



# Disciples Care Newsletter

## March 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.



#### From Our Senior Minister

It's really hard to see. You have to squint and look hard at the top of the stump. Can you see it—the shape of a heart burned through the bark? I didn't see it until after I'd already taken several photographs of this stump that sits atop one of our burn piles at the lot where we're building our new home. The shape and character of this stump changes each time we light the fire, and has become somewhat of an old friend to me in the process.

Ideally, this stump would be the centerpiece in our sanctuary for the duration of Lent, reminding us each time we gather to look for beauty among the ashes of our faith journey, transformed as it has been this last year by COVID.

This stump also serves as a reminder of God's ongoing activity of regeneration in the world and in our lives. The tree that once grew strong and tall from the ground began as a small seed, pushing its way through the rocks and dirt until there was nothing left of the seed from which it sprang. As Jesus reminds his disciples in John 20:24, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." Even as the seed once died, so now the tree also dwindles into a mere shadow of its former glory, all the while returning nutrients into the ground which will undoubtedly harbor new growth.

What are the "stumps" that remain as signposts in your life, reminding you of the times you have had to clear the ground to make a new pathway or build a new future? Can you appreciate their beauty and sacrifice? What do you need to let go of in order to reach another new goal? What seeds of possibility might be gestating under the surface of your heart as you await the coming spring?

In the remaining weeks of Lent we will wait and reflect together on the mystery of God's power to bring hope from despair and strength from weakness, and rejoice together finally in the triumph of resurrection and new life even after crucifixion. May God grant us the vision to see beauty and bounty even in these days of preparation and pandemic, making room for all things new.

With you along the pathway,  
Pastor Colleen



#### "Holy Conversations" Regional Lenten Council Circles

Join your fellow Mid-America Disciples every Thursday in Lent. These will be uniquely-structured Zoom gatherings (accessible by computer or phone) to draw upon deep, holy themes facing us in these challenging times. This Season of Lent provides an outlet for naming and sharing deep thoughts and emotions of what we and our churches have experienced in this year-long pandemic, and other resulting pains from isolation, division, and strife. The first theme explored through scripture, poetry, and individual sharing on Feb. 18 and revolve around the 2021 Regional theme of **The Healing Power of Jesus**.

"Holy Conversations" is a different sort of time together using the ancient traditions of Council. This spiritual **practice** receives inspiration from sacred sharing at the gathering of the twelve tribes of Israel (Joshua 4:24) and universal practices by God's people across the spectrums of time and place. **Holy Conversations are not:** a discussion group, a place to debate ideas, a place to receive or give answers or advice, or a place to be held accountable by others. Council is a place **uncommon** to the rest of life where you are invited to **put down** the many identities and roles you play, reconnect to life itself and sink deeper into your **true self**. A large part of our practice of Council is telling our own **stories**, hearing ourselves speak in the **presence** of others. When we are touched, moved, and inspired by the Holy Spirit in **Holy Conversation**, **something new** is created in us that anchors these primal teachings in the personal realm of direct experience. The primary motivation for these weekly Lenten rituals is **inner work** that expands the depth and breadth of love in Jesus Christ, ourselves, and other people. Breakout rooms are used for smaller circle groups of participants to enable full and accessible participation by all who join. "**Holy Conversations**" may be accessed weekly through invitation by Paul Koch. Topic: Mid-America Holy Conversations. Time: Thursdays in Lent from 3:00pm and 7:00pm (not including Maundy Thursday) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87398761501> Meeting ID: 873 9876 1501 or +1 312-626-6799 for phone access.

#### Next Worship In-person: March 7

There were about 34 people in worship on the first Sunday of February, and all of our COVID protocols and practices worked well. We are scheduled to have our next service in-person on March 7 at 10:45am, with the online option also available. Please know in advance that even if you have received your COVID vaccine(s), we still ask everyone to wear their mask and maintain social distancing. Unfortunately, at this time our elevator is not operational, so the only access to the sanctuary is up the stairs. We are deeply sorry for this unavoidable inconvenience. We will do what we can to keep you informed through the weekly CareMail and emails.



