



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

September 28, 2023



Pastor
Rev. Sharon Kichline

pastorsharon@websterum.org

Music Ministry
Lamar Fitzgerald

directormusic@websterum.org

Children's Ministry
Youth Ministry

directorchildren@websterum.org
directoryouth@websterum.org

Administration &
Communications Coordinator
Cavin Clive

admin.communications@websterum.org

Secretary

secretary@websterum.org

www.websterunitedmethodist.org

314-961-4133



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

THE THIEF COMES ONLY TO STEAL AND KILL AND DESTROY; I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL. JOHN 10:10 NIV

Keeping our Church Family Safe

Children, youth, and vulnerable adults are all precious gifts from God. We have the privilege and responsibility to love them, pray for them, and provide protection and safety when they are in our care. As members of their family of faith, we have committed to help all persons, including our children, youth, and vulnerable adults, live the full and abundant life God desires for them.

To that end, the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church is committed to providing safe places of worship and fellowship to everyone we serve. As part of that commitment, Webster United Methodist provides annual Safe Gatherings training and certification for those who will be leading and caring for our children, youth, and vulnerable adults. This includes those who will be chaperoning, driving, assisting, and leading these ministries.

The purpose of this training is to help prevent abuse. When staff and volunteers are trained about best practices when working with vulnerable populations, know the behaviors of potential abusers, recognize the signs of abuse and know how to handle reporting, they are better equipped to prevent abuse, and create a safe and healthy environment for our church family.

In a nutshell, our Safe Gatherings training and certification is an overt expression in making congregations safe places where children, youth, and elders may experience the abiding love of God and fellowship within the community of faith.

Our fall Safe Gatherings training and certification event is this Sunday, October 1st, immediately following the 10:30am Worship Service (about 11:45pm or so) in Fellowship Hall. It is expected to last about 45 minutes.

Please plan to attend, and help us create a web of love and safety for every member of our church family.

Grace & Peace+
PASTOR SHARON



PRAYER CONCERNS

Please Pray For
Lamar Fitzgerald;

Joanne Kannewurf & Elaine Pelligrini (Marcia Kennon);

Carol Carinci, Peter Schuren,

& Joan Benson-Robinson (Debbie Lund);

Stacy Ponder;

Beth Anderson;

Debbie & Bob Earnhardt (Beth Anderson); Randy

Turman (Lettie Morse);

Teresa Ruma (Marcia Kennon);

those affected by Hurricane Lee

and by the flood in Lybia;

and meaningful gun control laws.

Keeping Our Church Family Safe

Do you work with children, youth, or vulnerable adults at WUM? Please attend our next Safe Gatherings Training and Certification event after worship on October 1st.

Email your RSVP to Louise Thomas at louisethomas1@att.net or sign up on the Blue Connection Card in worship.



CHURCH SURVEY

Church Family,

Several weeks ago, we announced a survey and requested that everyone complete it, so their ideas and opinions could be known. We thank the folk who have completed it already and we want to remind everyone else that the opportunity still exists. The survey was approved by your Webster United Methodist Church Council so that we understand the needs of our church and how to focus our committees' efforts as we make plans for the future.

The questions in this survey are designed to help the Church Council understand where we are at as a congregation. These questions were intended to help us, as a congregation, accomplish our mission to love, grow, and serve. As you fill out this survey, please keep in mind that we are all engaged in this mission together, and the most helpful responses will provide the Church Council with suggestions about how we might accomplish our church's mission to love, grow, and serve.

This is your chance to share how the Holy Spirit has directed your thoughts regarding our church's programs. During the pandemic, some programs sponsored by this church ended and have not been revived. Some other activities may have disappeared long before the pandemic, and others have yet to be initiated. Your ideas about the future can help us better reach the spiritual needs of our community.

Thank you again for taking a few moments to complete this survey. You may take the survey by clicking on the link that follows.

<https://forms.gle/CaA6ftJ18MYTVFfT7>

or by following the QR code below.



Sincerely,
J Mark Leslie, on behalf of the Church Council



"In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north;
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide world."

—UNITED METHODIST HYMNAL, #548



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church*

World Communion Sunday October 1, 2023

Sunday, October 1st is one of the Special Offering Sundays in United Methodist Churches. On this World Communion Sunday, United Methodists, in conjunction with other denominations and believers worldwide, participate in communion to recognize our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Your donations support racial and ethnic students in achieving their educational goals and transforming communities,

- Fifty percent of the offering provides scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries.
- Thirty-five percent supports racial and ethnic scholarships for students pursuing ordained ministry (deacon or elder) and includes a mentoring program.
- Fifteen percent funds Ethnic-In-Service Training Grant for leadership development, recruitment, training, and retention of ethnic United Methodist persons in leadership positions in every level of the church and its ministry.

The United Methodist Church, the world and our communities are in a time of transition. Now, perhaps more than ever, we are called to extend healing and hope which will guide us to becoming a new creation in Christ.

