

# Weekly Newsletter



**STRONGER  
GUN-RELATED  
LEGISLATION  
PASSED!**

## Our Staff

PASTOR, REV. SHARON KICHLINE

[pastorsharon@websterum.org](mailto:pastorsharon@websterum.org)

ASSISTANT PASTOR, JOSHUA KRAKOS

[assistantpastor@websterum.org](mailto:assistantpastor@websterum.org)

MUSIC MINISTRY, LAMAR FITZGERALD

[directormusic@websterum.org](mailto:directormusic@websterum.org)

YOUTH MINISTRY, PASTOR PAIGE FOSTER

[directoryouth@websterum.org](mailto:directoryouth@websterum.org)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, SHAELEIGH PARSONS

[directorchildren@websterum.org](mailto:directorchildren@websterum.org)

COMMUNICATIONS & ADMIN COORDINATOR,  
HANNAH DIPPEL

[admin.communication@websterum.org](mailto:admin.communication@websterum.org)

SECRETARY

[secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org)

<https://websterunitedmethodist.org/>

(314) 961-4133

**600 N Bompert Ave,  
Webster Groves, MO 63119**

# A Message from Our Pastor

Dear Hearts,

This past week, our country has lived through the most extraordinary week of political action in my lifetime. *Roe v. Wade*, securing reproductive freedom for women, was overturned by the Supreme Court after 49 years as the law of the land, returning the question of abortion rights to the states. It was followed immediately by trigger laws in many states, including Missouri, banning termination of a pregnancy as a choice for women for their personal health care.

The ramifications will surely be dangerous for the health of women and this creates, for the first time for girls and young women, an era where they have less control over their bodies than their mothers, and possibly their grandmothers did. This decision has further widened an already precipitous chasm in our nation. Abortions will continue, just as they did before *Roe v. Wade*, but the risks will be far greater for the women and girls seeking them.

In the same week, and at long last, the passage of sweeping gun safety legislation was enacted. It is nearly miraculous that a compromise was forged in this time of such a deep-seated partisan divide. It offers hope that we can begin to turn the tide of mass gun shootings that leave innocents dead and families and communities mired in grief. While assault-style weapons are still readily available, more safeguards have been set in motion to reduce the likelihood that they will be sold to dangerous people.

All this may have left your heart and your head spinning, as it has mine. I have written about both issues. I stand with the United Methodist Church, I stand in the messy middle, influenced by “life-based” ethics (not pro-choice or pro-life). Life-based ethics place life at the center of guidance regarding situations where there may be conflicts. Life-based ethics call for as much life as possible to be honored and preserved.

When you are standing in the messy middle, we recognize that every decision is a unique prism with many sides, not just two, not right or wrong. While the UMC and I celebrate the new gun control legislation as a fine beginning, we grieve the loss of control over women's bodies as a grievous injustice, just as we grieve the loss of human life when an abortion is found necessary. While standing in the messy middle, we recognize it is where we feel called to be. By necessity, it is a place of grace.

On a personal note, the Kichlines will be taking a week away to visit with family and make some new memories. I trust you will look after each other tenderly, as always. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Beth Anderson or Pastor Paige Foster. Emergency/crisis care will be provided by our good friend and Ordained Elder, Rev. Kim Shirar, Pastor of Maplewood UMC.

Hold down the fort. I'm counting on you.



**Grace and peace+**  
*Pastor Sharon*



## **PASSED! STRONGER GUN-RELATED LEGISLATION**

Thank you Congress for negotiating and passing the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. Thanks to all who contacted our Senators voicing support for action. Senator Blunt heard us. He negotiated and voted for the following:

- Requires tougher background checks for the youngest firearms buyers
- Requires more sellers to conduct background checks & clarifies who needs to register as a dealer
- Beefs up penalties for gun traffickers and bans straw purchases
- Strengthens prohibitions of access to firearms of partners where domestic violence is at issue
- Provides money to states with "red flag" laws that make it easier to temporarily take firearms from people adjudged dangerous and/or that have violence prevention programs
- Disburses to states money aimed at improving school safety and mental health initiatives

Does the legislation do all we wanted, e.g. banning the sale of assault rifles or at least raising the age for their purchase? No. It is, however, a significant step, the first since the 1990s. Take time to say "thank you" to Senator Blunt ([www.blunt.senate.gov](http://www.blunt.senate.gov); 260 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510).

