grave, and COVID - 19 cannot and will not change that truth. A year from now as we look back on this season, may we marvel at the miraculous ways hope rises from the earth and from the heart, transforming a dreary outlook into the brightest of possibilities. We, here in Joplin, are experienced in such hopeful endeavors, are we not?

Happy Easter in advance - wherever we might be!
Pastor Colleen

Thank You!

Thank you to our church family for your prayers, cards, and support following the loss of Tom's father in March. We appreciate each of you for your compassion.

Pastor Colleen and Tom Hamm

Offerings

For those wanting and able to do so, offerings can still be made to the church during these uncertain times. This can be done by mailing your offering to **SJCC, 1901 S. Pearl Ave., Joplin, MO 64804**. You can also set up payments online through online banking should your bank offer it, as well as clicking the Donate button on our website southjoplinclcc.org. Thank you all for your continued support!

Stewardship Thoughts

"Fear not" is one of the most common phrases in the Bible, a reassurance that God remains with us regardless of the situation. Likewise, as we walk the Lenten journey to an Easter resurrection Christ's message is that death is not the ultimate winner. With that said, we do need to act responsibly and, in these times of pandemic, prudently. We don't know what the weeks ahead will hold as group gatherings are discouraged and cancelled. We know you may not be able to attend each Sunday. Which is why this is a good time to add South Joplin Christian Church to your electronic bill pay program. Just like many folks live paycheck to paycheck, many religious communities and the livelihoods of those who serve them live offering to offering. This is a good time to think about creative ways to give and to receive.

Stewardship Committee

Updated Directories

We have updated the church directory in order to keep us all connected despite current events. These can be received by email by contacting us at southjoplincc@att.net. Should you prefer a paper copy these can be printed upon request and made available to pick up at the church office at your convenience.

Diversity and Inclusion Proclamation

For the past several months, a workgroup convened by the Chamber of Commerce has worked diligently to identify opportunities and to work toward a more diverse and inclusive Joplin. Recently the final Proclamation draft was presented to the Joplin City Council for consideration. The workgroup learned that the Proclamation as edited by the Council is to be scheduled for hearing in the near future. Copies of the edited version of the Proclamation are available and can be obtained from Pastor Kathryn.



REACHING OUT TO OUR NEIGHBORS WITH REV. KATHRYN WILSON
MINISTER OF MISSION & OUTREACH



“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Join the “Blanket Brigade”

Everyone loves to be warm and cozy. South Joplin Christian is joining with St. Phillip’s Episcopal in their annual “Blanket Brigade”. SJCC’s role will be to collect **New, Used and Repairable** blankets over the next several months. All donations are to be placed in the big blue barrels marked BLANKET BRIGADE between April 1 and October 31. Blankets will be distributed around Veteran’s Day to Soul’s Harbor, Watered Gardens and Lafayette House. For additional information contact Darlene Coit.

2020 Census

By now you should have received your invitation to complete the 2020 Census. Please don’t hesitate to respond online (<https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html>), by phone toll-free (844-330-2020) or by mail to complete the census form. It is easy to complete, fairly short and we are counting on you. Each decade there are various groups in our communities that are under counted which influences funding for community services such as hospitals, schools, assistance programs, medicare, senior centers, congressional seats, etc. for the next 10 years. SJCC has been designated as a community hub. However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak the dates for hub site operations are being re-determined. If you have general questions or need assistance you may contact Pastor Kathryn at the church (417-624-2522) for guidance.

Go2Hours

Where and how are you serving others along your journey of faith and service? In completing our Annual Yearbook Report one of the questions asked for data reflecting how our congregation serves in our local community and beyond. It was a little difficult compiling the information since folks stopped completing Go2Hours forms during the past two years. Tracking this data is how we are able to help tell the story of the outpouring of generosity from our congregation in the community and beyond. How and where are we making a difference in the lives of others. We need to tell our story. In February during a Mission Challenge the Go2Hours process was reintroduced, and we need you to complete a form documenting your hours and places of service whether church sponsored or done individually. Help us tell our story of witness through service by weekly or monthly indicating where you have served, number of hours, and how many were impacted by your service. You can find the GO2HOURS form/slip in the pew pockets. Once filled out just drop it in the offering plate or slide under Pastor Kathryn’s door.

