

West Side Times

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KAIROS

A TIME FOR ACTION



By Rev. Donna Gilchrist

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it (Col. 3:12-14, The Message).

WHAT A JOY IT WAS to walk the Greater Auburndale neighborhood with a small group of folks from West Side on Saturday, August 21. As West Siders were handing out fliers telling about the neighborhood food drive for Doorstep, they were greeted warmly. A few neighbors began planning what they might put out on their porches, and we laughed when one man even offered a trade: "I'll put out a bag of groceries for Doorstep, if you'll leave a few steaks for my grill!"

A neighborhood teenager on an old blue bike wondered what was going on. When he found out about the food drive, he told us that his family wouldn't be able to give food because they didn't have much money. A West Sider talked with him about helping pick up groceries. After a quick bike ride up to the church, the teen came back enthusiastically planning how he could attach a little wagon to the back of his bike to carry canned goods the next week.

Love emanated from that West Side volunteer as she shared just the right words with a neighborhood teen, and he offered enthusiasm in return. God's love is at the core of what we do at West Side: warm, friendly hugs, incredible music, laughter-filled meals, and generous donations. Your hearts are filled with love... for God, your families, churchgoers, and strangers you've never met. So, it's not surprising that when Renewal Task Force began working on a vision/mission that would represent our congregation they came up with "WEAR Love," based on the scripture at the top of this article from Col. 3:12-14, from *The Message Bible*.

Colossians 3 was written to folks who have embraced Christ.

—Continued, page 2



Logo by Lilly King; background by Prawny from Pixabay

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Readers are encouraged to grow in their faith and to remember that they have Christ living inside them, seeing through Christ's eyes and loving as Christ loves. Our new vision/mission challenges West Siders to do the same thing.



Artwork by Dana J. King

The acronym, WEAR, stands for...

Welcoming to all – We welcome everyone as Christ has welcomed us, including all people.

Encouraging love – West Side can encourage love by example, by learning and teaching, and by empowering and nurturing people. For example, at this summer's Peace Camp, West Side adults taught kids peaceful actions and behaviors that will help spread love in the world.

Accepting of others – This acceptance includes the idea that all of God's children have special gifts and abilities. At West Side we see each person as a partner in faith, accepting the love they have to offer and recognizing that everyone has a need to give.

Returning love through mission – As we welcome others, encourage love, and accept what each person brings to a relationship with God and other people, we can partner together to accomplish great things to honor God and spread God's love throughout the world.

What an exciting time this is at West Side as we listen for God's opportunities and WEAR Love together with Christ!

Donna

WEAR LOVE

SHARING LOVE IN PERSON

WE ARE THANKFUL to be meeting together in-person again! West Siders attended an outdoor Easter service, April 4. Another outdoor service was moved indoors, due to rain, on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, and regular, in-person 10:30 a.m. worship services resumed June 6.

Deb Southerland built and decorated a beautiful cross for the Easter service using sea glass and paint.





Artwork by Gary Jantz, West Side Christian Church

WEAR LOVE VISION

We are...

Welcoming all.

Encouraging love.

Accepting others.

Returning love through mission.

Guiding Bible verse: Colossians 3:12-14, MSG

“So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you:

compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline.

Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense.

Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you.

And regardless of what else you put on, wear love.

It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.”

PEACE CAMP 2021

WEST SIDE HOSTS PEACE CAMP 2021

WEST SIDE HOSTED a week-long, half-day Peace Camp on July 5-9 for children entering 1st-6th grade. Twenty-five campers learned about empathy, self-control, handling bullying, and more through games, crafts, art, music, and story.

Guest leaders included Angel Little, muralist; Master Moore, martial arts instructor; and Deanne Dinkel, yoga instructor. The Topeka Center for Peace and Justice partnered with WSCC by donating books, T-shirts, and curriculum materials and ideas, as well as helping to advertise the camp.

Thank you to all the wonderful West Side folks who helped by leading music, leading groups, helping with registration and check in, and helping with food donations and service! You all are the best!

WSCC Peace Camp 2022, themed “Circle of Peace,” is already being planned for July 11 through 15 of next year!



PASTOR DONNA GILCHRIST:

“One exciting part of Peace Camp was watching how engaged the kids were with the instructors and activities. It was fun to see their faces as new insights broke through.

Probably my favorite part of Peace Camp was observing the gentle kindness kids shared with each other...things like handing a child a shoe that had accidentally come off, creating an impromptu card as a gesture of friendship, or offering comfort to an anxious child on her first day at camp.

“We had great feedback on this year’s camp, with parents asking if we plan to offer it again!”

