



Newsletter

September 18, 2025



PASTOR

Rev. Glen Connoley

pastorglen@websterum.org

Lamar Fitzgerald

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY
directormusic@websterum.org

Amanda Furbee

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
directoryouth@websterum.org
directorchildren@websterum.org

Cavin Clive

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
admin.communications@websterum.org

Linda Guth Stangl

OFFICE MANAGER
secretary@websterum.org

Chloe Ward

STUDENT PASTOR
wardchloeann@gmail.com

Website

www.websterunitedmethodist.org

Phone

314-961-4133

Social Media



[Webster United Methodist](https://www.facebook.com/websterunitedmethodist)



[@websterunitedmethodist](https://www.instagram.com/websterunitedmethodist)



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Luke 8:17

17 Nothing is hidden that won't be exposed. Nor is anything concealed that won't be made known and brought to the light.

Greetings, siblings in Christ!

To be clear, I used the above scripture facetiously, to remind you that we are still continuing our shift to the new church management system, and our new communications platform. This means that there are things going on behind the scenes at our church of which you may not be fully aware. I want you to know that this is NEVER because of an intent to do things in SECRET, but rather because we need to have certain things in place and working before we invite everyone to start using them. Of course, with any transition to a new system there will be bugs, and even bumps in the journey, but our hope is to minimize those before we open this up to everyone.

I wanted to prepare you for the next big phase shift you'll see soon. Starting in October, our newsletter will look different from what you are used to. I said a few months back that our newsletter is mostly internal communication, and we needed to start focusing much more of our resources on external communication. You should still be getting the same information from our newsletter, about upcoming events and community activities, but the appearance will be a short summary (like our Connection Card) rather than a big graphic. Trust me when I say this type of newsletter will be created in a much smaller percentage of time. If you EVER have any questions about things going on at our church, please don't hesitate to ask.

Also, you are always welcome to share anything you see going on in the newsletter with someone outside the church. If you haven't done that recently, consider sharing an upcoming event, and then invite the person to whom you send it to come find out more in worship on a Sunday. I hope to see you all there.

yours In Christ

PASTOR GLEN

PRAYER CONCERNS

Marleen Anderson; Cindy Andrews; Margo Petracek; Patrick (Zachary Gray's brother); Delbert Doss & Jennifer McCullick (Jennie Dent); Chris' husband (Karen Manion); Jan G, Jan C, & Joe (Clay & Theresa Grumke); Peg & Jerry Chulick (Jo Ann Claywell); Pat & Jeff Outlaw and Jennifer & John Guyer (Beth Anderson); Mark Gudde & Peter Schüren (Debbie Lund); Jim Pemberton (Cindy Andrews); Pat Delf, Mariann Ruffle, & Alta Kopetzky (Marcia Kennon); the homeless in the USA; and victims of violence.



Schedule Upcoming

THIS WEEK

Group Discussion Forest Week

Thursday,
September 18, 2025



SPACE ROOM

Thursday, September 25 at 7:30pm

Group Discussion

Thursday, October 2 at 7:30pm

Worship Service With Communion

Thursday, October 9 at 7:30pm

Group Discussion

WEBSTER UNITED METHODIST & MAPLEWOOD UMC
PRESENT



September Small Group

Sunday evenings,
Sep 7-28 at 7 pm

WEEK 3:

Webster UM
Address: 600 N Bompert Ave,
Webster Groves, MO 63119

Discussion
around living
into LGBTQIA+
inclusion

- God's answer is always love.
- In God's kingdom there is room for everyone.
- Difference and diversity are invitations to understanding.
- God gathers the marginalized and outcast.

For more information or to register, Call 314-961-4133

COME JOIN US



1946

THE MISTRANSLATION THAT SHIFTED CULTURE
THE MOVIE

DATE

OCT. 4, 2025

TIME

AT 2:00PM

PANEL DISCUSSION
LED BY

REV. LAUREN BENNETT
MCC Greater St. Louis

REV. ANDY BRYAN
Maplewood UMC

JOE ELVIS
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

DR. DONNA LAVOIE
Webster UM

Seeking to uncover the origins of rabid homophobia in the conservative church, a gay seminary scholar and a straight activist make a shocking discovery: In 1946, an erroneous translation led to the use of the term homosexual in the Bible that has been weaponized against the LGBTQIA+ community ever since.



