

JANUARY 12, 2023

webster
UNITED METHODIST

Weekly Newsletter



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that..."

-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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A Message from Our Pastor

WELCOME NEIGHBOR STL DRIVE-THRU SUPPER & FOOD DRIVE FOR WEBSTER ROCK HILL MINISTRIES

Dear Church,

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an American Baptist minister and activist who became the most visible spokesman and leader in the American civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968. King advanced civil rights through nonviolence and civil disobedience, inspired by his Christian faith and the nonviolent activism of Mahatma Gandhi.

King participated in and led marches for Blacks' right to vote, desegregation, labor rights, and other basic civil rights. King led the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott and later became the first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. King helped organize some of the nonviolent 1963 protests in Birmingham, Alabama. He helped organize the 1963 March on Washington, where he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

Through his courage, his words, and even his death, King ignited a movement that is still necessary as our country continues to deny civil rights to all of its citizens. This weekend, our country will celebrate the life and justice work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In the past, members of our church have helped lead a community-wide celebration including a march from City Hall, a soup dinner with homemade cookies, and a program filled with music, essay awards, and a keynote speaker. However, the pandemic has forced a change in this practice and for the third year, we will carry out community service instead.

Instead, we are going to serve our community intentionally during the month of January, beginning with hosting the Welcome Neighbor STL dinner on Saturday, January 14th. WNSTL is a non-profit organization that employs immigrants to create meals from their native country using their mother's and grandmother's recipes. The meal creates opportunities to share their culture with their new neighbors while raising funds toward greater independence for their families and communities. Only 150 meals will be prepared, and you must pre-order online to be assured of your meal.

You can order now by clicking [HERE](#) and enjoy the delicious cuisine of Africa after picking up your meal between 5 and 6 pm in the drive-through in the parking lot.

Friends, food insecurity seems like an unlikely condition in what some perceive to be a fairly affluent community like Webster Groves. However, statistics tell us that it is prevalent, especially among families of color and our aging neighbors. For those whose families have called this town home for generations, it is becoming more and more difficult to live here, meet the rising taxes, and/or raise a family. In the spirit of MLK, can we help?

In collaboration with other Webster organizations, our Missions Team will be hosting a Neighborhood Food Drive of non-perishable foodstuffs later in January to restock the shelves at Webster Rock Hill Ministries. Look for a parking lot tent on weekends, or the big green collection unit on the lot next to the elevator entrance for easy drive-by drop-off. As you shop for your contribution, think of aging folks and some of their special needs and families with growing children. They are our neighbors. Stocking their pantry is a good way to tell them they are loved. It's a great way to drive out the darkness of poverty, depression, and hunger. As Christians, we celebrate that the Light of the World has come. Let's share some light.



Grace and peace+

Pastor Sharon

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



JANUARY 18TH - Click [HERE](#) to sign your child(ren) up and/or sign up as a Safe Gatherings certified adult volunteer.



YOUTH MINISTRY

It takes all of us in this church family to support our youth. Every adult who is Safe Gatherings certified is invited to help volunteer as a leader (or co-lead) for one of the dates ahead. If you are willing to serve as an adult volunteer to take over a certain date or assist with youth group, please email Pastor Sharon at pastorsharon@websterum.org. The tasks include planning the dinner, games, mission activities, and outings.

TENTATIVE YOUTH CALENDAR

January 15th - Breakfast for Dinner
& Music Devotional

January 22nd - Service Project

January 29th - TBD

February 5th - Skiing at Hidden Valley



African Drive-Thru Supper

THIS SATURDAY! @ 5 - 6 PM

WEBSTER UNITED METHODIST PARKING LOT - 600 N. BOMPART AVE.

PURCHASE YOUR TICKET(S) HERE!

\$35 per meal

**Note: Tickets will not be sold at the door & must be ordered ahead of time through the WNSTL website.*

WHAT IS WELCOME NEIGHBOR STL?

- A non-profit organization located on Arsenal Street
- Employs immigrants to create meals using recipes from their homeland in a host kitchen.
- Creates opportunities to share knowledge and skills
- Provides an opportunity for us to get a glimpse of their culture
- Raises funds to set cooks on a path of greater independence & confidence in their new lives in America

TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE DRIVE-THRU SUPPER...

- Our cooks will be from Burkina Faso & the Ivory Coast
- Meals from an African menu must be purchased online ahead of time
- Boxed meals are delivered to your car in the Webster United Methodist parking lot
- Money raised largely goes to the cooks, with some to WNSTL
- Leftover food goes back to the immigrant community
- A tip jar will be available to raise money for WUM's sister church in Mozambique

VOLUNTEER TO PLATE THE FOOD, CLEAN, & BE RUNNERS

BY CALLING THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (314)961-4133!

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES FOR SALE!!

The Girl Scouts will be selling cookies in Fellowship Hall this year on Sundays January 15 and 22, before and after church. Please visit their table if you would like to support them.



You can also purchase online if you prefer. You fill out the online order form, pay online, and choose to have the cookies dropped off at your house by the Girl Scouts or delivered by mail. It is very easy!

Two girls, Sarah and Vivienne Vader, are selling cookies this year. We split the congregation in half by last name, please place your order online as follows:

A-M last names purchase from Sarah at:

<https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/sarah290829>

N-Z last names purchase from Vivienne at:

<https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/vivienne855166>



VOLUNTEER AT BETHESDA DILWORTH THIS SUNDAY!

Every other month volunteers from WUM help Pastor Sharon provide a thirty-minute worship service for the residents of the skilled nursing facility Bethesda Dilworth (9645 Big Bend Road in Kirkwood). At 2:00 pm volunteers gather in the chapel on the second floor to receive assignments from Chaplain Michael Tooley, and then disperse to floors 1, 2, & 3 to escort those who use wheelchairs. The half-hour service begins at 2:30. At BD we have the reputation of singing a lot because we begin singing beforehand. By 3:30 pm we have finished returning residents to their rooms.

If you have questions, would like to volunteer this month, or wish to be added to the e-list of volunteers for future dates, please contact Beth Anderson, (314)781-9923 (home) or treblecross1980@gmail.com.

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Bev Mesey; Lettie Morse; Lydia, Camille, Lily, and Julian Nunes; Traci Stuart; Carol Wright; Gordon Shull and Family; Margaret Christensen; Mark Kremer; Cindy Andrews; Carol Carinci (Debbie Lund); Paulette Carr (Helen Fuller); and People of Ukraine.

CONDOLENCES

Sympathy to **the Morse and Nunes families** on the loss of their husband, father, and grandfather, **Rev. Gene Morse**. The celebration of his life will be on Thursday, January 12th at 10 am at Webster United Methodist. His family invites you to share in a luncheon after the service to be served in Fellowship Hall. A graveside service will follow at the Manchester United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Sympathy to **Carol Wright and her friend Bev Mesey** on the passing of **Carol's son, Jason**.

Sympathy to **Traci Stuart** on the loss of her long-time friend.



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!