

WEEKLY **NEASS** LETTER **AUGUST 10, 2023**

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

You Can Change a Child's Life!

These days, young children learn to read from kindergarten through second grade. Thereafter, they use their reading skills to learn everything else.

If a child misses the boat in learning to read proficiently, they risk failure in their future academics. They will likely suffer a loss of self-esteem as they fall farther and farther behind the other students. After meeting with frustration and disappointment, the struggling reader becomes at risk for early drop-out, and it is far less likely they will experience the dreams that God has planted in their souls.

Seeing an opportunity to partner with God and be part of those critical early years of a child's education, members of the Webster United Methodist family were participating in a Reading Tutors Ministry at Hodgen Elementary School, where 80% of their students entered the school year reading below grade level. Hodgen is located near Highway 44 and Jefferson Avenue. Principal Julia Kaiser welcomed us with open arms, later reporting that our students showed improvements not only in their reading skills, but also in their attendance. The kids loved their time with us. Of course, the pandemic shut our program down.

After I spoke with Principal Kaiser this summer, Hodgen is ready to host tutors once again; however we are going to call it the Reading Mentor Ministry, instead of Tutoring. It seems for many of our students, the reason they loved the program was that they received such lavish praise from us each week, something the principal speculates many miss in their family lives. Our presence and encouragement coupled with our undivided attention made it a scholastic and emotional success, and we're ready to do it again.

As before, our goal is to offer intervention BEFORE struggles and disappointments start whittling away at their spirits. Each volunteer mentor will meet with two 1st or 2nd grade students on their visit to Hodgen for about 25 minutes each (for a total of 60 minutes in the school.). We hope to start the third week of September, offering mentoring sessions on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays. We will have a training program in September. Our fall group is forming now. We need people willing to commit to weekly tutoring, as well those able to substitute. You do not need to have teaching credentials. If you can read and have a desire to become an "encourager," sign up through the blue Connection Card in worship this Sunday or contact pastorsharon@websterum.org.

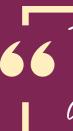
With this relatively small investment of time, you have the opportunity to change a child's life. Wouldn't you like to join us?



Traci Stuart; Joyce Simpson; Margaret Christensen; Becca Stevens; Linda Kincaid, Teri-Ann Wallace, & Regina Meyer (Marcia Kennon); and for meaningful gun-control laws.

PRAYER **CONCERNS**

THANKSGIVING



66 Thanks for all the great support after my hip surgery.

AUGUST 4, 2023



WATER AND CHALK PLAY EARNED AN A+

WATER BALLOONS

CHALK DRAWING

THE DRAWING WERE BEAUTIFUL

GREAT THROW FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH A WATER BALLOON!



HOPSCOTCH - AN OLD FAVORITE





MISS ANNA, WHAT ARE THE BIG KIDS DOING?



RELAY RACING WITH WATER BALLOONS





United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith District Mission Study

The **UWF District Mini Mission u** studying the Lord's Prayer will be held on **Saturday, August 26th** at **Church of the Shepherd** in St. Charles from 9:30–3:00. During lunch, the Mai Gray celebration will focus on Japan. Cost is \$10. <u>Registration is due by August 22nd.</u>

> <u>Contact Joan Ballam</u> <u>for a registration form.</u>

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.