



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

October 12, 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

Why is our Church Celebrating Halloween?

Webster United Methodist has a long tradition of fun at Halloween. For years, we have hosted parties, costume contests, trick or treating for UNICEF, and more recently, Trunk or Treat on the parking lot.

Some folks would wonder why on earth we would use our volunteer energy and budget dollars to celebrate ghosties and goblins. What value is there in giving away candy and hearing silly jokes offered up by little fairies and miniature supermen? The Gospel message is not preached. No one is converted. Why do we do this?

The celebration of All Hallow's Eve (Halloween) has been around a long time, first as a pagan celebration, and later as part of the observance in the liturgical church year to remember the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the departed. Celebrated in Ireland and Scotland for centuries, Irish and Scottish immigrants brought many Halloween customs to North America in the 19th century, where it evolved into a secular celebration involving trick or treating door to door, community gatherings, and scary stories.

Our community loves Halloween! Joel and I have lived in Webster Groves for over 30 years. Halloween evenings, we often see as many as 140 children dressed in their imaginary finest between dusk and 8p. By hosting a community event for Halloween, our church welcomes families for a safe experience that is rewarded with treats, hot dogs, and laughter. While it is a totally secular event, it is an introduction to who we are, a welcoming, loving, and generous people.

One day, the bottom is likely to fall out of every person's life. Someone will fall out of love and leave. Someone will die. Someone will lose their job, or hear a diagnosis that scares them more than anything they've ever heard before. When that happens, people often reach out to a power greater than themselves. While they may not know how to get started in a relationship with God, they will remember the neighborhood church that offered a place where they felt happy and safe.



People often enter our church for the first time when they are feeling like they are free falling. And we are here for them. Amazingly, this little secular celebration has the potential to ignite an opportunity for a life-changing, soul-redeeming relationship with Jesus Christ. It's a journey, and I've seen it happen.

Come participate with us in creating this neighborhood party on Sunday, October 29th from 5-7pm ! We need lots of "trunks", meaning people who sit by their cars, maybe with a lantern, and hand out candy and engage with the excited families. Won't you come out to play? Contact Lucy Kroenung or the church office at secretary@websterum.org to offer your trunk for the party. Our youth will also be hosting a Haunted Forest adventure.

Have a Boo-tiful Halloween!

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; Randy Turman (Lettie Morse); Teresa Ruma (Marcia Kennon); Alison McCurley and family; Liney Ward; Ashley Miller and her father (Andrea Zepeda); Laverne Kroenung, Marlene Phelan, Teri Samples, & Wilma Jamieson (Connie Kroenung); my grandma and Auntie Mike (Lucy Kroenung); safe travels for family and friends; those affected by Hurricane Lee and by the flood in Lybia; meaningful gun control laws; and federal government employees; the new war in Israel; the old war in Ukraine; the USA; and world leaders.



ZACHARY GRAY NEW MEMBER



On Sunday, October 8, Zachary Gray joined Webster United Methodist as a transfer from the Pentecostal Church in Doniphan, Missouri. Zachary is a freshman at Webster University majoring in music composition.

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



PLEASE TAKE A
MOMENT TO
COMPLETE OUR

CHURCH SURVEY

SCAN THE
QR CODE



OR
CLICK THE LINK
BELOW

[https://forms.gle/
CaA6ftJl8MYTVFtT7](https://forms.gle/CaA6ftJl8MYTVFtT7)

Sincerely,

J Mark Leslie,
on behalf of the Church Council

Church Family,

The questions in this survey are designed to help the Church Council understand where we are at as a congregation. This survey is 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 on how we might accomplish our church's mission.

This is your chance to share 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.



Blessing of The Animals

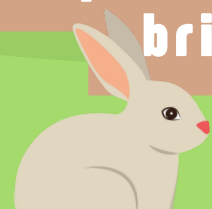
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 FROM 9AM-10:30AM

**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.





TRUNK • OR • TREAT & HAUNTED FOREST

Sunday, October 29, 2023 from 5-7 pm
Wear Your Costumes!

