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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Blessings for New Beginnings

Hear that sound? It's the cash registers all over the city ringing up purchases for our youngsters (and teachers too) returning to school. Most neighboring communities will begin their new school year in the next few weeks.

In my youth, as part of a rural community, the school year began after the hay and soybeans had been harvested, when the older youngsters could be spared. Usually, that meant that we didn't go back to school until the Tuesday after Labor Day weekend, after our last hurrah at the city pool. Since there was no air conditioning in the schools, we sweated through the first month and arrived home every day totally spent from sitting in sweltering classrooms. Those were the days.

A lot has changed for today's students. The competition is far more intense for everything. Computers fill the air-conditioned classrooms and laptops are a part of even young students' lives. It's not unusual for most youngsters to communicate through at least two forms of social media, and libraries no longer have card catalogs.

But one thing hasn't changed. Facing a new school year brings both excitement and dread, in differing combinations, for everyone, students, parents, school staff and teachers. They are starting a new season of their lives, and it is an unknown.

That's how the people felt when God directed them to leave what they knew in Egypt, and step out into the difficult desert to make their way toward freedom. They knew that the path through the wilderness was their destiny, but it was unknown. They did not know what it would be like, if their needs would be met, and if they would be up to the challenge. "But Moses said to the people, Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today." (Exodus 14:13).

As we begin a new season of learning and growing, teaching and nurturing, we can claim this promise for ourselves. God will bring about a new freedom for those who stand firm in their faith, in their commitment, and in their discipline to work hard. This Sunday, as a faith family, we will bless all those embarking on a new wilderness of learning and teaching. Come and find blessing.

Grace & Peace +
PASTOR SHARON



PRAYER CONCERNS

Joyce Simpson;

Traci Stuart;

Linda Kincaid, Alta Kopetzky,

& Regina Meyer (Marcia Kennon);

Carol Wright (Bev Mesey);

Dorothy Akins & Carolyn Keller (Julie Puckett);

Amy Ruggerio & Shelly Vivavino (Connie Kroenung);

Randy Turman (Lettie Morse);

Kenny Humphrey (Jenny Watts' uncle);

Abbey (Sandy Reesor);

Andrea Zepeda's Aunt Renee;

For improved gun control laws;

and the people of Hawaii.



ECONOMIC JUSTICE ACTION STEP UPDATE: RAISE THE WAGE/EARNED PAID LEAVE PETITION

In mid July the Justice Team began collecting signatures from registered voters in our congregation that would place on the November, 2024 General Election ballot a referendum to raise the wage over the following two years to \$15 and thereafter peg increases to the Cost of Living index. It would also require earned paid sick leave. Both changes will improve living conditions especially of essential workers and low income families, and by extension the general quality of public life.

Last Sunday following worship, six petitioners gathered in Fellowship Hall with two notaries to notarize the petitions and turn them over to our coordinating partner, Metropolitan Congregations United. Hats off to Debbie Lund, Pastor Kichline, Stacy Ponder, Katie Renkins, Mary Taylor and Carolyn Redmore and members of our congregation for the gathering of 83 signatures. Special thanks to notaries Cathy Renkins and Kate Prange and MCU Petition Organizer, Kevin Prange.

Signature gathering continues at church focus on networks beyond WUM. To volunteer to collect signatures or suggest collection locations, contact Carolyn Redmore. Help us reach 200 signatures.

From the Justice Team



SAVE THE DATE SAT. OCT. 28, 9-12:30 HANDS IN MISSION SERVICE DAY

FALL YARD CLEANUP WITH SHEPHERDS CENTER

(More details next month)



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>

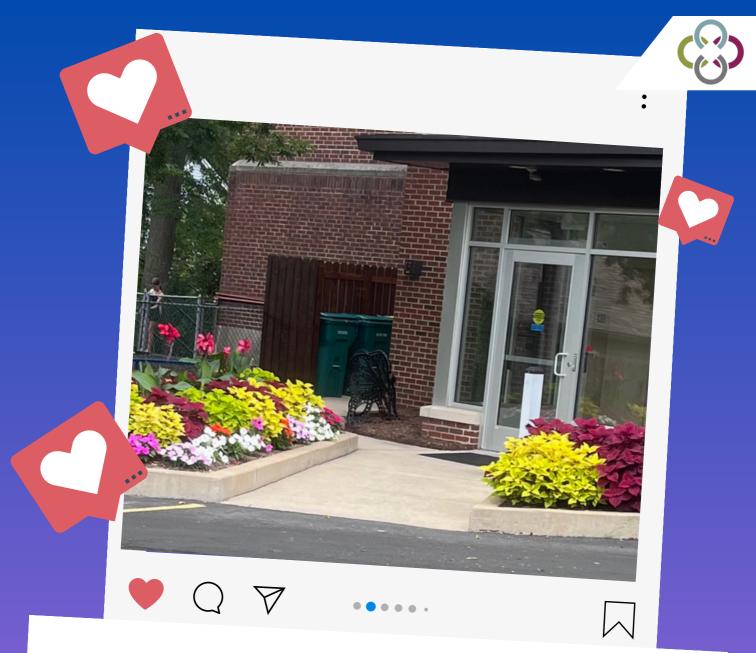




God is wild about fun and pames

COME JOINUS!
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023
5:30PM - 7PM

ADDRESS
600 N BOMPART AVE,
WEBSTER GROVES, MO 63119



THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.
THANKS FOR ALL THE WORK OF PLANTING AND WATERING.

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.