


webster  
UNITED METHODIST

## Weekly Newsletter



*"I do not cease to give thanks  
for you as I remember you in  
my prayers."*

**(Ephesians 1:16)**

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# *A Message from Our Pastor*

## "THANKS" - GIVING

*Dear Church,*

I share this letter with you every year. It's a letter about a letter. Many years ago, I began writing a letter during the Thanksgiving weekend to someone who had offered me a hand of friendship somewhere along the way and provided care, comfort, or inspiration. The connection may have been formed years before, and it may even have been brief. But it was meaningful, and I sometimes am reminded of them. On the premise that it is never too late to express gratitude, I began writing letters.

Over the years, I have written to my knee surgeon, my childhood Sunday school teacher, and a dear couple who taught me the wonder of living life as a mission. Then there was the woman who took me on my first mission experience in Haiti, and the seminary friend who met with me every Monday morning to pray in the basement of the Press building over the clanging of the ancient boiler.

Not one of these people is still active in my life. They are all part of my past. But their goodness and their gift lifted me just as I needed it.

During the Thanksgiving season, we are prompted to think more about our blessings and make a special point of saying thank you to God. I encourage you to also thank someone who, prompted by God's Spirit, showed up to care for you in some special way.

Whom does your heart yearn to reach out to with a letter or phone call of thanks? Don't hesitate any longer. It will be a great blessing for them to receive, but also a great blessing for you to give.



**Grace and peace be with you in this season of "thanks" - giving.**

*Pastor Sharon*

# 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!

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



# YOUTH MINISTRY

**November 27th - NO YOUTH!** Enjoy the Thanksgiving weekend with your families.

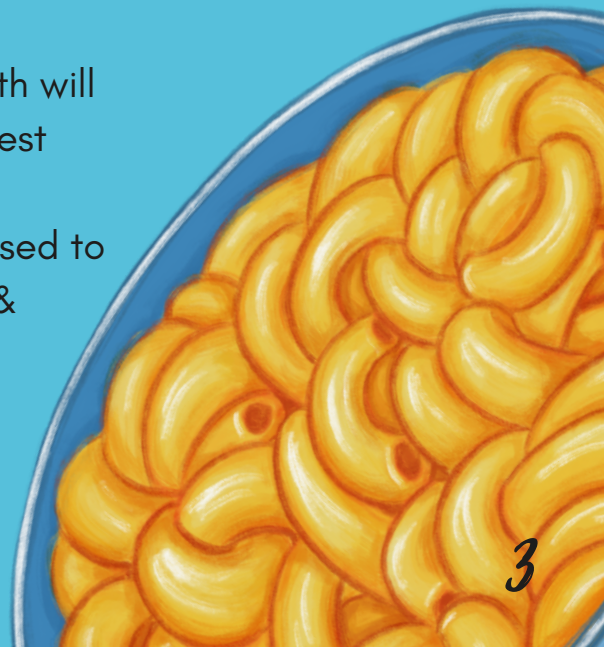
If you're traveling, be safe!!

## **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).





## THANK YOU NOTE FROM PASTOR PAIGE

Church family,

As we come upon Thanksgiving it seems to be an appropriate moment to write a thank you note to you all. Just a few weeks ago I gave notice that I will be returning to the Kansas City area to serve as a full-time youth director.

So, it is for you, church, that I am thankful. I am thankful for your hospitality when you welcomed me as a new college graduate and someone figuring out their gifts. I am thankful for your patience as I journeyed through being a young adult. I am thankful for your support as we navigated and continue to maneuver through a pandemic. I am more than thankful for the love you have shown to Justin and Nora. As a family, we couldn't be more grateful for the gifts, the food, and the prayers you have sent us.

Most of all, I am thankful for the memories. Grateful to reminisce about mission trips and cookie sales, to remember the nights of Zombie Tag and pizza dinners, sharing laughter and sorrow. This church family has meant so much to me. My time in St. Louis has been so special in many ways. Each and every one of you has been a part of my journey.

