Disciples Care Newsletter
February 2021

Rev. Dr. Collen Carroll, Senior Minister
Rev. Kathryn Wilson, Minister of Mission and 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.

Lent 2021

"BEAUTY FOR ASHES"

We take our theme for Lent this year from the Book of Isaiah, chapter 61, verse three in particular: *"and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair."* (NIV)

By the time the season of Lent concludes, we will have spent one full year in the "exile" of the COVID-19 pandemic that has driven almost all of our congregational activities online or halted them entirely. We have been in exile away from our building and fellowship, and we are weary. We are ready for hopeful prophecy.

In some bibles Isaiah 61 is subtitled "The Good News of Deliverance," and its words paint a picture of good news indeed. But before we skip to deliverance or return, we will embrace the opportunity the season affords to make peace with the journey of exile, and to find our God-iverse ever near, even in the ashes. Our weekly texts will follow the Revised Common Lectionary leading up to Easter Sunday, including passages from the gospels of Mark and John.

Each Monday evening Pastor Colleen will host a discussion of the text via Zoom at 6:30PM and include a brief meditative exercise and prayer. These sessions will begin on February 22 and continue through March 29. The link will be sent via email to those on our contact list and remain the same throughout the six weeks.

Additionally, the Worship Ministry Team and Pastor Kathryn are putting together a Lenten Calendar with daily activities to guide our reflection and action throughout the season. These will be mailed along with an Ash Wednesday prayer card prior to the beginning of Lent. A brief meditation will also be conducted on our church Facebook page at 10AM on Ash Wednesday and available for viewing throughout the day at your convenience.

You are invited to ready yourself for this season by opening your eyes to the ways God is constantly transforming the world around us from decay into growth, from death into resurrection, from ashes to beauty.

Scriptures:

Ash Wednesday—Feb. 17 Isaiah 61:1-3

1st Sunday—February 21—Mark 1:9-15

2nd Sunday—February 28—Mark 8:31-38

3rd Sunday—March 7—John 2:13-22

4th Sunday—March 14—John 3:14-21

5th Sunday—March 2—John 12:20-33

Palm Sunday—March 28—John 12:12-16

Maundy Thursday—April 1—Mark 14:22-25

Easter Sunday—April 4—Mark 16:1-8

From the Tech Team

The SJCC tech team's first priority is to make our online worship experiences better. We appreciate your patience. Our latest updates:

Online worship: With improved uploaded capabilities with a new modem and improved service, we are more confident in our ability to both livestream Sunday morning worship on Facebook, and have the service available afterward on the church's YouTube channel. We continue to fine tune our video efforts, recognizing that many of you would like to see close-up of faces. Audio transmission remains a work in progress. We have added some new equipment to the computer that will help us more proactively respond to audio issues; please be patient as this also is requiring our sound technicians to learn new skills and strategies. We continue to work toward getting the appropriate balance of voices and music.

Equipment inventory: We are compiling an equipment list, as well as their ages, as we try to keep somewhat **current**. This inventory, along with the new equipment in the sound booth, shows we have not stayed close to current on some of our software packages. We have been forced to upgrade our MediaShout worship software equipment, and will be upgrading our ChurchPro accounting and membership software very soon.

Reaching Out to Our Neighbors with Rev. Kathryn Wilson
Minister of Mission & Outreach

"Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty, shade from the sun, shelter from the wind, For the Compassionate One guides them, takes them to the best springs." — Isaiah 49:10

Souper Bowl of Caring 2021

2020 proved to be an unprecedented year for families unable to provide adequate food for their families as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic. That is why our contribution to the Souper Bowl of Caring is even more important this year. SJCC has participated in this event for many, many years to support our partner Crosslines Ministries as they continue to address food insecurity in our local community. SJCC kicked off its Souper Bowl Campaign on Sunday January 10th. The campaign will conclude on **Souper Bowl Sunday, February 7.** Because of the pandemic we are not collecting can goods and non-perishable food items but are asking for monetary donations. For every dollar raised through your donations our Outreach Ministry will match it dollar for dollar up to $500. Donations can be made by check , mailed to the church (specify Souper Bowl on the memo line) or via Givelify through our website

Irving Elementary School

My heart was overjoyed when I received a call mid-January that our partner school had decided to once again join us in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring. Mrs. Parker indicated that the Student Council was excited and was already at work mapping out their strategy. Irving will hold their event January 25—February 5, asking the students, teachers and staff to donate can goods and non-perishable items. And once again they will have a challenge and competition within the student body. Mrs. Parker stated that since they are unable to have an assembly this year to end the campaign, they will be announcing during the "Irving Morning Show" at various times who is ahead and which of the principles will have to meet a challenge if their team is behind. They are looking forward to this year's event even though it will be different. All donations will go to Crosslines Ministries.