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## LIVING STONES

Living Stones is now on summer break. Our 10:30 am service will feature a Children's Story. We will resume this program in the fall at the beginning of the school year.

Contact [directorchildren@websterum.org](mailto:directorchildren@websterum.org)  
to connect with Shae.



## YOUTH MINISTRY

**July 3 - Mission Team Commissioning at 10:30 am Worship**

**NO YOUTH Meeting!** Enjoy celebrating the holiday weekend with friends & family.

**July 10 - Mission Team leaves!**

**July 17 - Mission Team returns and leads worship!**

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

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



*Affiliated Announcements*

## THE UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL

The July/August issue of The Upper Room is available in the Narthex and Elevator entrances.

If you are unable to pick up one, contact Linda Guth Stangl at [linda-guth-stangl@live.com](mailto:linda-guth-stangl@live.com) and she will get a copy to you.

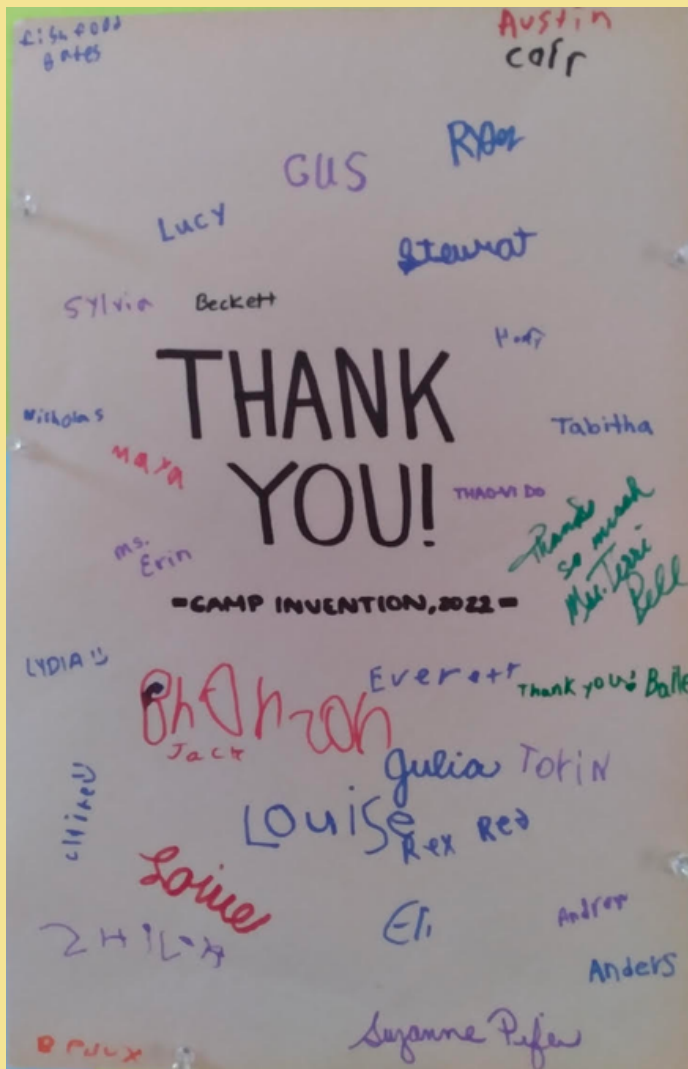
# BOOK GIVE-AWAY



As you may know, the library has been renovated. Many books were thinned from the shelves and we would like church folks to have an opportunity to take some of the removed books if you want. The books available for selection will be in Fellowship Hall on tables against the walls from July 2nd at noon until 4 pm on July 10th.

