



# Weekly Newsletter

'Tis the Season to INVITE!



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# A Message from Our Pastor

'Tis the Season to INVITE!

*Friends,*

Church stats tell us that people who do not attend church are more likely to visit a church for the first time on Christmas Eve, followed closely by Easter morning. Perhaps it is because they have memories involving a connection to God through a church when they were young. Maybe it is because their soul hungers for a sacred expression of a holy celebration otherwise marketed with Santa and the Easter Bunny. Or maybe it is because increased stress and anxiety that often accompany the holidays can make old wounds ache a little more, or create new wounds. A search for relief brings people to the doors of church in hopes of a healing God-encounter.

Whatever the reason, it is clear that our friends, neighbors, and relatives, who otherwise might turn you down when asked at other times of the year, might surprise you by accepting your invitation to church during the Christmas season. This year, we offer a number of lovely Christmas Worship Services. Perhaps one of them is just the right worship event to invite someone you know to attend with you.

- December 5th 10:30 am **Country Christmas Sunday  
Worship**  
*Acoustic songs that pull on the heart strings*
- December 12th 10:30 am **March to the Manger Worship**  
*Live re-enactment of the birth of Jesus*
- December 19th 10:30 am **Family Music Celebration Worship  
Sunday**  
*Lay musicians bring their musical offerings*
- December 24th 4:30 pm **Family-Friendly  
Christmas Eve Worship**  
*The children journey to find the Christ Child*
- December 24th 7:30 pm **Traditional Candlelit Christmas  
Eve Worship**  
*Scriptures and Song led by our Chancel Choir*
- December 26th 10:30 am **Café Christmas**  
*Casual Worship in Fellowship Hall w/ holiday treats*

Friends, sharing a connection to Christ is the most beautiful gift you can offer another. It has the potential to be totally life transforming in a way that no other gift can. Take a moment just now to think about whom you might invite this Christmas season to accompany you or meet you at one of our worship services. Then take a deep breath, pick up the phone, and call/text/tweet them. If you do not, it is quite possible that no one else will.



**Grace and peace+**

*Pastor Sharon*

**FCCI**  
STL  
PRESENTS

CHRIS NKEMBA NDJUNGU

CAVIN CLIVE

JOSHUA KRAKOS

# MELODY *in Our* HEARTS

*A Christmas* ◀◀ *Rewind*

**DECEMBER 11, 2021 AT 11:30AM**

1166 S MASON RD, ST. LOUIS, MO 63131

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

WE INVITE EVERYONE TO COME & JOIN US!  
**MUSIC, LUNCH, GIFTS, & MORE!**

FT. FCCI St. Louis • The Way, St. Louis • Mountain Service (WUM)

**LEADERS, MUSICIANS, & SINGERS**

from 3 different Churches join hands once again to bring you the incredible story of Jesus, but in reverse. Taking us from the Cross to the Manger!

Let us all come together once again as  
**ONE BIG FAITH FAMILY!**

[www.websterunitedmethodist.org/mountainservice](http://www.websterunitedmethodist.org/mountainservice)

[www.thewaystlouis.org](http://www.thewaystlouis.org)

[www.faithchristianchurchofindia.com](http://www.faithchristianchurchofindia.com)

[faithchristianchurchindia@gmail.com](mailto:faithchristianchurchindia@gmail.com)

# CONFIRMATION



***This is a message for Young People, Grades 6-9 (but Adults can read it too).***  
**Confirmation begins in January! (Get these dates on your 2022 Calendar)**

When you were small, your parents and the church likely made promises on your behalf at your baptism. Now you may be ready to claim the name of “Christian” and take membership vows for yourself.

“Confirmation” is a time set aside for young people, typically grades 6-8, to learn, experience, and explore what they believe and what it means to be a person of faith, and more particularly, to be a part of the Body of Christ at Webster United Methodist. The experience of Confirmation culminates with a special Sunday when you will stand before the church and take your vows of membership, but in your own voice this time.