CROSSLINES

SJCC's Volunteer Team will serve the 4th Thursday of each month.

SJCC's next work day is Thursday, February 25, 2021.

Feel free to serve other days during the month when they are open. Ask for the volunteer coordinator when you arrive. Monday evenings are a great opportunity for families to serve together. You can access/submit the Volunteer Application online at **https://crosslinesjoplin.org/volunteer**.

During February there is a need for volunteers on the 11th and the 16th. If you are able to serve on either of those days, please contact Crosslines' Operations Manager, Carrie Pence, as soon as possible (417-782-8384).

1st Monday (commodities only) 4pm - 6:30pm. Doors lock at 6:30pm.
All other Mondays 4pm - 6pm. Doors lock at 5:30pm.
Tues - Thurs 10am - 2pm. Doors lock at 1:30pm.
Wednesdays are commodity only. (Closed on all 5th Wednesdays)
Friday - CLOSED to the public.

Until we resume onsite food donation collections, if you would like to support Crosslines with a financial donation 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 donate through Givelify. Choose Mission and Outreach or Other, then type Crosslines in the memo section.

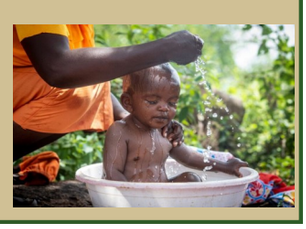
Thanks to your generous giving to our Christmas Offering in 2020 we received $625 to support regional ministries.

Week of Compassion Special Offering

Here at South Joplin Christian Church we know from first hand experience the significance of the ministry provided through Week of Compassion. They were here in Joplin's time of need. When we give to Week of Compassion, resources are deployed to people in need all around the world. Through sustainable development projects, WOC help provide life-giving water and other critical resources that help communities reinvent and reimagine what is possible. When water comes to a village, people are safer, healthier, and more free to pursue learning and growth . This year's theme **"Let love flow"** is a reminder that when we give we are able to share more than just water. Due to the beginning of the Lenten Season we will observe and celebrate Week of Compassion on Sunday February 14 (the day of love). Our Week of Compassion Offering will be received **Sunday February 21 and 28.**

"When you share your gifts to Week of Compassion, you 'Let Love Flow.' Your generosity ensures that, even in the midst of uncertainty, the transforming power of compassion continues to change the world. " (Week of Compassion Staff: - Vy Nguyen, Caroline Hamilton-Arnold, Erin Wathen, and Suzanne McKay)

Please mail donations to the church marked for Week of Compassion or visit our website and donate through Gively (select Week of Compassion) .



Prayer Requests

Sympathy: Mr/Mrs. Drew (Asher); Wayne Fortson, David Fortson; KC Brockman's aunt and sister; Jim Frieze; Ed Jarecki, Jr. (Theil); Liz Hayes (Wilson)

Medical: Carla Arnall; Jim Courtney (Kemp); Sara Willerton; Christopher McCall and Darius Hughlett (Wilson); Monica Bailey, Nic Castlebury; Donna Fuller

COVID: Ellie Carroll; Kristina Nordyke (Mt. Vernon); Dustin Curry; Chico and Nancy Bond (Wheeler)

Military: Michael Crofford; Corey Irwin; Josh Robb; Dylan Theil; Gary Wald; Lorenzo Woods

Ongoing: John Asher; Judy Ballard; Nancy & Chico Bond; Dani Bowen (Meadows); Janet Burns; Veronica Carnahan; Samantha Catey; Betty Coan; Rylee Davis (Gagle); Lois Demaree; Rebecca Doerflinger (Hall); Carolyn & Tom Fortson; Marea Gagle; Mike and Candace Gandy (Hall); Mary Gilmore; Elizabeth Hayes; Alyxis Hefty; Sue Hess; Jewell Holland; Jim Holland; Daryl Hughlett; Roland Hughlett; Bethany James; Fern Jensen; Kenneth Johnson; Betty Kemp; Charlie Kemp; Virginia Long; Sam Knudtson; Lamley Family; 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; Diana Parker (Coit); Matthew Paulda; Josh Petty; Alexis Prater; Todd Prater; Cameron Ransom; Sharon Reeve; Raquel Sapien; Amy Schneider; Kimmy Smith; Sue Smith; Lou Starks; Mike Tesh; Michelle Vorhees; Tova Wallace-Lee; Karen Patchin Watson; Mayree West (Carroll/Hamm); Will Wilkerson; Sherry Willerton; Charles Wilson; Birdie Woods; Mary Lou York, and all unspoken requests.

