

*Our vision is to be a diverse faith family seeking to love, grow, and serve.
Our mission is to make new disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!*

Sundays: 9a Learning | 10a Fellowship | 10:30a Worship

Pastor

Rev. Sharon Kichline
PastorSharon@websterum.org

Assistant Pastor

Josh Krakos
AssistantPastor@websterum.org

Music Ministry

Lamar Fitzgerald
DirectorMusic@websterum.org

Youth Ministry

Paige Foster
DirectorYouth@websterum.org

Children's Ministry

DirectorChildren@websterum.org

Secretary

Holly Graham
Secretary@websterum.org

Custodian

Monica Jasper

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Webster Groves
MO 63119
314-961-4133

Office Hours:

M through F, 8:30a—3p

Web Site:

websterunitedmethodist.org/

Facebook/WebsterUnitedMethodist

Network: WebsterUM

Password: LoveGrowServe!

SoundCloud sermon access:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-832854756>



Please join us in this family mission to bring the joy of Christ to those who live at Bethesda. We bring worship there on the third Sunday every month for many of the residents.

Pastor Sharon provides a message for us to deliver and we sing old favorite hymns with the residents. We start at 2:00 pm and are finished at 3:30 pm. This is an invaluable service to the residents and a feeling of satisfaction to the volunteers.

No special skills are required---just a friendly face and enough strength to push a wheelchair. Look for sign up information on your Blue Connection Card in the Sunday Bulletin this week. If you have questions, or wish to let the team know you're coming, please let Beth Anderson know. Membership@Websterum.org

New Director of Children's Ministries!

Webster United Methodist welcomes Trish Sorenson as the new Director of Children's Ministries. She is originally from Milwaukee, WI but recently moved here to attend Washington University in St. Louis in order to obtain her Masters of Social Work. Her goal is to eventually change policies and systems for at-risk youth populations.

Trish's background includes working with children from a ray of diverse backgrounds, including different ability statuses, at-risk youth, lower socioeconomic levels, and children who are chronically ill. Additionally, she has worked in a United Methodist church setting teaching Sunday School, VBS, and Youth Group. Finally, she has coordinated outreach and volunteer programs for a camp.

Trish begins her new position on Sunday, January 12, 2020. We hope you will be there to welcome her to our church family!



Dear Church,

By now, many of you have read or heard about the recently released “Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation for the United Methodist Church”. It hit the internet last Friday, was included on the front page of the Saturday Post-Dispatch, and drew a response by our Missouri Bishop Robert Farr.

Before offering Bishop Farr’s statement here in its entirety, I would like to remind us all that it is a proposal, meaning it has yet to be voted upon by General Conference, the only body in our denomination that can change the rules by which we are organized. There are a number of other plans that have been submitted as well, but this one has a definite edge because of the circle of its designers.

The 16-member mediation team included, at one end of the theological spectrum, the leader of the Wesley Covenant Association, the lead group lobbying for traditional values relating to human sexuality. At the other end of that spectrum was the Executive Director of the Reconciling Ministry Network, who has been leading the movement for full inclusion. It was purportedly a balanced group of UMC Bishops and other leaders that included traditionalist, centrist, and progressive points of view.

For me, it is important to keep in mind this one main thing: no matter how our connection changes over time, WUM is a church family, and we are dedicated to love, grow, and serve in the name of Jesus Christ. As a family, (which also undergoes changes over time btw) we will continue to love each other, grow in God’s grace, and serve one another and our neighbor. That is who we are.

I hope you will take the time to read our Bishop’s statement. It summarizes the salient points of the plan, and illuminates how it might unfold here in our own Conference should it be approved at GC 2020.

Missouri Statement on Protocol of Separation (following on page 4)



From the office of
Robert D. Farr
Bishop

Dear Colleagues in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Christ Jesus. I write to call your attention to the results of a mediation process undertaken by 16 United Methodists, entitled [“A Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation.”](#)

This is the first true agreement I’ve seen across multiple plan leaders and special interest groups. For that reason alone, I’m taking it seriously. I am hopeful this may be a pathway forward for The United Methodist Church that helps people honor their convictions and relate to their mission fields.