Pastor Sharon and Pastor Paige will lead the Confirmation class. Occasionally, Pastor Josh will be able to join us too. We will gather from Noon-2:00 pm on Sundays beginning January 9th, through April 3rd. I would like to set Confirmation Sunday on April 24th.

Participation is key and the expectations are high. There will be lunch and a 30-minute Parent(s)/Confirmand Orientation Meeting on January 2nd, in the Fellowship Hall, beginning at noon. Please be there (and bring a parent or two) if you are seriously ready to explore your faith and your connection to the extraordinary body through which Jesus is transforming the world...the church!

**Grace and peace+**  
**Pastor Sharon**



## 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 on our [website](#), email [assistantpastor@websterum.org](mailto:assistantpastor@websterum.org), or sign up on the Blue Connection Card during Sunday Worship.

**Pastor Josh**

# 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 are 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](mailto:directorchildren@websterum.org). We look forward to seeing you every Sunday!

## UPDATE: FAMILY GARDEN GLOW NIGHT - DEC. 11TH

Our Christmas Light Night on December 11th is changing slightly! Due to Tilles Park being sold out, we are shifting to Garden Glow at the Missouri Botanical Garden! Tickets will be \$7 apiece, but scholarships are available if needed. This is an all-family event for children, youth, and beyond! If you would like to come, please sign up here by December 9th to secure a spot:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0944A9AE2EA0FF2-family>

## WILD WEDNESDAY! CHRISTMAS - DEC. 15TH

We are so excited to bring back our monthly Wild Wednesdays! This month will be Christmas themed, as we will share in some Christmas goodies and make gifts for loved ones. This event will be from 5:30 to 7 pm in Fellowship Hall.

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



## YOUTH MINISTRY

### DECEMBER CALENDAR



**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 [directoryouthewebsterum.org](http://directoryouthewebsterum.org) to connect with Pastor Paige

# ACOUSTIC SUNDAYS WITH YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello church!

Beginning this Sunday, all youth-aged folks attending worship are invited to the Youth Room on the 3rd floor for Sunday morning snacks, fellowship, and conversations. Come enjoy your friends, food, and some quiet jams.

We will gather upstairs around 9:30 and then head to worship at 10:15 (although it is not required in order to come to acoustic Sundays). This will last through the Advent season (December 5th, 12th, and 19th)!

I hope you'll stop by and hang out!

Blessings,  
Paige



## **TATTOOS ON THE HEART**

Once in a while you find a book that is uplifting. Even though this is about gangs in Los Angeles, it is full of humor and glowing generosity. The Jesuit priest reminds us to find joy in all those around us. I recommend it. It can be found in the public library.

**Carol Gilker**



## **SHOPWITHSCRIP PROGRAM**

As we enter the season of gift giving, I want to highlight our church's participation in the ShopwithScrip program. ShopwithScrip is a fundraising program that requires no extra activities. Gift cards are purchased at face value from over 650 retailers, and the church receives a rebate from each card purchased. The rebates vary by retailer and range from 1.5% to 18%. Cards can be used for routine shopping, gift shopping or given as gifts or donations. This is a continuous program, and if there is interest, cards can be ordered on a regular basis. Here is the link with all the retailers available:

<https://www.shopwithscrip.com/brands>

I will be placing an order December 6th with delivery of the cards by the end of that week. To request cards, call, text, or [email me](#).

**Paula Murphy**

## United Methodist Women Craft Sale

Sunday Mornings, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>

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!



Christmas will soon be upon us, as the UMW Craft group will have their Christmas Boutique (Craft Fair) on December 5th and 12th in Fellowship Hall.

We will be open at 10:00 am before worship service and again afterwards until 12:00 pm both days

Our list as follows:

Paper dolls will travel	Wreath
Doll clothes for 18-inch doll	Variety of ornaments
1 Doll	Christmas stockings
Catnip mice	Laundry bag
Candy cane people	Pillows
Variety of towels	Birthday gift bags
Microwave pot holders	Slightly used jewelry
Microwave huggers	Divinity
Aprons	Caramel corn
Casserole carriers	Kitty Cat lap quilt
Table runner	Cards

Our prices are very reasonable. Money will go toward Missions.

