

WEEKLY **NEWS** LETTER **JULY 20, 2023**

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Hot!!!

As I write this, much of our country is under extraordinary heat alerts, setting new record high temperatures every day. This week, it seems we are getting a bit of a reprieve in St. Louis, but the following two weeks promise to be real scorchers. This is the kind of weather that turns our yards brown and crunchy, and drives us inside to air-conditioned spaces. It's also the kind of weather that kills.

Did you know that in the US in 2022, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, there were 67,512 emergency department visits due to heat, 9235 persons hospitalized due to heat exposure, and 702 people who from died of heat-related causes? What makes this statistic so frustrating is that 100% of all these crises were preventable. Many are the elderly, wrapped in sweaters because their internal thermometers have gone a little wacky, or who are trying to "do without" AC because of the cost to their electric bill.

Then there's the un-countable death toll on animals left in enclosures. People don't like to report this because they feel like dopes for doing it, so it's difficult to get a solid stat. The temperature inside of a closed car can rise to deathly level in just minutes after the car is turned off. To leave an animal or a human enclosed in a car on a hot day is like shoving them into the oven. It's unthinkable, but people do it. They figure it will only take them a minute to complete their errand.

Summer heat is here with a vengeance. As Christians, and as human beings, when the heat cranks up, we need to be especially mindful of the well-being of others. Time to check on your neighbor living alone. Maybe walk over and visit in person. When the door opens, does the air that spills out feel cool? Is your neighbor wrapped in 3 layers of clothes? Is their speech slurred or confused? If so, it's time to get help.





Walking through the parking lot as you head for the store, if you see a child or dog in a closed car, call 911. Don't worry about making a big fuss; just do it. Death by heat exposure is horrible. You can save a life by your quick action. Stand by the car until the authorities arrive. Then your part is done. They will deal with the owner of the car, who is sure to be defensive about their choice.

By being vigilant and proactive, even though it may feel intrusive, you are "loving your neighbor", and may very well save their life.

If your job requires you to work in this weather, I hope you will take frequent breaks in the shade and stay hydrated. Wear a hat, and drape towels dipped in ice water around your neck to keep your core temperature stable. Think about the Arctic tundra. May God be with you.

Grace & Peace +
PASTOR SHARON

PRAYER CONCERNS

Youth Group on Mission Trip in
Milwaukee, Wisconsin;

Joyce Simpson;

Abbey and Natalie (Sandy Reesor);

Carolyn Keller (Julie Puckett);

Regina Meyer and Teri Ann Wallace (Marcia Kennon);

Randy Turman (Lettie Morse); and for meaningful
gun control laws.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Service 7/23 & General Youth Group Updates

Please help celebrate and worship with our Youth as they return from their mission trip! 7 Youth and 4 adult volunteers left for Milwaukee Sunday 7/16 and will return Saturday 7/22. On Sunday 7/23, the youth will help lead worship at the 10:30 service.

There is no youth group the evening of 7/23.

Agenda for 7/30: We will meet at the usual time for getting-to-know-you activities. Parents are strongly encouraged to make an appearance around 7 so we can talk about implementing new methods of communication!

Children's Ministry Updates

We are planning a water fun day near the end of summer and an ice cream social near the beginning of the school year. Please keep an eye on your email for upcoming information about these events!



SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION

CONTINUES THROUGH JULY 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 are collecting school supplies here at Webster United Methodist through July 30th. All supplies collected will be divided and donated to LifeWise STL, Epworth Children and Family Services, and Webster Rock Hill Ministries. As of Monday, July 17th, we have already collected 379 items! A large blue collection bin is on the southwest corner of 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 as 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.)

Items in bold text are ones that are needed most at this time.

If you have questions about this project, contact Cindy Andrews, 314-277-9368, or via email: cyndrews@gmail.com.

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



NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

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