**From the bottom of my heart &  
with the greatest love,**

*Paige Foster*



## MISSING EARRING FOUND IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

One beautiful filigree earring was found in Fellowship Hall on November 10th. Probably lost during Lord's Acre on November 5th or at the Commitment Luncheon on November 6th. Please call the church office at (314) 961-4133 to claim the missing earring.

## NEW ADVENT STUDY WITH PASTOR JOSH



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. I look forward to joining you all in this study. This hybrid class will meet on Mondays at 5:00 p.m. from November 28th through December 19th.

**Joshua Krakos**



## LITTLE LENDING LIBRARY NEEDS BOOKS

WUM hosts a little lending library at the corner of our parking lot at North Bompert Avenue and Greeley Avenue. Over the summer, I slowly emptied my box of children's books, placing the colorful titles on the lower shelves for little hands to grab. It has been fun to see the literature for children disappear so quickly! The idea of a lending library is that books are returned but I notice that happens mostly with adult literature. Children like to keep their books and read them again and again.



Well, friends, I have run out of children's books and would like to invite the church to help keep good and fanciful reading available for our neighborhood children. If you are ready to part with some of your children's books, drop them in the church office or place them directly into the Little Lending Library. Middle school chapter books are also desirable.

Thank you,  
**Pastor Sharon**



# Holiday Wishes

Annual gift drive for youth and families

How it works:

1. Go to [\*\*Epworth.org/wishes\*\*](https://www.epworth.org/wishes)
2. Check out the lists from youth and families in each of our programs
3. Click "**View This List**" for the individual or family you'd like to buy gifts for
4. Click "**Reserve**" next to the item you plan on purchasing and fill in your contact info when prompted
5. Bring your gifts (or have them shipped!) to Epworth at 110 N. Elm Avenue, Webster Groves, MO 63119 by **December 12**
6. Volunteers will wrap the gifts and case managers will distribute to clients in time for the holidays!

**Questions?** Email [\*\*development@epworth.org\*\*](mailto:development@epworth.org) or call 314-918-3396.

# WRHM'S CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

For many years, individuals and groups within our church have participated in the Adopt-A-Family programs at Webster-Rock Hill Ministries (WRHM).

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

Mailing either gift cards or checks can be risky, so hand delivery to WRHM's office (111 East Waymire Ave., Webster Groves) is recommended. The office is open daily from 9 am until noon. There is usually ample parking on the street or in WRHM's lot. Suggested guidelines for giving include \$25 per person for a holiday meal plus \$25 per person for each individual Christmas gift.

All donations for this program are due by Friday, December 2nd.  
Please call Mary Taylor, our church's representative to WRHM, if you have questions or need assistance in participating.



## 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

Sign up on the Connection Card during  
Sunday worship or call Joan Ballam.



# Announcements from the Community

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LIFEWISE StL'S HOLIDAY MARKET

Spread a little cheer during LifeWise StL's Holiday Market December 2-9, 2022.

Volunteer opportunities associated with this affordable holiday market include set-up (which includes transforming a gym into a retail space, complete with tables and clothing racks); filling the store with gifts (clothes, toys, books, bikes, etc.); and also serving as personal shoppers, cashiers, and someone to help participants out to their vehicles with their purchases.

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

For Those Who Prefer In-Person Donations...

Click [here](#) to view a list of suggested gifts to be brought to Webster United Methodist by Wednesday, November 30th (delivery to LifeWise will be handled).

For Those Who Prefer Online Shopping...

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





## OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Robyn Wedekind Rudd; Mark Kremer;  
Margaret Christensen; Becca Stevens;  
Pat Greiner (Marcia Kennon); Kathy Linss  
(Beth Gewinner); People of Ukraine; Our  
city, our state, our country, our world; and  
People affected by recent hurricanes.



### 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!