Peace Camp
2021
West Side Christian Church



KIT PITTIER, PEACE CAMP DIRECTOR:

“A few years ago we attended a workshop held by the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice that explained the peace camp model they had used for years. They were ceasing their program to pursue other endeavors. We are always searching for opportunities to serve the community, and providing a camp for children that gave them tools to fight bullying seemed perfect for an ongoing mission for West Side.

“We had space for 30 children this first year of Peace Camp, and it put a smile on my heart to see the halls of our church filled with their laughter and excitement. We had a specific theme each day, and a special guest who presented their gift to the children.



“One day we had a yoga instructor help us find peace for ourselves. On another we had a graffiti artist share his ministry of peace for the earth. We had a school counselor help us explore the concept of empathy to learn peace for others. And yet another day we had a karate master share how to avoid a bully and achieve peace for us. It was exciting each day to see how the kids interacted with our guests.

“With God’s blessing, we hope to make Peace Camp a yearly ritual — we are already thinking of guest speakers we can invite for Peace Camp 2022.”



Peace Camp logos by Lilly King

RETURNING LOVE THROUGH MISSION



WEST SIDERS once again teamed up with Potwin Presbyterian Church and West Side Baptist Church to supply Meadows Elementary School children with school supplies for the start of their school year on August 11. Thank you for your generous donations!

AUGUST WAS WEST SIDE'S MONTH to join with three other area churches to restock Doorstep Inc.'s pantry. West Siders brought food and donations to the church, and Kristian Collins organized a neighborhood food drive and kids' scavenger hunt.

West Side kids, youth, and adults passed out flyers to neighbors on August 21 and picked up food for Doorstep from neighbors' porches on August 28.

Thank you for blessing our neighborhood through Doorstep!



BABY ANNOUNCEMENT

HEATH & JENNY SIMPSON
are the proud parents of
NOVA LEE SIMPSON

BORN: 6:02 a.m. on July 12, 2021

BIG BROTHERS: Seth and Corbin

GRANDMOTHER: Sally Walker

CONGRATULATIONS!

IN MEMORY

WITH LOVING HEARTS, we remember these West Side members and friends who recently passed into the arms of our Lord:

MEMBERS: Jack Connell, Nikki Holm,
Freda Kinney, Arlene Looker

FRIENDS: Donald Blomberg (Rita Lewis's brother)
Rev. Dr. Monte Gravenstein



WEAR LOVE SERMON SERIES

Catch the WEAR Love vision through an upcoming Sunday morning series. Call the office if you would like CDs for home listening. Sept. 12 kick-off: "WEAR Love"; Sept. 19 "Welcoming All"; Sept. 26 "Encouraging Love"; Oct. 3 "Accepting Others"; Oct. 10 "Returning Love."



WORSHIP GUIDELINES

We are so thankful to be worshipping in person Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Please wear a mask as you enter the church and sanctuary. Once you are seated, socially distanced from other groups, you may remove your mask unless singing. Please put your mask back on as you leave the building and return to your vehicle.



SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL RELAUNCH

Children, teens, and adults are invited to join us for the Sunday school hour at 9:15 a.m. beginning Sept. 12. Adults, call or email the office if you would like information on the option of joining the Adult class through Zoom instead of in person. It has been a long time since we have been able to have in-person classes, and we can't wait to see you!



TAWAKONI GALA AUCTION IN NOVEMBER

The annual Tawakoni Gala Auction will take place virtually on Nov. 5 and in person on Nov. 6 at Tawakoni. Register for the event, donate items, or get more information by visiting www.kansasdisciples.org/gala/



SPECIAL OFFERINGS: RECONCILIATION & THANKSGIVING

The Reconciliation Special Offering, promoting peace and antiracism, will be received on Sundays, Sept. 26 and Oct. 3. The Thanksgiving Special Offering, benefiting the colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses of the Disciples of Christ, will be received on Sundays, Nov. 14 and 21. Thank you for your generosity!



RECEIVE WEEKLY NEWS IN YOUR EMAIL

Sign up for all the latest news! The church publishes a weekly newsletter *West Side Weekly*, with encouragement, announcements, and community events. To sign up go to www.eepurl.com/ga4Oev. Or you can read online at westsidedisciples.org. (Look for the Newsletters tab.)



West Side Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
432 SW Lindenwood Avenue
Topeka, KS 66606

Return Service Requested

Church School—9:15 a.m.

Worship Celebration—10:30 a.m.

Phone: 785-234-0469

Email: office@westsidedisciples.org

Website: www.westsidedisciples.org



...and regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic,
all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

Colossians 3:12, MSG