

May 4, 2023



Come Celebrate With our Graduates in May!

On **Sunday, May 7th**, there will be a cake reception in Fellowship Hall after Worship, and an opportunity to shower our graduates with our good wishes. **Bring your cards for Pete Hebisen, Lucy Kroenung and Connor Szydowski**, our High School graduates.

Our College Graduate, **Shae Parsons**, will be celebrated on **May 11th** at The Mountain Service at 7:30PM in Fellowship Hall. Please join us in congratulating her on her achievement.

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New Beginnings

May is a month of new beginnings. Usually, there is a slew of graduations to recognize, and this year, we have those in our congregation who will be celebrating the completion of a course of study of one sort or another. Their books will be shut, goodbyes said, tears shed, and their thoughts will turn toward what lies next in their future.

I've been thinking a lot about this idea of new beginnings. I think about how God is always shaping and transforming us, and how we often feel that shaping as a new beginning. There's a hymn that keeps running through my head which holds this verse:

This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone. *

As the author suggests, new beginnings are not always the result of happy celebrations. Many times they are born of pain and struggle, like the healing of a wound, the loss of a loved one, a decision to break free, or a conclusion reached with tremendous difficulty.

In Jeremiah 18: 1-6, the story of the potter's house offers us ancient wisdom about new beginnings. God told the prophet to go down to the potter's house and await the Lord's message there. And so, he went, and there he watched as the potter worked on forming a pot on the wheel. But something went awry with that pot. Maybe there was an imperfection in the clay, or it hadn't been centered evenly on the wheel. At any rate, the pot went to pot, and was spoiled.

But as the prophet watched, the potter gathered up the clay and threw it once again upon the wheel, forming it into a new, sturdy, useful creation. The lesson for the prophet Jeremiah, and for us, is that God is like the potter. The Master Potter is forever offering transformation to us, reshaping our life into a new beginning.

If you are experiencing the sadness of an ending or the trepidation of a new tomorrow, sort of like a graduation from your old life into a new one, take comfort that God is the Master Potter, and in God's hands, our lives can take new shape. We too can celebrate a new beginning.

Christ is alive, and goes before us,
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new! *

Hope to see you Sunday,
Pastor Sharon

**This Is The Day Of New Beginnings*, Words by Brian Wren, 1978; Music by Carlton R. Young, 1984. Hope Publishing Co, 1987.

We celebrate the scholastic achievement of these members of our faith family:

Peter Hebisen	Webster Groves High School
Lucy Kroenung	Webster Groves High School
Connor Szydlowski	Hillsboro High School
Shae Parsons	Webster University
Natalie Kuelker	McKinley Classical Junior Academy
Lucas Slocum	North Glendale Elementary School
Sarah Vader	Avery Elementary School

Flowers for Mother's Day



Youth will be taking orders on Sunday morning for flowers to be delivered to church on Mother's Day. This is your chance to honor your mother or grandmother or aunt or any significant person in your life, all while helping to raise funds for our youth to go on their mission trip this summer.



Mother's Day Photos

We will feature a slide show of photos of mothers of church family members during worship on **Mother's Day, May 14th**. To include your mothers, please send photos to Cindy Andrews cyndrews@gmail.com by Wednesday, May 10th. If you have provided a photo in recent years, it is not necessary to send a new one.

Living Stones Children's Ministry



Living Stones program is for **children aged 4 years old to 6th grade** and is held during worship (10:30AM-11:30AM). We have games, stories, snacks, and prayer. If you have any questions, please contact Shae Parsons at directorchildren@websterum.org.



