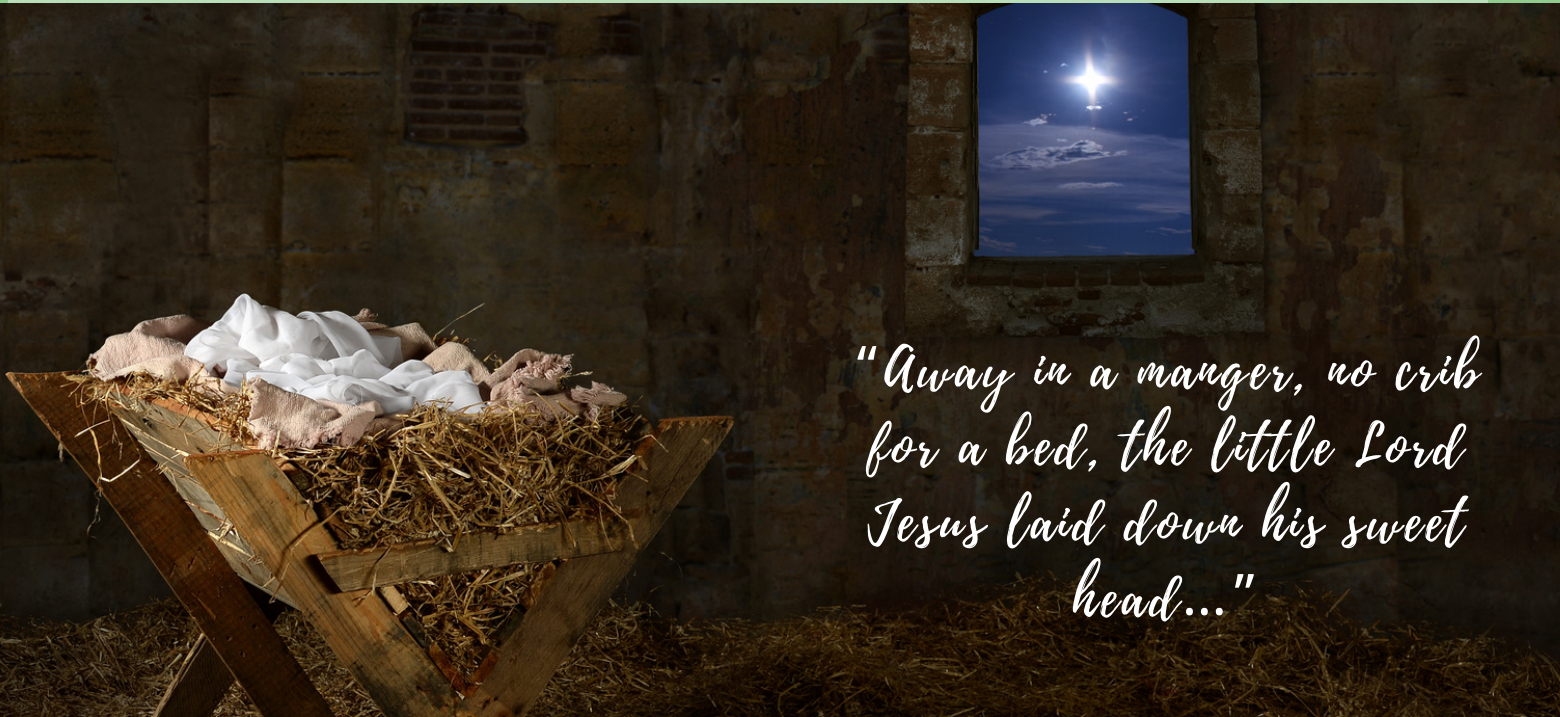


DECEMBER 9, 2021



Weekly Newsletter



*"Away in a manger, no crib
for a bed, the little Lord
Jesus laid down his sweet
head..."*

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A Message from Our Pastor

WORSHIPPING THE CHRIST CHILD

Friends,

*"Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head..."*

March to the Manger Worship is this coming Sunday, December 12th. It is a mystical service, in that time and reality become suspended as we watch the characters of the first Nativity gather in our Chancel, accompanied by scripture and song.

First, the angel comes, and we sing of her message. Then comes the Holy Family, looking for refuge from the night. This is followed by the Shepherds and Wise Men, bringing praise and presents.

Finally, it is our turn. The congregation is invited forward, following the heavenly star, to give our love to the Christ Child. It is also a time to leave our Christmas offering in his manger of straw.

Webster United Methodist is once again committed to sharing our Christmas offerings with others. This year, we will be sharing with both a ministry of Justice and a ministry of Mission.

Metropolitan Congregations United Family Partners Campaign is a strategic effort to Break the School-to-Prison Pipeline. Family Partners organizes to give families a voice when their youth face problems at school or in the courts. An experienced volunteer partners with the family to ensure they understand school policies, legal processes, and their rights. The aim is to effect restorative outcomes for the youth. Our gifts will strengthen a family's ability to advocate for their child moving through punitive and disciplinary systems.

The organization "**Doorways**" **cares for those affected by HIV/AIDS.** It is the only organization in the Saint Louis area whose sole mission is to provide affordable, secure housing and related services to improve quality of life and health outcomes for people affected by HIV/AIDS. Those affected by HIV/AIDS are often reduced to poverty, isolation, and desperation by a social reaction to this devastating illness, yet no one is denied access to Doorways' housing because of an inability to pay. Our gifts will help support their compassionate care.

When you come forward to greet the Christ Child this next Sunday, you may leave your Christmas offering in his manger together with your piece of straw, to warm Him in the night.

