

# Weekly Newsletter



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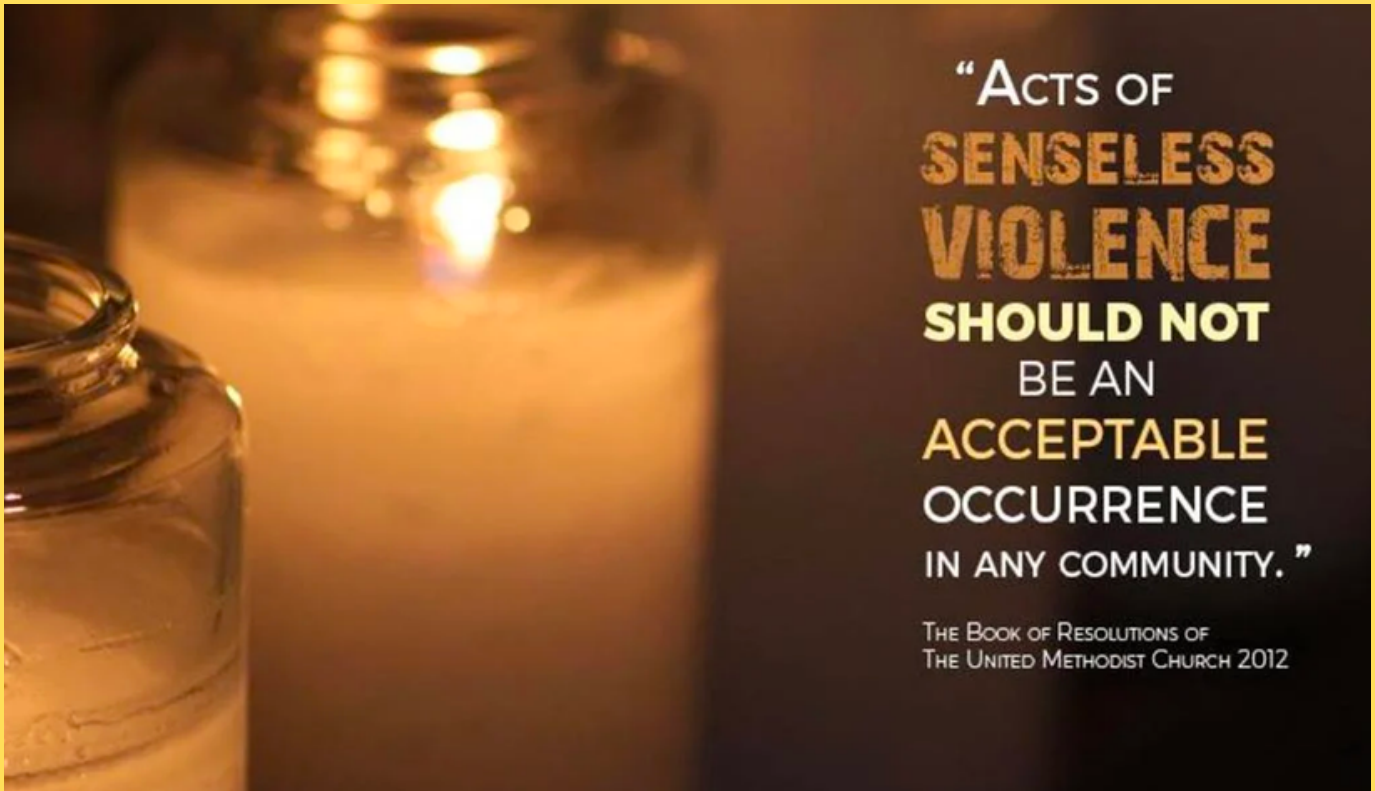
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# THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO MONDAY'S TRAGEDY



*Photo by Kathleen Barry, illustration by Cindy Caldwell; United Methodist Communications*

It is with great horror and deep sorrow that we learned of yet another school shooting on Monday, this time in our St. Louis community. At times like this, when we have faced it so many times before, we might wonder what on earth we can do. Bishop Bob Farr has sent out a message and additional resources to help us grapple with our seeming helplessness. We can be part of effecting change! But it will require us to be persistent and courageous.

Click [here](#) for Missouri Bishop Bob Farr's Statement on the tragedy.

Click [here](#) for The United Methodist guide on how to take a stand against gun violence.

**Pastor Sharon**

# *A Message from Our Pastor*

## WHY TRUNK-OR-TREAT?

Webster United Methodist has a long tradition of fun at Halloween. For years, we have hosted parties, costume contests, trick-or-treating for UNICEF, and more recently, Trunk-or-Treat on the parking lot.

Some folks would wonder why on earth we would use our volunteer energy and budget dollars to celebrate ghosties and goblins. What value is there in giving away candy and hearing silly jokes offered up by little fairies and miniature supermen? The Gospel message is not preached. No one is converted. Why do we do this?