This protocol is offered in service to the delegates who will gather in four months in Minneapolis for the 2020 General Conference. **General Conference remains the only body that can set official policy and speak for the denomination.** Ultimately, it will be up to the delegates at the 2020 General Conference in Minneapolis in May. As the Missouri Conference, we will do our best to enact legislation passed by the General Conference. If this were to pass, there would be a post-separation General Conference in order to re-organize The United Methodist Church. The process and timeline for implementation would not begin until 2021 and would not be complete until 2024. Key takeaways of the proposal include:

- No annual conference or local church is required to vote on departure from the UMC.
- No one is being asked to leave or separate from the Church.
- Annual conferences and local churches are being given a pathway to leave for a new expressions of the Methodist Church. In this scenario, they may keep their assets and property.
- Wespath, our pension agency, will offer a continuity of service across any post-separation Methodists denominations.
- The UMC, under the cross and flame, will continue in ministry across the world as will the Missouri Annual Conference. It may look different than it does today but it will be here.

Continued on Page 5...

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I expect that the mediation team is writing legislation (in petition form) for the General Conference's consideration. As you can imagine, Missouri's General Conference delegation and the Pathways Taskforce will explore and learn more about this new development as we move toward May and our own annual conference. I encourage you to read through the work and below resources. For more information:

[A Press Release](#)

[The Signed Protocol](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

The mission of Church always comes first. No decision of the General Conference will change our commission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. While we may diverge on many issues, this mission provides the basis for our unity and shared lives.

In Missouri, we will continue to pursue our Conference priorities of developing new missional leaders, starting new places for new people and creating a pathway out of poverty. We will relentlessly lead our churches to be outwardly focused and spiritually centered Christ followers. We will have congregations in every Missouri community that are missional and who are compelling and competent in visibly demonstrating God's love. I am proud to be your bishop.

