

Weekly Newsletter

LEARN MORE ABOUT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN
COLLABORATION WITH



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A Message from Our Pastor

SOME NEW THINGS FOR YOUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

It's a new year, and your pastor has accepted a couple of new responsibilities. As an Elder in The United Methodist Church, I took a vow to support our Conference with my "gifts and graces." Over the years I have participated on the District Committee on Ordained Ministry Board and have served as a mentor for a number of ministry candidates, meeting with them monthly and walking with them through their interviews. I have participated in the District Superintendency Committee and am currently serving as the standing mentor for the Certified Lay Ministers of the Gateway Central District, meeting monthly.

Beginning this week, I will be serving as the Residency Mentor for a young woman seeking commissioning on the deacon track. We have met via Zoom and she is bright and joyful and glows with the goodness of the Holy Spirit. I will be traveling to Columbia this week to accompany her through her Conference Board of Ordained Ministry interviews. Once passed, I will meet with her monthly as she works through the materials of the Residency Program, and then will help prepare her for her ordination Interviews. Nurturing a candidate into ministry is such a privilege and I am excited to serve our connection in this special way.

I have also been invited to join the Board of Directors of Shepherd's Center of Webster/Kirkwood and I attended my first board meeting last week. The Shepherd Center was born in 1998 when a group of churches pooled their resources to create a ministry designed especially for older adults, offering a plethora of educational and volunteer opportunities and services. Need a ride to your next doctor's appointment or want to learn how to use e-mail? The Shepherd's Center can help you! (See shepherdscenter-wk.org for more info.) It is also a place to put your energies and time to good use as a driver, educator, or providing yard work or home repairs.

Our church has been a long-time financial supporter, and many of our members have either offered their driving skills in the transportation program or have participated in their many classes, ranging from exercise to the arts. I join our own Stanley Richert, who has served for a total of 9 years on the Board and am pleased to support this gem of an organization, located in our own backyard.

Finally, Joel and I will be traveling back to Hawaii from February 1-13, re-experiencing our honeymoon from 40 years ago. During our absence, the church will be in the good hands of our church leaders and fine staff. If you have a pastoral concern, please contact Pastor Joshua, Pastor Paige, Beth Anderson, or the Church Office at 314-961-4133. Linda Gastreich of Webster Hills UMC has agreed to serve as a standby emergency care provider. I will see you in time for Valentine's Day!



Aloha!

Pastor Sharon



THANK YOU FOR YOUR FOOD DRIVE DONATIONS!

On behalf of Webster United Methodist and Webster Rock Hill Ministries, we would like to thank everyone who donated to our food drive in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 1,085 items were donated! Thank you for your generosity!



Helen Fuller and Joel Kichline (Risk-Taking Mission & Service Co-chairs) 3

IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT WORSHIP



We will continue worshipping Sundays and Thursdays ONLINE ONLY throughout January as we await the holiday Omicron surge to recede. Hang in there, friends. We'll get to the other side of this and gather together in person soon. Until then, let's be cautious and thoughtful of others.

Thank you in advance for joining us for live stream worship on Thursdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 10:30 am. Sign in on the [Connection Card](#) with your [prayer requests](#), and comment during [worship](#) so we can enjoy knowing with whom we are worshipping.

Pastor Sharon and the Safety Team



COMMUNITY BOOK STUDY UPDATE FIVE WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1. Evening Zoom discussion, Monday, January 31, 7 p.m.
To join, contact host, Jan Hanson (jhanson875@gmail.com).
2. Morning Zoom discussion, Thursdays, February 3rd, 10th, & 17th, @ 11 a.m.
To join contact host Deanna Gent (deannajent@gmail.com).
3. A community discussion at The Novel Neighbor, February 9th, @6:30-7:30 (may be changed to Zoom). Register [here](#).
4. Read the book on your own. Available at libraries; order from The Novel Neighbor or Left Bank Books.
5. Listen on Zoom to Heather McGhee's [Ted Talk](#) or the [book chat](#) with Heather McGhee and Trevor Noah on the Daily Show.

A sample review: "A vital, urgent, stirring beautifully written book... a compassionate road map out of our present troubled moment."

George Saunders, author of *Lincoln in the Bardo*

The Justice Team is pleased to start 2022 ministry with this opportunity.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

LIVING STONES

Living Stones will be suspended during virtual services. It will be replaced with a children's moment within our online service. Please keep an eye out for more updates to our children's programming as we make these changes.

WILD WEDNESDAY! - FEBRUARY 16TH

February's theme is love! Our children will be writing Valentine's Day cards and letters for caregivers at the children's hospitals in Saint Louis. Our children are inviting the church and our neighbors to participate too! We would love for you to participate in this activity led by our children. We will need your Valentine's cards and notes by February 20th. More information to come!

