

FALL INTO AUTUMN AND GET INVOLVED

Fall is here. It is a time for family, community, and yes---church. Our prayer for you during this season is that you get even more involved with WGPC and the wonderful things that we have happening in every facet of our congregation. We have some exciting things going on, and we want you to be a part of it.



Thank you for the books!

Thank you for all of you who made our book fair in September such an amazing success! We are thrilled to report that between the books purchased, cash donations, and book credit from Scholastic, we will be donating over \$3,500 worth of books to students in the Webster Groves School District. THANK YOU SO MUCH!



Join us for Empty Bowls Dinner!

Mark your calendars now and be sure to attend the Empty Bowls dinner to benefit Webster-Rock Hill Ministries on Sunday, November 4, 4:30-pm at the Webster Hill United Methodist Christian Life Center (corner of Berry & Lockwood). Guests will share soup and bread and take home a handmade bowl created by students & craftspeople from the area.



Special Screening of "Healing Justice"

This powerful documentary addresses the school-to-prison pipeline, the need for criminal justice reform, and the importance of healing and restorative practices. Come, listen, and learn here on Oct. 28, 2018 from 2-4pm. There will be a delicious cookie reception/ Healing Justice is produced and directed by Shakti Butler.



Be grateful in this season



A Word from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

GOD DOES NOT GIVE GIFTS! These were the words delivered by one of the keynote speakers during the Kaleidoscope Stewardship Conference I attended in September. Needless to say, they were words that caught my attention since they are so counter to my beliefs. They were the words of Rev. Chick Lane, a Lutheran pastor who had just finished making the point that all we have belongs to God.

Gifts, he said, are given without expectation of return. For example, when you give a birthday gift, you give it to the person and expect nothing in return. Rev. Lane made the point, that all we have belongs to God but these are not gifts to do with only as we wish. We are stewards of what we have. We take care of what God has given us on behalf of God. So, our homes, cars and money are really from God, to take care of and to consider, what God wants done with them. The question is not what do I want to do with all that I have, but what does God want me to do with all I have?



In *Falling Upward*, the book our church is reading together by Richard Rohr, he points out in the first half of life one of our concerns is financial security. In the second half of life we move beyond worrying about such things and begin to let go of the need to worry about "stuff". Wouldn't it be freeing if we could learn early in life that everything we have belongs to God and we are simply to manage it for God?

Rather than worry about accumulating we could turn our attention to the joy of how best to use our possessions for the good of others.

I still believe God gives us all kinds of gifts with no strings attached. Grace certainly comes to mind as does mercy and forgiveness. But the idea that our possessions in life belong to God and that we are merely stewards for God is certainly a faithful way to be set free from the meaningless pursuit of stuff!

Peace be with you!

-Ed



Celebrate God's love for us



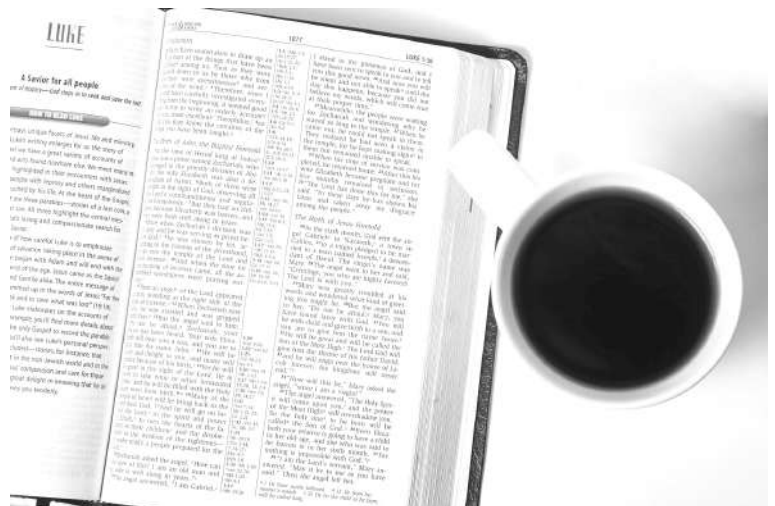
Advocacy

What does advocacy mean at WGPC? The newly formed Advocacy Team is talking about that right now, and we welcome all to our discussions. We will focus this Fall on developing a mission statement and next steps. In the meantime, on September 28, Rev. Dietra Baker spoke to us about how you move from mission to advocacy, from giving money to action. This will be the basis for upcoming discussions on advocacy at WGPC. Please also join us for any or all of the following:

October 7, 9:30 AM- Advocacy Table on Mission Sunday in Fellowship Hall. We'll be focusing on getting the vote out on November 6.

October 7, 3:00 AM- Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) meeting at Peace UCC- learn, along with us, the issues MCU sees facing Webster Groves.

October 28, 9:30 -WGPC Coffee Talks, League of Women Voter's informational, non-partisan presentation on November ballot issues.



October 28, 2-4:30 PM- Join us at WGPC for a special screening of "Healing Justice", a documentary addressing the school-to-prison pipeline.

November 4, 11:30 AM- WGPC Advocacy Team Mission Statement Brainstorming in the Parlor

We encourage you to attend adult education this Fall as we explore ecumenical and PCUSA advocacy and social witness efforts.

