



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## October 5, 2023



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## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

### *Blessing of the Animals*

At the beginning of the Bible, there is a story about how God created everything in six days, and rested on the seventh. On the last day of creation, right before creating humanity, God created the animals.

*God said, "Let the earth produce every kind of living thing; livestock, crawling things, and wildlife." And that's what happened. God made every kind of wildlife, every kind of livestock, and every kind of creature that crawls on the ground. And God saw how good it was." (Gen 1:24-25 CEB translation)*

Animals have been a huge blessing to humankind, and we are charged to care for them (Gen 1:26). Somewhere around the 13th century, a service of blessing was developed in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Catholic monk and patron saint of animals and the environment. It was also about giving thanks to God for the labor and sustenance that animals contribute, as well as the joy and comfort pets bring to our lives.

This is what I know. Our pets have brought stability (no matter what else is happening, they want their dinner on time), unconditional love (it does not seem to matter to them that we are still in our pajamas and without makeup), comfort (when no one else seems to like you, your pet still adores you), and delight (who would have thought that watching a pup chase its tail could make you laugh out loud?). It's a scientific fact that the relationship between a pet and its owner is emotionally and physically therapeutic. Pets actually make us feel better, but anyone who has held a pet on their lap while snoozing already knows that.

**Saturday morning, October 14th, from 9am-10:30am,** I will be honored to bless your pet. If you cannot bring them, a picture will do. We'll take a picture of you together, and celebrate with treats. This will be a time to thank God for these loving, sometimes naughty, hysterically goofy creatures in our lives. We will also ask God's tender mercies be poured out upon our beloved little friends.

See you in the front yard of the church!

*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); 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.

## 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/  
CaA6ftJ18MYTVFfT7](https://forms.gle/CaA6ftJ18MYTVFfT7)

*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.

THIS SATURDAY

RUMMAGE

SALE

OCTOBER 7TH, 8 AM - 1 PM

600 N BOMPART AVE,  
WEBSTER GROVES, MO 63119

Come Join Us!

**WILD  
WEDNESDAY**

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





# TRUNK • OR • TREAT & HAUNTED FOREST

Sunday, October 29, 2023 from **5-7 pm**

**Wear Your Costumes!**

600 N Bompert Ave, Webster Groves, MO 63119





## Our November 4th “Harvesting Hope For Missions” Is More Than Auction Baskets

Our HARVESTING HOPE FOR MISSIONS event has made a name and menu change, but everything else we’ve enjoyed about the evening is still the same! **The Country Store** is a popular shopping opportunity for gifts and goodies. It will remain open all evening and has reasonable prices. We are hoping to have seasonal craft items, such as wreaths, candle rings, wall hangings, stuffed dolls, some jewelry, and a delicious variety of baked goods such as brownie, muffins, scones, etc., as well as snack mix, pretzels, candy, and many other goodies. So, if you like to bake or are crafty, here are some possible items to donate. And, if you are just looking to shop, this is a great place!

Our **Live Auction** will begin after dinner and feature whatever beautiful and wood crafted or homemade things that our congregation wishes to gift us. Standouts in the past have been lovely quilts, beautiful furniture items, birdhouses, outdoor benches, wooden napkin rings, quilts, scarves and mufflers, and delectable pies, jellies, and candy. If you are proud of your pie-making, here is an opportunity to donate one. We are asking that anyone wishing to donate a pie please give it for the **Live Auction** rather than as a dessert for the dinner, which will feature other choices.

Tickets will go on sale next week---Sunday, October 8, in Fellowship Hall or from any Missions Team person.

Childcare will be available if you have need. Contact Jan McCurley (314-378-5504) to let her know you will need this service.



## 25th Anniverasary 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](http://www.shepherdscenter-wk.org) or call 314-395-0988

**Sponsored by**  
**Cardinal Ritter Senior Services**



# The Loom Project

**Thank you to everyone who has been bringing in plastic bags for our loom/weaving project! We are so grateful for the support. For now though, we have enough plastic bags to work with for a while. We will keep weaving soon.**

**Thank you,  
Jan McCurley**

## **NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE**

All articles and submissions must be sent to [secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org) by Monday at 5pm to be in that week's newsletter.





# WEBSTER ROCK HILL

## M I N I S T R I E S

Webster-Rock Hill Ministries has announced, October 11 as registration deadline for participation in its annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Adopt-A-Family programs. WRHM also noted changes in programs from previous years.

### **THANKSGIVING:**

Donations will be limited to provision of individual food boxes, bags, or baskets containing prescribed food items for a Thanksgiving meal. All Thanksgiving donations will be distributed directly by WRHM. Donations are due to WRHM offices between October 30 and November 10.

### **CHRISTMAS:**

The adopting of families will remain in the Christmas program. WRHM will pair program applicants with a family or families according to instructions on the donors' returned application forms. Family gifts are suggested to have a \$25 value, with one gift for each family member. Christmas meals will be distributed to all families by WRHM. Bring all Christmas gifts to WRHM offices between December 4 and December 11.

### **REGISTRATION / APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Indicate your interest in either or both holiday programs by filling out and returning the Donor Registration Form on the next page for 2023. Copies of forms are also available near the church's elevator entrance, on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board, and near the upper and lower exterior doors facing Bompert Avenue.

Anyone wishing to participate but concerned about the October 11 registration deadline should call WRHM offices between 9 and noon daily at 324-961-5082. Registration forms may also be dropped in the mail slot at WRHM offices afterhours or mailed to WRHM at 111 E. Waymire Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119.

### **MORE INFORMATION:**

See upcoming newsletters. Send questions via email to Mary Taylor, [marytaylor1327@gmail.com](mailto:marytaylor1327@gmail.com).

## **WRHM -ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM-DONOR FORM-2023**

You may choose to participate in one of our holiday programs or both.

*Please return this form to WRHM by **October 11th**.*

Name of Individual, Church, Business, Group, School or Organization	
Contact Person	Phone
Address	
City/State/Zip	
Email address	
<b>THANKSGIVING</b>	
How many baskets would you like to donate?	
<b>CHRISTMAS</b>	
<b>GIFTS.</b> We ask that donors provide gifts for both children and adults in the family. We recommend a gift value of approximately \$25.00 per family member.	
Please indicate the number of families you would like to adopt. Number of families:                      Number of people in each family:	

Please return this form to Webster Rock Hill Ministries by **October 11th** via email at [holidays@wrhm.org](mailto:holidays@wrhm.org), or by mail at 111 E. Waymire Ave. Webster Groves, MO 63119