Shae Parsons



A NOTE ABOUT GIVING ENVELOPES

Cathedral, our envelope provider, will ship our 2022 giving envelopes soon. This delay in delivery is due to an understaffing issue. Thank you for your patience!

Derek Redmore



FORMING FAITH BIBLE STUDY

ANOTHER VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITY

Join Forming Faith to study the prophetic texts of Ezekiel, Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. This class is offered through our Zoom Conference Room and will be Zoom-only until the Omicron surge is past and we return to in-person worship.

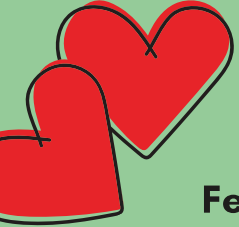
Sign up now on our [website](#), or email assistantpastor@websterum.org for a Zoom Link.

Pastor Josh

YOUTH MINISTRY

JANUARY/FEBRUARY CALENDAR

January 30 - Parking Lot Bonfire! We will roast some hot dogs and hang out and enjoy the winter together. Be sure to wear warm clothes! We'll have s'mores & hot chocolate. Be sure to bundle up!! Immediately following we will have a Mission Trip meeting at 7:40 pm to decide on where we'd like to travel!



February 6 - Activity is TBD

February 13 - Valentine's Evening!! We will do an old-school Valentine's exchange! We will have a Valentine's box decoration time and then share our little cards and candies!! Bring a box and a set of Valentines. I will have various art supplies for you to decorate your box.

****ALL EVENTS WITHIN THE CHURCH REQUIRE A MASK! ****
Youth ministry meets on Sundays from 5:30-7:30 pm!

Contact directoryouthewebsterum.org to connect with Pastor Paige



"POWER PLAY GOALS FOR KIDS" DONATIONS FOR LIFEWISE



Have you voted for LifeWise today? Don't forget that your vote counts toward extra money for LifeWise! Voting remains open until January 31st. 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)

LAST WEEK OF GIRL SCOUT COOKIES SALES!!

You won't see the Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall again this year, but you can still support them through your purchase of delicious Girl Scout cookies. Two girls, Edith Leslie and Sarah Vader, are selling cookies this year. You fill out the online order form, pay online, and choose to have the cookies dropped off at your house by the Girl Scouts or delivered by mail. It is very easy! Please submit your orders by Sunday 1/30.

We split the congregation in half by last name. Please place your order online as follows:

A-M last names purchase from Edith at:

<https://DigitalCookie.GirlScouts.org/scout/edith592332>

N-Z last names purchase from Sarah at:

<https://DigitalCookie.GirlScouts.org/scout/sarah290829>

Submitted by Amanda Vader



NEW STUDY FOR THE KING SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS



A VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL



The King Sunday School Class began a new study on January 2, 2022. We are reading and discussing Max Lucado's book titled *Grace - More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine*. Lucado writes, "Grace is God's best idea. His decision to ravage a people by love, to rescue passionately, and to restore - what rivals it?"

Come join us on Sunday mornings at 8:45 am via Zoom. If you are interested, please contact Earl Jones at aemjjones@att.net. All are welcome!

Earl Jones

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: BECOME A DRIVER FOR THE SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF WEBSTER-KIRKWOOD

Several of us from Webster UM already volunteer by driving older adults to medical appointments through the Shepherd's Center's Transportation Ministry. We find it a rewarding experience, firstly, because many seniors need help getting to appointments but it is also a way to meet people and have a good time. Everyone I know really enjoys the experience every time we drive someone. It works out that we have been asked to drive about once per month. We stay with the riders so we can take them back home after the appointment, so each drive only takes about two hours of our time.

We are now being scheduled by an email scheduler. We receive a list of appointments that includes all the information we need. We just click on the one we choose and all the needed information is provided.

More drivers are needed since the program has grown over the years and to replace those not able to continue driving.

If you are interested, contact me at shrichert@earthlink.net or Karen Zelle at kzelle@shepherdscenter-wk.org. Karen is the staff coordinator for the Transportation Ministry. Find out about all of Shepherd's Center's programs at <https://shepherdscenter-wk.org/home/services/>

Stan Richert



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

Pastor Gloria Kawang; Darlene, Debra, Stuart (Vicki Hoyer); Marilyn, sister of Ellen Hendrickson (Cindy Andrews); Carol Carinci, Haley Day, Trevor Gudde (Debbie Lund); and for all to be vaccinated.

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

Worship will be online only as we avoid Omicron and the accompanying surge. Please check the website and this newsletter for updates on when we will return to in-person worship.

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

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