Please think prayerfully about a World Communion Sunday gift. Through our gifts and support, we can invest in talented, qualified students from around the globe to transform the world as witnesses for Christ!

THE WELCOMING SPIRIT OF TOWER GROVE PRIDE FEST

Pleasant weather echoed the warm spirit of the weekend Pride Fest attended by a diverse collection of friends, family, couples and singles. WUM supported this event financially (Justice Team), in leadership (Kris Maly), United Methodist Church Booth volunteers (Carolyn Redmore, Jan McCurley, Alison McCurley, and Kris Maly), donation of doggie rainbow ribbons & water bowl (Pastor Sharon), and drop-off service (Cindy Andrews). In addition to fun give aways at the booth, a map of fourteen inclusive United Methodist Churches was available. One of our families clearly enjoyed hanging out at Pride Fest, posted photos on their FaceBook page. Heads-up: Watch for Pride Fest 2024 and join us.



HERE IS VOLUNTEER ALISON MCCURLEY WITH 3 OTHERS FROM MAPLEWOOD

UMC



THIS IS NORA AND ALISON MCCURLEY ENJOYING PRIDE FEST



CAROLYN REDMORE WITH BOBBY, FESTIVAL CABBY



CAROLYN HELPING PERRIN CROUCH, UMC BOOTH ORGANIZER, REV. KIM SHIRAR OF MAPLEWOOD, AND A FRIEND HOST OF OUR UMC BOOTH

Opportunity to Share Thoughts About Replacing Our Missing Rainbow Flag



Yes, missing from the front of our church is our rainbow flag. We have flown this flag for several years, as a visible sign that we are a Reconciling Ministry in the United Methodist Church, which means we are intentionally inclusive of individuals who identify as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community. On Tuesday, September 12, it was discovered that the flag had been stolen sometime during the night. A small rainbow flag like ones inside the church was then attached to the railing at the lower entrance on Bompart. That rainbow flag was torn off and thrown to the ground.

The Justice Team has purchased a replacement rainbow flag with donated funds. We would like to replace the flag, as a visible statement to the community that we remain committed to welcoming everyone to our church, including those who identify as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community. We have learned that some people who participate in our church and identify as members of the LGBTQIA+ community have concerns about the flag being replaced. We want to hear these concerns and have a conversation about the best path forward.

This is an open invitation to be a part of the conversation with the Justice Team. We will meet in the Space Room at 7:00 pm on Monday, October 9. There will also be a Zoom link available for those who would like to participate online. Indicate on the Connection Card at worship if you will participate, how you want to participate or if you have questions. Won't be at church? Please contact Carolyn Redmore. For a Zoom link please email Jan Hanson (jhanson874@gmail.com).



In conjunction with Welcome Neighbor STL, Webster United Methodist invites you to a WNSTL Syrian Drive Through Dinner on September 30th at 5:00 PM. These meals present an opportunity for immigrant and refugee families to share knowledge and skills unique to them. It is also an opportunity for us to get a glimpse into their culture. These fundraising efforts can set them on a path of greater independence and confidence in their lives here in the USA.

Drive through the church parking lot to pick up your to-go dinner on Saturday, September 30th from 5:00–6:00 PM. Menu includes: hummus dip, pita bread, grape leaves stuffed with rice, tabouleh salad, chicken shawarma sandwich, and baklava.

Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased only online at:
<https://welcomeneighborstl.org/events/syrian-drive-thru-dinner-at-webster-united-methodist-church/>

We will need 12-14 volunteers to help with assembling/packing meals and delivering them to cars as customers drive through our parking lot. To volunteer, please call the church office at 314-961-4133.



25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Visit with Friends - Share Memories

OCTOBER 20, 2023 | 12 NOON

Kirkwood United Methodist Church

201 W. Adams, Kirkwood, MO 63122

Buffet Luncheon - Volunteer Recognition

\$50/Person - Ticket Sales

www.shepherdscenter-wk.org or call 314-395-0988



**CARDINAL RITTER
SENIOR SERVICES**

A MINISTRY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Sponsored by Cardinal Ritter Senior Services

United Women in Faith Fall Brunch

**Saturday, September 30th
10:00 a.m.—Noon
\$10 per person**

Ingathering: Items for the Bodega
at LifeWise StL

Underwear for Girls—All Sizes

Underwear for Women—Large (7),
XL (8), XXL (9 & 10)

NEW items only please!

