

West Side Times

www.westsidedisciples.org

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WEARING LOVE



By Rev. Donna Gilchrist

*The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.”*

—Luke 1:30 NRSV

IMAGINE VELVETY DARKNESS, sprinkled with thousands of bright stars...the kind of night sky you can only see on a dark country road far away from city lights. If you’ve ever experienced such an encounter, you might remember feeling deep awe as you drank in the beauty.

Now imagine that starry sky interrupted with one of the brightest stars you’ve ever seen, with the light from that magnificent star extending in all directions through the darkness.... It is not just a star, but a pathfinder... a compass.

That brilliant compass is what the magi followed – a star that pointed them in the direction of Bethlehem marking the spot where the newborn Christ Child lay.

Have you ever hoped for a beacon like that star? Have you ever wished for a sign from God that left no doubt what you were to do next in your life?

Sometimes we receive spotlights of clarity, but most often wisdom arrives in small glimmers of insight parsed out after much prayer and discernment. As they prepared for the birth of Jesus, both Mary (Luke 1:30) and Joseph (Matt. 1:20) were given the message, “Do not be afraid.” What an affirming message during a time of change! Both Mary and Joseph were faithful to that message they received, moving with God through their fear and embracing the new journey upon which God had sent them.

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Image by Any Lane on Pexels

WEARING LOVE

Meister Eckhart wrote, “We are all meant to be mothers of God. For God is always needing to be born.” There will always be ways that God is bringing new life into our world. God longs for us to let go of our fear, listen to God’s guidance, and be part of what is happening. Like the magi, we follow the star — or the fragments of insight that we are sent — until we can see God’s vision.

*Like the magi, we follow the star
— or the fragments of insight
that we are sent —
until we can see God’s vision.*

During the past year at West Side, followers of Jesus have moved out of our comfort zones and into the community. New partnerships and relationships are in the process of being nurtured and grown. Advent is a time of preparing for what comes next. We wait for new birth with hope and expectation — not exactly sure where God will lead in the next year, but certain that Emmanuel will be with us.

During Advent and beyond, I encourage you to engage in some daily practices: 5-10 minutes of spiritual reading and prayer, building one new friendship/relationship, and putting your faith into action daily.

E-mail your experiences to the church office or to me so we can share them in *West Side Weekly*. It’s always encouraging for the Body of Christ to see signs of new life in our midst.

With Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love,

Donna

WEAR LOVE IN 2023

In 2022 we at West Side have been invited to consider how we are WEARing Love. We have reached out to the community in the following ways:

- Peace Camp
- 5th Sunday Mission projects
- Pumpkins for Peace
- National Night Out
- Children in need at Meadows Elementary

And we offer hospitality by sharing our building with these groups and outreaches:

- Apostolic Assembly of Faith in Jesus Christ
- Late Night Narcotic Anonymous
- Kids’ Clothing Closet (in partnership with Potwin Presbyterian Church)
- Flint Hills Harmony

As we prayerfully look ahead, we have identified projects that will help us WEAR Love through 2023 and beyond.

Please consider giving now and in the coming year to West Side for the proposed WEAR Love projects, by writing “Wear Love” in the memo on your check or by donating through Givelify at www.westsidedisciples.org and selecting “Wear Love” as the designation.

As you know, our financial gifts do remarkable things when they are transformed into ministry and mission!

Projects

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • Narthex update (Welcoming All) | \$9,750* |
| • Audio/visual equipment (Encouraging Love) | |
| • Hearing devices, wireless microphones | \$1,050 |
| • Flat-screen monitors, laptop | \$12,950* |
| • Children’s rooms update (Accepting Others) | |
| • New carpet, paint children’s choir room | \$820 |
| • Updated nursery | \$2,950* |
| • 3rd floor A/C units
(Returning Love through Mission) | \$3,800* |

For complete WEAR Love in 2023 information, please email or call the church office.

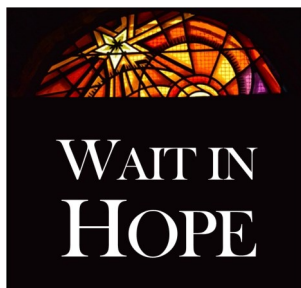
Thank you for all the ways you WEAR Love!

