



Weekly Newsletter

GIVING THANKS TOGETHER...

Thanksgiving Prayer Service
Tuesday, November 23rd at 6:00 pm

*Webster United Methodist has been invited to join a multi-church Thanksgiving Prayer Service at Emmanuel Episcopal Church
9 S. Bompert Ave. Webster Groves, MO 63119*

Our Staff

PASTOR, REV. SHARON KICHLINE

pastorsharon@websterum.org

ASSISTANT PASTOR, JOSHUA KRAKOS

assistantpastor@websterum.org

MUSIC MINISTRY, LAMAR FITZGERALD

directormusic@websterum.org

YOUTH MINISTRY, PASTOR PAIGE FOSTER

directoryouth@websterum.org

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, SHAELEIGH PARSONS

directorchildren@websterum.org

**COMMUNICATIONS & ADMIN COORDINATOR,
HANNAH DIPPEL**

admin.communications@websterum.org

SECRETARY

secretary@websterum.org

<https://websterunitedmethodist.org/>

(314) 961-4133

**600 N Bompert Ave,
Webster Groves, MO 63119**

A Message from Our Pastor

"THANKS" - GIVING

"I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers."

(Ephesians 1:16)

Dear Church,

I share this letter with you every year. It's a letter about a letter. Most of my writing happens through texting or email these days, but this special letter I actually write long-hand. Yeah, can you imagine? It began when our first next-door neighbor, about 35 years ago, came over and mowed the lawn of newlyweds who couldn't yet afford to buy a lawnmower. With our first fall frost, this dear man came to our basement to show us how to light our furnace after we had slept in our coats and mittens. We were a couple of dopey kids who didn't know squat, and he thoughtfully watched over us as we bumped through our first year of home-ownership.

Our first wonderful neighbor has long since moved away, and we have too. But every year, when it's time to light the pilot light on the furnace, I think of his kindness, and wish we could thank him for his care for us. Years ago, I decided if I could not tell him, I would appreciate others in his honor. So I began writing letters of thanks to folks who had offered me a hand of friendship somewhere along the way, provided care, comfort, or inspiration.

During the Thanksgiving season, we are prompted to think more about our blessings, and make a special point of saying thank you to God. I encourage you to also thank those who, prompted by God's Spirit, showed up to care for you in some way, just as I suspect she prompted our good neighbor years ago to leave his warm house to check on the two young goofballs living next door.

Who does your heart yearn to reach out to with a letter or phone call of thanks? Don't hesitate any longer.

Grace and peace be with you in this season of "Thanks"-giving,



Pastor Sharon

WUM PROVIDES WORSHIP AT BETHESDA DILWORTH

This coming Sunday, November 21st, our fully vaccinated and masked volunteers will return to Bethesda Dilworth (BD) to lead worship again. The staff and residents of this skilled nursing facility have been fully vaccinated; therefore, we have been able to once again provide a half-hour chapel service one Sunday every other month. At 2:00 pm volunteers gather on the 2nd floor to receive assignments from Chaplain Michael Tooley, and then disperse to escort wheelchair-bound residents who wish to attend. The half-hour service begins at 2:30. At BD we have the reputation of singing a lot because we begin singing beforehand. By 3:30 pm we will have finished returning residents to their rooms. If you would like to volunteer this month or to be added to the e-list of volunteers, please contact Beth Anderson by email (treblecross1980@gmail.com) or call the church office at (314) 961-4133.

ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

the inn

For the 4 Sundays of Advent plus Christmas Eve, starting November 28, we will begin a new sermon series entitled "The Inn - Housing the Holy."

Keep an eye out for more information and we look forward to having you join us for this season of Advent.

HOUSING THE HOLY

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

LIVING STONES

This program is for children, 4-years-old to 6th grade to learn about God and is held during worship (10:30 am-11:30 am). Each Sunday, parents bring their children to the elevator lobby to check-in. The program will be indoors, and children will remain distanced, but masks will be required. There will be games, stories, snacks, and prayer. We may move the program outside, weather permitting. If you have any questions, please contact Shae at directorchildren@websterum.org. We look forward to seeing you every Sunday!

