

# Weekly Newsletter

JANUARY 11, 2024



Pastor  
**Rev. Sharon Kichline**

[pastorsharon@websterum.org](mailto:pastorsharon@websterum.org)

Music Ministry  
**Lamar Fitzgerald**

[directormusic@websterum.org](mailto:directormusic@websterum.org)

Director of Youth &  
Children's Ministry  
**Amanda Furbee**

[directoryouth@websterum.org](mailto:directoryouth@websterum.org)  
[directorchildren@websterum.org](mailto:directorchildren@websterum.org)

Administration &  
Communications Coordinator  
**Cavin Clive**

[admin.communications@websterum.org](mailto:admin.communications@websterum.org)

Student Pastor  
**Cassandra Lenoir**

[studentpastor@websterum.org](mailto:studentpastor@websterum.org)

Secretary

[secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org)

[www.websterunitedmethodist.org](http://www.websterunitedmethodist.org)

314-961-4133



## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

### *Full*

During the first few weeks of January, there seems to be all kinds of talk about how we may want to spend our time in this new year. There's lots of publicity for cruising, joining a gym, and signing up for college classes online. Time is an elusive thing: it is fleeting, but it can also drag. Time marches on, though it sometimes seems to fly. Time is a precious commodity, and it is an important part of the currency of our lives. How we dole out our time says something about what matters to us, and into what (or whom) we are willing to invest.

One of my favorite illustrations about spending time involves a container, like a big vase, and a pile of rocks of different sizes. The container represents our 24-hour day. The rocks represent ways that we can spend our time in that 24-hour day.

The exercise begins by asking, "What are the most important things you want to be sure of and get into your 24 hours?" These are the absolutes, those that above all things, you want to attend to first because to exclude or forget one would be a loss too costly to bear. These big things are represented by big rocks. Here's the first thing that became obvious: you cannot fit that many big rocks into one 24-hour timeframe.

When I did this for myself, I could fit in four. They were my relationship with God, my relationship with others, my health, and my ministry. Take a minute right here and think about what your big rocks might be.

Next, think about other items that need to fit in somewhere in our day. Medium rocks represent cleaning, reading, playing, running errands, doing some research, taking the dog for a walk, calling my brother, having coffee with a friend, paying some bills, delivering the car for an oil change. But what about the gallon of milk or the tank of gas you have to stop by on your way home? The haircut for the kids, the emergency load of laundry, two dozen cookies your son needs for tomorrow, the late-night chat with your teenager that presents itself? For those activities, we will pour in a bunch of smaller pebbles that trickled down into all the little gaps.

Here's another thing that became obvious: If we wait until the end of our demonstration to put in our big rocks, they will never fit. We've got to assign priority to the things that are most important to us and place them first. Otherwise, the smaller demands on our time will fill in all the gaps and something extraordinarily precious to us just won't fit into the space that is left.

As Christ-followers, I hope you will plan to choose to nurture your relationship with God as one of your big rocks. How that looks is up to you. Reading a devotional, praying, meditating on scripture, attending worship, and joining a small group are some of the ways that we can draw closer to our Lord. I believe if we make sure God gets into our day first, all the other rocks of our lives will find their place.

*Grace & peace +*

PASTOR SHARON



# PRAYER CONCERNS

Bev Mesey; Stuart/Reesor Family; Lou Stuart and Cindy (Traci Stuart); Mary Lynn Jones-Wright (Cindy Andrews); Rev. Kim Shirar; Mark Kremer; Terri Samples (Connie Kroenung); Kayla Kopp Hardin and family; Trinka (cousin of Jean Ransdell and Beth Anderson); Ginnie Hartley, Teri Ann Wallace, & Pat Delf (Marcia Kennon); Elias and Kayla, Vicki for a quick recovery (Linda Guth Stangl); and those digging out from heavy snowstorms; world leaders, and peace.