*"...the stars in the sky Looked down where He lay;
The little Lord Jesus Asleep on the hay."*



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

www.thewaystlouis.org

www.faithchristianchurchofindia.com

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

Join us at 7:30 pm on the Wednesdays of Advent to study 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](#), or email assistantpastor@websterum.org for a Zoom Link.

Pastor Josh



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

LIVING STONES

Our children's Sunday morning program will be suspended until January 2nd. We want the children to participate in our worship services through the Christmas season.

UPDATE: FAMILY GARDEN GLOW NIGHT - MOVED TO DEC. 12TH

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 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!!

Dec. 12 & Dec. 19 at 9:30 am - Acoustic Sundays in the youth room on the third floor. 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.

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

Contact directoryouth@websterum.org to connect with Pastor Paige



DAIRY QUEEN FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH MINISTRY



Hello Church!!!!

It is that time again, the youth would usually be asking for your dozens & dozens & dozens of cookies, but alas, our pandemic world has caused us to shift.

Sunday, December 12th from 12 pm to 3 pm the Youth Group will receive a portion of your purchase at the Dairy Queen in Webster Groves (7809 Big Bend)! Simply mention the Webster UM Youth Group after you order your favorite treat or lunch!

Your support will help us plan a wonderful Mission Trip this summer!!!

From the youth and I,
THANK YOU!!!!
Pastor Paige



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!

Christmas will soon be upon us, and the UMW Craft Group supports your gift-giving needs with their Christmas Boutique (Craft Fair) on December 12th in Fellowship Hall.

We will be open at 10:00 am before worship service and again afterward until noon.

Our list 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.

Sharon Wersching and Cindy Andrews



"POWER PLAY GOALS FOR KIDS" DONATIONS FOR LIFEWISE



LifeWise has been selected as one of four charities that will participate in the Ameren Missouri and St. Louis Blues Hockey "Power Play Goals for Kids" program!

Each participating charity is guaranteed a \$1,000 donation, yet the charity receiving the highest number of votes via an online voting contest will receive \$500 for every power-play goal made during the season. There are five more months to the regular season, so that total has nowhere to go but up!

We all know LifeWise is a winning organization! Now it's time to let St. Louis know and be the winner of the Power Play Goals for Kids program!

There are several things you can do:

1. First and foremost, cast a vote DAILY! Voting ends on January 31st. Voting once a day means 62 votes for LifeWise! All you need is a valid email address to vote.
2. If you have a Facebook and/or Twitter account, share your vote to your news feed or story so your friends and followers gain awareness of the contest and of LifeWise (that's a win-win!)
3. Ask your family, friends, and co-workers for their votes, too.

It's easy to vote ... simply go to www.amerenmissouri.com/blues and click "Vote Now." To vote, simply enter your email address, select LifeWise, and cast your vote. Once you've cast your vote, you'll receive a confirmation screen, where you'll have the option to share your vote to Facebook and/or Twitter.

As always, thank you for your continued support!

LifeWise StL
(Submitted by Roger McCurley)

MORE CHRISTMAS THANK-YOUS FROM THE MISSION TEAM

Webster United Methodist is indeed a generous, giving church! Not only did many of you contribute to our November Lord's Acre, but you opened your hearts to LifeWise and Epworth, giving \$250 in gift cards for Epworth Christmas gifts and 26+ gifts and \$250 in gift cards for the LifeWise Holiday Market!

Webster Rock Hill Ministries also received \$250 in gift cards.

Our Hands in Mission group of 7 volunteered to help LifeWise set up the Holiday Market on Saturday afternoon, Dec 4. Those who participated were Louise & Randy Thomas, Linda & Loyd Schantz, Stan Richert, Kris Maly, & Jan McCurley.

We pumped up lots of soccer & footballs; emptied tons of bins of clothing, hats/gloves, etc, and arranged it all on tables & racks; labeled bags for shoppers; and unboxed & set up on display an entire wall of small appliances! All in all, it was a very productive afternoon! Thanks to all who joined us.

Bless you all, and Merry Christmas!

Jan McCurley & the Risk-Taking Mission & Service Team



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 understry 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 or allianceforinterracialdignity.org. If interested, fill out the blue connection card on Sunday to receive more information.

Carolyn Redmore & WUM Justice Team

OUR ADVENT CANDLES OF HOPE & PEACE



First Sunday of Advent
Joan & Gordon Ballam



Second Sunday of Advent
**The Gilker Family (Clyde,
Carol, Cindy and Brianna)**

We await the Christ Child with great Hope!



NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

All articles and submissions must be sent to secretary@websterum.org and 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 and admin.communications@websterum.org to schedule all usage!

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Ellen Hendrickson's sister Marilyn; Dallas Reed (Connie Kroenung); Mia Murphy & Family; Ron Wright (Bev Meseey); Alta Kopetzky (Marcia Kennon); Liston Jent (Deanna Jent); Rob Kellow Family & Mary Beth (Paula Murphy); Paulette Carr (Helen Fuller); prayers for God to provide a car for me, so I can easily go to work and church (Pastor Gloria Kawang); for all to be vaccinated; Ron and Dianne Wallace (Pastor Sharon); Ann, Teresa and family (Vicki Hoyer); Lou (Traci and Sandy); Families in need, Haley, Gabrielle (Jim & Paula Murphy); Holly Turner (Connie Kroenung); pray that the new COVID variant can be contained (Earl Jones); Susan Garith (Marcia Kennon)

THANKSGIVINGS

Kyle Pyatt & Kate Grumke close on their new home this week.

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

*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)