The celebration of All Hallows' Eve (Halloween) has been around a long time, first as a pagan celebration, and later as part of the observance in the liturgical church year to remember the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the departed. Celebrated in Ireland and Scotland for centuries, Irish and Scottish immigrants brought many Halloween customs to North America in the 19th century, where it evolved into a secular celebration involving trick-or-treating door-to-door, community gatherings, and scary stories.

Our community loves Halloween! Joel and I have lived in Webster Groves for over 30 years. Halloween evenings, we often see as many as 140 children dressed in their imaginary finest between dusk and 8 pm. By hosting a community event for Halloween, our church welcomes families for a safe experience that is rewarded with treats, hot dogs, and laughter. While it is a totally secular event, it is an introduction to who we are, a welcoming, loving, and generous people.

One day, the bottom is likely to fall out of every person's life. Someone will fall out of love and leave. Someone will die. Someone will lose their job or hear a diagnosis that scares them more than anything they've ever heard before. When that happens, and it is likely to happen to every person at some season in their life, people often reach out to a power greater than themselves. While they may not know how to get started in a relationship with God, they will remember the neighborhood church that offered a place where they felt happy and safe.

People often enter our church for the first time when they are feeling like they are free-falling. And we are here for them. Amazingly, this little secular celebration has the potential to ignite an opportunity for a life-changing, soul-redeeming relationship with Jesus Christ. It's a journey, and I've seen it happen.

Come participate with us in creating this neighborhood party! We need lots of "trunks", meaning people who sit by their cars, maybe with a lantern, and hand out candy and engage with the excited families. Won't you come out to play?

Contact Shae Parsons at [directorchildren@websterum.org](mailto:directorchildren@websterum.org) to offer your trunk for the party. Our youth will also be hosting a Haunted Forest adventure.



**Have a Boo-tiful Halloween!**

*Pastor Sharon*



## HOST A TRUNK FOR TRUNK-OR-TREAT!



The event itself will run from 5:30 to 7:30 pm on Sunday, October 30th but trunks will be set up between 4:45 and 5:15 pm.

Sign up to host a trunk [here!](#)

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## LIVING STONES

This program is for children, 4-years-old to 6th grade, and is held during worship (10:30-11:30 am). Each Sunday in worship, the children will be called forward for a blessing and then will go to the Discovery Room to learn about God. There will be games, stories, snacks, and prayer. We look forward to seeing you!

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



# YOUTH MINISTRY

**October 30th - Trunk-or-Treat @ 5:30-7:30 pm!** Come lend your spooky self to the haunted area!! We need lots of youth AND parents!!!

Joel will be in charge as I will be out of town.



**November 6th - Zombie Tag!!!** A fan favorite returns! Bring a friend for a night of zooming around and chasing each other. We'll have a quick pizza dinner to get maximum Zombie time.

**November 13th - Top Golf Outing!** We'll head out West to Top Golf in Chesterfield to swing some golf clubs and make good memories together. RSVP to Pastor Paige by Tuesday, November 8th!

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



## "YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE" YARD SIGNS NOW AVAILABLE

The Kirkwood-Webster Groves branch of the American Association of University Women and the League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis are once again selling yard signs to encourage people to vote on Nov. 8th for \$5 each.



We will arrange for the purchase and delivery of signs. Contact Carolyn [here](#) for more information and to submit your order.

**Carolyn Redmore (WUM Justice Team)**



## LAST CHANCE FOR LORD'S ACRE TICKETS

SATURDAY, NOV. 5TH

This is your last chance to buy tickets for Lord's Acre! If you haven't purchased tickets yet, you will be able to buy them this coming Sunday, 10/30, from 10:00 - 10:30 am. We will have a table set up in Fellowship Hall. You won't be able to miss us. Adult tickets are \$15 and youth tickets (from ages 4-12) are \$5.



Tickets are available for purchase online by clicking [here](#). After submitting your online order, click [here](#) to pay for your tickets by clicking "Give Now" and selecting "Lord's Acre Tickets 2022" for your donation. When you submit your order, you will receive a confirmation email, which will serve as your ticket(s). You may also purchase tickets by check (make it out to Webster United Methodist with "Lord's Acre" in the memo line).

The agencies (such as LifeWise StL, Webster Rock Hill Ministries, and Epworth) that receive support from Lord's Acre count on our contribution. Help us ensure they continue to receive the bounty from Lord's Acre.

Contact Helen [here](#) and Joel [here](#) for more information.

