



Disciples Care Newsletter

December 2021

Rev. Dr. Collen Carroll, Senior Minister

Rev. Kathryn Wilson, Minister of Mission and Outreach



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.

Advent 2021

INCARNATE WORD

Join us for worship in this holy season of Advent for meaningful reflection on the ways God has been made flesh for us and for the world, especially through the nativity stories. Our imagination and reflection will be guided by a different reading each Sunday morning, performed by various persons from our church family who help to bring the WORD to life.

December 5 Peace Sunday Edward Hays’ parable from *Saint George and the Dragon and the Quest for the Holy Grail*.
Scripture Reading – Luke 3:1-6

December 12 Joy Sunday “The People Who Walked” from *Cloth for the Cradle*, a worship resource of the Iona Community.
Scripture Reading – Isaiah 9

December 19 Love Sunday “The Incarnation” from *Cloth for the Cradle*. Scripture Reading – John 1:14-18

December 24 Christmas Eve Traditional worship at **5PM** with Holy Communion and Candlelight.

December 26 Note: Worship at 10AM; No Elders or SS classes that day. Scripture Reading – Colossians 3:15-20

January 2 Epiphany Sunday “Story of Light and Darkness,” from *Cloth for the Cradle*. Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-12.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DEC 5 AFTER WORSHIP

The printed ballot will include the nomination of elected leaders for 2022 as well as a Yes or No vote for the proposed budget.

Full copies of the budget are available at the church or by request to the church office.

Additionally Jennifer Reaves, member of the Facilities Task Force will provide an update on the information obtained to date and be available to answer questions from the congregation. Please refer to the attachment in the November 22 CareMail for a written description. No vote will be entertained or taken on the church facilities. This is a report only.

Christmas Story Walk Returns

Invite the children in your family or neighborhood to Friendship Park between December 9 and 26 and enjoy reading Matthew Paul Turner’s book, *All the Colors of Christmas*. The outdoor StoryWalk is sponsored by our Faith Formation ministry group, and open to the public.





REACHING OUT TO OUR NEIGHBORS WITH REV. KATHRYN WILSON

MINISTER OF MISSION & OUTREACH

"In this season of Advent and Christmas, it is my prayer that we continue to imagine God's love revealed in the everyday things of life enabling each of us to play an active role in transforming the world."



Afghan Refugee Welcome

For several weeks now the Joplin community has been preparing for the arrival of 50 Afghanistan refugees that will resettle in our community. The first of these refugees arrived in Joplin just prior to Thanksgiving. As I have explained to our congregation on a few occasions, the efforts are being coordinated by R.A.I.S.E. (Refugee and Immigration Services & Education) based in Noel, MO. In November R.A.I.S.E. was granted office space at Crosslines Ministries in Joplin to provide a place of operation locally. In order for SJCC to determine how and to what extent we as a congregation are able to commit to these efforts in any fashion, R.A.I.S.E. has been invited to make a "Next Steps" presentation to our congregation on **Sunday, December 12 at 12:00 p.m.** This will be immediately at the conclusion of worship. We hope that many of you will be present to receive the information and ask questions. We must inform ourselves as to the magnitude of the task at hand and make our decision as a congregation based on that knowledge. Our decision cannot be made light-heartedly, as the needs of the refugees are complex and require many resources. Many thanks to the SJCC members who attended the Afghan Cultural Orientation at Christ Church of Oronogo on November 29.

"Friendsgiving" Food Donation

During our "Friendsgiving Dinner" last month members were provided the opportunity to bring non-perishable food items to share with others in our community. Many thanks were expressed by Souls Harbor for the donation of 43 assorted non-perishable items. They will provide food for the table in this time of scarcity. Thank you for your generosity.

2021 Christmas Offering

Our gifts to the Christmas offering support the work of our regional ministries. The Mid-America regional ministry works to: connect congregations to each other; foster faith development; gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies; nurture the development of a new generation of pastors; assist churches in calling new ministers; interpret the global mission of the Church; represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings; counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit; lead the Church to address racism; inspire leaders to experiment and create and witness to the power of God to make things new. May you be generous in your giving. Offering will be received on Sunday, December 12 and 19. Through your generous giving we received \$770.00 in our Thanksgiving Offering.



CROSSLINES



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

There will be no SJCC work day in December due to the Christmas holiday.

(In observance of the Christmas Holidays, Crosslines will be closed December 19–31.)

Many thanks to the members of our Volunteer Team who serve faithfully each month.

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).

Hours of Operation

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.

