

Weekly Newsletter



Charge Conference Sunday

March 20, 2022

11:45 am in the Sanctuary

Voting on the Candidacy Recommendation for Deanna Jent

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A Message from Our Pastor

"CALLED"

As I write this at my kitchen table, I am reflecting on the vote that will take place this Sunday at a specially-called Charge Conference to recommend Deanna Jent, one of our own, for clergy ministry. This vote is the first of many affirmations that she must receive in the candidacy process toward Chaplaincy.

It begins when a person wrestles to discern the nature of God's call on their life. One day, in a whisper (at least that's how it was for me), you confess to your pastor that God had been messing with your head and your heart, and you aren't sure what to do about it. Your pastor may have to talk you off the bridge, followed by a discussion around the book *The Christian as Minister*, an early conversation about the width and breadth of God's call on each of us.

Next, you would write to the District Superintendent and book an appointment for a get-acquainted visit. There, you would ask a lot of questions that they probably could not answer with nearly as much clarity as you crave. Back at the church, you write your call statement and present it to your Staff-Parish Relations Committee. During your interview with them, they ask you a lot of questions that you have to answer on faith. This early declaration left me breathless.

Those called to both ordained and local clergy leadership (which is what Deanna seeks), have been called by God and affirmed by the Church to be set apart within the Body of Christ, to offer the grace and healing of God through four primary tasks: Word, Sacraments, Service, and Order. That means she will be the representative of God's gracious love in initiating persons into the life of Christ through baptism, fostering their spirituality through preaching, teaching, and the invitation to Christ's Table of Grace, empowering the vision of the church to be in mission to others, and sending forth disciples of Jesus Christ to offer God's transformative love to a broken and hurting world. Gulp.

This is no small thing that God is calling Deanna to do. It will redefine her as a servant leader, setting her apart for the rest of her life. Wherever she is and whatever she is doing, she will be representing Christ to the world. It is a daunting responsibility, but there is no deeper soul satisfaction than to experience God's Spirit flowing through you, drawing others to Christ.

This affirmation, the recognition by her own church that she has the gifts and graces for clergy leadership, will set Deanna on a path toward a lot of additional education/experience, more board interviews, and ultimately an appointment to serve in a church, hospital, or agency. Deanna feels especially called to pastoral care and chaplaincy, but will likely need to serve as the part-time pastor of a local church along the path of her training.

This is how we get our pastors; they are home-grown in our local churches, where they have been loved, challenged, nurtured, affirmed, and then sent out with our blessings. Sending Deanna into clergy leadership will be a sacrifice for us, but the rich and sacred privilege will also be ours.

Please attend the Charge Conference this **Sunday, March 20, 2022, at 11:45 am** in the Sanctuary. We will vote by ballot, and our District Superintendent, Rev. Robin Bell, will officiate. Only members are allowed to vote, but all are welcome to come and support Deanna in this life experience.



Still breathless,
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 will be Easter, of course! 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 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 creativity! Afterward, 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



WUM PROVIDES WORSHIP AT BETHESDA DILWORTH

Though we could not go in January, this coming Sunday, March 20, 2022, 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 are able to once again provide a half-hour chapel service one Sunday every other month.

At 2:00 pm volunteers will gather on the second floor to receive assignments from Chaplain Michael Tooley, and then disperse to escort residents who use wheelchairs. 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 be added to the e-list of volunteers, please contact Beth Anderson, (314)781-9923 or treblecross1980@gmail.com.



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 are 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

OPPORTUNITIES SUGGESTED BY THE WUM JUSTICE TEAM



Mosque Open House
Meet Your Muslim Neighbors

 **YOU ARE INVITED** 

On behalf of the Islamic Society of Greater St Louis ., we are pleased to invite you, to "Meet Your Muslim Neighbors" event. This event has been specially organized to provide an opportunity for you to get acquainted with your fellow Muslim neighbors while at the same time deepening your understanding of the Islamic faith. Enjoy a tour of the Mosque, engaging presentation on Islam and delicious Lunch.

Sunday, March 20th, 2022
From 12:30 pm till 2:30 pm
8945 Dunn Rd Hazelwood MO 63042

RSVP:
www. IslamSTL.com

Thank you!

RSVP [Here!](#)

You're Invited to the 41st Annual Women's Interfaith Conference!

This annual gathering brings together hundreds of St. Louis women each spring to learn about the beliefs, values, customs, and practices of diverse religious traditions.

Join us virtually on Thursday, March 31, 2022, from 1 pm-3 pm to hear women representing the Baha'i Faith, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Sikhism speak on this year's theme: "Women of Faith: Living Our Faith in a Secular World."

All are welcome. This event is free but registration is required. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Register [here](#).

HANDS-IN-MISSION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



As you know, Centenary United Methodist Church 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 while volunteering. 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.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN DISTRICT LENTEN REFLECTION SERVICE

"Seeds of Healing, Joy, and Faith"

Saturday, March 26 @ 9 am

Arlington UMC

3770 McKelvey Rd

Bridgeton, MO 63044

Craft/art items and games will be collected for Epworth Youth (see the link below for more examples of donations).

Email danielsusan55@gmail.com with your name, church, email address, phone number, & mailing address, or mail [this form](#) by following its instructions.

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.

"PLAN(T) AHEAD FOR ECO-JUSTICE"

There are so many things each of us can do to be good stewards of the world God blessed us with. Gear up for springtime and the upcoming Faith Climate Action Week (April 22 - May 1, 2022) by exploring these great resources in our community!

The Missouri Botanical Garden will have a Pollinator Plant Sale starting March 27. Online orders placed between March 26 - April 10 will be available for pickup on April 15 - 17. In-person shopping and sales take place during Pollinator Fair Days on April 23 and 24 from 10 am - 4 pm.

Partners for Native Landscaping (affiliated with the St. Louis chapter of the Audubon Society) is working with the St. Louis County Library to present a series of webinars throughout the month of March on our suburban ecosystems and how we can support them. Click on the link to find out more or to register for a webinar.

This has already begun!

The Metropolitan Congregations United has an ongoing environmental justice effort focused on monitoring the air quality in St. Louis neighborhoods. They always need volunteers. See if this is a place where you can make a difference. Beth Gutzler is the Environmental Justice Coordinator at MCU.

Contact her for more information on how you can help.

Save the date for viewing the film Youth v Gov (facilitated by Interfaith Power & Light) on Friday, April 22 in Fellowship Hall. This film shows that we each have the power to make changes to benefit our sacred trust, God's earth, and that young people are leading the way.

Stay tuned for more information on events in April!



Debbie Lund



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)

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)



THANK YOU TO OUR EDITORS!

Thanks to our editors Debbie Lund and Linda Guth-Stangl for their tireless efforts editing our newsletter.

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Andrew Sarich; Mark Kremer; Bev Mesey's great-granddaughter, Charlotte Rogers; Kathy Linss (Beth Gewinner); Mary Shipp, Paige S. and Jonathan Z. (Connie Kroenung); Brian Emery (Jo Ann Claywell's nephew); Mary Gumerman (Connie Kroenung's mother); Michelle Leslie's grandmother, Anne; Marilyn (Cindy Andrews); for aging parents; for spring break travelers; 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)