* indicates estimates



PREPARING OUR HEARTS

WAIT IN HOPE

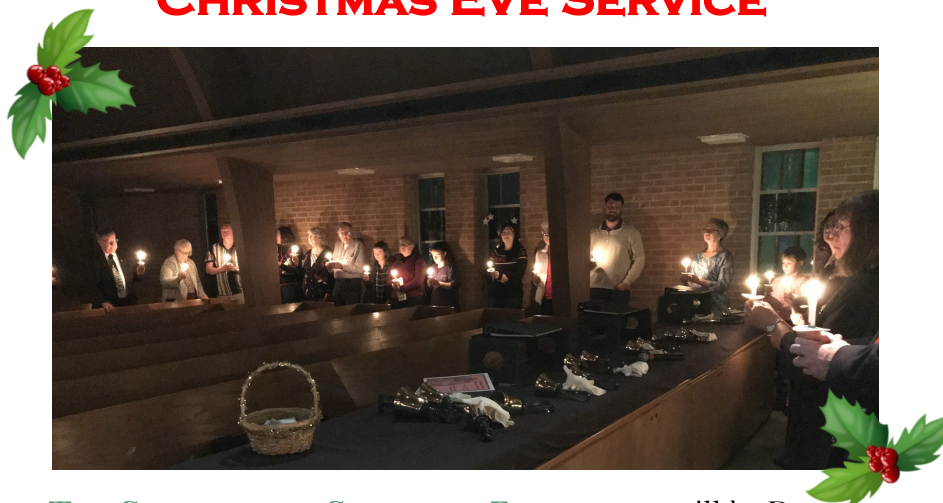


THE SEASON OF ADVENT has begun, and during worship we “Wait in Hope” for the arrival of the Christ Child. We can wait in hope, as people who are assured of God’s faithfulness and love on the journey, as well as the firm guidance of the Holy Spirit, if we will pause long enough to pay attention.

November 27	“Keep Awake”	(Hope)
December 4	“Prepare the Way”	(Peace)
December 11	“Tell What You See and Hear”	(Joy)
December 18	“Do Not Be Afraid”	(Love)
December 24	“Good News of Great Joy” (9 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service)	
December 25	Online worship only	

Please find WSCC Christmas Day worship on the website and on Facebook.
Visit www.westsidedisciples.org and click the “Worship” tab.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



THE CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will be Dec. 24 at 9 p.m. and will feature scripture, Christmas carols, the Epiphany Ringers handbell choir, and a short pastoral reflection. Join us!

PUMPKINS FOR PEACE

WEST SIDE'S LAWN was filled with pumpkins in October! The proceeds from pumpkins and gourds sold were donated to aid Ukrainian refugees. West Siders and community friends unloaded trucks, made artwork, worked at the cash registers, and spent countless hours on financial and communication details.

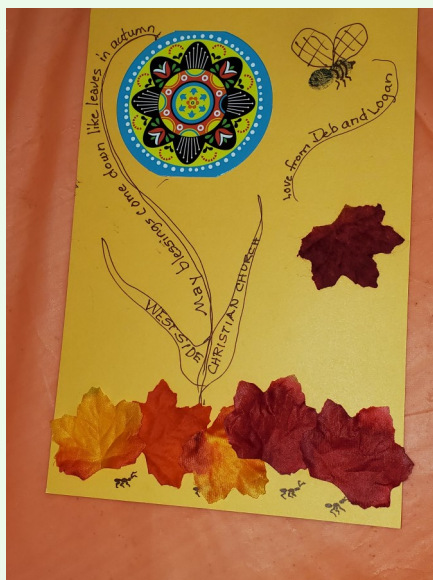
West Side Christian Church hosted the pumpkin patch in partnership with Apostolic Assembly of Faith in Jesus Christ, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Flint Hills Harmony Chorus, Midtown Community Services, Potwin Presbyterian Church, TopCity Supports Ukraine, and Topeka Center for Peace and Justice.



The church's \$2,000 donations and profits were donated to support local refugees through TopCity Supports Ukraine and to support international refugees through Week of Compassion, a relief fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

After the event, West Side congregants made Thanksgiving cards and delivered the cards and some pumpkins to local Ukrainian refugees.

Thank you to all who practiced WEARING Love by helping with the patch, buying pumpkins, making and delivering Thanksgiving cards, and praying!



