



They will spring up like grass in the meadow...

Isaiah 44:4

March 2, 2023

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Rice Meal Packing Opportunity Coming in April

Contact Jan McCurley by Friday, March 3rd!

Be part of a massive 4-day event with the goal of feeding 1 Million children! **FEED THE NEED STL** has invited our church to join their **2023 Feed My Starving Children Event**, taking place **Thursday, April 13--Sunday, April 16**. It is a mobile food packing event to be held at the Queeny Park Greensfelder Rec Complex on Weidman Road.

Retired United Methodist Pastor Roger Jesperson—some of you may know him---is a Board member and long-time participant with the organization **Feed The Need STL** and helps to recruit teams and individuals to assist in this annual effort. He contacted me recently to invite our church to participate. In order to organize for a group of us, I selected Sat., Apr 15th when there are 3 shift times throughout the day: 9:30-11:45 am, 1:30-3:45pm, & 6:00- 8:00 pm. Registration will begin on Monday, Mar.6, 8 am, and I will register all who sign up for that day, whatever shift you choose. Please contact Jan McCurley, 314-378-5504 (cell) or 314-781-3969 (home) by Friday March 3rd if you are interested in being a part of this amazing effort. My husband & I plan to sign up for the 1:30-3:45 shift that day. *Check out the organization's website for more information*

<https://feedtheneedstl.org/>



Brown Bag Food Drive for LifeWise StL

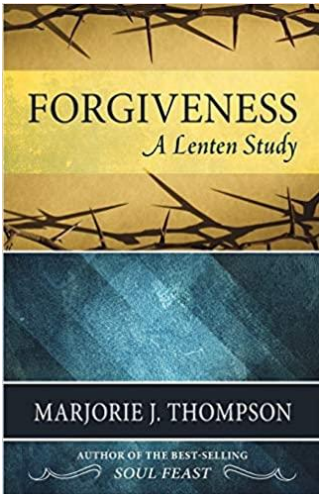


March is Webster United Methodist's month to collect food for the City Market at LifeWise StL <https://www.lifewisestl.org/>. Please pick up a brown bag in the Sanctuary Lobby or Elevator Entrance any Sunday in March and return it with food items (from the list) the following Sunday. The Missions

Team has set a goal of 400 food items for this year's Brown Bag Food Drive. *Let's work to exceed our goal!*

All Church Lenten Study Sunday Mornings

9:00 AM Fellowship Hall



Learning to ask and grant forgiveness is necessary for our lives because of an inescapable fact of human nature: we are bound to hurt each other, sometimes on purpose & sometimes unintentionally. Youth are invited to participate at their own table and the Discovery Room will be available as an option for children. **Study began Feb. 26th & continues through April 2nd.**

Contact Pastor Sharon, pastorsharon@websterum.org for more information.

Good and Evil: Small Group Discussion with Pastor Josh

Join Pastor Josh and others in a small group discussing good and evil. We will discuss the theology of free will, good and evil, and the presence of God among all of these. **This five-week course began Wednesday, March 1st, 5:30—6:30 PM** and meets in Fellowship Hall. Sign up on the Connection Card on Sunday morning or contact Josh, assistantpastor@websterum.org

Living Stones Children's Ministry



Living Stones program is for **children aged 4 years old to 6th grade** and is held during worship (10:30a-11:30a). Each Sunday during worship, the children will be called forward for a blessing and then go to the Discovery Room to learn about God. We will have games, stories, snacks, and prayer. If you have any questions, please contact Shae Parsons at directorchildren@websterum.org. We look forward to seeing you every Sunday!

WUM Youth Ministry

March 5th, 5:30-7:30pm

Game night continued and sorting donations from Socks and Skivvies mission

March 12th, 5:00 pm-7:30pm

Meeting about mission trip at 5pm, followed by youth group activity TBD

UMCOR Sunday Special Offering March 19th



Through the **UMCOR Sunday Special Offering**, local churches underwrite all the operational costs of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). *This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts directly to communities in need.* These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable.

Special donation envelopes will be available at the March 19th worship service. Please designate UMCOR on the memo line of your check to the church. Thanks for your support of these life-changing ministries.

Update on Second Mile Giving

Thank you to all who have responded to our Second Mile Giving request. *At this time, we are still short of our goal for this year's budget, so we hope to hear from others soon.*

Prayer Concerns

Rick Austin (son of Linda Austin); Margaret Christensen; Becca Stevens; Traci Stuart and her best friend's son; Roger Hessling (Katie Renkins); Chase Nordlund, Carol Carinci (Debbie Lund); Susan Smith (Marcia Kennon); baby Sloane (Joan Ballam); leaders of the world

TRIVIA NIGHT

FRIDAY, MARCH 10 @ TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH IN
TOWN & COUNTRY

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM, TRIVIA STARTS AT 7PM

\$200 PER TABLE OF EIGHT

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE



The poster for "Spring Bling Brunch & Auction" is framed in a vibrant pink border. It features a background of soft, out-of-focus bokeh lights in shades of white and light blue. The title "Spring Bling" is written in a large, elegant, gold-colored cursive font. Below it, "BRUNCH & AUCTION" is in a smaller, gold, all-caps serif font. The tagline "Helping Women Flourish" is in a pink, italicized serif font. The date and time are listed in a gold, sans-serif font: "Saturday, April 1, 2023" and "9:30am-1:00pm". The location is "Missouri Athletic Club, 405 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63102". The LifeWise STL logo is at the top center, and decorative floral arrangements of pink and white hydrangeas are on the left and right sides.

LifeWise
Life Skills for Better Futures
StL

Spring Bling

BRUNCH & AUCTION

Helping Women Flourish

Saturday, April 1, 2023
9:30am-1:00pm

Missouri Athletic Club
405 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63102

A message from Pastor Sharon...

Waves

Recently, Joel and I were blessed to walk on the shoreline of the Gulf Coast. The water and air temperatures were nippy, so we did not jump in. But the warm sunshine made the cool water and mushy sand under our bare feet feel pretty good for a February.

Relating to the waves can be a spiritual experience. I pondered this as my senses were filled to overflowing, as I drank in the beauty of the many aqua blues and rich purples, the scent of the sea air, and the sounds of the gulls swirling all about us. The enormous breadth of the ocean waters inspired me with a sense of majesty of our Creator. I was reminded who God is, brilliant Author and Creator of all things that are, and who I am, God's child, the benefactor of God's love and grace.

Joel and I watched with amusement as the delicate little sandpipers chased after the waves to capture something that was tumbling in the ocean's white froth. But once successful, they scurried back to a safe distance before the next wave washed in. Again and again, they chased after the waves, but withdrew in just the nick of time.



How like them we can be, hailing God's attention as we would a taxicab, calling for God to fix our lives, or provide what we want, or change the outcome. But when we get what we're after, do we scurry away to a safe distance, running far enough away from the intimacy of God's presence that we won't get our feet wet, but still close enough to be able to call upon God again when there is another need?

Intimacy thrives when there is presence. That's not to say that we cannot stay close to someone special in a long-distance relationship, but it takes a lot of work. When we stay close to God, allow the waves of God's presence to lap across our feet, and even succumb to fully immerse ourselves in God's embrace, we can know a far deeper filling of God's Spirit than if we stay safely on the sand dunes of the shore watching.

This Lenten season, I invite you to take off your shoes and socks and let your feet get wet. Walk with Jesus through prayer, study, worship, giving, and service. Let God's Spirit wash you clean, heal you, and fill you.