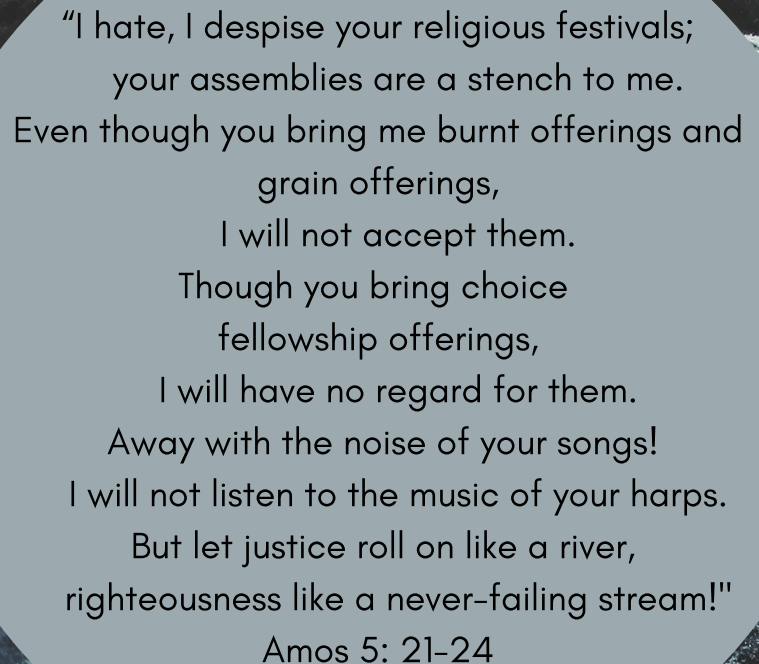


Weekly Newsletter



"I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.
Even though you bring me burnt offerings and
grain offerings,
I will not accept them.
Though you bring choice
fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.
Away with the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.
But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!"
Amos 5: 21-24

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

"ROLL DOWN, JUSTICE"

As we enter the season of Lent (beginning with Ash Wednesday on 3/2), we begin a new sermon series entitled "Roll Down, Justice." I expect that these words may remind you of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s iconic "I Have a Dream" speech. But those words were not original to MLK. The reference is actually attributed to the Hebrew prophet Amos, who was active about 750 years before Jesus was born.

Amos fiercely rebuked corruption and social injustice amongst Israel's pagan neighbors, Israel itself, and Judah, God's nations. He warned of imminent destruction for those who continued to gain riches at the expense of the impoverishment and marginalization of others. I can see why Martin chose this scripture as he addressed our nation during the intensifying Civil Rights Movement.

In the ancient church, Lent was originally a time of preparation for baptism. Today, we reclaim the waters of baptism as our call to love ourselves as children of God. We remember God's love for all people and are then challenged to "go and do likewise." We are to love the world and its peoples, resist evil, and alleviate suffering in all its forms. That's what seeking justice is all about.

American philosopher and activist, Cornel West, said, "*Justice is what love looks like in public.*" This year we will connect Lent with our call as disciples to acts of justice to make a better world for all, not just for some, living our love out loud.

There is no more important time than now for offering more love in this divided world. Please join us for worship as we prepare our hearts for Easter.



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!

March 9th @ 5:30 pm - Our theme will be dance! We will celebrate St. Patrick's day by bringing in Irish Dancers from the Clark Academy of Irish Dance. They will perform and teach us a jig! We will also see how dance is used throughout the Bible to praise God. Sign up [here](#).

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 6 - Top Golf

****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

MESSAGE OF NEW LIFE

Dear Church Family,

In this unexpected time & place, I have found myself expecting. To be a blessed vessel for the life of a child has been a shocking yet exhilarating moment in my life. I have found myself in a loving, supportive, and wonderful partnership. With this coming baby, I find myself identifying with the young Mother Mary; I'm both excited yet nervous, thrilled but concerned.