HONORING THE SAINTS

REMEMBERING WEST SIDE SAINTS

WEST SIDERS AND THEIR LOVED ONES who passed away between November 2021 and Nov. 6, 2022, were remembered on November 6. Since then, members Kim Crooks (11-11-2022) and Joan Smith (11-21-2022) have also been welcomed into the arms of Jesus.

West Side Christian Church Members



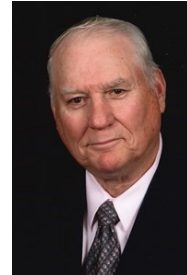
MARY HOUGLAND
11-16-2021



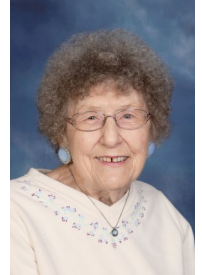
LUCILLE ATHERLY
12-8-2021



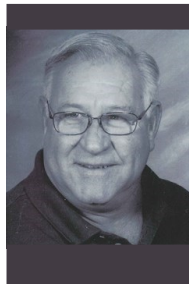
LILA HANEY
2-15-2022



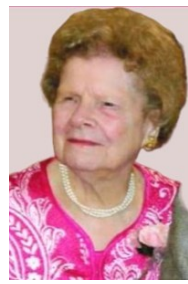
ROGER GINAVAN
2-15-2022



MARLAINE LAMAR
4-18-2022



DOUG BASS
6-4-2022



KAYE SUMNER
6-5-2022



MARY ELLEN HUEY
6-13-2022



LOIS WALTERS
8-18-2022

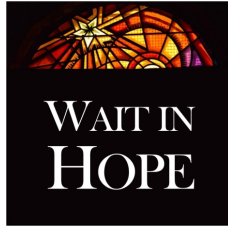


DOROTHY RICE
8-19-2022

Family and Friends

12-14-2021	TIM DECKENBACH , Pam Wachsnicht's son
1-3-2022	MYRNA SCHUMACHER , Michael Schumacher's mother
1-20-2022	SUSAN SALYER , Dale & Norma Johnston's daughter
1-27-2022	ROGER KIPP , Brenda Kipp's brother
2-11-2022	FLOYD HESTER , the Lake children's grandfather
4-18-2022	MARIANNE "SUSIE" DENNY
6-5-2022	WILLIAM "ART" GIBSON
9-4-2022	CHELSEA HAGY , Danielle Euler's cousin
10-17-2022	GAYLE GARRETSON , Helen Garretson's daughter, Marti Bass's sister, Cara Bass's aunt
10-23-2022	JAYLENE DUMAS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPACT



WORSHIPING THIS ADVENT

Join us in-person or online for the Advent worship series “Wait in Hope.” To watch online, visit www.westsidedisciples.org and click the “Worship” tab. Note: There will be *online worship only* on Dec. 25. Visit the website or Facebook page to watch Rev. Gilchrist’s special Christmas Day reflection.



WSSC CHRISTMAS CAROLING

West Siders will meet up at Fellowship Hall after the service on Sunday, Dec. 18, for community Christmas caroling! Everyone is welcome to sing, and we will return to Fellowship Hall afterward for treats. Please RSVP to David or Deba Brant so we can plan our caroling routes!



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

You are invited to the annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at West Side! The 9 p.m. service on Dec. 24 will feature scripture, Christmas carol singing, the Epiphany Ringers bell choir and a short pastoral reflection.



MONTHLY SEWING DAYS

Come join West Siders and friends on the third Wednesday of each month for Sewing Days! We gather from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall to work on quilts, cross-stitch, and other sewing projects. Bring your project and machine, if needed. Or just join us for conversation and laughter! Everyone is welcome.



PEACE IN CHAOS

Danielle Euler and Pastor Donna continue leading a Zoom *Peace in Chaos* class, with a new session starting Thursday, January 5, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Anyone (anywhere) can join this study and discussion group that meets every other Thursday. Call the office or talk to Pastor Donna or Danielle for more information.



DISCIPLES SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The Christmas Special Offering to benefit the Kansas Region will be received December 11 and 18. Also, remember the Week of Compassion Special Offering February 19 and 26 to help those in need around the world.



WEAR LOVE 2022-23 PROJECT OFFERING

Watch your mailbox for information from the church about our WEAR Love special offering. You may also contact the church for more information. Thank you so much for your generosity and for WEARING Love!



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