Yours in Christ,



Bishop Robert Farr

Resident Bishop

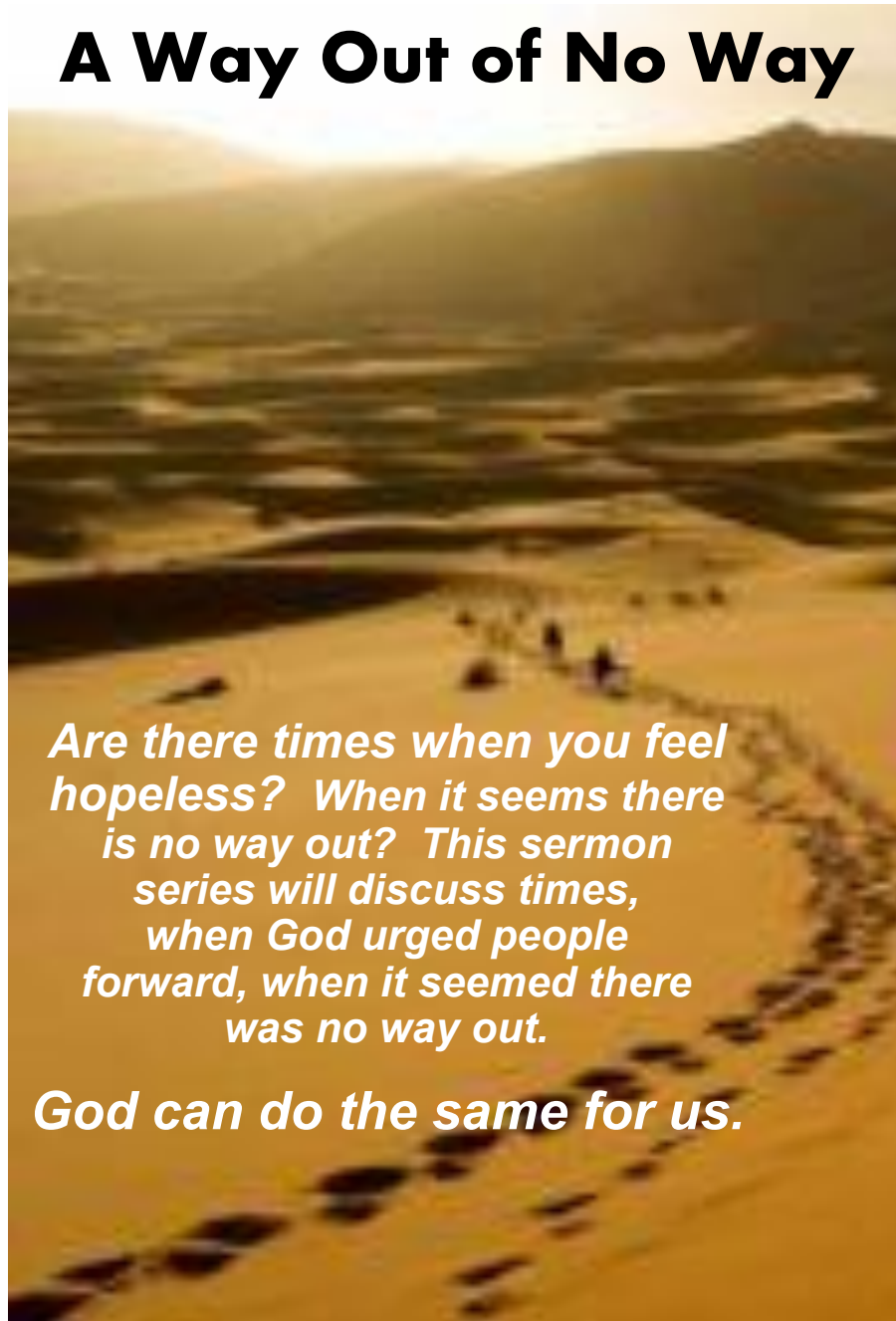
The Missouri Area of the United Methodist Church

Please remember to take photos at your events and submit them to the office for publication.

We love sharing your smiling faces!

January 5th, New Sermon Series!

A Way Out of No Way



Are there times when you feel hopeless? When it seems there is no way out? This sermon series will discuss times, when God urged people forward, when it seemed there was no way out.

God can do the same for us.

Youth and adults!

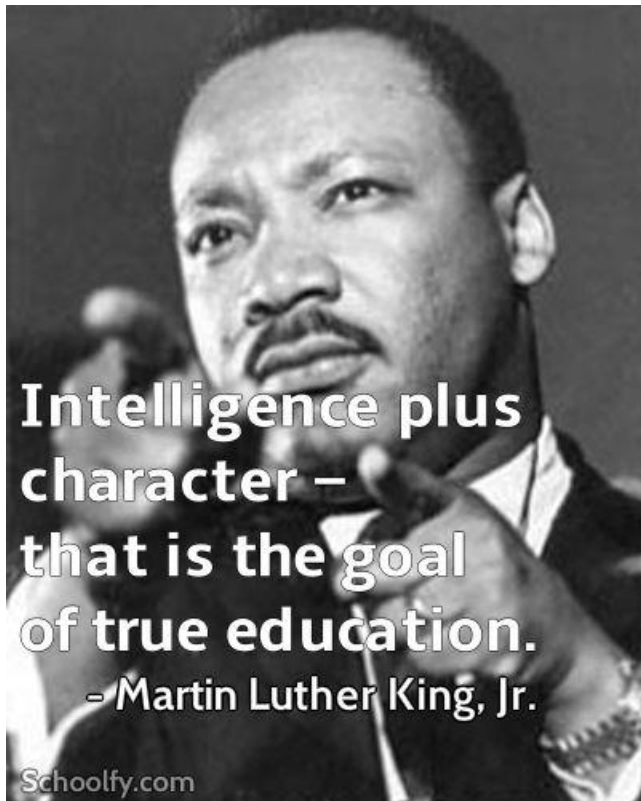
Looking to have a unique New Year's experience? Come this **Sunday January 12th for a Polar Plunge** experience! What better way to bring in the New Year then with an ice cold awakening! You will **not** need to bring your swimsuit to enjoy this outing. Instead you will wear winter clothes as we will be doing **tubing at Hidden Valley**. We will leave right after church and then go tubing ---- afterwards we will have a late lunch at Steak n Shake!