"Crosslines is simply overwhelmed and humbled by the response of the community during this holiday season. This includes churches, organizations, businesses and individuals. We asked for food, toys, household items, warm clothes and the community has not only met those needs but also has added in other donations of money, blankets and coats. We would not be able to do what we do without the support of YOU. Thank you!" - Carrie Pence

Your financial donations for Crosslines are very much appreciated. If you would like to make a contribution through the church, you can mail it directly to the church, **1901 S Pearl Ave, Joplin, MO 64804** or place in the offering plate. Please specify **CROSSLINES** or go to the South Joplin website (www.southjoplin.org) and donate through Givelify. Choose Mission and Outreach or Other, then type **CROSSLINES** in the memo section.

Prayer Requests

Medical: Timicia Curtis; Nancy Righthouse (Cogbill); Ana Velasco (Millard); Ray Choa (Wheeler); Red Ball-Anderson; Dawni Reaves (Ball-Anderson); Amy Duell (Traver)

Sympathy: Jackie Choa (Wheeler); Marti Robbins-Busse (Sanders)

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

Other: Donna Fuller and Shirley Martin

Ongoing: John Asher; Judy Ballard; Beth Bethards; Dani Bowen (Meadows); Janet Burns; Veronica Carnahan; Nic Castlebury; Samantha Catey; Betty Coan; Dayton and Daislee Cohen; Lois Demaree; Rebecca Doerflinger (Hall); Amy (Stiles) Duell; Kyle Ford (Wolfenbarger); Carolyn & Tom Fortson; Mary Gilmore; Alyxis Hefty; Sue Hess; Jim Holland; Darius Hughlett (Wilson); Daryl Hughlett; Roland Hughlett; Bethany James; Betty Kemp; Sam Knudtson; Lamley Family; Shirley Martin; Betty McKelvey; Tom Meadows; Sara Metts; Missionary families (Huff, Reaves, Wilson); Easton Murdock; Arlene Nash; Larry Nauser; Bethany Newman; (Fitterling); Jim Owen; Matthew Paulda; Josh Petty; Alexis Prater; Reese Prater; Todd Prater; Cameron Ransom; Sharon Reeve; Raquel Sapien; Brady, Baylee and Calvin Shafer; Kimmy Smith; Sue Smith; Lou Starks; Mike Tesh; Michelle Vorhees; Tova Wallace-Lee; Karen Patchin Watson; Will Wilkerson; Sherry Willerton; Charles Wilson; Birdie Woods; Mary Lou York, and all unspoken requests.

Global Ministry Partners:

Dec 5 - Victor Makari, Israel/Palestine

Dec 12 - Phyllis Byrd, Kenya

Dec 19 - Andrew Larsen, Philippines

Dec 26 - Emmanuela Loccident, Morocco



Adult Faith Formation

Join Pastor Kathryn on Sunday mornings at 9:30am through the remainder of the Advent Season as she leads a study entitled *Simply Wait: Cultivating Stillness in the Season of Advent*. Participants will share in a time of spiritual renewal through reflection, meditation, prayer and music. The last session will be Sunday, December 19.

Groups

Board Meeting

At its November 15 meeting, the board approved a 2022 proposed budget from the budget committee as well as a complete list of nominations for the slate of elected leadership, both of which will be presented to the congregation on December 5 for final vote.

Additionally, a motion was made and approved to hold quarterly in-person board meetings next year, with financial and committee reports provided monthly in email packets. The change does not impact the bylaws as they only stipulate "regular" meetings of the board. Special board meetings may still be called if needed.

Bright Futures Volunteers

With the 2020-2021 school year only half over there is still time to make an investment in the life of a child. In January 2022 consider volunteering as a **TREK Coach**, tutoring a child for one hour per week after school. Or consider being a **Lunch PAL** once a week for a 20-minute lunch and be that positive adult making a profound difference in an elementary child's life. This program pairs a caring adult with an elementary student in need of a positive role model. Background checks are required. Want to be plugged into other volunteer opportunities? Contact Sarah Coyne, Staff Coordinator,

sarahcoyne@joplinschools.org
417-625-5200 ext. 2031

Advent Devotional Guides

Various Advent booklets are available for daily devotions for families and/or adults; please help yourself.

Pick them up in the narthex while supplies last.

Holiday Closing

Our Pastors will be on Vacation the last week of December and our Administrative Assistant will have modified hours. So please call ahead if you need office assistance.

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!