Guest Speaker



Barbara Phifer

Retired UMC Minister,
Current State Representative,
District 90

COMING SOON

RUMMAGE SALE

OCTOBER 7TH, 8 AM - 1 PM



START GATHERING YOUR DONATIONS:

- **CLEAN CLOTHING IN GOOD REPAIR**
- **HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**
- **TOOLS**
- **BOOKS, PUZZLES, TOYS, GAMES**

**PLEASE NO FURNITURE &
NO ELECTRONICS**

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT
CHURCH FOLLOWING SERVICES
OCTOBER 1ST THROUGH OCTOBER 5TH.**

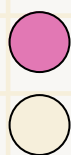


**WORKERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE SET UP
CAN YOU GIVE US AN HOUR OR TWO?**

Thursday, Oct. 5th, 10am - 2pm

Friday, Oct. 6th, 9am - 4pm

Contact Margaret Skouby at
mskouby@yahoo.com



WILD WEDNESDAY

Come Join Us!



**October 11 from
5:30 to 7 pm**

**Join us for dinner and activities as we learn
about God's love for all the children of the world.**

**Email directorchildren@websterum.org to register your
child(ren) and/or to volunteer as a helper.**



CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



Once again, walkers are invited to gather at **Eden Theological Seminary, 475 E. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119, on Sunday, October 1st** to participate in the annual CROP Walk and Concert to raise funds and awareness of hunger in our community and beyond. Check-in at 4:30 p.m., the Walk at 5:00 p.m., and the CROP Concert in the Wehrli Chapel at 7:00 p.m. Sign up to participate at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/saintlouismo>.

The CROP Concert will again feature nationally known singer-songwriter Richard Bruxvoot Colligan (Google him!) and an array of local musicians, singing the Psalms (and other songs).

Our local partners again this year are Circle of Concern, the Alton (IL) Crisis Food Center, and Webster-Rock Hill Ministries. You are invited to bring non-perishable food items for the Webster-Rock Hill Ministries food pantry.

Again this year, a lovely CROP quilt will be raffled. Chances are \$10.00 each, and tickets can be purchased onsite the day of the Walk, or send a check (made out to CWS/CROP) to Clint McCann, 672 Marshall Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119-1922; and he will mail your ticket(s) to you.

A Hands-In-Mission Fall Cleanup October 28



Enjoy a beautiful fall Saturday October 28, 9AM-12:30PM, working with your family and other volunteers from our church as we give our time and talents to clean yards in Webster Groves and nearby neighborhoods.

The workday is led by Volunteer Coordinator Karen Zelle at the Shepherd's Center to rake leaves, trim bushes, and do general yard cleanup for senior citizens in our community. The Mission Team hopes to get as many volunteers as possible to help with this annual fall service. If you have them, bring ---and mark with your name---tools such as trimmers, clippers, and rakes. Karen will have additional tools, too. Clients whose yards we clean will provide bags or cans.

We will meet in our church parking lot at 9:00 AM, then carpool to the Shepherd's Center where we will receive our yard assignments for cleanup.

ALSO, if you are a senior at our church who would like a yard cleaned that day, please let Jan McCurley know at 314-378-5504 or Janis.mccurley@gmail.com
Karen will add yours to her list of yards to clean.

PLEASE SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER ON THE CONNECTION CARD IN WORSHIP.
Questions? Please call Jan McCurley

Harvesting Hope For Missions: What Is It & How Can You Participate?

Tickets will go on sale October 8 in Fellowship Hall for Harvesting Hope For Missions. This dinner and auction event, serving appetizers followed by a hearty soup & chili dinner, also includes salad, bread, and dessert (adults \$10, children 5-12 years, \$5).

Doors open at 5 pm on Sat. Nov. 4 with appetizers served as the Silent Auction and Country Store open for bidding and shopping. The Country Store sells a variety of donated homemade goods and seasonal décor, and for this year's Silent Auction we are hoping for donations from you of all kinds, among them things for kids and families offered in a variety of baskets or gift certificates. Silent Auction closes after dinner, and the Country Store remains open for the entire evening. After dinner, a Live Auction with selected items takes place.

Need some ideas for what you might contribute? If you want to put together a basket, Joel Kichline is providing some free ones to pick up on Sunday mornings. Among popular theme baskets for Silent Auctions are the following: Kids' Sports Equipment, Game Night for adults, kids, or families; Movie Night with videos, popcorn, etc.; Gourmet Kitchen with garlic press, unique towels, spices, etc.; or, St. Louis Basket---local foods, cheeses & brews, or caps & t-shirts. If you have a favorite restaurant, ask the restaurant to contribute a gift certificate; or, put together several gift certificates to fun family venues. Popular, also, are theater tickets, movie tickets, symphony tickets, or sports tickets.

We look forward to making this year a huge success for our Mission fundraising!
Thank you for helping to do your part.

The Risk-Taking Mission Team



Blessing of The Animals



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 FROM 9AM-10:30AM

**FRONT YARD OF WEBSTER UNITED METHODIST
AT 600 NORTH BOMPART AVE, WEBSTER GROVES, MO 63119**



God is the author of all creation, including our beloved pets and companion animals. This is an opportunity to celebrate our delight in them and our thanks to God for them.

Bring your pet and join Pastor Sharon for a special blessing for your furry friend! Please bring them tethered or in their carrier.

