

Weekly Newsletter



CELEBRATING PASTOR PAIGE!

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A Message from Our Pastor

CELEBRATING PASTOR PAIGE

This Christmas Day will be an unusual confluence of “specialness”. Firstly, Christmas 2022 will fall on Sunday morning, so we will definitely have worship on Jesus’ birthday! But it will also be the last sermon we will hear from Pastor Paige Foster before she and her family move to Kansas City. Therefore, we will host a celebration reception of her ministries among her St. Louis church family immediately following Christmas Day worship.

Pastor Paige has been with us for over four years, beginning in the fall of 2018 as our Director of Youth Ministries. She had a mountaintop spiritual experience and felt God guiding her to seminary. Her St. Louis brother had also just suffered a stroke so she stayed with his family to help with their children while attending Eden Theological Seminary. She also worked at WUM for her required contextual education, and this seemed like a perfect but challenging combo.

During her time with us, she has introduced our youth to the spiritual experiences of “Stations”, has taken them on mission trips to Cleveland and Louisville, and frequently included them in the kitchen to learn how to cook a variety of Sunday evening meals. Under her tutelage, the youth have stuffed and hidden about 5,000 Easter eggs, gotten their “spook on” when hosting the Halloween spooky forest, served our church and neighbors, and enjoyed lots of crazy outings.

When her seminary program required that she widen her church experience to include other ministry opportunities, Paige spread her wings as an Assistant Pastor, preaching, teaching, and leading worship. Her poetic prayers have soothed our souls, and she has happily added her drumming and strumming talents on occasion to a worship service.

During the pandemic, I could count on Pastor Paige to show up and help lead worship to an empty church with enthusiasm and professionalism. She was thoughtful and creative to find ways for our youth to continue to meet and serve Jesus.

Then came a young man named Justin and later a little baby girl named Nora. Our church family has come to love them all dearly. So, it is with bittersweet pride and affection that we prepare to say goodbye. Pastor Paige will be taking a full-time position in youth ministry at her home church in Kansas City after the first of the year.

Christmas Day will be Pastor Paige's last day with us when she will preach at Café Christmas in Fellowship Hall. There will be a celebration reception for her after the service. I hope you will come and bring your card of good wishes and blessings for her basket. If you are unable to attend, please drop your card off in the basket at the church office or mail it to the church in advance.

It seems that loving often involves saying goodbye. We will be sending Pastor Paige and her family from our church family with love and blessings. I hope you will be able to participate in her farewell send-off.



Grace and peace+
Pastor Sharon



MARCH TO THE MANGER WAS A SUCCESS!

Thank you to everyone who participated and engaged in March to the Manger! It was a great time!

Pastor Joshua



2022 Advent/Christmas Events

SUNDAY, DEC. 18TH	10:30 AM	TRADITIONAL CELEBRATION WITH MUSIC A Musical Celebration with Scripture & Narration led by our Chancel Choir
THURSDAY, DEC. 22ND	7:30 PM	"CHRISTMAS ON THE MOUNTAIN" SERVICE Traveling at Christmas? Come early for Christmas Worship!
SATURDAY, DEC. 24TH	4:00 PM	FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE Specially created for the children - "Journey to Jesus"
	7:30 PM	TRADITIONAL CANDLE-LIT CHRISTMAS WORSHIP Message and Communion with Scriptures and Carols led by our Chancel Choir
SUNDAY, DEC. 25TH	10:30 AM	CAFE CHRISTMAS Relaxed Worship with coffee and treats in Fellowship Hall Stay for Farewell Reception for Pastor Paige!
SUNDAY, JAN. 1ST	10:30 AM	LET'S RING IN THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER!
MONDAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS	5:00 PM	ADVENT BIBLE STUDY - "THE LIFE OF JESUS" Join Pastor Josh and Pastor Paige on Mondays!

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
to connect with Shae.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Macaroni & Cheese Cook-Off!

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.



