



Weekly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 8, 2024



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Meet Your Church Leaders Series I

BARB SARICH,
LAY LEADER

Hello, friends! While I know many of you well, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have been a member of this congregation since I was in high school. Denny and I were married here and our children, Niki and Drew, were active members in the youth group and Rainbow Connection and Youth choirs. It has truly been a church home for us.

Over the years, I have served as the chair of the Council on Ministries, and the Work Area on Worship. I have also worked on the Communications committee and the Work Area on Church and Society, as well as directing the children and youth choirs. It is a joy to sing in the Chancel Choir. Now that I have retired from teaching (after 40+ years!), I am able to take the time to volunteer as a reading mentor at Hodgen School.

I am excited to have been asked to serve as your Lay Leader! I know how important this church has been to me, and I hope that I will be able to help everyone in our congregation to have that special relationship as well and to strengthen your relationship with Christ's love. I hope to help you have the opportunities to find the things that will make your relationship with the church and each other even more meaningful, whether it is through a small group, through working on mission projects or through your worship experience. I look forward to working closely with the pastor and other church leaders to help us be that diverse faith family seeking to love, grow and serve.

BLESSINGS,
BARB



PRAYER CONCERNS

Carol Gilker; Bev Mesey; Traci Stuart and her father Lou; Zachary Gray's father; Tom (friend of McCurleys); Almany baby (Beth Gewinner); Teri-Ann Wallace (Marcia Kennon); Carol Gilker; Caitlyn Kremer; safety for travelers; and world peace.

YOUTH GROUP

OUR YOUTH GROUP IS IN NEED OF DONATIONS OF FLEECE BY THE YARD!! WE ARE MAKING BLANKETS FOR LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS AS AN ONGOING SERVICE PROJECT.

DO YOU LIKE TO COOK? WE COULD USE A FEW VOLUNTEERS TO OCCASIONALLY PROVIDE A MEAL FOR YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS ON SUNDAY EVENINGS.

Contact Amanda Furbee at directoryouth@websterum.org or by phone at 314-532-5151

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

ANNA E. HALL

(1870-1964)

MISSIONARY TO THE KRU IN MONROVIA, LIBERIA



PHOTO: ANNA E. HALL COLLECTION,
ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER

ANNA E. HALL WAS BORN NEAR BAINBRIDGE, GEORGIA, MARCH 1, 1870. SHE EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO SERVE AS A MISSIONARY WHILE A STUDENT AT CLARK UNIVERSITY (NOW CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY) IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA. HER RELIGIOUS TRAINING WAS DELAYED BECAUSE OF FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES AND LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES, BUT AFTER TEACHING FOR FIVE YEARS, SHE ATTENDED AND GRADUATED FROM NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS TRAINING SCHOOL IN BOSTON IN 1901. SHE WAS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO ATTEND THE SCHOOL.

FROM 1901-1906, SHE SERVED AS A DEACONESS WITH THE LLOYD STREET METHODIST CHURCH (NOW THE CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH) IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA. IN 1906, SHE WAS SENT TO MONROVIA, LIBERIA, TO TEACH THE KRU PEOPLE. IN HER SECOND YEAR SHE WAS ASKED TO GO TO GARRAWAY MISSION IN SOUTHERN LIBERIA AS DIRECTOR OF THE JULIA A. STEWART MEMORIAL GIRLS HOME AND SCHOOL.

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SHE WORKED WITH GARRAWAY FOR 24 YEARS AND WAS COMFORTABLE WITH ALL PEOPLE – PRESIDENTS, HIGH CHURCH OFFICIALS, COLLEGE PRESIDENTS – BUT CHOSE TO IDENTIFY WITH THOSE OF HUMBLE STATUS.