We hope to see you or just come to browse.

**Sharon Wersching and Cindy Andrews**



## A MESSAGE FROM THE JUSTICE TEAM

The Webster Equity Bridge and the Alliance for Interracial Dignity are sponsoring a community-wide book read of *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather McGhee. Let's dive in together!

This community-wide book study will explore the social and economic costs of racism that all of us pay. Author Heather McGhee shows that racism is the undercurrent of many problems in America, from rising student debt to collapsing infrastructure. She discusses how the false notion of a "zero-sum paradigm" has resulted in a mindset among many white Americans that they'll suffer if Black Americans make gains. The book illustrates how this way of thinking has led to negative consequences in education, housing, labor, political representation, and the environment. Ultimately, McGhee makes the case for racial unity, which would result in the enrichment of all Americans.

Organizers are excited about this opportunity for neighbors to work together to build a community of learners interested in nurturing each other's perspectives, growth, and humanity. We will foster constructive conversations with nuance, work to seek multiple viewpoints, and consider the dividends that solidarity can yield. Plan to read from December to January, and then discuss in late January and early February.

More information regarding where to check out or purchase discounted copies of the book and register to join a discussion can be found at the website [tinyurl.com/63119reads](https://tinyurl.com/63119reads) or [allianceforinterracialdignity.org](https://allianceforinterracialdignity.org). If interested, fill out the blue connection card on Sunday to receive more information.

**Carolyn Redmore & WUM Justice Team**

# 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](mailto: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 (a box on the desk) 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](mailto:pmurphy@wrhm.org)\*\**

**Mary Taylor (WUM Representative to WRHM's Board)**



# HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR EPWORTH & LIFEWISE STL

Are you considering donating to Epworth and LifeWise this holiday season?

## *Donations to Epworth:*

If you want to provide gift cards to Epworth & let recipients purchase gifts, instead of “adopting” a person or persons & their gift requests, place the gift card(s) in the blue/white envelope marked "EPWORTH GIFT CARDS" in Jan McCurley's church office "Risk-Taking Mission & Service" mailbox (located across from the copier). All donations must be Amazon gift cards OR selected online and placed in Jan's mailbox no later than Fri. 12/3.

## *Donations to LifeWise StL:*

If you would like to purchase any gifts (found in the most needed items list linked below), please place them in the “LIFEWISE CHRISTMAS GIFTS” marked box in the elevator lobby no later than Fri. 12/3. If you prefer to donate gift cards to LifeWise, place it in the blue/white envelope labeled “LifeWise Gift Cards” in Jan's mission mailbox across from the copier.

Click here for more information and a list of the most needed items:

<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, and the ShopwithScrip program.

**Jan McCurley (Risk-Taking Mission & Service Chair)**

Email: [janis.mccurley@gmail.com](mailto:janis.mccurley@gmail.com)



## NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

All articles and submissions must be sent to [secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org) and [admin.communications@websterum.org](mailto:admin.communications@websterum.org) by Mondays at 10 am 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](mailto:secretary@websterum.org) and [admin.communications@websterum.org](mailto:admin.communications@websterum.org) to schedule all usage!

## OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Ron and Dianne Wallace (Pastor Sharon); Ann, Teresa and family (Vicki Hoyer); Lou (Traci and Sandy); prayers for God to provide a car for me, so I can easily go to work and church (Pastor Gloria Kawang); Families in need, Haley, Gabrielle (Jim & Paula Murphy); Holly Turner (Connie Kroenung); pray that the new COVID variant can be contained (Earl Jones); Alta Kopetzkey, Susan Garith (Marcia Kennon); for all to be vaccinated (Cindy Andrews); Paulette Carr (Helen Fuller); Those traveling for the holiday, continued strength (Jim Murphy); Liston Jent (Deanna Jent); For all of us to become compassionate listeners (Debbie Lund); Uncle Larry (Michelle Hostmeyer)

Sympathy to the family and friends of John Denison. He was the brother of Carolyn Redmore.

*Prayers & thanksgivings will remain in the newsletter 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](mailto: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)**