# UMCOR FLOOD KIT ASSEMBLY WAS A SUCCESS!

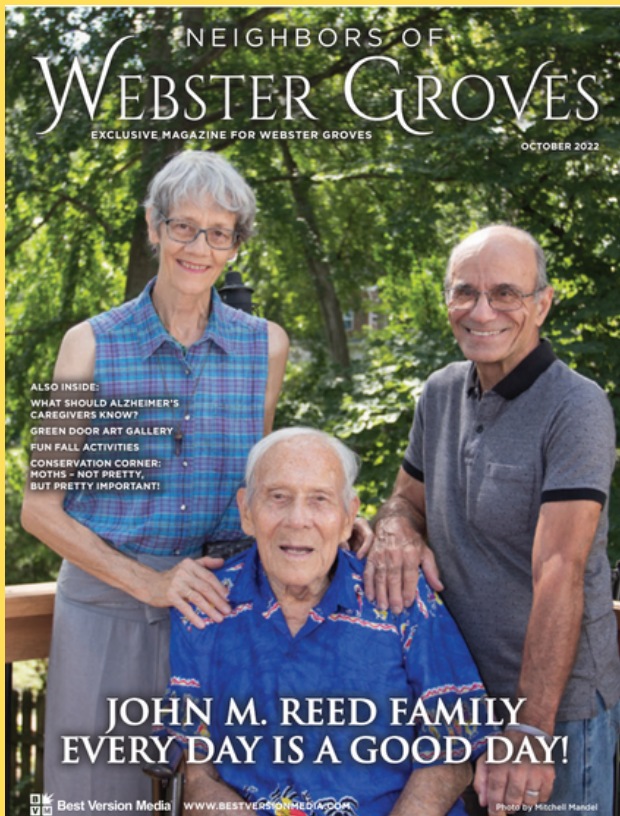
We had eight great volunteers who helped assemble the flood kits for UMCOR on Saturday morning, October 15th, as a part of our Service Saturday for WUM's 125+ Anniversary Celebration. We went through all the donated supplies and completed five buckets that day, but thanks to around \$700 in monetary donations and some very diligent shoppers, we were able to purchase enough to fill ten more buckets and assemble them on October 23rd, meeting our goal of contributing 15 total. They will be delivered soon to Midwest Mission Distribution Center, where they will be shipped to where they are needed most.

Thank you to everyone who helped with this project!

**Jan McCurley (Member of the Missions Team)**



## WUM MEMBER, JOHN REED, FEATURED IN LOCAL PUBLICATION



"Local resident John M. Reed leads a remarkable life and will turn 95 on October 28. Read on to learn all about how the ever-present train whistles John heard growing up in rural Colorado sparked his dreams of traveling the world, and how even today, he continues on his path of taking steps forward - big or small - to make the most of each day..."

Click [here](#) to read the whole article excerpt from the *Neighbors of Webster Groves*.

Credit: John M. Reed as told to Miranda Fleschert and photos by Mitchell Mandel

# COMMITMENT SUNDAY - NOV. 6TH

**We will participate in a Celebration Worship by bringing our commitments to the altar.** An all-church meal to celebrate God's extraordinary generosity will follow the service.

Please prayerfully consider your giving and bring your Commitment Cards on November 6th.

*Commitment Cards can also be mailed to the church or are available to be completed ONLINE on our website by clicking [here](#).*

We are also asking for volunteers to make cookies for the Gratitude and Generosity Giving Program's celebration lunch. Please bring the cookies to Fellowship Hall on the morning of Sunday, November 6th.

Thank you,

**Gordon Ballam and Natalie Kuelker (Co-chairs of this year's Giving Program)**



## *Announcements from the Community*

### **LIFEWISE S+L TRIVIA NIGHT**

If you haven't heard...this year's Trivia Night is all about TV! Join LifeWise Saturday, November 5th, at SLU Center for Global Citizenship and test your knowledge of television shows from all generations!

Here's what to expect:

- 8 Rounds of super fun TV trivia
- Games
- Raffle
- Silent Auction
- Complimentary beer, wine, and soda (feel free to bring your own food)
- And more!



Click [here](#) to view the full sponsorship and donation packet.



## OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Gayle Fields; Margo Petracek; Margaret Christensen; Becca Stevens; Callie Pacatte; Jo Ann Claywell; Deane Looney; Kathy Linss (Beth Gewinner); Louise Sanders's son-in-law, Eddie Harrison; Patricia Murphy; Marcia Kennon's friend, Susan Smith; Becky, Jan Hanson's friend; for mid-term elections; for world peace; for needed rain; for world leaders, for the people of Ukraine; and for those affected by recent hurricanes (including Hurricane Ian).

## CONDOLENCES

Join us in holding the Vreeland family (Sharon and Mike, Alex, and Sarah) in prayer as they experience the loss of Sharon's sister, Diane Blanke. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, October 29, 2022, at 2:00 pm at Kutis in Affton. People can pay their condolences from noon - 2 pm.



## NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

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