



Update

December 13, 2017

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Events

December

17	Christmas Offering for Regional ministries
17	Jazz Noel: A Child is Born , St. Louis, 3pm
23	Jazz & Choral Christmas , St. Louis, 4pm
18-Jan 2	Regional offices will be closed for staff vacations

Find all events listed [here](#) & on the [calendar](#).



This week's [Global Ministries](#) prayer request is for [Colombia](#).

Opportunities

- [Affton Christian Church](#) is seeking a part-time [Minister to Children, Youth, & Families](#). This is not an ordained/commissioned position. **Apps due 12/15**
- Registration for the Jan. 13-15 [High School youth retreat](#) at Camp Jo-Ota is due 1/5.
- [Disciples Development Conference](#), Jan. 17-19, Tucson
- [Bridgeton Fund grant](#) applications due January 31st.
- [Reconciliation Ministries](#) grant applications due 1/31.



Christmas Special Offering

The Disciples annual [Christmas Offering](#) is

happening this month. This gives us a special opportunity to **celebrate and support our Regional ministries**, as 100% of the donations stay here in Mid-America. Contributions help to sustain all aspects of our work together as the Church - our outdoor ministries, youth programming, Women's & Men's ministries, anti-racism work, and pastoral and congregational care. **Please contribute as you are able.**



Men's Event

Fifteen men, including some from Rolla and St. James, as well as another who came all the way from Indiana, gathered last Saturday at a retreat center outside of St. Louis for a day-long dialogue and encounter with **Sacred Conversations on Sexuality: Unmasking the Why in the Headlines Toward a Healthy & Whole Masculinity.**



The horrific headlines as mentioned in the title were updated that very morning with another public male figure disgraced over reports of inappropriate behavior powering over a female subordinate. The men who gathered discussed **theological implications** and spoke honestly from the head, heart, and gut on the sadness and scar this maltreatment places on society. The term "Unmasking" in title referred to an exercise that was seen from a portion of a documentary called ["The Mask You Live In."](#) produced by Maria Shriver. Many "whys" were explored on how lost men violently act from father wounds, childhood bullying, and gender-based shaming. **There is A LOT of work to be done and it can start in the church!**

Dr. Paul Koch, RMT and [Mid-America Men](#) liaison is available to come to any congregation, community group, or your local men's group and lead discussions on this topic. Please contact him at (636)221-7065 or paul.ccma@sbcglobal.net.



Reminders

- Our [Annual Fund campaign](#) is happening now! Please support our ministries as you are able.
- [Clergy continuing education](#) reports are **due January 15**. These forms are also used to keep clergy information current in the Yearbook so please make sure to complete!
- Daily devotions and other [resources for Advent](#) are available on our website.

Webster Groves Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
presents

A Jazz and Choral Christmas

Telling the story of Christmas through sights and sounds

Featuring Carolbeth True and the Two Times True Jazz Quartet
and the Webster Groves Christian Church Chancel Choir

Saturday, December 23 at 4:00 P.M.
Webster Groves Christian Church
1320 W. Lockwood Ave.
Glendale, MO 63122



All are invited to this celebration of [Christmas sights & sounds](#) at Webster Groves CC December 23rd.

Our Churches on Facebook

Visit congregations all around the Region via their **Facebook pages** to see what they're up to this Advent. Share in [FCC Harrisonville's cantata](#), [Wyatt Park CC's annual tableau](#), [FCC Eldon's angel tree](#), & [St. Charles CC's children's play](#) - to name just a few. Stay connected - get inspired!



NBA Hope for the Holidays



The National Benevolent Association [Mental Health Initiative](#) is addressing what can be a very **stressful and challenging** time of year. From now through February they will be posting [weekly messages of hope and encouragement](#). These videos/articles will provide **information, tips, and other positive messages** for what can sometimes seem like a lonely season.



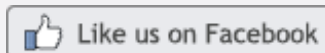
Disciples Leaders Write Congress

Many of our General Church leaders, including our General Minister and President, have signed a letter to congress asking that the revocation of the Johnson Amendment be removed from the **current tax bill**. The letter states, "We believe that allowing religious nonprofits to engage in electoral politics would **politicize religious nonprofits** in a way that will do irreparable harm to our congregations and ministries." [Read the whole letter](#)



Thanks for keeping in touch!
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