

# Weekly Newsletter

"In the evening, I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate-Street... and I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation: and an assurance was given me, that he had taken away my sins, even mine..."

- John Wesley

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# *A Message from Our Pastor*

## HEART MYSTERY

About a year ago this week, on May 23rd, 2021, we hosted our “Welcome Back, Church!” worship service. It was a glorious Sunday, full of God-bumps (they’re like goosebumps, only Spirit-prompted), happy eyebrows (remember we were still wearing masks inside), and lots of applause.

Every Sunday since has been a celebration of how glad we are to be in one another’s presence again. Now, I’m not knocking attending worship online. In fact, it is a wonderful possibility for those who are unable to join us in person because of illness, travel, distance, or preference. And I give God my undying thanks for the efforts of Gordon Ballam and the online team who have faithfully kept our worship services (both Sundays and Thursdays) available for the electronic community near and far.

But there is something special that happens when we are in a room together physically, as well as spiritually. The sense of being connected is palpable. Even if we are in different places on our spiritual journeys, whether we are present for the first or 500th time, whether we are celebrating or laden with burdens, the sense of being part of a big messy family who laughs and cries together is very real. WE are the church, we the people (not the building), and it is God’s Holy Spirit that mysteriously binds our hearts together.

Exactly 284 years ago as of this writing, on May 24th, 1738, John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, wrote in his journal about attending an event at Aldersgate. There he experienced a strange and new feeling—something he had never known before. It was a physical sensation that was so overwhelming that it changed John forever. He felt a strange warming of his heart in response to a reading from the book of Romans. Now, John had been involved with the church his whole life. His father, an Anglican priest in the Church of England, and his mother, a strong, Christian of steadfast faith, had been great influencers of his faith. John studied at Christ Church College in Oxford, and at the age of 25, was ordained as a priest in the Church. But it wasn’t until that evening on May 24th that he experienced the power of God’s Holy Spirit stirring within him, affirming God’s love for him as a beloved child of God, even as a Christian still in the making. In other words, John realized he didn’t have to be perfect to be included in God’s embrace. God was claiming him just as he was, blessings, blemishes, and all.

I find it most notable that this life-changing event was born not in his prayer closet, but within community. There's just something significant and tangible that happens when we are physically together. Our hearts are strangely woven together in a tapestry of love and care. I cannot explain it very well, but I know it is real. Have you felt it, too?

Every Sunday, as more and more of us are returning to in-building worship, we are again experiencing the thrill of being made more whole. Our guests are experiencing a greater sense of who we are as a faith family, and the Holy Spirit is moving among us, warming our hearts, assuring us that we too belong to God. I hope you will soon join us in this mystery.



**See you next Sunday,**

*Pastor Sharon*



## CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION

This Sunday is Confirmation for three of our youth! Natalie Kuelker, Bob Pallia, and Hakon Vader are prepared to take their vows of membership during our worship service and make their witness. All are invited to the cupcake reception after the service so that our faith family can offer words of congratulation and encouragement. A basket for cards will be available.

**Pastor Sharon and Pastor Paige**



## WUM HOSTS WELCOME NEIGHBOR STL



**Kris Maly**

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## LIVING STONES

Children (ages 4- 6th grade) are invited to learn about God and their creation every Sunday during worship. We send them with a blessing to the Discovery Room at the beginning of the service, where they will experience games, stories, snacks and prayer. Children may wear masks.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This year's Vacation Bible School will be June 6-10 from 5 to 8 pm for children 4-12 years old. Our theme is Food Truck Party. People who enjoy working with children are needed to carry out a variety of jobs, from playing games to preparing food. Sign up [here](#) or email [directorchildren@websterum.org](mailto:directorchildren@websterum.org) to sign up!



**Shae Parsons**



## YOUTH MINISTRY

**May 29 - Memorial Day Weekend & Confirmation Sunday!** With the holiday weekend, we will not meet. Instead, join the confirmands during church and for a reception afterward with cupcakes and well wishes!

**June 4 - Deer Creek Clean-up!** Join our church and some of those in the Boy Scout Troop to help clean up our local creek. Meet at the church at 8 am in your old clothes and sturdy shoes that can get dirty. There will be lunch at 11:30 am. If you need to contact him, you can reach him [here](#).

### **June 5 - Drive-In Night!**

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

**Contact [directoryouth@websterum.org](mailto:directoryouth@websterum.org) to  
connect with Pastor Paige**



# A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR PAIGE

Dear Church,

Thank you so much for your outpouring of support for Justin, myself, and our baby girl a few Sundays ago! We enjoyed a wonderful spread of delicious food. The gathering was full of laughter and love and grace. The youth did a fantastic job of hosting the event and leading the games.