600 N Bompert Ave, Webster Groves, MO 63119



WEBSTER ROCK HILL

M I N I S T R I E S

How you may help Webster-Rock Hill Ministries
brighten the holidays for children and families
in the surrounding communities.

THANKSGIVING:

Our church has applied to fill up to 50 Thanksgiving food bags. The church will deliver the bags to WRHM after church on Sunday, November 5. Paper bags will be available Sunday, October 22 and 29 at church for pick-up near the elevator entrance and by the Bompert Avenue entrances. Anyone who wishes to donate food should pick up a bag and fill it with the following:

canned gravy, canned corn
canned sweet potatoes
canned cranberry sauce
canned green beans
canned pumpkin

boxed stuffing
macaroni & cheese mix
brownie mix
cake mix
please, no substitutions

CHRISTMAS:

Individuals or groups within the church who wish to participate in Webster-Rock Hill Ministries' Christmas Adopt-a-Family program are encouraged to contact WRHM directly at the address or phone number below for further particulars. General descriptive information about the Christmas Adopt-A-Family program includes:

WRHM will pair program applicants with a family or families according to instructions on the donors' returned application forms (applications were due last week, but later application may be possible if you contact them immediately and ask about late application). Suggested value for each gift is \$25, with one gift for each family member. No need to buy/donate food, as Christmas meals will be distributed to all families directly by WRHM. Deliver all Adopt-a-Family gifts to WRHM offices between December 4 and December 11. Please wrap each gift and label each gift with the recipient's first name. Put all gifts together in one large bag or box. Label the large bag or box with your name and the first name of the adult(s) in the family.

WRHM offices are open daily between 9 am and noon. Phone: 314-961-5082. Address: 111 E. Waymire Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119.



Gratitude and Generosity Giving Program

As Christians we are invited to share in God's divine life and mission of giving.

Commitment Sunday is October 22, where we will participate in a Celebration Worship by bringing our commitments to the altar. An all-church meal to celebrate God's extraordinary generosity will follow the service.

Commitment Cards will be mailed next week.

Please prayerfully consider your giving and bring your Commitment Cards on October 22nd.

Commitment Cards can also be mailed to the Church or are available to be completed ONLINE on the "Giving" page of our website.

Thank You,
Gordon Ballam and Hakon Vader,
Co-Chairs of this year's giving program.



25th Anniversasary Celebration

Visit with friends - Share Memories

OCTOBER 20, 2023 | 12 NOON
Kirkwood United Methodist Church

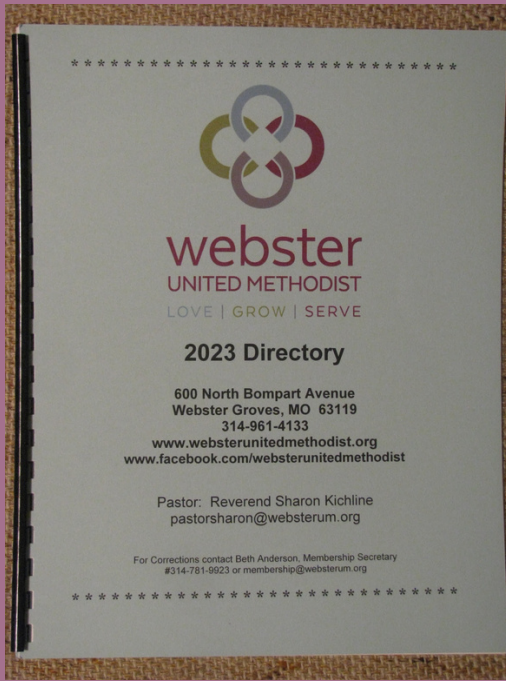
201 W. Adams, Kirkwood, MO 63122
Buffet Luncheon - Volunteer Recognition
\$50/Person - Ticket Sales

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

Sponsored by
Cardinal Ritter Senior Services



CHURCH DIRECTORY



The new church directory is still available in the narthex at the back of the sanctuary on Sundays, or in the church office Monday through Friday, 9 am to noon.

If you find a typo or wrong information in your listing, please contact Membership Secretary Beth Anderson at membership@websterum.org.

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.