The Third Sunday of Advent - The Candle of Hope



The Andrews/Christensen Family

Margaret, Caroline, and Cindy



TREATS FOR AVERY

For a number of years now, it has been our tradition to treat the teachers and staff of Avery Elementary with breakfast goodies on their first day back from winter break. I wish you could see the delight on their faces when they enter the kitchenette and find all of our goodies laid out just for them! It's priceless. This year, that day falls on Tuesday, January 3rd. We will be looking for:



- Bagels/cream cheese
- Fresh Fruit
- Juices
- Yogurt
- Homemade Muffins
- Cinnamon Rolls
- One or two folks to help me schlepp the food to school and get it set up

I hope you will join me in making this gift a reality. Sign up on the blue Connection Card for the next two Sundays in worship and leave your food donation in the church kitchen by January 2nd, 2023.

Pastor Sharon

SHOP WITH SCRIP PROGRAM (RENAMED RAISE RIGHT)

This year will mark the end of the Shop With Scrip fundraising program. In order to close up shop, there are a few gift cards in stock that need to be sold. Perfect timing for stocking stuffers, or no-work dinners! There are not many, so if you are interested in obtaining these, please contact me ASAP by text at (314)698-6398 or by email at pmathome@yahoo.com. They will be sold first come, first serve.

Below are the cards and values:



Chili's/Maggiano's/ On the Border	1 - \$25.00 card
DSW	1 - \$25.00 card
Jiffy Lube	1 - \$30.00 card
P.F. Chang's	1 - \$25.00 card
TGI Friday's	1 - \$25.00 card



NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

All articles and submissions must be sent to 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 to schedule all usage!

Announcements from the Community

A CALL TO EMBRACE DIVERSITY IN SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church is committed to speaking out on social issues. Below is an excerpt from the UMC response to current Supreme Court cases relating to affirmative action for college admissions. Click [here](#) for the full article.

"On October 31st, 2022, the United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments in two cases: *Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) v. University of North Carolina* and *SFFA v. Harvard College*.

In both cases, SFFA claims that the universities unfairly use race in their application processes, discriminating against white and Asian-American applicants. Furthermore, SFFA claims that using race at all on college applications violates the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

As Christians and United Methodists, we affirm diversity because it is what Scripture calls us to do. Since 1996, The United Methodist Church has stood for Affirmative Action stating unequivocally that it 'reflects a shared understanding that diversity is a positive outcome of social inclusion that yields benefits for the entire community.' (Book of Resolutions #3373: Affirmative Action)

An individual's experience can alter the lives and perspective of those they encounter, just like it did for the Syrophenician woman whose daughter Jesus ended up healing after having had encountered her. From the immigrant to the downtrodden, every encounter Jesus ever had with someone broadened his own perspective and moved him further into his calling as the Holy One.

Diversity is not something we should fear or dismiss as an attack on our values. Rather, we should embrace it because diverse is who we as the body of Christ have been called to be."

Submitted by the WUM Justice Team

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Margo Petracek; Shipp/Pallia Family; Family & friends of Barry Parsons; Family & friends of Carol Linhorst; Family & friends of Kathy Linss; Mary Kremer; Janet Iggulden; Margaret Christensen; Becca Stevens; Traci Stuart's Aunt Mary; Cindy Andrews's friend; Jan Hanson's friend, Kathy; Connie Kroenung's mother, Mary Gumerman; Johnathan Zigman (Connie Kroenung); Paulette Carr (Helen Fuller); holiday travelers; those grieving during the holidays; People of Ukraine; and peace and good will for all.

CONDOLENCES

Sympathy to **Veronica, Mike, Jillian, & Bob Pallia** on the passing of Veronica's mother, **Mary McAndrews Shipp**, who died in Massachusetts on December 6, 2022.

The Webster United Methodist family is invited to attend the celebration of **Dave Ward's life at Maplewood United Methodist Church**, 7409 Flora Ave at the corner of Sutton Blvd. on **December 22, 2022**. Visitation will begin at 11 am with the memorial service at noon, followed by a potluck lunch. Chicken, veggie lasagna, salad, and drinks will be provided. Guests are invited to bring side dishes or desserts. Please call Beth Anderson (314-781-9923) if you are able to provide spaghetti cooked in a crock pot (one of Dave's favorites).