Our mothers thoroughly enjoyed seeing and meeting you all. For them to know their two babies are supported as we have a baby is priceless. The gifts we received have started to fill baby girl's rooms and filled our hearts to the brim.

We can't wait to introduce you to her later this summer! The outpouring of support from WUM has shown us just how wonderful a church community is. We can't thank you all enough for what you've given us.

With grateful hearts,

*Justin, Paige, and baby girl*



## FATHER'S DAY TRIBUTE



We are piecing together a PowerPoint of pictures of the father figures in our lives who have been great influencers. It will be shown on Father's Day Sunday.

Please submit your photo, (if you haven't in the past, or you want to update it) to Cindy Andrews at [cyndrews@gmail.com](mailto:cyndrews@gmail.com) no later than **June 15th**. Include the first name of the person you wish to celebrate.



## THE GARDEN OF EDEN

This week, community garden hours are:

**Thursday, May 26th @ 4:30 pm**

**Saturday, May 28th @ 9 am**

Email Kristen Leslie at [kleslie@eden.edu](mailto:kleslie@eden.edu) and ask to be added to the mailing list.


# HELP SEND COVID VACCINES TO SIMBO ISLAND

Pastor Gideon Tuke traveled 2.5 hours in his “ministry boat,” 12.5 hours by sea taxi; 36 hours by plane to travel from Simbo Island in the Solomon Islands to Eden Seminary in Webster Groves, Missouri, to further his education. In the two years he was here he became part of our church family by worshipping with us and participating in Celebrate! and Sunday School. It’s hard to imagine living halfway around the world on an island so small it’s not on my map – population slightly over 1000 (my high school had 2000). It’s easy to believe that Covid vaccines have trouble getting there. On rural Simbo Island, they raise their own food and build leaf houses with natural resources. Usually, their biggest expense is gas for boats to get to larger islands; but now it’s paying for face masks, sanitizer, and nurses to come to Simbo Island from urban islands with the free vaccines. Gideon and friends have paid for the first of two shots for half the population, but are now out of resources and need our help. It costs \$1,200 (USA \$) for a medical team to travel to Simbo Island before children return to school in June. Thankfully, it doesn’t take 51 hours for our money to reach the Solomon Islands.

To see more pictures, click [here](#). To donate quickly, go to our website or click [here](#).  
If writing a check, please make it out to “WUM” and  
write “Simbo Island” on the memo line.

Thank you for helping our friend, Pastor Gideon Tuke. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Beth Anderson, #314-781-9923.





# APPORTIONMENT UPDATE

## PART 3

Every year each church is apportioned a fair share of the expenses of the Missouri Conference.

Our share for 2022 is just over \$36,000, about a tenth of our expense budget.

Prior short articles on Apportionments have dealt with “New Generations” (March 3) and “World Service” (March 24). In this piece, we raise up 3 other ministries that our apportionment payments support.

### **Mission, Service, and Justice Ministries**

These funds are used to lead congregations in mission, service and justice ministries including Volunteers in Mission, Mozambique Initiative, and Haiti Water Project as well as disaster response and other outreach opportunities.

### **Black College Fund**

This fund supports 10 black colleges and a medical school that maintain an ongoing relationship with the denomination. It helps to provide well-equipped buildings, solid academic programs, strong faculties, a nurturing environment to encourage students in each new generation, and affirms and celebrates African-American heritage and culture.

### **Africa University**

This United Methodist university is the first non-government institution of higher education in Africa. It serves the entire continent of Africa, by offering post-secondary education for students from all of Africa, specializing in education in schools of agriculture, theology, nursing and management, and business.

### **Derek Redmore (Finance Chair)**

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## **HANDS-IN-MISSION - DEER CREEK CLEAN-UP**

JUNE 4TH - 8 AM TO NOON



Deer Creek is located about half of a mile from the church. Boy Scout Troop 303 and our youth group will join church members as the clean-up crew!

Ages 5-100 can join us. Age 101 if Gordon Shull joins us!

Work will count towards volunteer hours for Scouts and High School students.

Dress appropriately for getting dirty. Work gloves will be provided.

A meal will be provided at 11:30 a.m.

We will meet in the parking lot of Webster United Methodist church.

If you have questions, call **Joel Kichline (Risk-taking Missions)**.