SHE RETIRED FROM HER WORK IN LIBERIA AND MOVED BACK TO ATLANTA, GEORGIA, WHERE SHE BECAME A FAMILIAR FIGURE VISITING HOSPITALS, PRISONS, AND HOMES OF SICK AND TROUBLED PEOPLE. AFFECTIONATELY NAMED “MAMA HALL” BY MEMBERS OF BOTH THE ATLANTA AND LIBERIA COMMUNITIES WHERE SHE LIVED, SHE WAS THE RECIPIENT OF MANY HONORS, INCLUDING BEING KNIGHTED BY THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA IN 1956 DURING THE INAUGURAL CEREMONIES OF PRESIDENT-ELECT WILLIAM V.S. TUBMAN.





FEBRUARY FOOD DRIVE

**FOR LIFEWISE STL &
WEBSTER ROCK HILL MINISTRIES**



**The Missions Team has chosen
February for Webster United
Methodist to collect food
for the City Market at LifeWise
StL and the Food Pantry at
Webster Rock Hill Ministries.**

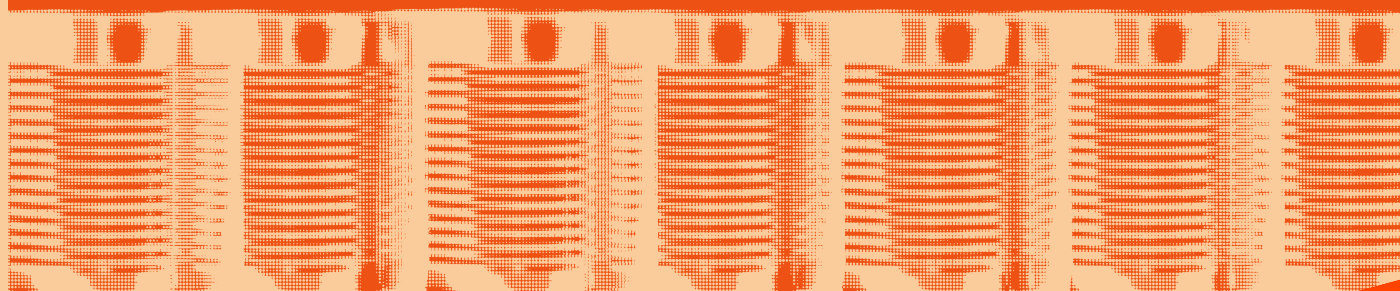


**Collection containers will be in the Sanctuary Lobby & First Floor Lobby
(aka Elevator Entrance). Our goal is to collect 400 food items during
February. Thank you all in advance for your generous donations!**

FOODS REQUESTED FOR THIS DRIVE:

- Rice
- Pasta
- Grits
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Cream of Wheat
- Spices
- Peanut Butter
- Cashew Butter
- Almond Butter
- Olive Oil
- Soup
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Tuna
- Dried Beans
- Grocery Store Gift Cards
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit

**Please check labels and avoid foods
high in salt and sugar content.**



LET'S WEAVE!

HERE ARE SOME OPPORTUNITIES IN FEBRUARY

Now that we have completed one plastic sleeping mat, let's do another one! During the month of February, we are offering 4 sessions to work on our loom with guided assistance, if you need it. Our team hopes you will come to one or more sessions. It's really pretty fun as well as rewarding!

So, please come and learn, continue to weave if you've done it before, or show someone else how to do it. Someone with experience will be on hand to monitor and assist.



HERE ARE THE DATES & TIMES THIS MONTH IN THE STAGE PORTION OF FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Sunday, Feb. 11,
10:00-10:25 AM (Fellowship hour)
& 11:30-12:30PM
after worship

Sunday, Feb. 18,
10:00-10:25 AM
& 11:30-12:30 PM

Thursday, Feb. 22,
12:30-2:00 PM

Wednesday, Feb. 28,
1:00-2:00 PM

HERE'S A CHANCE TO JOIN



A VOLUNTEER-IN-MISSION WORK TEAM FORMING FOR MAY

We are returning to our favorite place to serve others---Midwest Mission near Springfield, IL---for a work week with space for **10 people**. **The dates are Monday, May 13th – Thursday, May 16th 2024.** Some people from last year's team are eager to return, but there are plenty of spaces open to join.

