

DECEMBER 1, 2022

webster  
UNITED METHODIST

## Weekly Newsletter



'Tis the Season  
to Invite!

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## *A Message from Our Pastor*

*“What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds  
watch are keeping?”*

*(UMH 219).*

*Friends,*

Church statistics tell us that people who do not attend church are more likely to visit a church for the first time on Christmas Eve, followed closely by Easter morning. Perhaps it is because they have memories involving a connection to God through a church when they were young. Maybe it is because their soul hungers for a sacred expression of a holy celebration that otherwise markets Santa and the Easter Bunny. Or maybe it is because the increased stress and anxiety that often accompany the holidays can make old wounds ache a little more, or new wounds come completely undone. A search for relief brings people to the doors of church in hopes of a healing God-encounter.

Whatever the reason, it is clear that our friends, neighbors, and relatives, who otherwise might turn you down when asked other times of the year, might surprise you by accepting your invitation to church during the Christmas season. This year, we offer a number of Christmas events leading up to the end of the year. Perhaps one of them is just the right worship event to invite someone you know to attend with you.

## 2022 Advent/Christmas Events

<b>SATURDAY, DEC. 3RD</b>	10:45 AM 11:30 AM	UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CRAFT SALE & LUNCHEON "Divine Subjects: Images of Angels in Paintings" presented by Betsy Solomon, Dir. of The Shepherd's Center
<b>SUNDAY, DEC. 4TH</b>	10:30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP - "THE ADVENT JOURNEY" Come share Communion and prepare your heart
<b>MONDAY, DEC. 5TH</b>	5:00 PM	ADVENT BIBLE STUDY - "THE LIFE OF JESUS" In-person or through Zoom on Mondays until Christmas.
<b>SATURDAY, DEC. 10TH</b>	11:00 AM	MELODY IN OUR HEARTS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL Our Mountain Service Band will join our friends at The Faith Christian Church of India in Ballwin for worship followed by an authentic Indian meal. All are invited!
<b>SUNDAY, DEC. 11TH</b>	10:30 AM	MARCH TO THE MANGER Worship service celebration with a Live Nativity
<b>WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14TH</b>	5:30 PM	WILD WEDNESDAY! - BUILD-A-GIFT Children 4 years old - 6th grade create gifts for others
<b>SUNDAY, DEC. 18TH</b>	10:30 AM	TRADITIONAL CELEBRATION WITH MUSIC A Musical Celebration with Scripture & Narration led by our Chancel Choir
<b>THURSDAY, DEC. 22ND</b>	7:30 PM	"CHRISTMAS ON THE MOUNTAIN" SERVICE Traveling at Christmas? Come early for Christmas Worship!
<b>SATURDAY, DEC. 24TH</b>	4:00 PM 7:30 PM	FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE Specially created for the children - "Journey to Jesus" TRADITIONAL CANDLE-LIT CHRISTMAS WORSHIP Message and Communion with Scriptures and Carols led by our Chancel Choir
<b>SUNDAY, DEC. 25TH</b>	10:30 AM	CAFE CHRISTMAS Relaxed Worship with coffee and treats in Fellowship Hall Stay for Farewell Reception for Pastor Paige!
<b>SUNDAY, JAN. 1ST</b>	10:30 AM	LET'S RING IN THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER!

Friends, sharing a connection to Christ is the most beautiful "gift" you can offer another. It has the potential to be totally life-transforming in a way that no other gift does. Take a moment just now to think about who you might invite this Christmas season to accompany you or meet you at one of our worship services. Then take a deep breath, pick up the phone, and call/text/tweet them. If you do not, it is quite possible that no one will.



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

*"This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary."*



# 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!

DECEMBER WILD WEDNESDAY! - DEC. 14TH @ 5:30 - 7 PM



Join us for our most exciting Wild Wednesday of the year! We will have dinner, talk about the importance of Christmas, and have our annual Build-A-Gift! Please email Shae if you would like to serve as an adult volunteer and/or if your child(ren) would like to participate.

Email [directorchildrenwebsterum.org](mailto:directorchildrenwebsterum.org)  
to connect with Shae.



## YOUTH MINISTRY

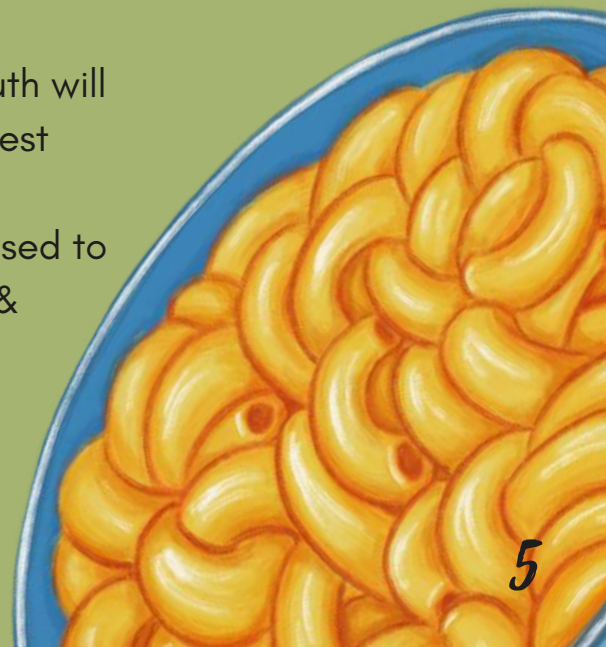
**December 4th - Baking Cookies & a Devotional!** Join us as we discuss the life of Jesus and get to know Him. We will be making delicious cookies that we will deliver to a service agency in the area afterward.

