



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Be Counted

Our Gratitude and Generosity program ended with an awesome Commitment Sunday on October 22nd! The picture on the cover of this issue of the newsletter is a cloud of words in the shape of a dove soaring, depicting how our church is empowered by the Holy Spirit to be the head, heart, and hands of Christ. The dust is settling as commitment cards are still coming in. About 88 persons, children, youth, and adults, have made one or more commitments to the church for 2024, representing 88% of our goal of 100 participants. These faithful have made one or more of these heart promises to God:

- to pray for the church and each other,
- be present at worship,
- to give a portion of their earnings,
- to serve God and others, and
- to witness to Christ with their lives.

The financial pledges at this time totals a little over \$226,000, representing 79% of our goal of \$285,000. This is good, but clearly, we have a way to go to get to our two goals.

It would be easy for someone reading this to conclude that my only concern is in the numbers, but that would be inaccurate. While it is true that we need time, talents, and resources to continue the church and its many ministries, the greater need is for you. Jesus' church, the Body of Christ, needs you. And you need the church.

Every commitment card represents a person with a soul attached who is on a spiritual journey in this life. These persons have stepped out in faith and are moving deeper in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Making and keeping heart promises strengthens their connection with God and to the Body of Christ. It weaves each soul deeper into the fabric of the most transformational movement in history. We get to change lives, and in the work, our lives change as well.



So this is what I am inviting you into, my friends: the adventure of transformation (Wesley would have called it sanctification) of the world and your own soul. It's a wondrous journey.

I invite you to return your commitment card to the church with one or more heart promises for 2024. You can also pick up a commitment card at the doors to the Sanctuary, or under the Give button on our website, Websterunitedmethodist.org.

Be counted. Join the journey!

Grace & Peace +
PASTOR SHARON

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please Pray For

Seira; Pat Delf, Teri Ann Wallace, Joanne Kannewurf (Marcia Kennon); Randy Turman and Mercia Whitson (Lettie Morse); for meaningful gun control laws; World leaders & World peace forever!



HANDS IN MISSION *Fall Clean-up*

ROGER MCCURLEY &
ELLEN HENDRICKSON
ARE THE 2 PICTURED
HERE.





HARVESTING HOPE FOR MISSIONS

The Risk-Taking Missions Team wishes to sincerely thank everyone for the loving support you provided to our former "Lord's Acre" fundraiser and let you know that "Harvesting Hope for Missions 2023" seems to have been our best year ever, at least in recent years! After grocery expenses, we cleared \$8, 131.18!!

We are grateful to everyone who made chili, chicken noodle soup, homemade rolls, and desserts; to our volunteers who set up areas, served, and cleaned up; to those who crafted, cooked, and donated items to sell; and above all we are grateful for your generosity as you bid on the wonderful variety of Silent Auction items purchased Country Store goodies large and small and did lots of fun bidding on many gorgeous and tasty things during our Live Auction!

Also, thanks for your vigorous support of the "Fund the Need" portions of the Live Auction, which was something new we tried this year. Items for LifeWise and Webster Rock Hill Ministries amounted to \$1,600 and \$1,360, respectively. The funds raised will go to support our covenant church in Mozambique, and the remaining money will be divided and sent to LifeWise, WRHM, Epworth, and several other agencies we typically support.

"Well done, good, & faithful servants" of Christ! Our Missions will, indeed, provide HOPE for many this year.



Welcome

Amanda Furbee!

We welcome Amanda Furbee as our new **Director of Youth Ministries**! Amanda has been a technology teacher, a chemistry teacher, and is currently a swim instructor.

For six years, she served as a volunteer advocate for children in foster care. She received her degree in Communications, specializing in Public Relations, from the University of Missouri of St. Louis. Amanda has two children, a daughter who is 16, and a son, 7. She is excited to begin working with our youth.

ADVENT STUDY SERIES

CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE EYES OF JOSEPH

The King Class will be studying Faithful - Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph, a short book by Reverend Adam Hamilton. The book contains 4 chapters and we will cover one chapter per week beginning Sunday, November 26. Participants will be expected to read the chapter during the week before class so that we can learn from the discussion guide. There is also a DVD that will be played on November 26. For more description of the book, click [here](#).

Books will be available at our class next Sunday and at the Church office during the following week. There will not be a charge for the books.

We invite you to join us for an easy, interesting read and thoughtful discussion at 9:00am Sundays in the south end of Fellowship Hall.

Stan Richert





COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

November 21, 2023 6:00pm
(refreshments to follow)

Community outreach at
Webster Rock Hill
Ministries. We are asking
everyone to bring a food item.

A love offering also will be
taken up to send to
the **Firewood for Elders**
program at the Rosebud
Indian Reservation,
South Dakota



We will gather at
Webster United Methodist
600 N Bompert Ave, Webster Groves, MO 63119



Want to Get Involved?

- **Attend, and bring a friend!**
- **Contribute food goods for Webster Rock Hill Ministries,**

cereals, oatmeal, peanut butter and jelly
any kind of canned beans
tomato sauce, soups
mac and cheese, canned chili
dry pastas and/or pasta mixes
rice mixes, canned chicken
canned Chef Boyardee type pastas

- **Make a financial offering to the Firewood for Elders program**
- **Take a role in the evening**
 - Sing with the choir! Contact Lamar Fitzgerald at LWF4peace@gmail.com
 - Greet Worshippers and hand out bulletins
 - Bring a sweet or savory treat to share
 - Help with cleaning up the space after the event—Many hands make light work!

Contact Pastor Sharon at pastorsharon@websterum.org
or at 314-566-0332 with questions or to sign up help!



UNITED WOMEN
IN FAITH

*Christmas
Luncheon*

Saturday, December *2nd*

10:30 AM--Craft Sale

11:15---Lunch

The Buckhannon Brothers
old time fiddle & mandolin music

Cost \$10

Sign up on the Connection Card
during Sunday worship
or call Cindy Andrews, 314-277-9368



MERCY CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER

On Saturday, December 9, 8:30 AM–3:00 PM, An Advent Day of Prayer, The Three Comings of Christ, will be presented by Karen Seaborn at Mercy Conference and Retreat Center in Frontenac, MO.

Register at www.mercycenterstl.org by December 1.

Cost \$80

(lunch and art supplies included).

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.