# All About the Kids

## GOLF TOURNAMENT & DINNER AUCTION

**Monday, June 6th At Forest Hills Country Club**

**Golf Ticket Pricing:**

Individual golfer = \$325

A group of 4 = \$1,300

**Dinner Pricing:**

Individual ticket = \$85

Table of 8 = \$680

Register [here](#) or call (314)260-6369 to speak with Amanda Andrews with registration questions.



**FUN FORE  
SHEPHERD'S CENTER**

A FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING SHEPHERD'S CENTER

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**FRIDAY, JUNE 17**  
4:00 Golf Scramble  
6:00-8:00 Buffet & Social  
(brisket, sides & dessert)

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**FAMILY GOLF  
& LEARNING CENTER**  
3717 Tree Court  
Industrial Blvd, 63122

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**RESERVATIONS**  
Call the Shepherd's Center 314-395-0988 or  
online [CLICK HERE](#) - Golf Event Reservations

\$240/foursome  
Includes: par 3 9-hole course & buffet

\$30/person  
Includes: Buffet & Social

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**for more info go to**  
[shepherdscenter-wk.org](http://shepherdscenter-wk.org)

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**FUN FOR ALL**  
available for purchase

- cash bar
- indoor golf simulator
- driving mats
- 50/50 & prize raffles

Click [HERE](#) to  
Reserve Your Spot!

Visit their [website](#) for  
more information.



WEBSTER  ROCK HILL

M I N I S T R I E S

# TRIVIA NIGHT

**\$30 Donation per person**

Form a table of 8 or join with others!  
Bring your own snacks, beer, wine or soft drinks.

**Heads/Tails  
Mulligans**

**50/50 Raffle  
Attendance Prizes**

## SILENT AUCTION

**Prizes To Winning Team**

**FRIDAY JUNE 24, 2022**

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF  
WEBSTER GROVES**

10 West Lockwood Ave. 63119

Doors open at 6:15pm  
Game begins 7:00pm

**To Register: Call WRHM office 314-961-5082**  
Prepayment is required for reservation of tables

\*Please bring canned goods to help the Ministries\*

# NEW STUDY FOR KING SUNDAY SCHOOL

The King Sunday School Class will begin a new study on May 29th. The book is entitled "Going on to Salvation" by Maxie Dunnam, who is the chancellor of Asbury Theological Seminary; the pastor emeritus of Christ United Methodist Church in Memphis, Tennessee; and the vice-chairperson of World Evangelism of the World Methodist Council. The church today desperately needs to recover the depth, richness, and wonder of the biblical and Wesleyan doctrine of salvation. In this book, Maxie Dunnam offers his perspective on how to make this recovery possible. Drawing deeply on biblical and Wesleyan sources, Dunnam leads his readers on a rich and challenging tour of what it means to say that we are going to salvation - saved by grace. We meet at 9 am at the south end of Fellowship Hall.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Earl Jones**



## RESUMPTION OF SEEKERS' SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

We are studying James W. Moore's book entitled *Do Your Best and Trust God for the Rest*. Moore talks about the idea that God doesn't expect us to be perfect. God simply asks us to be faithful, and God will do and be what we cannot.

The class is led by Deane Looney. We meet on the second floor of the Education Building. **Please join us at 9 am Sundays. Everyone is welcome!**



## DONATE TO FEED UKRAINE

*\$1 makes a bag to feed 6 people*

*\$40 makes a box to feed 240 people*

*\$400 makes a layer of boxes to feed 2,400 people*

*\$1,200 makes a pallet to feed 7,200*

Ways to Donate:

- Cash or check made payable to Midwest Mission
- Click [here](#) to donate through our website under "Feeding Ukraine - Midwest Distribution Center"
- Click [here](#) to donate on MMDC's website under "Ukraine Relief"
- Text Ukraine to (855)589-1314

## OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Margaret Christensen; Dave and Kathy, friends of Katie Renkins; Diana Nordlund (Debbie Lund's sister); Sean Sendlein (Margaret Skouby); Daniel Flier (Helen Fuller); Renee (Paula Murphy); for aging parents; for healthcare workers; for students finishing and beginning; for all of the babies and families without formula; for improved gun control laws; for students; for the unemployed; for those affected by mental illness; for bodily autonomy; for the people of Ukraine; and for all to be vaccinated.

## THANKSGIVINGS

Connie Kroenung is grateful to the volunteers at Safe Harbor for taking care of her mother; and Jenny Watts is thankful for a new job.



### NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

All articles and submissions must be sent to [secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org) and [admin.communications@websterum.org](mailto: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](mailto:admin.communications@websterum.org)

to schedule all usage!



## COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

- Worshippers are welcome to choose their own seats in the sanctuary.
- Masks are now optional within our building.

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