EASTER OFFERING

Let us rejoice that the Easter offering, through Disciples Mission Fund, makes ministry possible. Through the general ministries of our Church, lives are changed and our world is transformed. Will you rejoice with us and give to this special day offering? This Easter season, let us rejoice in all the ways our wider Church embodies the Spirit of Resurrection through life giving ministry. We will receive our Easter Offering on Sunday April 5 and April 12.



Crosslines

SJCC 2019 Donations



Food Items - 1,320 lbs. Financially - \$2,374.01

JOMO Restaurant Week: 7,289 lbs. of food items Souper Bowl of Caring: 4,476 lbs. of food items

Due to the current COVID - 19 pandemic Crosslines has made changes in its operations. Therefore it is uncertain whether our Volunteer Team will serve the 4th Thursday in April.

Please visit the Crosslines website for the latest announcement and details regarding hours and days of operation. Their building will no longer be open to the public. Currently Crosslines is not accepting any type of food, clothing, household or other such donations. However, they are asking for financial donations at this time which will enable the purchase of larger quantities of food from the Ozark Food Harvest. Clients will only be able to receive food or rental assistance as of March 23. All requests must be made online or via phone 24 hours in advance and all orders will be pre-bagged prior to arrival for pickup. As things change we will keep you posted. In brief, Crosslines will be open to disburse food only on Monday (4 pm-6:30 pm), Wednesday (10 am-1:30 pm) and Friday (10 am-1:30 pm). They will not be distributing food on Tuesday or Thursday; those will be the days when they will pre-package pantry boxes/commodities and process orders.

April Monthly Challenge: In lieu of a monthly food donation we are asking for financial donations until further notice. You may mail your contribution to the church, 1901 S. Pearl Ave., Joplin, MO 64804. Please write **CROSSLINES** on the memo line or go to the South Joplin website (www.southjoplindisciples.org) and click the Donate button. On the donation page type the amount on the line that says “Other”, then type **CROSSLINES** in the box next to it.

Prayer Requests

Medical: Monica Bailey, Rebecca Doerflinger (Hall), Monique Floyd, Fred Martino, Carolyn Theil

Other: Humanity as we navigate uncharted waters of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Military: Michael Crofford, Corey Irwin, Josh Robb, Jillian Schuler, Dylan Theil, Gary Wald, Jimmy Willerton, Lorenzo Woods

Ongoing: John Asher, Nancy Ballard, Nancy & Chico Bond, Ellen Broglio, Janet Burns, Veronica Carnahan, Samantha Catey, Betty Coan, Dan Day, Lois Demaree, Carolyn & Tom Fortson, Marea Gagle, Mary Gilmore, Elizabeth Hayes, Alyxis Hefty, Sue Hess, Art Hines, Jewell Holland, Jim Holland, Daryl Hughlett, Roland Hughlett, Bethany James, Fern Jensen, Kenneth Johnson, Betty Kemp, Charlie Kemp, Virginia Long, Sam Knudtson, Lamley Family, Alexandra Lyons, Shirley Martin, Virgil McCoy, Betty McKelvey, Tom Meadows, Sara Metts, Missionary families (Huff, Reaves, Wilson), Easton Murdock, Bethany Newman, Larry Nauser (Fitterling), Nicodemus Family, Jim Owen, Matthew Paulda, Josh Petty, Alexis Prater, Todd Prater, Cameron Ransom, Sharon Reeve, Martin Rooney, Raquel Sapien, Amy Schneider, Kimmy Smith, Sue Smith, Lou Starks, Carolyn Theil, Mike Tesh, Michelle Vorhees, Tova Wallace-Lee, Karen Patchin Watson, Will Wilkerson, Sherry Willerton, Charles Wilson, Lisa Wise, Birdie Woods, Glenn & Mary Lou York, and all unspoken requests.

Global Ministry Partners: Ghana, West Africa (Larry & Debbie Colvin)
5 Kaitlin Thompson, Dominican Republic
12 Tom Liddle, East Timor
19 Nishan Bakalian, Lebanon
26 Kahala Cannon, eSwatini



Recycling Options at SJCC

Cardboard: dumpster on parking lot

Aluminum cans: collection barrel in Fellowship Hall (remove from plastic bags)

Single stream recycling: two trash bins in alley by the church bus.

