

Weekly Newsletter



BREAKING NEWS

"OUR CONNECTIONAL STORY KEEPS UNFOLDING..."

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

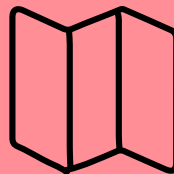
secretary@websterum.org

<https://websterunitedmethodist.org/>

(314) 961-4133

600 N Bompert Ave,
Webster Groves, MO 63119

A Message from Our Pastor



"OUR CONNECTIONAL STORY KEEPS UNFOLDING..."

FIRST, THE ORGANIZATION (skip down three paragraphs if you know HOW we are organized): The United Methodist Church is organized as a global connectional system. That means that all United Methodist Churches are sister churches, like outposts, belonging to one central organization: THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Every four years, representatives from all over the world gather and make decisions about our doctrine and practices. We call that General Conference (GC).

Also, every four years, Jurisdictional Conference (JC) meets to elect new bishops and appoint them to their conferences. Pastor Josh Krakos serves as one of the Missouri delegates to JC.

In the United States, the church is further subdivided into 59 geographical conferences. Our church is part of the Missouri Conference, and once a year, all clergy and lay representatives sent by each church gather to refresh our connection, learn about what we are doing all over the world, the country, and the state, and make decisions about programming, spending, and new candidates for ministry. We call this our Annual Conference (AC). This year we will meet in Branson from May 10-12, and Missouri Bishop Robert Farr will preside.

BECAUSE OF SAFETY CONCERNS, the 2020 General Conference has been postponed twice. It's not hard to imagine how difficult it is to gather together 600-1000 clergy and lay delegates from around the world during a pandemic and maintain their safety. We have just received the news that GC has been postponed a third time, to 2024, due to the long processing times for the necessary visas.

This was to be a pivotal global gathering for our denomination, as our delegates would be voting about the future unity of our connection. After decades of intensifying debate and defiance of church bans on same-sex weddings and “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy, we have come to realize that staying united as a global connection might be more hurtful than breaking apart. The next General Conference (whenever that will be) will face multiple proposals for denominational separation; the most endorsed of these is the Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation, which if adopted, would allow churches and conferences that support bans on gay weddings and ordination to leave with church property and \$25 million in United Methodist funds to form a new “traditionalist” denomination.

That new denomination, already organized and named the Global Methodist Church, (assuming the “Protocol of Reconciliation” would have been passed at the 2022 GC), had planned to launch in conjunction with General Conference later this year. However, based on this latest postponement, the new denomination’s Transitional Leadership Team has announced plans to move the launch date up to May 1, 2022, even before the GC has voted on any plan of separation.

I know this sounds like so much gobbledygook. In short, it’s about how our connection relates and serves the world at a global level. But changes to that connection may have an impact at the local church level for those churches (or individuals) who, because of deeply held traditional views, wish to disaffiliate from our United Methodist connection.

For me, it is important to keep in mind this one main thing: no matter how our connection changes over time, Webster United Methodist is a church family, and we are dedicated to loving, growing, and serving in the name of Jesus Christ. As a diverse faith family, and one who radically welcomes all people to Christ’s table of grace, we will continue to love each other, grow in God’s grace, and serve one another and our neighbor.

That is who we are. That is who we will continue to be.



Grace and Peace+

Pastor Sharon

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 in worship, the children will be called forward for a blessing and then will go to Fellowship Hall. Children will wear masks. There will be games, stories, snacks, and prayer. We look forward to seeing you every Sunday!

WILD WEDNESDAYS ARE BACK!

April 13th @ 5:30 pm - Our theme of course will be Easter! Sign up [here](#).

If you would like to volunteer, bring food, or cook food for any of these or future events, please email me at directorchildren@websterum.org. I would love your help!

Shae Parsons



YOUTH MINISTRY

March 13 - Come join the Kroenungs and Kichlines for something delicious, fun, and goofy!

March 20 - NO YOUTH! Enjoy your Spring Break adventures and BE SAFE!!

March 27 - The youth will be making personal pizzas for dinner! I will provide all the toppings and you can bring all of your the creativity! Afterwards, beginning at 7:30 pm we will have a Mission Trip Meeting.

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

Youth Ministry meets on Sundays from 5:30-7:30 pm!

Contact directoryouth@websterum.org to connect with Pastor Paige

REMINDER: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Just a friendly reminder that Daylight Savings begins this coming Sunday, March 13th. Remember to set your clocks to "spring ahead."