The lodging is very spacious and comfortable; the work shifts have morning and afternoon breaks as well as a long lunch break, and the day is over between 3:30 and 4 :00 PM. We always meet plenty of friendly people and enjoy relaxing evenings with our teammates. It is definitely a break from routine, and quite enriching. Talk to some of us who have participated in the past if you are thinking about this new experience.

- **Dates:** Depart on Monday AM, May 13—Return Thurs. PM, May 16
- **What is Midwest Mission?** It is a United Methodist-affiliated disaster relief facility providing disaster relief kits, school desks, educational & medical supplies, etc., locally, nationally, and internationally
- **The work:** There is something for every ability—packing kits, sewing school bags, building & refinishing school desks, repairing bicycles and sewing machines, organizing materials, unloading items, filling shipping containers, etc.
- **Cost:** will be determined based on number of people going, but it will be minimal for dormitory lodging and supplies, plus food & gas expenses

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE TEAM, CALL JAN MCCURLEY AT 314-781-3969 (H) TEXT OR CALL 314-378-5504(C) OR EMAIL JANIS.MCCURLEY@GMAIL.COM NO LATER THAN MARCH 3.



READING MENTORING AT HODGEN'S ELEMENTARY We're Back!

Eight volunteers from WUM each week mentor K-2nd grade children in reading at Hodgen Elementary in south St. Louis City. Says volunteer Roger McCurley: "I have absolutely no credentials as an educator, but my kindergarten kids are responding well.....I suspect that we are making a difference in the lives of these wonderful kids." About making a difference, educators agree, Roger.

Learning to read by third grade is a foundational skill and a predictor of successful scholastic outcomes. (St. Louis Post Dispatch, January 26, front page focus). The SLPD article is about a community campaign, "Right to Read", focused on children reading at grade level by third grade. "Literacy for the Lou" is a similar city wide effort of the St. Louis Public Schools (The St. Louis American February 1-7). Unofficially we're on board with these campaigns. It is not too late to join this effort. Substitutes especially are needed.

**Interested? Check
that box on the
coming week's
Connection Card.**





UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH WINTER GATHERING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024

BRUNCH (\$10)
SERVED AT 10:00 A.M.

PLEDGE SERVICE, BUSINESS MEETING,
AND PROGRAM FOLLOWING BRUNCH

SIGN UP ON THE CONNECTION CARD
DURING SUNDAY WORSHIP OR CONTACT
MARY TAYLOR OR MARCIA KENNON

Caring for Our Planet: A Personal Focus

Webster United Methodist has long been concerned about our planet, God's Creation, and the things we do or don't do that impact its ability to nurture us and all God's creatures. As the climate changes and as weather events become more extreme, we are forced to think more about what we can do as individuals, families and communities. Sometimes the news overwhelms us and a feeling of helplessness prevails. The survey linked [here](#) is an effort by your church Justice Team to help you see how much you may already do, as well as give you ideas for more actions you can take that are within your reach. We hope you and your family will gather to respond. We will compile your responses and report back to you, using your ideas to determine next projects we might undertake to support the health of our environment.



Take the survey by clicking on the [link](#). If it's easier for you, you will find paper copies available in the Narthex (main church entrance off Bompert) and the entrance by the elevator. These may be returned to the church office. We ask you please to respond by February 16.
Debbie Lund for the Justice Team

GUIDED LENTEN RETREAT FEATURING THE CHOSEN

Tuesdays, Feb. 27, Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26, 9:30 AM-2:00 PM
at Mercy Conference and Retreat Center in Frontenac.

\$40 individual session; \$175 for whole series.
Lunch included. Register at mercycenterstl.org.