## Delivering our Blessings to Avery

The teachers and staff at Avery Elementary School were thrilled to receive delicious muffins, cakes, juice, and treats on Monday, 1/8, their first full week back from winter break. Thank you to all who collaborated to make this happen. What a sweet gift to our neighbors!

## THANK YOU!

### Cold Weather

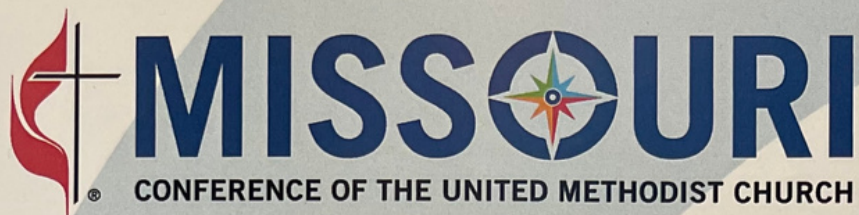
With the temperatures dropping, I contacted InExcelsis to pick up our coat collection right away. We were able to offer 4 large trash bags of warm coats and clothing to be distributed among the folks served by InExcelsis. Thank you all!

## Special Thanks to the Tuesday Crew



Our church family is particularly blessed by a group of people who gather nearly every Tuesday morning to keep our church looking good and working great. Together, they finish floors, work on plaster projects, and break down and set up tables and chairs, and Christmas nativity scenes. They seal our steps, check the children's playground equipment, update our parsonage, and coordinate snow removal. Doing this and so much more is one way they put their talents to work to serve Christ all year long. Gentlemen, your Church family thanks you!





## WE CELEBRATE THE MINISTRY OF

### *Webster United Methodist*

for faithfully giving 100% of Conference,  
national and global apportionments for 2023 to  
support United Methodist connectional ministries in  
our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the  
transformation of the world.

**We give God thanks for your extravagant generosity!**

Bishop

District Superintendent

Council on Finance and  
Administration Chair

*"For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means,  
and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of  
sharing in this ministry ..."*

*2 Corinthians 8:3*

# HUMAN RELATIONS DAY SPECIAL OFFERING SUNDAY



## JANUARY 14

Why does the United Methodist Church have 6 Special Offering Sundays each year? The Book of Discipline explains, “The special Sundays...I (are) intended to illustrate the nature and calling of the church...” “(They) are placed on the calendar to make clear the calling of the church as the people of God, and to give persons the opportunity to contribute offerings to special programs.”

Sunday, January 14, the Sunday before the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior’s birthday, is designated as “Human Relations Day.” This offering supports Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Service, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation programs. An example of such a program is the story of “Donna,” an active participant at Solomon Community Temple UMC in Milwaukee, WI, who became pregnant as a teen. She received help from a Christ-centered ministry called Blanket of Love which works to improve birth outcomes of African American babies by teaching prenatal care, infant care, and parenting skills to young pregnant African American women and their families.

Please prayerfully consider giving to this special offering on January 14. Special Offering envelopes will be in the pews, and checks should be made to WUM, memo line reading “Human Relations Day.” You may also give via the special pull-down menu under GIVE on the website.



## HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

**We celebrate the Sunday before  
Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday to recognize  
his vision of “the beloved community”**