By the grace of God, I have been called to a season of ministry here at Webster United Methodist. At this moment may the church step into the example of Christ's radical love for all; to welcome a baby, cries, giggles, and all. As we experience this journey together, I thank you and appreciate all the support of love and care.

During this transition, I intend to continue to serve Webster UM and to use these new experiences for the work that God is continuing to do in my life and in the growth of becoming a mother. There will be new things to learn and I look forward to sharing those lessons with you all, as well as learning from those who come before me on this blessed adventure. This church has been a place of comfort and love and I can't wait to introduce my baby into this welcoming congregation.

Pastor Paige Foster



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.

SPRING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Friends of Centenary 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. 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 at kichlinejoel7@gmail.com or Helen Fuller at helen.fuller@hotmail.com.



The flyer features a teal background with orange and black geometric shapes. On the left, a circular inset shows a close-up of several hands of different skin tones stacked together. The text on the right provides event details: the date and time (March 10, 2022, 7:00 - 8:30 pm), the title 'Webster Groves Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Assessment', and the subtitle 'What Did We Learn and What's Next?' with a note that it is with study author Hicks-Carter-Hicks. It also states 'In-Person, Masks Required' and provides the location: Webster University, East Academic Bldg, 545 Garden Ave, Rm 102. The logo for Alliance for Interracial Dignity (AID) is in the bottom right corner.

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

AID

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)



MEXICO'S SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLING ACHIEVES GENDER PARITY

Mexico has achieved gender parity in education with a program started just 20 years ago. Mexico has the world's highest percentage of computer science degrees awarded to women, achieved by treating education as if it were a job. This way, students could still contribute to household income while attending school. Payments were based on what children would earn if they were working for pay--a 3rd grader might earn \$10/month, a high schooler, \$60. They made sure the payments were given directly to the mothers. And because girls were more likely than boys to drop out, girls got a bit more than boys to stay in school. The World Bank called Mexico's effort a model for the world and said it was the first to focus on extremely poor households. 52 countries now have some form of the same program.

Taken from Melinda Gates's book *The Moment of Lift* (Submitted by Carol Gilker)



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! 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)





SPOTLIGHT ON APPORTIONMENTS



NEW GENERATIONS

One of the goals the Finance Committee has set this year is to make more sense of the directions our Church dollars go and to give that information to our members. Every year each church is apportioned their fair share of the expenses of the Missouri Conference. These expenses are based on the costs associated with the agencies and programs approved for our support by the Annual Conference or the Church at large. The amounts vary based on church size and budget size.

One of our apportionments this year is Next Generations ministry. This is a ministry directed at children, youth, and college-aged students as they seek ways to better serve Christ. This new ministry is headed by Rev. Jeff Baker in a newly created Cabinet-level position. This position will include oversight of the Camping Ministry programs and sites. Camping will oversee 10 core camps, 22 mobile camps, 70 mission camps, and the return of the Intrepid Wildfire Camp at Central Methodist University June 17-22. All of us understand the importance of bringing the gospel to young members and giving them more opportunities to grow and serve. The prime directive of the team is to create those encounters with Christ and to equip local churches for this work.

For more information, go to www.nextgenumc.org.

Deane Looney (Lay Leader and Finance Committee Member)



EPWORTH CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES TRIVIA NIGHT

Date: Friday, March 18th, 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

Mary Gumerman (Connie Kroenung's mother); Veronica Pallia and her mother Mary Ship; Cassie Althen (Bev Mesey's granddaughter); Ben, Nancy (Michelle Hostmeyer); Brian Emery (Jo Ann Claywell's nephew); Marilyn Cline (Cindy Andrews); Robert Cox (husband of former member Janice Hitchcock); Tim Mosier's family (Kris Maly); Jace Bantz (Deanna Jent); Darlene, Debra (Vicki Hoyer); for the people of Ukraine; for world leaders; and for all to be vaccinated.



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)