CHARGE CONFERENCE NOTICE #1

We are so pleased to announce that Deanna Jent has interviewed with the Staff Parish Relations Committee and has been found to be an exceptional candidate for ministry. The SPRC has therefore sent their recommendation to our District Superintendent, who has now scheduled a Charge Conference in our Sanctuary on March 20, 2022 at 11:45 am.

Deanna will be seeking her church's approval to move forward in the candidacy process towards Local Pastor and Chaplain. Persons must be a member to vote. Hope to see you there!

Pastor Sharon



UMCOR SUNDAY, MARCH 27TH

UMCOR Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent, provides major support for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), which offers immediate assistance in the wake of natural and human-caused disasters and helps support ongoing ministries of food, shelter, health, and peace.

UMCOR Sunday giving allows 100 percent of designated gifts to go to the specified disaster response or other ministry. Your gifts...

- *Allow UMCOR workers and volunteers to be among the first to arrive and the last to leave when people are in need.
- *Provide for emergency grants after a disaster.
- *Relieve hunger and help communities have a sustainable source of food.
- *Cover the expenses of job training.
- *Bring emergency supplies to communities devastated by storms or floods.

Your gift, joined with the gifts of others, makes a significant impact in the lives of individuals and communities.

Helen Fuller (Co-Chair of Missions)



VOLUNTEER FOR THE CARE TEAM

Help CARE for our congregation -- we are looking for people who can assist occasionally with food prep, meal delivery, assembling care packages, writing messages on cards, calling or visiting those unable to come to church. Contact Deanna Jent (co-chair of the CARE team) at deannajent@gmail.com to sign up and if you have any questions or suggestions.



JOIN THESE BIBLE/BOOK STUDIES!



Opportunities to Participate Virtually

FORMING FAITH BIBLE STUDY - WEDNESDAYS @ 7:30 PM

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

THE KING SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS - SUNDAYS @ 8:45 AM

If you are interested, please contact Earl Jones at aemjjones@att.net.

MORE FOLLOW UP: TRUTH IN EDUCATION ADVOCACY WITH THE MISSOURI LEGISLATURE

While temperatures were not as cold as they were for the February 19 rally at U. City High School, we had to be up very early for the drive to Jeff City for a morning of advocacy with legislators. The "we" was about 20 folks from MCU (Metropolitan Congregations United), divided into five teams advocating for or against legislation in four areas. I was part of the Break the [School to Prison] Pipeline Team, though began the morning joining two Truth in Education teams. We met with the House Majority Floor Leader Rep. Dean Plocher to present the position letter circulated at the rally advocating against HB 1995, restricting what can be taught, and HB 1474, on parental rights with the right to sue. Rep. Plocher manages bills coming to the House floor for a vote. He said: "There's a reason [these two bills] have not come to the floor," though at some point he used the word "intentional." When the bills go to the House floor, he anticipates "a not pretty day" of debate, passage, but failure in the Senate. He does not support the bills as filed, though he thinks transparency "might be a good thing."

The Break the Pipeline Team focused on advocating for the passage of HB 2533 which prohibits out-of-school suspension of K-3rd grade students and requires documentation and reporting of disciplinary practices. The outlook there is more hopeful. Though the bill is still "in committee" a hearing with strong testimony from parents and teachers for the bill has been held. Cautious expectation from Rep. Ian Mackey is that the bill will go to the House floor and receive a positive vote. In the Senate, however, it is likely to face more obstacles.

I have learned that "advocacy" is never a "one and done" matter. Rep. Mackey's aide, Adam Speak, has agreed to keep me posted on the progress of the above bills and key legislators to communicate with at strategic points. **You can be an advocate too** by emailing and calling your representatives in the legislature. First step: know who your Representative and Senator are. Second step: Watch/read local news for reports on the legislation. Third step: email me for updates on the above bills. Fourth step: Take action. My go-to scripture: "He has told you human one what is good and what the Lord requires of you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God" Micah 6:8 (CEB).

Carolyn Redmore (Justice Team Coordinator)

HANDS-IN-MISSION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



Friends of Centenary United Methodist Church,

As you know, Centenary is in the heart of downtown. They have been stretched by taking care of their homeless community, the pandemic, and the weather that destroyed the steeple in July of 2021. To continue their ministries in weddings, mission, worship, and begin new ministries to be Church to this community, there are improvements to this beautiful, historic building that need to be addressed. This is the first hands-in-mission opportunity of the year and your help is needed!

WUM will assemble a team of volunteers for March 19th for a Spring Clean Up. We will meet at the church at 8 am and will return by 12 pm. Our projects will begin at 9 am. A continental breakfast, lunch and cold beverages will be provided throughout the day. Any amount of time or people and skill are welcome.