SMALL GROUP



A GOSPEL AGAINST EMPIRE

READING THE GOSPEL OF MARK IN THE
HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

◆ **STARTING FROM SEPTEMBER 8,
FOR 4 WEEKS AT 7:00PM**

◆ **90 MINUTES OF LECTURE &
GROUP DISCUSSION**

LOCATION: SPACE ROOM @ WEBSTER UM + ONLINE OPTION AVAILABLE

In this class, we will explore how the Gospel of Mark brought a message of hope to people suffering in the Roman Empire. Through a historical-critical lens, we will locate the political setting and message of Jesus in Mark's Gospel. Participants will apply the perspective of empire to interpreting the gospel in modern contexts.

Contact: joncopeland@gmail.com for Zoom link or for more details.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH PRACTICING HOPE TOGETHER

A REPORT FROM RESPONSE MAGAZINE MAY/JUNE 2025

The 2025 Mission U explores the theme Practicing Hope Together, focusing on the resurrection. It explores what it means to practice hope in God even when things fall apart. The curriculum asks questions such as What is hope in the face of neofascism? What is hope in a time of genocide? What is imagining a future for the next generation as our planet grows hotter by the season? What tools do we have to face the hard realities?

Hope is a seed that invites us to imagine. If we cannot imagine a different future, how will we get there? What does it mean for Jesus to tell his disciples, "Feed my sheep", in the shadow of Roman imperial power?

In John 21:1-19, after his resurrection, Jesus asks Simon Peter, "Do you love me?" Peter answers, "You know I do." Jesus asks again and again, and Peter answers the same. Then Jesus says, "Follow me. Feed my sheep." How does this apply to us? With hope, we have the resolve to navigate the harsh places in our lives and world. We begin to understand that hope is not tied to outcomes, but is sacred, fully immersed in the Spirit of God.

We need to think critically about imagination in fostering hope and resisting an empire as an act of following Christ. Our communities possess the resilience to be creative even when our world is crumbling apart. Look around to find examples of hope and action in your neighborhood, town, and church.

Carol Gilker
Reading Resources



GUN RECYCLING EVENT

*They shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.*

— Isaiah 2:4

Blessed are the peacemakers.



Guns to Gardens

What is Guns to Gardens?

After the shooting at the Sandy Hook School in Dec. 2012, Mennonite pastor Mike Martin felt a call to become a blacksmith and forge unwanted guns into garden tools. He founded RAWtools as a network of blacksmiths across the nation. Soon he was joined by theologian Shane Claiborne and by New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence who christened the project "Guns to Gardens." It began to grow.

JOIN US SATURDAY

09.27.25

\$150
Aldi's Gift Card
for every gun
recycled.

9:00AM - 11:00AM

THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9990 Lewis and Clark Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63136

NOTE: Please only bring guns to be surrendered. All guns should be unloaded and in the trunk of the vehicle.

SPONSORED BY:

- Dismantling Racism and White Privilege Team
- Public Witness Team
- Third Presbyterian Church
- Moline Acres Police Department

After a mass shooting in the nearby grocery store in 2021, Community United Church of Christ in Boulder, CO offered a "Gun Safe Surrender" event in their parking lot. Dozens of **firearms were surrendered and turned into garden tools.** The idea of churches offering this **healing, spiritual, and practical service** was born. In March 2022 the Denver Broncos football team hosted a Guns to Gardens event at their stadium in Mile High, CO, transforming 189 guns. That June 11, on a single day, churches and others across the USA dismantled over 1,000 guns.



DONATE

FOR MORE INFO OR TO VOLUNTEER, CONTACT:

Rev. Travis Winckler

travis.winckler@secondchurch.net

Julie Burchett

burchett.juliekay@gmail.com

Putting peace into action!



