UNITED METHODIST

LENEROY JULY 13, 2022

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Walking With God

Some of you may have noticed the circular collection of bricks outside on our parking lot. It is a prayer labyrinth, a gift from Jan and Steve Hanson. A prayer labyrinth offers a form of walking meditation, a physical expression of the interior journey towards Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

The labyrinth has a long history. In 325 A.D. Christians placed a labyrinth on the floor of their Church. Although Christians must have been using the labyrinth earlier, this is the first historical record we have of its use. Since that time labyrinths have been prayed, studied, danced, traced and drawn as Christians sought to use this spiritual tool to draw closer to God, experience healing, and gain spiritual clarity on its path.

Using a labyrinth involves moving one's body and opening one's heart to Jesus. All you have to do is follow the path and you will find the center. Unlike a maze, the prayer labyrinth has no tricks. A labyrinth experience involves preparing oneself at the threshold, following the single path to the center, spending time in the center, following the same pathway out to the threshold, and then responding to the experience.

A word of caution: the objective is not to rush to find the center. To rush is likely to spoil the whole Holy Spirit thing. Instead, walk slowly and deliberately, setting each foot down with care. Concentrate on the movement, and invite the Spirit to move with you and in you. I have found it relaxing to pray something simple, like a breath prayer. "Holy Spirit" (breathing in), "guide my thoughts" (breathing out).

Enjoy God's presence in the center. Chalk is available to leave a word, phrase, or picture of your experience. Then slowly and deliberately travel back out of the labyrinth. At the end, take a deep breath and give thanks.

We hope you will come to experience the prayer labyrinth. Happy travels!



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PRAYER CONCERNS

Meagan Day; Robin Wedekind Rudd; Margo Petracek; Joyce Simpson; Margaret Christensen; Becca Stevens; the family of Doug Niemeyer (Sharon Wersching); Judy Mills and Carolyn Keller (Julie Puckett); Randy Turman (Lettie Morse); Betty Vitala and Regina Meyer (Marcia Kennon); Carol Carinci (Debbie Lund); Jennifer Outlaw Guyer (Beth Anderson); Peg Chulick (Jo Ann Claywell); and for meaningful gun control.

Note of Sympathy ...

...to Sharon & John Wersching on the loss of their nephew Doug Niemeyer who died June 27, 2023.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION JULY 9TH-30TH

The new school year will be here soon and many families will be unable to afford the school supplies their children will need for school. We will be collecting school supplies here at Webster United Methodist from July 9th through July 30th . All supplies collected will be divided and donated to LifeWise STL, Epworth Children and Family Services, and Webster Rock Hill Ministries. You may bring your donations any day through July 30th . The large blue collection bin will be on the parking lot most days. In addition, there are collection buckets in the first floor lobby and the main sanctuary entrance.

Below you will find a list of needed supplies. Please purchase supplies equal to the same quality you would provide for your own children/grandchildren. (Note from experienced teachers: Most supplies purchased at dollar stores do not last long because of the poor quality.)

- 3 Ring binders Pencils, #2 (preferably Ticonderoga) Pencil cases or pouches Pencil sharpeners (hand held) Pens—blue, black, or red ink Erasable pens Colored pencils Erasers Washable markers, primary colors Crayons, boxes of 16 or 24 Highlighters School glue
- Glue sticks Scissors, blunt tip Scissors, pointed tip Folders, with & without prongs Rulers Composition notebooks Single subject notebooks Graphing paper Scientific calculators Graphing calculators Backpacks Tennis shoes



20 YOUTH MISSION TEAM TO MILWAUKEE EARLY SUNDAY 7 youth and 4 adults will be heading to

serve the people of Milwaukee, leaving early

prayer all week, praying for safety and

Pastor's Study).

Sunday morning. As their church family, please come to their commissioning and send off on the Church parking lot at 8:30am! Hold the team in

transformation. Deliver the Blessing Bags for your

participant, to the church by Saturday to Anna Tcasz' office (second floor, immediately above the Milwaukee, 🔗 Wisconsin

JULY 16TH.

Youth participants this year include Lucy Kroenung, Paityon Simpson, Julian Nunes, Hakon Vader, Camden Leslie, Natalie Kuelker, and Seira Stuart.

Our adults are Lydia Nunes, Greg Kroenung, Mark Leslie, and Joel Kichline, Team Leader.



LifeWise STL and Guardian Angel are teaming up again this year for the Back to School Event on August 12th at Guardian Angel, 3300 Jefferson, 63118.

Families will be able to select backpacks, pre-packaged school supplies (according to grade), and a new pair of shoes for their children. Volunteers are needed to pack the school supplies and set up for the event during the week of August 8th – 11th . On August 12th, volunteers will assist families shopping, and on August 14th, volunteers will be needed to pack up the remaining supplies for future use. Threehour volunteer shifts are available. Sign up online by clicking on this link below: <u>https://www.lifewisestl.org/back-to-school/</u>

We will be donating some of the school supplies we are collecting here at Webster United Methodist to be given away at this event. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

All articles and submissions must be sent to <u>secretary@websterum.org</u> by Monday at 5pm to be in that week's newsletter.