--Advocacy Team Co-Covenantors: Emmy McClelland and Sue Scott.

We received a heartfelt letter from the Room at the Inn shelter, thanking us for our support and generous gift. They were able to provide food, shelter, clothing, counseling, and other vital services with our donation.



Get involved



Calendar

Our Mission Weekend is almost here-- on October 6th and 7th we will be heading out into the community to serve others! Here is what you need to know: We will have a brief service in the sanctuary at 8:30am, and then we will head out (or into our fellowship hall) to put our faith in action! There will also be a service in the sanctuary at 10:30 am for those who are not going out to work on Sunday morning projects.

SIGN UP NOW on the church website, or by emailing Beth Kazlauskas (bok@wgpc.org)! Here are the opportunities that are available:

Saturday, October 6th

Home Sweet Home: Help deliver furniture to a family moving into a home for the first time.

WGPC ECC: Help with the Early Childhood Center's Rummage Sale or playground cleanup.

Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition: Help sort clothes in their resale store on Saturday afternoon.

Give-A-Meal Month October Menu

Canned Chicken and Dumplings
Canned Peas --- no or low salt
Canned Pears ---- lite or in fruit juice
Powdered Milk

Additional Needs
Laundry Detergent

Sunday, October 7th

Worship @ 8:30 or 10:30 in the Sanctuary Isaiah 58 Ministries: Help around the food pantry and learn about responses to hunger in St. Louis.

Webster Rock Hill Ministries: Help with a variety of projects on the church grounds.

Visit WGPC members in their homes: Visit members who are not able to attend church regularly.

Projects @ Webster Pres in Fellowship Hall: Gather to make sandwiches and items for organizations we support.

Bake treats at home to contribute to Sunday evening's dinner!

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO DINNER ON SUNDAY EVENING at 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Join us for good food, a time of worship, and a celebration of serving together.



Get involved



Teens & Tweens

Youth Family Mission Project

Celtics and Agape students and their families are invited to join the church-wide Mission Weekend. The youth, their parents and siblings are particularly encouraged to participate at Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition's ReFresh store in Brentwood, Saturday, October 6, 1:00-4:00pm and/or Isaiah 58 Ministries' food pantry Sunday, October 7 9:30am-12pm. Visit wgpc.org/mission_outreach and click the blue 2018 Mission Weekend link on the left to learn more info about Mission Weekend projects and to sign up.

AGAPE FALL RETREAT OCT 19-21

Agape will travel to Camp Lakewood at Trout Lodge for their 2018 Fall Retreat, a weekend of connecting with God and each other. We live in a world that is very busy, loud, and overwhelming at times. This weekend, we will try to hit the pause button on all of that and focus on ourselves, each other and God. The cost is \$135, unless signed up during early bird special. Scholarships are available. Mark your calendars for info. Contact Cherstin Byers (chb@wgpc.org) with questions or to sign up.

Give-A-Meal Month October Menu

Canned Chicken and Dumplings
Canned Peas --- no or low salt
Canned Pears ---- lite or in fruit juice
Powdered Milk

Additional Needs
Laundry Detergent

Affirming Our Commitment to Eliminating Hunger

We are happy to announce that our congregation recently became a PCUSA Certified Hunger Action Congregation. This affirms our commitment to working to alleviate hunger and end its causes. We do this in so many ways and this is an official recognition of these efforts.

THANK YOU!!

A total donation of \$3,564 was sent to PDA for Immigrant/Refugee support. \$1773 was donated by the congregation and then matched from the Mission Endowment Fund.



We are a community



What's the word

Fall Into Reading



The weather is getting cooler---what better to do than to read? Come to the library for a FREE book fair---bookmarks, etc. Sunday, October 28, 9 am to 12pm. Tea and cookies will be served.

See you there!

One Church One Book Club Discussion and Luncheon

There are two opportunities to join other participants in the One Church One Book program in discussing *Falling Upward*. We will discuss chapters 8-13 on Sunday, October 28 from 11:30 pm to 12:30pm in the Parlor; and then we'll join for a luncheon and discussion of the entire book on Sunday, November 18th from 11:30 to 1:15 in Fellowship Hall. Contact Chuck Reynolds for more information (cpreynolds315@outlook.com)

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Pledge Request

Fall has officially begun! Everyone is back from summer vacation and our programs are up and running. It is time to be sure that our pledges are current. You may want to consider Online Giving to ease your monthly routine. You can go to wgpc.org at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. Once on the website, click on Get Involved at the top of the page; then WGPCconnect; then click on the orange circle that reads Register/Log in.

Once you register, you will be able to check your information, request changes, look up contributions and find the contact information for other members.



The congregation is cordially invited to a luncheon celebrating the upcoming marriage of Hannah Dreitcer & Adam Castelli.

Sunday, October 14

Immediately following the 10:30 service in Fellowship Hall.

RSVP to Joyce at 962-9210 (x3207) or jlk@wgpc.org by October 5th.

Hannah and Adam have created a gift registry at <https://thankfulregistry.com/sunnyandblue>.

