

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER JUNE 22, 2023

CONNECT

UNIQUELY UNITED METHODIST

Pastor
Rev. Sharon Kichline

pastorsharon@websterum.org

Music Ministry
Lamar Fitzgerald

directormusic@websterum.org

Youth Ministry

directoryouth@websterum.org

Childrens' Ministry

directorchildren@websterum.org

Communications &
Administration Coordinator
Cavin Clive

admin.communications@websterum.org

Secretary

secretary@websterum.org

www.websterunitedmethodist.org

314-961-4133



A WORD FROM YOUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATE...

Dear Church,

First and foremost, thank you to everyone for the amazing send-off Shae and I received as we left for South Dakota. It was very bittersweet to say "so long" to my church family. Thank you, especially to Julia, Linda, Sharon, Pastor, and all the amazing folks of the hospitality team who created such a wonderful luncheon. Thank you to the entire church.

My farewell was not too long since I was back in St. Louis on June 9th to represent you at the Annual Conference for the United Methodist Church. It was an amazing conference powered by the Holy Spirit and filled with lots of connection which is a tenet of the United Methodist Church. I am going to briefly highlight the things that happened at conference. If you would like to hear about anything in more detail, please shoot me an email or a phone call; would love to describe anything further.

First is that Pastor Sharon was officially reappointed to our church for another year. At the end of the annual conference, there is a portion of the program when all the reappointed clergy stand up and join their new churches for the first time. It is a very wonderful thing to witness.

Secondly, the annual conference passed two non-binding resolutions to send to all the other conferences in the United Methodist Church. These resolutions state that the Missouri Annual Conference supports the creation of a new regional U.S. Methodist Conference to replace Jurisdictions but not the General Conference and supports the removal of harmful language from the Book of Discipline regarding the LGBTQ+ community. If you would like to read these in their entirety please click [HERE](#). Each of these resolutions passed by over 70 percent. The resolutions, although non-binding, are very important and communicate to the larger General Conference where Missouri stands. My term has been extended as a Jurisdictional delegate for Missouri until after 2024, so I will also communicate our position.

Third, we held a memorial service for all clergy members in the conference who had passed in the last year. This was particularly meaningful because our beloved Rev. Gene Morse was remembered in that service. The bishop gave a very touching homily, and we were led in worship by our Korean pastors who are serving in Missouri through cross-cultural appointments.



Lastly, one of the most difficult things about this annual conference was the processing of disaffiliations and closings. The body had to vote on the closing of churches and the approval of churches that were disaffiliating. This passed and was completed.

My main message for you is that we will all be okay. I have received many questions from our congregation about finances and the disaffiliation process which I can discuss with you in detail, but what I want to emphasize is that we ALL will be okay. God is still with us, all Methodists, and all people. God's Church is built upon a rock, and it shall not be shaken. God's Church has many names and has been a home to many people. That will not change. Honestly not much has changed in the Missouri United Methodist Church. I had the great pleasure of being joined by Retired Clergy Paul Lathum and Julie Lathum for the conference. It had been about 10-plus years since they had attended Annual Conference and although some things have been streamlined through technology, it is still the same United Methodist Annual Conference. That is what I have taken away from this year's annual conference and would like to share as a word of hope for you. Thank you again for allowing me to represent you at the conference level, and if there is any further information I can provide or expand upon, please let me know.

Blessings In Christ
JOSHUA KRAKOS

Tom Pacatte;
Joyce Simpson;
Traci Stuart;
Meagan Day;
Margaret Christensen;
Becca Stevens;
Ilene Denzin and Nancy Heinze (Marcia Kennon);
and for meaningful gun control laws.

PRAYER CONCERNS

*Note of
Sympathy To...*

Janet & Ray Iggulden on the loss of
Janet's sister-in-law, Linda Browning;
Family and friends of Adam Mallette.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

WE ARE SO EXCITED FOR THIS YEAR'S
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!
CHILDREN AGES 4-12
ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US
AS WE LEARN TO BE VITAL MEMBERS OF
OUR COMMUNITY.

THERE WILL BE A MEAL PROVIDED EACH DAY

If you have questions,
please email directorchildren@websterum.org
or leave a message at the church office
314-961-4133.

To register for VBS, click on this link:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vbs-2023-tickets-646690788557>

**REGISTER
NOW!**

JUNE 23
5PM - 8PM

JUNE 24
9AM - 1PM

JUNE 25
DURING WORSHIP
10:30AM - 1PM
WITH LUNCH
FOLLOWING

**WE HOPE
YOU WILL
JOIN US!**



NEW WEAVING PROJECT STARTS UP SOON



Here, Pastor Sharon is weaving strips of the plarn onto the loom, tying the strips together as she goes.



This is a completed sleeping mat, entirely made from woven “plarn”



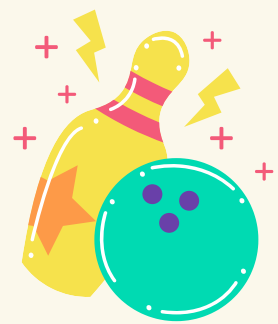
This is the loom we worked on at Midwest Mission to weave sleeping mats and the kind we will be ordering soon for our church.

YOUTH MINISTRY



Youth...
thank everyone for
coming to our car wash.

We raised \$635.



Youth went
bowling last
Sunday at
Tropicana Lanes.

**SUNDAY
JUNE 25**

Youth are welcoming
graduating 6th
graders this Sunday
at the 10:30 Service.

NURSES FOR NEWBORNS

In Service to our
community we collected
142 items of food, diaper
wipes, formula etc., for
Nurses for Newborns!

**Thanks for blessing this
organization with your
thoughtful donations!**

SUPPORT YOUTH MISSION TRIP

In the month of June the youth
encourage everyone to look at
adopt a mile posters in the
church! To support our trip to
Milwaukee this summer make out
your check to : Webster United
Methodist Church and put Youth
Mission trip in memo area.



A SENSIBLE RESPONSE TO MISSOURI GUN VIOLENCE

Our church's Justice Team, meeting in the aftermath of Webster Groves' June 4th Wear Orange Gun Violence Rally, is hopeful that our people will watch for reports of a local group's efforts to address reported weakness in gun laws and weakened law enforcement against gun violence in our state.

"Sensible Missouri" is the name of the local group, and its proposals come in part as a reaction to provisions of the Second Amendment Preservation Act (SAPA), passed by the Missouri Legislature in June, 2021. Sensible Missouri's proposals involve a petition drive to put some changes in firearms regulation to a vote of the people by ballot in the November, 2024 general election. These proposed changes are described in a June 13 article by Mark Schlinkmann, of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, as "a proposed constitutional amendment ...[that would] allow county-level governments and St. Louis city to approve their own [more stringent] rules on the access and carrying of firearms." The *Post-Dispatch* also ran an editorial on June 13 in support of the reasoning behind Sensible Missouri's proposal.

For more information online,
see sensiblemissouri.com and stltoday.com.

Mary Taylor
Member of WUM Justice Team