Invite a friend to join you for some of the fun. Your contribution is just \$5 that will cover the 3 hours of tubing and lunch.

Let me know how many are coming from your household so I can have enough drivers. Parents are welcome to join in with their youth if they feel up to the challenge!

Any questions just text or call me at 314-308-2533. Thanks!

Joel Kichline



**CHARACTER IN
EDUCATION**
The 25th Annual
Community Celebration
of the Life & Legacy of
the Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King, Jr.
Sunday, January 19, 2020
MARCH – DINNER – PROGRAM

Attendees are invited to participate in any or all parts of the Celebration:

MARCH – 4:30PM from the Webster Groves City Hall

4 E. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves

An important part of our Celebration is sharing in a demonstration for peace and justice, like so many that Dr. King led. **Marchers are invited to meet first at 4:00PM at the Steger/Givens school building, 701 N. Rock Hill Rd. in Rock Hill, for a bus ride to Webster Groves City Hall.** Then, we'll march the historic mile through North Webster – up Elm Ave. to Euclid, Euclid to Rock Hill, and Rock Hill to Steger/Givens

DINNER – 5:00PM in the Steger/Givens Cafeteria

701 N. Rock Hill Rd., Rock Hill

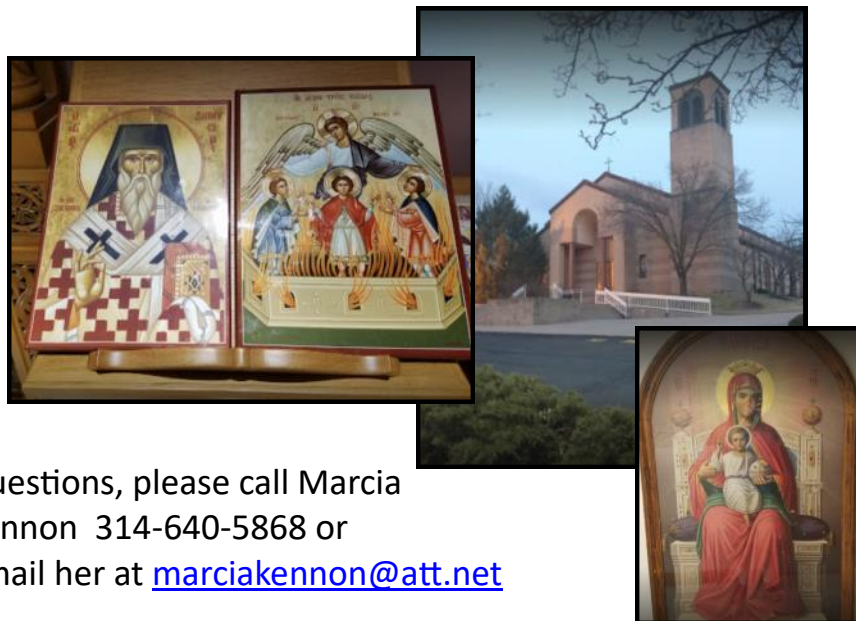
At the end of the March, a light meal is served in the school cafeteria, including finger sandwiches, soup, and goodies provided at no charge by local vendors and volunteers

PROGRAM – 5:45PM in the Steger/Givens Auditorium

701 N. Rock Hill Rd., Rock Hill

An inspirational program is offered, approximately 75 minutes in length and featuring readings, music, and other performing arts by students from the **Webster Groves School District** and **Webster University**, in addition to our annual **Ras Jones Awards** presentations and **A NEW VIDEO** honoring the 150th anniversary of the WGSD, by Dr. Howard Fields III

The Senior Cruisers will go to the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Des Peres on **Friday, January 31** for a tour (free) and lunch at the church. The **tour begins at 11:00 AM** and we will go downstairs for lunch following the tour.