The projects we may be working on are painting the entry doors, gardening, and landscaping, as well as cleaning and dusting the beautiful staircase that was hit when the steeple fell. If you have tools that relate to these projects that you would like to use, please bring them and dress accordingly.

If you can join our work crew, please contact Joel Kichline (our team leader) at kichlinejoel7@gmail.com or Helen Fuller at helen.fuller@hotmail.com.



Alliance for Interracial Dignity

March 10, 2022 • 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Webster Groves
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Assessment
What Did We Learn and What's Next?
with study author, Hicks-Carter-Hicks

In-Person, Masks Required
Webster University
East Academic Bldg
545 Garden Ave, Rm 102

For more information, email:
Hello@AllianceForInterracialDignity.org



LIFEWISE StL SPRING BLING BRUNCH & AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2022

Each year, Spring Bling is one of LifeWise StL's most highly anticipated events. Guests can expect an empowering atmosphere, a delicious meal, top-tier entertainment, and a silent auction featuring an array of designer handbags, beautiful accessories, and creative gift sets. The event will be in person this year!

Join LifeWise in their efforts to enrich the lives of women in our area, while increasing their impact in the St. Louis community. Check out their website [here](#) for more information.

LifeWise StL (Topic submitted by Jan McCurley, UMW Rep for LifeWise)



LIFEWISE FOOD DRIVE

March is traditionally the month we collect grocery items in bags for LifeWise StL.

Pick up your bag with a list of needed items in the Narthex on any Sunday in March and return it full of non-perishable food items to add to the collection in the Chancel (in front of the altar). We'll bless all the groceries on the last Sunday of the month (March 27th)! The Mission Team has set a goal of 800 food items for this year's food drive. Let's exceed our goal!

Helen Fuller and Joel Kichline (Missions Co-Chairs)



EPWORTH CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES TRIVIA NIGHT

Date: Friday, March 18, 2022

Time: Doors open @ 6 pm, Trivia starts @ 7 pm

Venue: Trinity Lutheran Church (14088 Clayton Road, Town and Country, MO 63017)

Tickets: All teams will be comprised of 8 players. A team costs \$200 and beer and wine is included. There will also be a silent auction.

Please visit our [Eventbrite page](#) to buy your tickets and view our sponsorship packages now!

If you have questions or want to join the fun contact Linda Guth Stangl at linda-guth-stangl@live.com

JOIN A VOLUNTEER-IN-MISSION WORK TEAM FORMING FOR MAY!

We have reserved a workweek with space for 10 people for May 1st – 5th at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center near Springfield, IL. Some people from last year's team are eager to return, but there are plenty of spaces open to join.

Depart on Sunday, May 1st – Return either Thursday, May 5th in the evening or Friday, May 6th in the morning

*What is MMDC? It is a United Methodist-affiliated disaster relief facility providing disaster relief kits, school desks, educational & medical supplies, etc., locally, nationally, and internationally.

*The work: There is something for every ability — packing kits, sewing school bags, building & refinishing school desks, repairing bicycles and sewing machines, organizing materials, unloading items, filling shipping containers, etc.

*Cost: TBD based on number of people going, but it will be minimal for dormitory lodging and supplies, plus food & gas expenses.

If you are interested in joining the team, call Jan McCurley or email janis.mccurley@gmail.com **no later than March 14th.**



JOIN OUR WORSHIP STREAMING TEAM!



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST IN THE EXCITING WORLD OF
STREAMING SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES!

If you have an interest in learning new and valuable skills and assisting with streaming, please contact Gordon Ballam at gcballam@gmail.com. You do not need previous experience, but should be comfortable using computers and learning different types of computer software programs. Training will address each piece of equipment and the challenges specific to it. We look forward to hearing from you!

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Mark Kremer; Michelle Leslie's grandmother, Anne; Mary Gumerman (Connie Kroenung's mother); Marilyn Cline (Cindy Andrews); Brian Emery (Jo Ann Claywell); Veronica Pallia; Mary Shipp, Jonathan Z., Paige S. (Connie Kroenung); Cassie Althen (Bev Mesey's granddaughter); Ben and Nancy (Michelle Hostmeyer); Robert Cox (husband of former member Janice Hitchcock); Darlene and Debra (Vicki Hoyer); for the people of Ukraine; for all to be vaccinated; and for the leaders of the world.



NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

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

CHURCH SPACE RESERVATIONS

If you want to schedule a space for your group, check the calendar and send your request to admin.communications@websterum.org to schedule all usage!



COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

- Worshippers are welcome to choose their own seats in the sanctuary.
- Please maintain appropriate physical distancing.
- Please wear masks when moving about in the building.
- You may remove your mask when seated in the sanctuary.

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