

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

November 23, 2023



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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Be Counted

*"I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers."
(Ephesians 1:16)*

Dear Church,
I share this letter with you every year. It's a letter about a letter.

Most of my writing happens through texting or email these days, but this special letter I actually write long-hand. Yeah, can you imagine?

It began when our first next-door neighbor, some 30+ years ago, came over and mowed the lawn of newlyweds who couldn't yet afford to buy a lawnmower. With our first fall frost, this dear man came to our basement to show us how to light our furnace after we had slept in our coats and mittens. We were a couple of young kids who didn't know what we were doing, and he thoughtfully looked over us as we bumped through our first year of home ownership.

Our first wonderful neighbor has long since moved away, and so have we. But every year, when it's time to light the pilot light on the furnace, I think of his kindness and wish we could thank him for his care for us. Years ago, I decided if I could not tell him, I would appreciate others in his honor. So I began writing letters of thanks to folks who had offered me a hand of friendship somewhere along the way and provided care, comfort, or inspiration.

During the Thanksgiving season, we are prompted to think more about our blessings and make a special point of saying thank you to God. I encourage you to also thank those who, prompted by God's Spirit, showed up to care for you in some way, just as I suspect she prompted our good neighbor years ago to leave his warm house to check on the two young kids living next door.

Who does your heart yearn to reach out to with a letter or phone call of thanks? Don't hesitate any longer. Do it.

Grace and peace be with you in this season of "thanks"-giving.

Grace & Peace +
PASTOR SHARON



PRAYER CONCERNS

Please Pray For
Seira; Peg Chulick and Donna Reynolds (Jo Ann Claywell); and Pat Delf, Teri Ann Wallace, and Joanne Kannewurf (Marcia Kennon); those traveling during the holidays; for meaningful gun control laws; World leaders & World peace forever!

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





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



**Love cookies?
Hate the mess that goes with baking?**

Come visit our Youth Group sponsored....

Christmas Cookie Marketplace!

**Saturday December 9th
from
9 am to 12 pm**

**Thousands of homemade
cookies & holiday treats
sold by the pound!**

You pick the ones you want.
(Come early for the best selection!)

Webster United Methodist

600 N. Bompart

(1/2 mile north of Lockwood ... between Newport and Marshall)

All proceeds benefit next summer's youth mission trip.





Advent and Christmas Events!

November 26 th	9:00am	Advent Bible Study: <i>“Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph”</i> <i>Join the King Class for this 4 week study in Fellowship Hall</i>
December 2 nd	10:30am 11:15am	United Women in Faith Craft Sale United Women in Faith Luncheon/ Program: The Buckhannon Brothers- old time fiddle & mandolin music
December 3 th	10:30am	The Advent Journey Continues <i>Come share Communion and prepare your heart</i>
December 9 th	9-12pm	Christmas Cookie Marketplace-Youth Group Fundraiser <i>Buy cookies from a variety of yummy choices!</i> <i>Funds raised will go to support the Youth Summer Mission Trip</i>
December 10 th	10:30am	March to the Manger <i>Celebration with a Living Nativity</i>
December 13 th	5:30-7pm	Wild Wednesday: Build a Gift! <i>Children 4yo-6th grade create gifts for family and friends</i>
December 17 th	10:30am	Cantata <i>A Musical Celebration of the Birth of Jesus</i>
December 21 st	7:30pm	Christmas with The Mountain Service <i>Designed for travelers and those unable to worship on Christmas Eve</i>
December 24 th	10:30am	Family Friendly Christmas Eve Worship <i>Created for the Children</i>
December 24 th	7:30 pm	Traditional Candlelit Christmas Worship <i>Scriptures and Carols led by our Chancel Choir</i>
December 31 st	10:30am	New Year’s Eve Café in Fellowship Hall <i>Relaxed Worship with Coffee and Treats</i>



A SOCIAL JUSTICE STORY AND CALL FOR HELP

CAROLYN REDMORE, JUSTICE TEAM,
WEBSTER UNITED METHODIST

My encounter with the issue of criminalization of children & youth of color began eight years ago at my first Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) workshop. My engagement in MCU's Break the School to Prison Pipeline campaign began by spreading the word about this issue, advocating for elimination of out of school suspension K-3rd grade, and making modest donations to MCU. Two years later at a United Methodist Women's national assembly I learned of UMW's campaign to address the same issue, a

focus that continues. While coordinating a program for (rebranded) United Women in Faith Northeast District about MCU's grassroots action, a Participatory Defense Program, I connected with Ayanna Flenoid, a parent active in the program, who is now in need of financial help for the legal defense of her son, Zechariah. He has been in Juvenile Detention for over a year and recently was certified to stand trial as an adult for a crime committed when he was 15. A process has been set up with Peace United Church of Christ for receiving donations that will go directly for Zechariah's legal defense. Go to the link for the full story and call for help.

Click [HERE](#) for link to full story.

Derek and I have contributed, and with the Justice Team invite you to help also. Our aim is to do what we can to ensure that this child is treated as a child in the legal system and given the opportunity to fully develop as a human instead of being forced into the adult legal system where outcomes are much worse. If this introduction and the link to "my story and call for help" touches your heart but leaves you with questions, please contact me: cdredmore@aol.com.





MERCY CONFERENCE & 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.