Questions, please call Marcia Kennon 314-640-5868 or email her at marciakennon@att.net

Changes for Your Directory

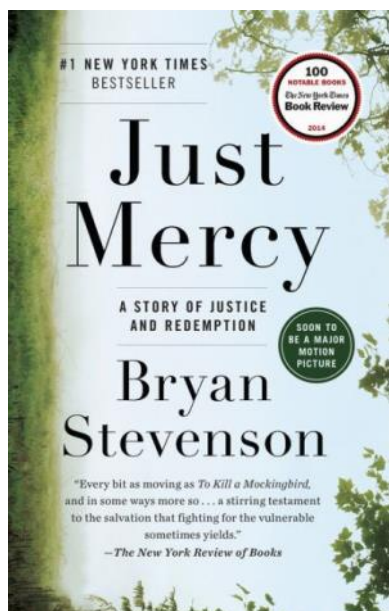
Brad & Janet Ballam
314-374-6153 (Brad's cell)
ballambg@gmail.com
8327 SW 62nd Avenue
Portland, OR 97219

Christina & Robert Vaughn
Benjamin & Nicholas
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Beth Anderson,
Membership Secretary
#314-781-9923,
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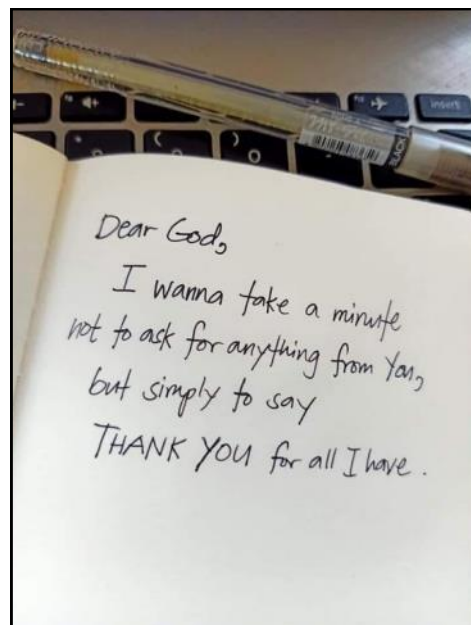
Come join a group going to see this movie.

"Just Mercy" is a true story about a lawyer with a call to fix our broken system of justice. He spends years working to exonerate a man who was not guilty of murder. The movie is at Ronnie's. **We will be going on January 14 for the 4:00 show and will meet at church at 3:30.** When I get a count of how many going, I will purchase tickets ahead.



Some have read the book, "Just Mercy". If you would like to read it, our library and public library have it.

Carol Gilker



We Are Joyful

Congratulations to **Brad and Janet Ballam** who celebrated their first anniversary on Sunday, December 29. The address of the house they've made a home is below. *Congratulations! May God bless your home and your life together.*

Gordon and Joan Ballam were happy to have their newest grandchild visiting at Christmas. **Nicholas Joseph Vaughn** joined his parents, Christina & Robert, and older brother Benjamin on October 23, 2019. I'm guessing the move from Michigan to Kansas happened *before* he was born (see below). *Welcome to God's world, Nicholas!*

On January 5 **Barbara Dunphy** turns 85. The next day, January 6, **Anita Bledsoe** will be 86 and **Dave Skelton** will be 93. *Happy Birthday to one and all!*