TRIVIA NIGHT



SCAN ME
TO REGISTER

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 26TH
@ 6:30PM

111 S GEYER RD
KIRKWOOD, MO 63122

JACK: 636-399-3083

INFO@INEXCELSISLOVE.ORG

2025 InExcelsis Wishlist

- Underwear (Men size M up)-New
- Underwear (Women All sizes)-New
- Bra (all sizes)-New
- Sports Bra (all sizes)-New
- Jeans (30x30 and Up)- New or gently used
- Deodorants (regular sizes)
- Sweatpants-New or gently used
- Leggings- New or gently used
- Blankets
- Towels & washcloth (New for Mobile Hygiene)
- Backpack
- Sleeping bags
- Laundry detergent
- Fast food gift cards
- First Aid kits
- Paper plates and cups
- Canned goods
- Snacks

- Water & other soft drinks
- Cleaning supplies
- Flashlight
- Shoes

DIGNITY ON WHEELS (MOBILE SHOWER) NEEDS

- Drink/ Snacks
- Belts
- Socks
- Hair brushes
- Shampoo & Conditioner (regular)
- Towels (new)

CASE MANAGEMENT NEEDS (CARE TEAM)

- Laptop (new or gently used)
- iPad (New or gently used)
- Christian Literature

STANDING AGAINST RACIAL PROFILING



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH • GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY • GENERAL COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

A recent Supreme Court decision (*Noem v. Perdomo*, September 8, 2025), lifted a restraining order that had prohibited ICE agents from stopping or detaining individuals in Los Angeles solely on the basis of four factors—apparent race or ethnicity, speaking Spanish or English with an accent, work location (e.g., day-labor sites), or type of work (e.g., low-wage labor). Deep concern is voiced by UWF, GBCS, & GCRR for our neighbors impacted by this decision. Neighbors who become targets for questioning simply for existing. The Church is a living mosaic of God's creation—expressed in the beauty of diverse languages, cultures, ethnicities, abilities, genders, and more. Each is a sacred gift of God to the world. Our Book of Resolutions (Resolution 3329) makes clear: we are called to hold law enforcement accountable whenever they perpetuate injustice.

We commit to joining with others in the ongoing fight for justice in a society that too often divides and dehumanizes. We will continue to name racism when we see it. We will continue to educate our church. And we will continue to stand on the biblical call to right relationship with God and one another—relationships marked by Love, Grace, Equity, Justice, Respect, and Mutual Accountability.

Note: Excerpts from the statement from UWF, GBCS, & GCRR. For the full statement, click [HERE](#) to go to Pastor Glen's FaceBook post, September 9, 2025.

Used Greeting Cards

Even though the UWF Craft Circle disbanded, they still make cards from old greeting cards. Please drop off any used cards (all varieties) at the church office or give to Sharon Wersching on Sundays by October 5th.

MERCY CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER'S UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1:00-4:00 PM AT MERCY CENTER, FRONTENAC.

Reflection of God's Word: Journeying through Sacred Scripture with Joyce Jones, Th.M. from the Office of Racial Harmony and Black Catholic Ministries for the Archdiocese of St Louis. Whether you are new to scripture or seeking to enrich your current understanding, this program will provide a solid foundation in biblical literacy. Cost \$25. Register by noon on October 2 at www.mercycenterstl.org.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 6:30-7:30 PM (VIRTUAL)

Community Resources for Caregivers presented by Maria Miskovic, founder of Care Choice Care Management. This program offers practical help for those caring for someone with a memory impairment. Includes functional support with medical, mental health, educational, and practical care coordination applications. Cost \$10. Register by noon on October 2 at www.mercycenterstl.org.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1:30-4:30 PM AT MERCY CENTER, FRONTENAC.

Dream Dynamics: Archetypes and Narratives, a workshop led by Noeli Lytton who has been practicing dreamwork in classes and groups for over three decades. Led by the Divine voice in our dreams, we can reclaim agency and wholeness. Bring 1 or 2 of your current dreams written down for study. Cost: \$50. Register by October 15 at www.mercycenterstl.org.