Join us from 5:30-7:00 PM on May 17th for our last Wild Wednesday of the school year! We will celebrate the end of the school year with some fun water games, so bring a towel and a change of clothes! This will also be an opportunity to say goodbye to Director Shae before she moves away. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0944A9AE2EA0FF2-maywild>

Prayer Concerns



Our adult Mission Team at Midwest Mission this week; Jenny Watts; Eva Johnson (Jenny Watts); Brian and Bill Haub (Jo Ann Claywell); Alta Kopetzky and Linda Kincaid (Marcia Kennon); Kent Obermeier; Adam Mallette; Margaret Christensen; Becca Stevens; Johnathan Zigman (Connie Kroenung); Stuart/Reesor family; Rick Austin; people of Sudan, Syria, & Ukraine; and improved gun-control laws in the United States



The **2023 Duck Derby** is **May 6th** from **11:00 AM to 2:00 PM** at Epworth's Campus in Webster Groves. The donations for ducks are: \$5 for one, \$25 for a *Six Quack*, \$50 for a *Quack Pack*, or \$100 for a *Flock of Ducks* For more information and to donate online, click on this link: <https://www.duckrace.com/stlouis>. **Let's get *quacking* and support Epworth with this creative fundraiser!**

WUM Youth Ministry

May 7th	5:00—6:00 PM, Mission Trip meeting	6:00—7:00 PM, Games Night
May 14th	Mother's Day, No Meeting	

TJ's Pizza Fundraiser Delivery



If you placed an order from the youth for items from TJ's Pizza, you can pick up your order in Fellowship Hall on Sunday.

United Women in Faith

Spring Luncheon & Craft Sale

Saturday, May 6th

10:45 AM—Craft Sale & Fellowship

11:30 AM—Lunch

(\$10 donation requested to cover expenses)

Business Meeting & Program following Lunch

ALL are Invited!

Craft Sale will include Cardinals aprons, oven mitts, cases for glasses (or cell phones), paper bead necklaces, children's bracelets, prayer pouches, embroidered baby quilt, decorated snack cans, & more!



The Craft Sale will also be open on Sunday morning, May 7th from 10:00—10:30 and following worship in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions about the Craft Sale, contact Sharon Wersching at 314-961-8265.



Several Ways to Support Webster-Rock Hill Trivia Night

- Join the fun--buy individual tickets (at \$30 each) or fill a table of 8.
- Sponsor one of the 10 Trivia rounds (at \$100 per round) -- sponsors' names will be announced before the round they are sponsoring. This is advertising by a business or promotion by a group of donors on behalf of a good cause, such as Webster United Methodist.
- Make a monetary donation to Webster-Rock Hill Ministries or donate a basket or item for the silent auction.

Forms are posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for table registrations, sponsorship of Trivia Rounds and receipts for in-kind and monetary donations. Questions??? Contact Mary Taylor, marytaylor1327@gmail.com



Join us for a day on the green **Monday, June 5th at Forest Hills Country Club**. Event proceeds fund our literacy-focused youth programming that provides children in St. Louis with social-emotional support, academic enrichment, life skills, and job readiness.

Individual Golfer: \$325 **Foursome:** \$1,300

Dinner Registration:

Includes Dinner Auction with open bar (beer & wine) and cash bar (liquor)

Individual Ticket: \$85 **Table of 8:** \$680

For questions on registration, please contact Amanda Andrews, Event Manager, at aandrews@lifewisestl.org or 314-260-6369.

Thank You!

Thank you to all who donated bottles of shampoo for our mission team to take to Midwest Mission this week. **103 bottles** were collected and will be added to **Personal Dignity Kits** that **Midwest Mission** will send to Turkey and Ukraine.

Save the Date!

There will be a **Goodbye Reception Sunday, May 21st** following worship for **Pastor Josh Krakos** and **Shae Parsons, Director of Children's Ministry**.



Jan McCurley, JoAnn Claywell, Linda Guth Stangl, Sharon Kichline, Lynne Wehrman, and Katie Renkins are working at Midwest Mission near Springfield, IL this week. Below are photos of them cutting plastic shopping bags into strips, tying them together to make “plarn” (plastic yarn), then weaving them into sleeping mats. The mats are sent both internationally and locally. This is just one of the many projects that volunteers carry out at Midwest Mission. Click on this link to read more about [Midwest Mission](#).





On Tuesday, our mission team at Midwest Mission worked on a variety of jobs. Lynn & Jan filled bottles of detergent for Home Care Kits. Sharon varnished desk pieces (desks made from donated repurposed wood). Katie, JoAnn, and Lynne worked on deep cleaning a house on site to prepare it for a new staff person.