Global Ministry Partners: Ghana, West Africa (Larry & Debbie Colvin)

Feb. 7 – Maria Abigail Hernandez -Japan
Feb. 14 – RJ Howard – Fiji
Feb. 21 – Abigail Fate – Mexico
Feb. 28 – Leda Zakarison – Lebanon

Groups

Green Team News

February 2021: Calculating Our Carbon Footprint

This month the Green Team began calculating our gas and electric use/ emissions at the church in order to calculate our carbon footprint. We hope to have a report in next month's newsletter. Are you interested in calculating your household's carbon footprint? Grab your utility bills (or log in to your online account) and try out this calculator: https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/ . You can use your dollar amount to estimate your carbon usage, making it simple to see how you're doing! You can even compare your use to the US average for your family size (and try to beat it if you're the competitive type!)

Green Tip:

Speaking of utility bills, look into switching to "e-billing." In the United States, paper products make up the largest percentage of municipal solid waste, and hard copy bills alone generate almost 2 million tons of CO_2. Save paper by signing up for e-billing.

3rd Sunday Fellowship on Zoom

Let's give this one more try. If you would like an opportunity to visit with your church friends on Zoom in place of our monthly fellowship dinner, log on at noon on February 21 with the link which will be provided in the email on Friday, February 19. Feel free to eat while we chat!

Events/Other

Starting February 7th, on the first Sunday of each month we plan to have in-person worship at our regular 10:45am time. The service will also be available online.

Deepest Sympathy to Pastor Kathryn on the passing of her sister, Liz Hayes on January 26 in Atlanta, Georgia. Liz is Kathryn's oldest sister and was 71 years old. Please keep Kathryn and her family in your prayers for peace.

January Board Action

The church board met via Zoom on January 12 to receive written and verbal reports from staff and Ministry Teams. No additional motions for new business were entertained.

Full reports and meeting minutes are available in the church office for anyone with interest.

THIS IS A TEST

We are interested to know how many people read and enjoy this newsletter. If you do, please respond with an email or phone call to the church office. Thank you.

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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You shop. Amazon gives.

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Black History Month Begins	**2** Groundhog Day	**3** Handbell Practice 6:30pm	**4**	**5**	**6**
7 ***Souper Bowl Sunday*** 9:15am Elders 10:45am In-person Worship	**8**	**9** Board Meeting Online 6:30pm	**10** Handbell Practice 6:30pm	**11**	**12**	**13**
14 **Valentine's Day Week of Compassion Sunday** 9:15am Elders 10:45 Online Worship	**15**	**16**	**17** **Ash Wednesday** 10AM Meditation on Facebook Handbell Practice 6:30pm	**18**	**19**	**20**
21 **Lent 1** Week of Compassion Offering (1) 9:15am Elders 10:45am Online Worship 12PM Zoom Chat	**22** 6:30pm Lenten Study on Zoom	**23**	**24** Handbell Practice 6:30pm	**25** Crosslines 9:45am-2pm	**26**	**27**
28 **Lent 2** WOC Offering(2) 9:15am Elders 10:45am Online Worship						

Responsibilities

Elder

February 7: Jeanie Morrison

February 14: Betsy Wheeler

February 21: Mike Fitterling

February 28: Darlene Coit/Kathryn

Camera & Sound

February 7: Jenn Reaves/Ken Moser

February 14: Sandy Meadows/Raymond Reaves

February 21: Judy Schneider/Don Smith

February 28: Jenn Reaves/Darryl Coit

Weekly Scripture

February 7: Mark 1:29-39

February 14 (Week of Compassion Sunday): Isaiah 49:8-12

February 21 (1st Sunday in Lent): Mark 1:9-15

February 28 (2nd Sunday in Lent): Mark 8:31-38

February Birthdays

4 Carolyn Thiel

6 Karen Fitterling

6 Aldric Arnall

7 Lexi Prater

9 Julia Foster

10 Kimberly Ocampo

12 Taylor Cunningham

18 Emma Eckhardt

19 Sherry Crumbliss

19 Kenton Foster

20 Phoenix Castlebury

24 Kairyk Curry

24 Kathryn Wilson

26 Darryl Coit

February Anniversaries

14 Mark & Liz Millard
18 Fred & Becky Martino
20 Dia & Whitlee Curry
28 Chad & Dennis Peterson-Sloan