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - EVENING OF DEC. 11TH

We will all be taking a carriage through Tilles Park's Winter Wonderland to enjoy their Christmas light display! There will be a charge for tickets, but it may be waived if needed. Time will be determined after we can see how many are interested. Sign up here by November 28th if interested:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0944A9AE2EA0FF2-family>

WILD WEDNESDAY CHRISTMAS - DEC. 15TH @ 6 PM

We are so excited to bring back our monthly Wild Wednesdays! This month will be Christmas themed, as we all share in some Christmas goodies and make gifts for loved ones. Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0944A9AE2EA0FF2-wild>



YOUTH MINISTRY

NOVEMBER/BEGINNING OF DECEMBER CALENDAR

November 21 - Stations focusing on abundance. Pastor Sharon will join us for a night of stations as we enter Thanksgiving. This evening of stations will be VERY interactive and will involve hanging some of the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary. We will focus on the abundance in our lives. Join us for communion if you'd like!



November 28 - No Youth!! Enjoy the Thanksgiving weekend! Travel Safely!



December 5 - Zombie Tag; Mission Trip meeting at 7:40. We will gather at the church for dinner and the classic game! If you plan to attend the mission trip this summer please join us immediately following youth group for a mission trip meeting.

December 12 - White Tiger Gift Exchange. We will indulge in a delicious dinner and then share in exchanging gifts with each other. Spend no more than \$10 on a gift to bring wrapped up!!

December 19 - Main Event. We will splurge for a Christmas event to play at the arcade and do some other fun things! RSVP by December 10!!

**ALL EVENTS WITHIN THE CHURCH REQUIRE A MASK! **

Contact directoryouth@websterum.org to connect with Pastor Paige

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Each year dozens of our transgendered siblings die as a result of violence in this country. Every November 20th we mark Transgender Day of Remembrance. Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) was started in 1999 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith. In her words, "Transgender Day of Remembrance seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence. I am no stranger to the need to fight for our rights, and the right to simply exist is first and foremost. With so many seeking to erase transgender people – sometimes in the most brutal ways possible – it is vitally important that those we lose are remembered, and that we continue to fight for justice." Historically, the church has played a significant role in the culture and norms of American society. Unfortunately, this influence (especially for the LGBTQ community) has not always been a positive one. There are too many people who justify their closed hearts with out-of-context bible verses. Studies have shown that LGBTQ-youth growing up in non-reconciling churches are at a greater risk for depression and suicidal thoughts. Conversely, the reverse is true; youth who grow up in a reconciling church are half as likely to suffer depression or suicidal thoughts than even unchurched youth. (Reference: "Religious conflict, sexual identity, and suicidal behaviors among LGBT young adults". Archives of Suicide Research). We are asking church members to read and, if so moved, sign-up at the Reconciling Call To Grace (<https://ACallToGrace.com>). We are the hands and feet of God. We can choose to help defend the defenseless.

So on November 20th, we celebrate our transgender siblings. Each and all a child of God. Loved for who they were exactly as they were. We can reflect on the difficult path that all transgender people must walk. We can open our hearts and protect those in danger.

Yours in Christ,

Kurt Schwind (Reconciliation Team)



UPDATE: LIFEWISE STL HOLIDAY MARKET SET-UP VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all who have volunteered for the Dec 4 Hands-in-Mission ! The volunteer sign-up list for LifeWise Holiday Market is now filled. We added 3 more spots, for a total of 9 people, & that is the max allowed for COVID safety protocols.

Plan to meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 am that day to carpool or notify me if you prefer to drive yourself.

I am grateful for your willingness to help!

Thank you,

Jan McCurley (Risk-Taking Mission & Service Chair)

WRHM'S CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY



WRHM's Adopt-A-Family program has announced its Christmas schedule and guidelines for helping families facing financial challenges this year. Deadline for delivery of all donations to the Christmas program is Friday, December 3rd, at noon. Individuals or groups interested in reaching out to an assigned family or families must fill out a donor registration form and return it as soon as possible to 111 East Waymire Ave, Webster Groves, MO 63119 or scan and email it to holidays@wrhm.org. Registration forms are available at church near the elevator entrance, on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board, or near the upper and lower exterior doors facing Bompert Avenue. Registration forms may also be dropped in the mail slot at WRHM offices after hours.