Observe citywide restrictions for acceptable items only. Full list available at www.republicservices.com/joplin

Please:

***NO plastic bags**

***No glass of any kind**

***Rinse and dry all bottles/cans**

***Remove lids**

***If bins are full, don't overflow**

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



SJCC Calendar

Since so many future plans are up in the air due to the Corona virus, we are not printing an April calendar with this issue. If and when activities resume, we will be in communication in every possible avenue to update the congregation. Thank you for your patience as we navigate uncharted waters in these strange times.

GROUPS



GREEN TEAM NEWS



It's been 50 years since the first earth day, but we need to make earth day every day. Get creative! Look for different ways that you can save planet earth. It can be fun and informative, too. It's everyone's responsibility.

GREEN TIP—Arbor Day is April 26. In celebration of Arbor Day, plant a tree!

VBS News

Even though current activities are canceled or postponed, we are moving ahead with plans for VBS on Tuesdays this July. Our curriculum from Global Ministries this year highlights the country of India and our mission partners and programs there. We were fortunate to pick up a collection of fabric and costumes recently, but would love to showcase decorative items from India if you have any from your travels there - nothing precious or fragile please. Contact Karen Kemp or one of our pastors if you have ideas or items, and by all means, start planning to volunteer your time or bring children on July 7, 14, 21, and 28.

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

4 Judy Schneider
5 Lou Starks
6 Pat Wolfenbarger
7 Kenan Booe
8 Rachel Eckhardt
11 Lisa Wise
15 Anita Frieze
19 Becky Martino
23 Charlie Blair
24 Cyndi Cogbill
25 Dia Curry
30 Jeanie Morrison

Anniversaries

13 Tim & Carey Prater
25 Shawna & Rocky Eckhardt

EVENTS/OTHER STUFF

Congregational Meeting Postponed

The congregational meeting to approve the new Board Secretary position and elect nominee Daniell Sanders was postponed due to COVID-19 concerns. As soon as we are able to reschedule, we look forward to proceeding with this meeting and action.

Weekly Responsibilities

"Where It's At!" Sunday School

(3 YRS - GRADE 4)

Apr 5: Rocky Eckhardt, Sandy Meadows

Apr 12: Jessica Faucett, Karen Kemp

Apr 19: Leanna Carrol, KC Brockman

Apr 26: Jessica Fletcher-Fiero, Karen Kemp

Praise Team

Apr 5: TBD

Apr 12: TBD

Apr 19: TBD

Apr 26: TBD

Communion at the Table

Apr 5: KC Brockman, Sherry Crumbliss, George Gagle, Karen Kemp

Apr 12: Patt Hinds, Tom Hamm, Sue Sterrett, Lisa Wilcox

Apr 19: Carol Bach, Donny Smith, Sarah Coyne, Connie Abraham

Apr 26: Megan Bever, Ray Gall, Julia Foster, Rachel Eckhardt

Homebound

Apr 5: Margie Fitterling, Sherry Crumbliss

Apr 12: Jeanie Morrison, Tom Hamm

Apr 19: Rocky Eckhardt, Donny Smith

Apr 26: Leanna Carrol, Ray Gall

Children Worship & Wonder

Apr 5: Sarah Coyne, Robin Blair

Apr 12: Children in Big Worship (Easter)

Apr 19: Jessica Faucett, Laney Reaves

Apr 26: Karen Fitterling, Rachel Eckhardt

Sound Board/Projection

Apr 5: Ken Moser/Judy Schneider

Apr 12: Don Smith/Sandy Meadows

Apr 19: Darryl Coit/Jennifer Reaves

Apr 26: Raymond Reaves/Jennifer Reaves

Communion Preparation

Apr 5: KC Brockman

Apr 12: Patt Hinds

Apr 19: Carol Bach

Apr 26: Megan Bever

Elder in Worship

Apr 5: Jeanie Morrison

Apr 12: Rocky Eckhardt, Pastor Colleen

Apr 19: Leanna Carrol

Apr 26: Mike Fitterling

Support SJCC Outreach

When shopping on Amazon, please use the following link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/44-0574395> and all of your eligible shopping will benefit SJCC. No matter how large or small your purchase, 0.5% of the amount spent can add up for us. Thank you in advance for your support!



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