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



*As we continue to respond to God's call to mission and our efforts in outreach, we must continue to push ourselves out of our comfort and allow ourselves to be stretched in new ways.*

### Souper Bowl of Caring 2021

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU** South Joplin for yet another fantastic Souper Bowl of Caring. Because of your desire to put food on the table for families in the Joplin area and your "spirit-led generosity" our donations in addition to the Outreach Ministry \$500 match totaled \$1620.05. Crosslines Ministries is delighted and grateful for our generous donation.

### Irving Elementary School

A big shout out to our Bright Futures partner for their successful Souper Bowl Event. The students, teachers and staff collected a total of 1,385 non-perishable food items, weighing in at 922 pounds for Crosslines. This year's competition was between the principles who donned costumes of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Don't know for sure which principal was deemed the winner. THANK YOU IRVING ELEMENTARY for making a difference in the lives



### COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Assistance

AREA AGENCY on AGING REGION X in partnership with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, is offering registration assistance to: seniors 65 years and older; adults who have a disability; residents of Barton, Jasper, Newton, and McDonald Counties who have no internet access or are uncomfortable navigating the online registration website. The Area Agency on Aging will make reminder calls for vaccination appointments. Limited transportation assistance is available for those in Joplin, Carthage and Lamar. Contact the AAA Region X at 417-781-7562. More information can be found at [MOSTopsCovid.com/seniors](https://mostopsCovid.com/seniors).

### SJCC Recognized by U.S. Census 2020

The U.S. Census Bureau hereby recognizes South Joplin Christian Church as an invaluable member of the 2020 Census Community Partnership and Engagement Program. We appreciate the efforts you made in making the Partnership Program a success and helping achieve a successful 2020 Census. (Dr. Steven D. Dillingham, Director - U.S. Census Bureau.) SJCC was one of 50,550 partners nationwide that assisted in the completion of the census.

### 2021 Easter Offering

Imagine what God can do when we share our gifts. The Easter Offering reaches deep and wide with the limitless power of the risen Christ developing Disciples, forming new faith communities, connecting with ministry partners around the world and serving God's people in need. This special day offering supports the Disciples Mission Fund and will be received on Sunday March 28 and April 4. May the lives of others be impacted through your generous donations. Checks may be mailed directly to the church designated Easter Offering or through Givelify on our website.

### Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciling Justice Ministries Online Training - Level 1

The Mid-America Region Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciling Justice Ministries is hosting the next online training via Zoom on Saturday, March 20. The time frame for this session is 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, with ample breaks. Registrants will be emailed documents and videos for advance preparation, as well as log-in information for the training. Completion certificates, follow-up materials, and seminar ideas will be emailed afterward. \$25 registration fee. Visit the regional website to register. [CCMA: Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Justice Ministries Training \(regfox.com\)](https://ccma.org/anti-racism/pro-reconciliation-justice-ministries-training)

### CROSSLINES

**SJCC's Volunteer Team serves the 4th Thursday of each month.**

**Due to Spring Break SJCC will not have a work day in March.**

Volunteers are needed to serve on Thursday, March 11 and Tuesday March 16. If you are available please contact Crosslines directly.

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> or contact Crosslines Operations Manager, Carrie Pence, at (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](http://www.southjoplinDisciples.org)) and donate through Givelify. Choose Mission and Outreach or Other, then type **CROSSLINES** in the memo section.



## Prayer Requests

**Sympathy:** Jim Courtney (Kemp)

**Medical:** Shirley Martin; Kim Noll; Reese Prater, Pamela Randall, John Asher

**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; Nic Castlebury; Samantha Catey; Betty Coan; Rylee Davis (Gagle); Lois Demaree; Rebecca Doerflinger (Hall); Carolyn & Tom Fortson; Marea Gagle; Mike and Candace Gandy (Hall); Mary Gilmore; Alyxis Hefty; Sue Hess; Jewell Holland; Jim Holland; Darius Hughlett (Wilson); Daryl Hughlett; Roland Hughlett; Bethany James; Fern Jensen; Kenneth Johnson; Betty Kemp; Charlie Kemp; Virginia Long; Sam Knudtson; Lamley Family; Shirley Martin; Christopher McCall (Wilson); 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)

March 7 – Anne Gregory, Thailand

March 14 – Raul Santiago-Rivera, Puerto Rico

March 21 – Brigitte Eale, Kenya

March 28 – Victor Makari, Israel/Palestine



## Groups



### Green Team News



#### March 2021: Go Native

Have you ever noticed the butterfly gardens on our church grounds? As you begin to plan for your gardens this Spring, consider both native plants and those that help pollinators like bees and butterflies! These insects are key to pollinating plants both in the wild and on farmlands. In addition, selecting native plants can reduce the need for additional watering and pesticides, making them the green choice. For more information, check out this guide from the Missouri Conservation Department.

