UNITED METHODIST

WEEKLY **NEWS**LETTER **JUNE 15, 2023**

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH!

Dear Church,

The month of June is recognized and celebrated as Pride Month in our country. In January 2014, our church family voted overwhelmingly to join the Reconciling Network, placed a flag in our front yard, and printed this statement on the front page of our website:

We welcome into the full life of our church people of every race, ethnicity, social or economic status, age, faith history, physical or mental ability, family configuration, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

The Reconciling Movement within Methodism that is passionate in offering a public, intentional, and explicit (remember "PIE") welcome to members of the LGBTQIA+ community. It is to make every effort to lower fearful expectations of what our siblings might encounter when they enter our doors.



For June, we have added a giant rainbow banner unfurled over the balcony railing. Our new rainbow flag snaps in the wind out in front of our church building. Throughout May, many of us have been intentional in contacting our state legislators about protecting the rights of our trans-siblings to access gender-affirming healthcare.

Part of our PRIDE Celebration is to invite Pastor Perrin Crouch to be our guest preacher this Sunday, June 18th, while I am away at a family reunion. Pastor Perrin is on the Deacon track moving toward Ordination next year at Annual Conference. She serves at Grace UMC and is a proud member of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Later in September, we have another opportunity to make a public, intentional, and explicit statement of welcome at a shared United Methodist Church booth at the 2023 Tower Grove Pride Festival. Reconciling Methodists from all over St. Louis City and County will be sharing this space, offering invitations, hugs, materials, and swag.

I am so proud to serve a "PIE-embracing" family of faith.



THANKSGIVINGS



66 I'm thankful for those who have helped and blessed my mom Ellen over the past two months with rides and assistance. 99-Eric Hendrickson

66 Thank you for praying for me. I found a summer and fall teaching job. 99-*Tenny Watts*

Eli Stuart; Traci Stuart; Margaret Christensen; Becca Stevens; Linda Browning (Janet Iggulden); Adam Mallette and family (Beth Gewinner); Abbey (Sandy Reesor);. Marilyn Cline (Ellen Hendrickson's sister); Joyce Simpson and her family; and common sense gun legislation.

Sunday, June 18th

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth will welcome upcoming youth (recent 6th grade graduates) during the 10:30 worship service.

Father's Day No Evening Meeting

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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-2023tickets-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!

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IT'S IN YOUR HANDS NOW TO TAKE ACTION: BOD VIOLENCE

1. Call your elected representatives and tell them to take bold action NOW to stop gun violence in our country.

2. Learn about gun violence in our country and find ways to help stop it. Go to Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action, the Brady Campaign and/or Sandy Hook Promise.

3. Text SMART to 64433 to sponsor a training or volunteer for the BE SMART program.

4. Write a Letter to the Editor for your local newspaper in support of gun violence prevention.

5. Share what you learn about gun violence and gun violence legislation on your social media feeds.

6. Learn the Warning Signs of Violence from Sandy Hook Promise.

7. Learn the signs of possible suicide. Take action as needed.

8. Advocate for specific Gun Sense Reform laws.

9. If you are a gun violence survivor, share your story on 'Moments That Survive' on the Moms Demand Action website.

10. Arrange for one or more of Sandy Hook Promise's programs for students to be presented at your child's or grandchild's school.

11. Kids and Teens – Be a friend and stand up to bullies. Include and invite kids who seem lonely to join you in your activities or at lunch or on the playground.

12. Teens – Join Students Demand Action and start an SDA Club at your high school, or start a SAVE Club (Students Against Violence Everywhere) through the Sandy Hook Promise.

13. Create your own action!

PLEASE CONTACT THE JUSTICE TEAM IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR IDEAS



WEBSTER GROVES JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Juneteenth commemorates the day (June 19, 1865) when 2000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas, and announced that 250,000 enslaved people were free by executive decree, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed.

The City of Webster Groves will celebrate Juneteenth in Ivory Crockett Park on **Thursday, June 15 at 6:30 p.m.** The Red & Black Brass Band will begin playing music at 6:30 p.m. The City will have the Kona Ice Truck providing snow cones along with sweet treats from Alibi cookies. Join the celebration!

Friday, June 16th, 5:00-7:00 PM

Webster Groves Christian Church Parking Lot



BBQ meals to go with all of your favorite sides will be available for curbside pickup.

Tickets (\$20 each) are for online at https://shepherdscenter-wk.org/home/grab-and-go/

All proceeds benefit the Shepherd Center's essential services for older adults – medical transportation, grocery delivery and more.

Grab & Go BBQ Tickets are also available from Stan Richert & Sharon Kichline

MERCY CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER

Awaken to the Divine: Contemplative Reflections to Transform Your Spirit, a 5day silent guided retreat led by Paul Coutinho, **July 5-9** at Mercy Center, St. Louis. Commuter: \$350 Overnight: \$500. Register by June 23 at <u>www.mercycenterstl.org</u>.

Summer Silent Directed Retreat at Mercy Center, St. Louis. Two options: 6 full days, **August 12-17**, \$700 or 4 full days, August 12-15, \$425. Choose from spiritual directors listed on the flyer. Register at <u>www.mercycenterstl.org</u>.

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MIDWEST MISSION PROJECT

When our VIM mission team went to Midwest Mission the first part of May, we had the opportunity to learn how to make mats out of plastic bags. Using a loom, we wove plastic grocery bags that we had cut and made into plarn (plastic yarn). These mats are about 6 feet by 4 feet and are used as sleeping mats for anyone forced to sleep on the ground. It gives them a softer surface, moisture protection, and a barrier from the cold ground.

We are interested in sharing the idea with all of you and getting help to start making the mats here at Webster United Methodist. The process can be seen on the Midwest Mission webpage by clicking <u>https://www.midwestmission.org/loom</u>. All ages can be included in this project. Would you like to help? Think about it, and we will have more information to explain the process in the next newsletter.

For now, please start saving your plastic bags for us! Sharon Kichline, Lynne Wehrmann, Katie Renkins, JoAnn Claywell, Jan McCurley, and Linda Guth Stangl