



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

October 19, 2023



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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

The Hate Grows

As long as I have been living, there has been unrest in the Middle East, those lands between southwest Asia and northern Africa, stretching from the Mediterranean to Pakistan. Actually, tempers have run hot there for many, many generations, dating back to the biblical stories of the Old Testament. For many people of faith, these lands are sacred, the home of their ancient and revered fathers and mothers.

War has been declared by Israel in response to the Hamas attacks on October 7th, which killed 1400 people in Israel. It resulted in 199 hostages, including women and children. Hamas, a militant fundamentalist organization, known officially as the Islamic Resistance Movement, governs the Gaza Strip of the Palestinian territories. The Israeli response has been decisive resulting in over 2300 Palestinian deaths, and now tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians are in need of food, water, fuel, and medical supplies. A humanitarian crisis is developing quickly.

It is challenging for me to understand all this hatred from people of deep faith, who love and worship the same God as I do. I doubt that I am alone in my alarm and confusion. As Jesus is my guide to the heart of God, I am reminded that he got pretty angry at the Temple when he saw the moneychangers taking advantage of the faithful. So mad in fact, that he threw over their tables, sending the coins rolling everywhere. But when Peter later cut off the ear of one of the Roman soldiers who had come to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus stopped Peter and rebuked him. It seems that Jesus, and by extension, God, can feel righteous indignation, but is not about killing to resolve conflict.

The United Methodist Council of Bishops (COB) issued a statement last week condemning the violence in the Middle East and calling for prayer and action. COB President Thomas J. Bickerton urged all United Methodists to renew a deepened commitment to pray for those on both sides of the conflict who have been injured, abducted, or killed; and to deepen our prayers for those who have suddenly lost a loved one.

Innocent blood continues to be spilled. Suffering and tears continue to flow. People of faith continue to bury their loved ones and grieve their losses. Hate continues to grow. I believe our shared Parent also grieves that God's children continue to hurt one another so grievously.

Let us pray fervently for a peaceful resolution.

Grace & Peace +
PASTOR SHARON



Our Gratitude and Generosity Celebration is this Sunday, October 22nd!

During worship, friends and members of Webster United Methodist will present our Commitment Cards (which we hope you receive in the mail this week) to God in a special offering. Additional Commitment Cards will be available at the doors to the Sanctuary.



All those who are members or who have come to feel that Webster United Methodist is your church, of all ages 3 and older, are invited to participate in pledging our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness for the ministries of our church next year.

A delicious meal with homemade cookies will be served after worship in Fellowship Hall. All are invited!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please Pray For

Lamar Fitzgerald; Joanne Kannewurf, Teri-Ann Wallace & 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; Chris Redmore; Sandy Reesor & family; family & friends of Kalendria Johnson (Cindy Andrews); 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); Zachary Gray is thankful for elders who are extra supportive of LGBTQ people; safe travels for family and friends; those affected by Hurricane Lee and by the flood in Lybia; meaningful gun control laws; the new war in Israel; the old war in Ukraine; the USA; and world leaders.



TRUNK • OR • TREAT & HAUNTED FOREST

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

600 N Bompert Ave, Webster Groves, MO 63119



LifeWise StL Trivia Night is back!

Join us for some fun nostalgia, as we recall the times “When We Were Kids!” Trivia Night proceeds will fund our literacy-focused youth programs: Young Scholars After-School Program, Freedom School Literacy Summer Camp, and LifeWise Academy for teens.

Saturday, November 11, 2023

Doors open at 6:00 PM Questions begin at 7:00 PM

The Pavilion at Lemay

Located in Jefferson Barracks Park
305 Gregg Road
Lemay, MO 63125

Costume Contests

Dress as your favorite character or toy from when you were a kid for a chance to win our costume contest! Gather your friends for a group costume or ride solo . . . it's up to you! You will be judged on creativity and likeness, so get creative! Individual and table winners!

Registration

\$30/ Individual
\$240/ Team of 8

Included in registration fee:

Complimentary beer, wine, and soft drinks*
Contest for best costumes (individual and table)
Games, Raffle, and Silent Auction

*Guests can bring food and non-alcoholic beverages

Register online at

<https://www.lifewisestl.org/attend-an-event/trivia-night/>



WEBSTER ROCK HILL

MINISTRIES

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.



“Unraveling Our Past to Make Sense of Today”

A virtual presentation with Dr. Ashley Boggan, General Secretary
of the General Commission on Archives and History

Would you like to
learn more about
our United
Methodist Social
Justice history?

**Would you like
to know about
the Social
Principles that
call us to
action?**

Do you have
questions about
changes to our
Social Principles
being considered at
the 2024 General
Conference?

Sunday, November 5 @ 6:30 p.m.
Webster Hills UMC Great Hall, CLC
1333 W. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119
Sponsored by Webster Hills Social Justice Team

Light refreshments served
Donations for General Commission
on Archives and History welcomed
<http://www.gcuh.org>

Join us as Dr. Boggan shares some background on the formation of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church dating back to John Wesley. Learn how the church has acted on these principles to have significant impact throughout history. Let us remember who we Methodists are, what we believe, and what inspires us to continue this important work today.



Dr. Ashley Boggan is the General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History. She earned her PhD from Drew Theological School's Graduate Division of Religion, specializing in both Methodist/Wesleyan Studies and Women's/Gender Studies. She is the author of *Nevertheless: American Methodists and Women's Rights*(2020) and *Entangled: A History of American Methodism, Politics, and Sexuality*(2018); Scan the QR code to learn more about Dr. Boggan's Podcast, "Un-Tied Methodism".