We Are Sad

Beloved husband of Jan, **Allen Johnson** passed away peacefully at home Friday morning, December 27, 2019, surrounded by family. The graveside service at St. Paul Churchyard on Rock Hill Road on Monday, December 30, was held by the United Methodist pastor who married Jan's niece on Saturday. Allen and Jan were through and through Methodists. They brought their four girls, Becky, Katie, Rachel, & Elizabeth, to First UMC from St. John's UMC and joined on April 5, 1981. What I know about Allen is church, family, basketball, golf, work, and more work. I know that he was sitting down when Jan fell in love with him. She discovered how short he was when he stood up. ;) Allen was a faithful church member participating in Sunday School and worship, serving on committees and as chair of Staff Parish. The celebration of his life will be on April 4, 2020, two days before his 78th birthday (time & place to be determined). We will have to wait to celebrate Allen; but he is already celebrating because he is with Jesus and his beloved Katie and her beloved Dwayne.

Beth Anderson, Membership Secretary
#314-781-9923
membership@websterum.org

This week at Webster United Methodist:**Friday, January 10****Saturday, January 11**

8:30 to Noon, Leadership Convocation

Sunday, January 12

9a Children's Discovery Room

Youth: Meet in Fellowship Hall.

Adult Education Hour.

10:30a Worship

11:45a Youth Group meet in Fellowship Hall after Worship.

10p Newsletter Articles Due to Secretary@websterum.org!

Monday, January 13**Tuesday, January 14**

10a Quilters

1:30p Prayer Group, Call 314-650-0615 for location

Wednesday, January 15

7:30p Chancel Choir rehearsal

7:30p Missions Team, Space Room

10p Bulletin Information Due to Secretary@websterum.org!

Thursday, January 16

7:30p Mountain Service Resumes! Fellowship Hall

Remember the date:

January 19, 2p, Worship at Bethesda

January 19, 4:30p, Martin Luther King March, Dinner and Celebration

January 21, 7p Church Council, Fellowship Hall

January 27, 7p Night Circle at Mary Taylor's

January 31/February 1, Room At The Inn

To see our Church calendar online, go to our web site:

<https://websterunitedmethodist.org/calendar> and [events/church events/calendar](https://websterunitedmethodist.org/events/church-events/calendar)

To book a date on the calendar, please contact Holly in the office at

Secretary@Websterum.org

Thanks!!

Prayer Concerns:

Sympathy to: The family of Alan Johnson who passed away Friday December 27, 2019.

Graveside service was Monday January 30, 2019, memorial service to be April 4, 2020.

Sympathy to: One of our scout families, the Gillilands, experienced the sudden death of the father, Tim, this past week. We ask for prayers for the family in this tragedy.

Jim Scatcherd; Ray & Janet Iggulden, Ron & Dianne Wallace; Clayton (Vicki Hoyer); Jack Jones (Lynne Wehrman); Donna Ash (Brenda Haverman); Richard Hamman (Jean Ransdell); Claudia Hoffmann (Beth Gewinner); families of Len Peterson & Karen Wallace (Paula Murphy); Bob Kopp, Jay, Michelle (Vicki Hoyer); Linda & Chris Redmore (Carolyn Redmore); Andrew Kennon, Cheryl Kincade (Marcia Kennon); Kim, Mike, Joan, Gwen (John Romanko); Mark Olinger (Linda Guth Stangl); Mike Long, Becca Stevens & family (Cindy Andrews); Jacob Reeves, Jason Wright (Beverly Mesey); Elaine Pilsinger; Emma & Matt Haymos; Kristen Kremer; Phil Bryan; Brenda Yost; Fran Allen; Jean Ransdell; Sandie Jost; Karen Clark; Len Burns; Lois Brodt; Dave Coleman; Joe Krabbe; Joyce Simpson; Lorraine Bemis; Our adoption (Traci & Sandy); Thankful for family; Students & teachers returning to school; Peace between nations; Our climate & planet; Church family; Pray for growth in our church; Understanding & acceptance of our LGBT friends; For improved gun control in the US; Chiphongo UMC (our covenant church in Mozambique)