[https://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/downloads/nativeplantsrevision\\_2012\\_07w\\_eb.pdf](https://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/downloads/nativeplantsrevision_2012_07w_eb.pdf)

#### From the Tech Team

Thanks to Michael Soderstrom for doing some maintenance work on the church computers! We're continuing to fine-tune our online worship experience. We have discovered an issue with our camera that requires it to shut down if on video after 29 minutes, 59 seconds. This apparently is part of the import tax laws and how still cameras and video cameras are defined. There is no long-term solution; while we continue to determine other specific needs, be patient as we expect a short interruption in the streamline service before the sermon. Our Sunday worships, in addition to being viewed live on Facebook, can be seen afterward again on the South Joplin Christian Church YouTube page. We're happy to have both online services totally functional again. The upgrade to ChurchPro, our financial and membership database system, is now complete and operational. Office staff still need to input membership records, but we are able to appropriately record donations and our financial processes are in place.

Thank you for your continued patience and support.

## EVENTS/OTHER



### Lenten Discussion on Zoom

Join Pastor Colleen each Monday evening during Lent at 6:30pm to share your thoughts, questions, and stories on the weekly scripture or on the theme, "Beauty for Ashes." Remember that even if you don't have a computer or smart phone, you can still dial-in and participate with a regular phone. Contact the church office or Pastor Colleen for access codes.

### February Board Action:

The church board met via Zoom on February 9 to receive written and verbal reports from staff and Ministry Teams. Additionally, a motion was approved to increase the custodian's hourly wage to \$10.30 in accordance with state requirements. Full reports and meeting minutes are available in the church office for those with interest.

### Congratulations

To George and Willa Randall on the birth of their 25th great grandchild, William Metts, born on February 2!

### 3rd Sunday Fellowship on Zoom

Our pastors will host an online fellowship time on Sunday, March 21 at noon as an opportunity for friendly conversation in place of our monthly potluck. The zoom link will be provided in the email the preceding Friday.

### 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!

**amazon smile**  
You shop. Amazon gives.



# MARCH 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 6:30pm Lenten Study on Zoom	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Handbell Practice 6:30pm Tech Team training 7:30pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:15am Elders 10:45am In-person & Online Worship	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Lenten Study on Zoom	<b>9</b> Board Meeting Online 6:30pm	<b>10</b> Handbell Practice 6:30pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:15am Elders 10:45 Online Worship	<b>15</b> 6:30pm Lenten Study on Zoom	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Handbell Practice 6:30pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> ARPR Online Training
<b>21</b> 9:15am Elders 10:45am Online Worship 12pm Zoom Fellowship	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Lenten Study on Zoom	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Handbell Practice 6:30pm	<b>25</b> No Crosslines	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 Palm Sunday</b> Easter Offering 9:15am Elders 10:45am Online Worship	<b>29</b> 6:30pm Lenten Study on Zoom	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

## RESPONSIBILITIES

### Elder

March 7: Jim Cullumber  
March 14: Mark Millard  
March 21: Margie Fitterling  
March 28: Jeanie Morrison

### Camera & Sound

March 7: Jenn Reaves/Ken Moser  
March 14: Sandy Meadows/Raymond Reaves  
March 21: Judy Schneider/Don Smith  
March 28: Jenn Reaves/Darryl Coit

### Weekly Scripture

March 7 (Worship in-person and online): John 2:13-22  
March 14: John 3:14-21  
March 21: John 12:20-33  
March 28 (Palm Sunday): John 12:12-16



## March Birthdays

2 Sandy Meadows	19 Sarah Wright
2 Zoltan Morgan	20 Joe Prater
7 Jessica Faucett	22 Kathy Nicodemus
13 Willa Randall	24 Kim Noll
19 Ashley Clune	28 Lauren Coyne

## March Anniversaries

6 Tom & Sandy Meadows  
16 Tom Hamm & Colleen Carroll  
29 Kenton & Julia Foster