EVENTS/OTHER

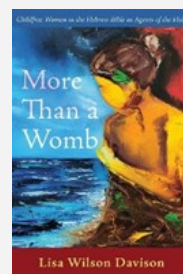
Poinsettia Orders



If you would like to provide a poinsettia for the sanctuary for Christmas Sunday (Dec. 19), the cost this year will be \$10. Forms are available on the table in the church Narthex, or you may email the church office at office@southjoplinidisciples.org with the name of the person(s) you wish to honor.

Mark your calendars

Pastor Colleen will be leading a book study of Dr. Lisa Davison's book, *More Than a Womb: Childfree Women of the Hebrew Bible as Agents of the Holy* on Thursday evenings from January through February. As a special incentive and bonus, Dr. Davison will discuss the book with us via Zoom on March 3! After an entire season of glorifying the mother of Jesus for her gift to the world, let's honor other women in the scriptures who have offered their gifts of devotion. Order your book now on AmazonSmile and get a head start on reading.



50th Wedding Anniversary:

Mike and Margie Fitterling invite our church family to join them as they celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, December 18th at a reception from 2:00-4:00PM at Twin Hills Country Club (2019 S. Country Club Dr., Joplin). "Please no gifts, however for a walk down memory lane we would enjoy reading a special memory you shared with us." RSVP by December 6: 417-825-5428 or email m_fitterling@hotmail.com



Did you notice?

Worship is at 10am on December 26th!



DECEMBER 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9AM Prayer Partners 9:30AM CWF 6PM Choir/Bells	2 11:30AM Cluster 3 Ministers, Monett	3	4
5 8AM Elders 9:30AM Faith Form. 10:45AM Worship 12PM Congregational Meeting	6 6:30PM NA Meeting	7 6PM Outreach Meeting	8 9AM Prayer Partners 6PM Choir/Bells	9 StoryWalk Installation	10	11
12 8AM Elders 9:30AM Faith Form. 10:45AM Worship/CW&W 12PM RAISE Presentation	13 6:30PM NA Meeting	14 6:30PM Board Meeting	15 9AM Prayer Partners 6PM Choir/Bells	16	17	18 Fitterling Reception 2PM - 4PM (Twin Hills CC)
19 8AM Elders 9:30AM Faith Form. 10:45AM Worship/CW&W	20 6:30PM NA Meeting	21	22 9AM Prayer Partners	23	24 Office Closed 5PM Worship	25 
December 21st-27th Pastor Kathryn on Vacation						
26 ONLY 10AM Worship Kwanzaa Begins	27 6:30PM NA Meeting	28	29 Office Closed 9AM Prayer Partners	30	31 Office Closed	
December 27th-31st Pastors on Vacation						

RESPONSIBILITIES

Elders

Dec 5: Mike Fitterling
Dec 12: Betsy Wheeler
Dec 19: Darlene Coit
Dec 26: Jim Cullumber

Camera & Sound

Dec 5: Judy Schneider & Don Smith
Dec 12: Jenn Reaves & Ray Reaves
Dec 19: Judy Schneider & Ken Moser
Dec 26: Sandy Meadows & Darryl Coit

Diaconate

Dec 5: Communion - Kathy Nicodemus & Sean Nicodemus
Dec 12: Communion - Don Smith & Karen Kemp
Homebound - Susan Wolfenbarger
Dec 19: Communion - Connie Abraham & Carolyn Theil
Homebound - Tom Hamm
Dec 26: Communion - Patt Hinds & Susan Wolfenbarger
Homebound - Don Smith

Children's Worship & Wonder

Dec 5: Storyteller - K C Brockman, Greeter - Jessica Fletcher-Fierro
Dec 12: Storyteller - Karen Fitterling, Greeter - Laney Reaves
Dec 19: Storyteller - Karen Kemp Greeter - Judy Schneider
Dec 26: No CW&W

Sunday School (K thru 5)

Dec 5: Teacher - Jessica Faucett, Helper - K C Brockman
Dec 12: Teacher - Darlene Coit, Helper - Carla Arnall
Dec 19: Teacher - Leanna Carrol, Helper - Karen Kemp
Dec 26: No Sunday School

Youth Sunday School December 12th at 9:30AM

December Birthdays



1 Samantha Cline	14 Amanda Hall
2 Spenser Cullumber	19 Nicholas Castlebury
2 Will Delehanty	20 Alecia Ratliff
2 Shirley Martin	24 Susan Wolfenbarger
3 Dinah Arnall	28 George Randall
5 Ray Gall	30 Leanna Carrol
9 Mia Coyne	30 Kayci Evans
13 Timicia Curtis	

December Anniversaries

18 Mark & Margie Fitterling