### **Macaroni & Cheese Cook-Off!**

Do you like noodles? Do you like cheese? Do you like cheese AND noodles?! Well, the youth have a deal for you!

On December 18th immediately following church, the youth will host a Macaroni & Cheese Cook-Off. This best-of-the-best competition will feature your famous recipes and new concoctions. Tickets will be available for purchase and used to vote for your favorite dish. For those who don't like Mac & Cheese, hot dogs will be available.

We hope to receive your support and try your dishes!!! If you wish to enter the competition please email [directoryouth@websterum.org](mailto:directoryouth@websterum.org).





## MARKING TIME WITH OUR ADVENT WREATH

### *The First Sunday of Advent - The Candle of Blessing*

Dating back to German Christians in the 1600s, the Advent Wreath is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks leading up to the birth of Christ in the church calendar. It is formed with a wreath of evergreen boughs and features four candles at the perimeter and a white candle (lit on Christmas Eve) in the center. Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, the Sunday immediately following Thanksgiving, the lighting of a candle is usually accompanied by a devotion and prayer.

This year, The Pallia Family (Mike, Veronica, Jillian, and Bob) joined us to celebrate the kick-off of the Advent season!



## IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS!



Once again, you may purchase poinsettias to be displayed in the sanctuary during Christmas week. You may also choose to purchase a poinsettia in honor of or in memory of someone special.

Stayed tuned for more information in next week's newsletter.

# UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CRAFT SALE & CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, DEC. 3RD @ 10:45 AM  
AND SUNDAY MORNINGS, DEC. 4TH & 11TH



**Ornaments**



**Greeting Cards & Ornaments**  
featuring the Sanctuary Rose Window



**Angel Door Hangings**



**Cloth Gift Bags**



**Knitted Caps**



**Pillows**



**Potholders**

More items including doll clothes, teddy bears, Christmas decorations, Christmas stockings, greeting cards, candy, & treats.

**Proceeds support UWF mission projects!**

Questions??? Contact Sharon Wersching.



# UWF CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

Craft Circle Sale opens at 10:45 am

Lunch will be served at 11:30 am

Following lunch, The Shepherd's Center Executive Director

Betsy Solomon will present

*Divine Subjects: Images of Angels in Paintings*

Cost: \$10

Call Joan Ballam to sign up.



## NEW ADVENT STUDY WITH PASTOR JOSH & PASTOR PAIGE

Christ's example is shown in every aspect of his life, death, resurrection, and birth. In this year's Advent study, titled "The Life of Jesus", we will study the life and actions of Jesus leading up to our remembrance of his birth. We will spend time reflecting on what started in a manger and our great celebration on Christmas. We look forward to joining you all in this study. This hybrid class will meet on Mondays at 5:00 p.m. from December 5th through December 19th.



**Joshua Krakos & Paige Foster**



# Announcements from the Community

## HOLIDAY SERVICE/DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

### WRHM'S CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

All donations for this program are due by Friday, December 2nd. You may choose to hand deliver the suggested gift cards/checks for \$50 per person (including a holiday meal and Christmas gift) to WRHM's office at 111 East Waymire Avenue, Webster Groves.

Online donations are also possible on the homepage of WRHM's website, [www.wrhm.org/holiday-programs](http://www.wrhm.org/holiday-programs). Contact [Mary Taylor](#) with any questions.

### LIFEWISE S+L'S HOLIDAY MARKET (DEC. 2-9)

Click [here](#) to sign up for a Holiday Market volunteer shift.

Click [here](#) to view their Amazon Wishlist and click [here](#) to donate directly to LifeWise.

Contact [Jan McCurley](#) with any questions.



Annual gift drive for youth and families

Visit [www.epworth.org/wishes](http://www.epworth.org/wishes) to reserve items that you plan on purchasing for youth and families. Gifts must be delivered or shipped by December 12th!

Contact [Linda Guth Stangl](#) and/or [Ellen Hendrickson](#) with any questions.

## OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Janet Iggulden; Mark Kremer; Eric Grumke's new job; Reesor/Stuart Family; Robyn Wedekind Rudd; Margaret Christensen; Becca Stevens; Mary Domer (Helen Fuller); Kathy Linss (Beth Gewinner); Matt Greiner (Marcia Kennon); and People of Ukraine.

## CONDOLENCES

Sympathy to friends and family of former member **Dave Ward** who died unexpectedly last week.

Sympathy to Janet & Ray Iggulden and family on the passing of her brother, **Lyle Browning**, in Ionia, Missouri, on November 26, 2022.



## NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

For next week, all articles and submissions must be sent to [secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org) by Saturday @ 9 am.

## 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!