If you prefer to contribute to a combined church donation, rather than to register for the Adopt-A-Family donation, no registration is needed. The church will again collect gift cards and grocery cards in such denominations as you care to give. They will be collected in a designated place in the church office or received by the office in the mail.

Suggested guidelines for all donations are: Christmas dinner and gifts, \$25 per person for a family of 4 and an extra \$20 for any additional family members;

For Adopters only: Gift card amounts of your choice (enclosed in individual Christmas cards with the recipient family member's name written on the envelope).

COVID restrictions are still in place, so please limit donations to only grocery store gift cards and regular gift cards. Although this makes the program less personal, it ensures the health and safety of our WRHM clients, volunteers, and donors.

Questions may be directed to the WRHM offices between 9 and noon on weekdays at (314)961-5082. Identify yourself as a donor from Webster United Methodist Church. Thanks to those who contributed (on short notice) to a substantial combined church donation to the WRHM Thanksgiving program.

Please consider purchasing your gift cards through Webster United Methodist's Gift Card Program Director, Paula Murphy, who is available after church services and by email (as seen in directory)

Mary Taylor (WUM Representative to WRHM's Board)



HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR EPWORTH & LIFEWISE 2021

Are you considering donating to Epworth and LifeWise this holiday season? Click this Google Drive link to a PDF document with further instructions on how to do so:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jrZXyoRSFdPW9hEhc0Kget-2SxnrEvtr/view?usp=sharing>

Please consider purchasing your gift cards through Paula Murphy, our gift card program director.

The deadline for both Epworth and LifeWise is **Friday, December 3rd.**

Contact Jan McCurley, our Risk-Taking Mission & Service Chair, at janis.mccurley@gmail.com for more information.

LORD'S ACRE VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER DATES & COMPLETE LIST OF INCENTIVE GIFTS

Monday, November 1st – Sunday, November 21st

Our fundraiser for Missions is in progress, with fine incentive gifts offered for your monetary donation. All gifts will be awarded after that time. If you have already sent in your donation or donated online at our website, thank you! Please make sure to designate on your check memo line or in the online “notes” section which single incentive gift you want for the amount you donated. Or, if you DO NOT want a gift, please write “NO GIFT” on the line or notes section.

AVAILABLE ITEMS

\$20 = Unique handmade apron from Sharon Wersching

\$30 = Homemade Pineapple Upside Down Cake (2 available) from Gayle Fields

\$40 = 1 batch of homemade Buckeye fudge, Peanut Brittle, or a mixed batch from Ellen Hendrickson

\$50 = Beautiful, soft, handknit rose pink Scarf from Leah Richert

\$50 = Framed Needlepoint Santa Picture, red detail from Sharon Wersching

\$50 = Framed Needlepoint Santa Picture, blue detail from Sharon Wersching

\$50 = a Kilim, flatwoven wool bucket bag with woven leather straps

\$50 = Custom-made Children’s Birthday Cake from Maggie Milford (1 remains)

\$60 = Tasty Nebraska Chokecherry Jelly from Gene Morse (6 available)

\$60 = custom hand-knit socks from Becca Stevens (1 pair only)

\$70 = Pendleton crossbody wool plaid small bag

\$100 = Famous homemade pie from Lettie Morse or Cindy Andrews

\$150 = Chili Dinner for 6 (vegetarian or meat) with salad, bread, & dessert from Helen Fuller

\$175 = Handcrafted Bird House from Gene Morse (only 3 available)

\$400 = Riverlands Sanctuary Vacation Home Weekend (2 available) from Sandra Hoffman

TAKEN ITEMS

\$45 = 3-piece beautiful handmade doll outfit to fit 18” (American Girl size) dolls from Sharon Wersching -- TAKEN

\$50 = Quilted Christmas Table Runner from Leah Richert -- TAKEN

\$50 = Fantastic slow-smoked boneless salmon fillet (average 2-3 #'s) from a friend in the neighborhood -- TAKEN