Books left after this time will be given to Love Packages, if appropriate for their purposes. This organization distributes Bibles and other select Christian literature and books around the world to folks who would not have access otherwise. Books that don't fit with their mission will be donated to other organizations.

If you have questions, please contact Linda Guth Stangl at [linda-guth-stangl@live.com](mailto:linda-guth-stangl@live.com).



## THANK YOU FROM CAMP INVENTION

We received this thank you note from the children and teachers of Camp Invention which was held in our building the week of June 13th.

# HELP FOR UKRAINE

**June 26th through July 10th**  
**8:00 am – 8:00 pm daily**

On behalf of Midwest Mission Distribution Center, Webster United Methodist is collecting NEW items for donation to Ukraine. Look for the blue container with the Ukrainian flag any day between 8 am and 8 pm in our church parking lot to drop off your donation of NEW men's socks, adult underwear (M/F, any size), and rain ponchos.

Thank you,  
**Cindy Andrews**



## JOIN RANDY & LOUISE THOMAS TO CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY!



**FRIDAY, JULY 1ST @ 5 - 8 PM**

Join us where it all began 50 years ago, Fellowship Hall of Webster United Methodist Church, to celebrate Randy and Louise's 50th wedding anniversary. The open house will include appetizers, music, and a chance to socialize with everyone from over the years.

Bring your smiles and memories to share. In lieu of gifts and cards, Randy and Louise are collecting non-perishable donations for the LifeWise Food Pantry.

Click [HERE](#) to RSVP.

# Announcements from the Community

## MARCH IN THE WEBSTER GROVES JULY 4TH COMMUNITY DAYS PARADE!

WITH THE ALLIANCE FOR INTERRACIAL DIGNITY



Churches Together for Justice, the STL Area Voter Protection Coalition, and other like-minded organizations are putting together a parade float and group of walkers to highlight the importance of voting. The main banner will say "Justice is Always on the Ballot." We are looking for volunteers to carry the Alliance for Interracial Dignity banner and hand out candy and voting information.

For more information email [hello@allianceforinteracialdignity.org](mailto:hello@allianceforinteracialdignity.org)



## EPWORTH GOLF TOURNAMENT



Support a great cause and have fun on a beautiful golf course!

Sign up for a team of four [HERE!](#)

Check-in begins at 8:30 am and the tournament starts at 10 am.

# BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

## Suggested Donations for WRHM and LifeWise StL

Backpack	Facial tissues	Pencil case/pouch
Tennis shoes	Folder – w/ & w/o prongs	Pens – blue, black, red
3-ring binder	Glue stick	#2 pencils
Colored pencils	Glue	Ruler
Composition notebook	Graph paper	Protractor
Compass	Hand sanitizer	Scissors – blunt, pointed
Disinfectant wipes	Highlighter	Scientific calculator
Crayons	Journal	Wet wipes
Erasable pen	Markers	
Eraser	Notebook	

## For Epworth

Backpacks



We are collecting supplies together for all three of the main agencies we support until July 22nd!

\*\*More information to come for where to place your donations\*\*



## OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Dan Pike and family; Brianna Burke; Lynne Wehrman; the family and friends of Linda Redmore; Kathy Capawana; Margaret Christensen; Gayle Fields; Cindy Andrews; For Success of the Bridge Builder Exchange Trip; Diana Nordlund, the family of Ann Rittenbaum, the family of Nancy and Marshall Hier on the loss of their son, John (Debbie Lund); Kathy Augustin (Marcia Kennon); Carol Wright (Bev Mesey); safe travels for those on summer vacations; for those impacted by Supreme Court decisions; and for the people of Ukraine.

## CONDOLENCES

Sympathy to the friends and family of Greg Pike who died on June 23, 2022. The family is planning a Celebration of Life for July 23 at 10 am at Webster United Methodist.

## THANKSGIVINGS

"Thanks and praise for our country finally passing meaningful gun control" (Cindy Andrews).



## 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!