**57%**  
OF YOUR  
DONATION FUNDS  
Community  
developer program

**33%**  
OF YOUR  
DONATION FUNDS  
rehabilitation  
programs

**10%**  
OF YOUR  
DONATION FUNDS  
United Methodist  
voluntary services

**Your support funds ministries of advocacy &  
community engagement**

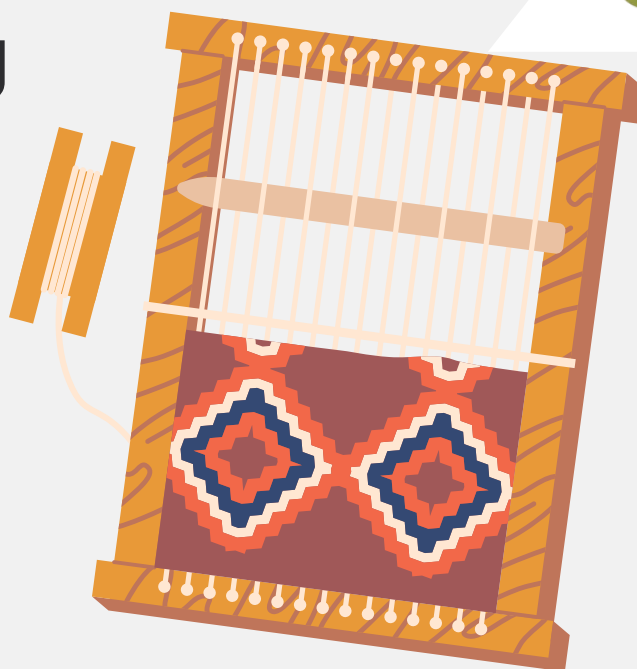
**<https://www.umc.org>**

**This weekend, January 12-15, our nation celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. and his legacy of social justice. You can participate in a number of celebratory events in the St. Louis area.  
Click the link below for more details.**

**<https://www.stlmag.com/culture/things-to-do-this-weekend/st-louis-martin-luther-king-day-events/>**



# W e a v i n g W i t h t h e L o o m N i g h t



## COMING UP JAN 17

Time to restart our weaving project for the new year! Let's gather in Fellowship Hall next Wednesday, January 17, 6-8 pm to weave strips across the loom, organize strips into groups, and basically progress toward making our first sleeping mat to give to homeless people.

Come & go as you please that evening. Choir folks can maybe come before their practice. Jan, Pastor Sharon, and other people on the loom team can show you how to do the weaving.

Some snacks will be available as you wait for a turn on the loom.

CONTACT JAN MCCURLEY FOR MORE INFO AT 314-368-5504 (CELL) OR [JANIS.MCCURLEY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JANIS.MCCURLEY@GMAIL.COM).





# **GIRL SCOUT COOKIES FOR SALE!!**

**The Girl Scouts will be selling cookies in fellowship hall this year on Sundays January 14, 21, and 28, before and after church service. Please visit their table if you would like to support them.**

**You can also purchase online if you prefer. You fill out the online order form, pay online, and choose to have the cookies dropped off at your house by the Girl Scouts or delivered by mail. It is very easy!**

**Two girls, Sarah and Vivienne Vader, are selling cookies this year. We split the congregation in half by last name, please place your order online as follows:**

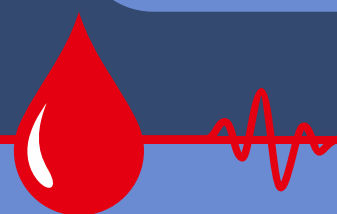
**A-M last names purchase from Sarah at:  
<https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/sarah659990>**

**N-Z last names purchase from Vivienne at:  
<https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/vivienne744538>**



## LITURGICAL COMPOSERS CONCERT

The annual Liturgical Composers Concert will be held Thursday, January 25, 7:00-8:30 PM at Mercy Conference and Retreat Center in Frontenac. Celebrate this evening of music and song with the composers who have enhanced our worship throughout the years. \$25 general admission. \$50 preferred seating (includes reception after the concert with the composers.) \$15 individual livestream. Register at [www.mercycenterstl.org](http://www.mercycenterstl.org).



## RED CROSS COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

FRIDAY JANUARY 26, 2pm - 7pm.  
at the Brentwood REC CENTER

PLEASE SIGN UP AT:  
[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
sponsor code: BW ParksRec

Your DONATION WILL HELP OTHERS  
Questions email [aleahy2833@gmail.com](mailto:aleahy2833@gmail.com)