\$70 = Wine & cheese basket with some homemade goodies from Alison McCurley --TAKEN

\$75 = Multiple wood inlaid cutting board, butcher block-finished from Roy Day -- TAKEN

\$120 = Yummy appetizers for one year, delivered quarterly, from Jan McCurley--TAKEN

\$350 = Beautiful Handstitched Pink & Cream Quilt, queen-sized, finished by Sharon Wersching & donated by Ellen Hendrickson -- TAKEN

\$350 = Beautiful Handstitched Green & Cream Quilt, queen-sized, finished by Sharon Wersching & donated by Ellen Hendrickson -- TAKEN

Jan McCurley (Risk-Taking Mission & Service Chair)



SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

As a member of Webster United Methodist, I believe that our faith calls us to protect, support and uplift children and youth.

Far too many young people of color are funneled into the school-to-prison pipeline by systems and institutions that wrongly criminalize ordinary child/adolescent behaviors. One contributing factor is the everyday presence of police in schools. Matters of regular student discipline that could best be handled by supportive school personnel with a knowledge of child development are instead being handled by law enforcement. This results in the unnecessary criminalization of childhood/adolescent behaviors. Federal funding incentivizes this harmful practice.

The Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act (H.R.4011/S.2125) would make an important change: prohibiting federal funding for law enforcement in schools. Instead, federal funding would support trauma-informed, age-appropriate, evidence-based approaches to address difficult student behavior and create supportive school climates. These changes would benefit all children and especially benefit children of color.

The following link will send you to the page to sign and send the letter to your Congressional representatives: <https://p2a.co/txyOd7p>

I urge you to show your support for children and youth in our district by becoming a cosponsor of The Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act (H.R.4011/S.2125).

Thank you for your service.

Carol Gilker

FORMING FAITH ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Beginning December 1st at 7:30 pm, join us during the Wednesdays of Advent for the study of Biblical passages related to the birth of Jesus. You can attend in person in the Space Room/Zoom Conference Room, or virtually through Zoom.

Sign up now by emailing assistantpastor@websterum.org or signing up on the Blue Connection Card during Worship.

Pastor Josh



United Methodist Women Craft Sale

Sunday Mornings, Dec. 5th & 12th

10:00-10:25 and 11:30-12:00

Come to Fellowship Hall before or after worship to find

Christmas gifts or something for yourself!



Ornaments!



Bowl & Cup Cozies
(for warming in microwave)



Oven Mitts



Round Casserole
Carriers



Pillows



Cat Toys

More items including kitchen items, doll clothes, gift bags, greeting cards, Christmas stockings, candy & treats.

Proceeds support mission projects!



NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

All articles and submissions must be sent to secretary@websterum.org and admin.communications@websterum.org by Mondays at 10 am in order to be in that week's newsletter

CHURCH SPACE RESERVATIONS

It is important for us to schedule specific dates, times, and rooms in our church building. Be sure to email secretary@websterum.org and admin.communications@websterum.org to schedule all usage!



OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Alice Treece; great-grandfather Ed (Megan Gesse); Jodi Biter, Earl Beeks, Mia (Paula Murphy); Sonny (Katie Renkins' sister-in-law's brother); Ann, Debra (Vicki Hoyer); and for all to be vaccinated.

THANKSGIVINGS

Lucy Kroenung shares the joy of a newborn baby girl of her Young Life's leader and prays for a happy life.

Debbie Lund shares that daughter Haley Day and Trevor Gudde's wedding day was perfect.

Prayers will remain on the prayer list for two weeks.

To have your prayer requests included, please contact us using the:

- *Connection Card (online or in person)
- *Prayer Requests (on our website)
- *Email secretary@websterum.org
- *Contact one of our pastors



COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

The current requirements are:

- Worshippers are welcome to choose their own seats in the sanctuary.
 - Please maintain appropriate physical distancing.
- Out of a desire to protect others, including children who have not yet been vaccinated, we need to keep our masks on throughout worship.
 - Reservations are not required.

Thank you all for your continued support of our church family.

-Pastor Sharon and Tom Pacatte (Chair of Safety Team)