

Weekly Newsletter

MAY 23, 2024



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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

A Warm Heart

On May 24th, 1738, John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, felt something remarkable happening to him as he attended a worship service in London. He later wrote in his journal:

"In the evening, I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate-Street... and I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation: and an assurance was given me, that he had taken away my sins, even mine..."

Together with his many brothers and sisters, John Wesley has been involved in church his whole life. His father was an Anglican priest in the Church of England, and his mother, a strong, caring Christian whose stalwart faith greatly influenced her 10 surviving children. John studied at Christ Church College in Oxford, and at the age of 25, was ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church. But it wasn't until that evening on May 24th that he experienced the power of God's Holy Spirit stirring within him, affirming God's love for him as a beloved child of God. It was that movement of God's Spirit that propelled his ministry to re-vitalize the church that ultimately led to the development of the Methodist movement in Britain and America.

This month, on May 24th, we will celebrate the 286th year since John wrote about the occasion of his warm heart. Maybe you have your own heart-warming experience. I'd sure love to hear about it. Or maybe you are still waiting.

God's Spirit can move anyone at anytime, under any circumstance. But it seems that when we place ourselves in service to others, it increases the probability of experiencing God's stirring in our souls. To some it feels like the flutter of butterfly wings, and to other's, like being hit with a flying brick (in a nice way). But most certainly, it leaves the recipient amazed and craving another encounter.

So I invite you to find a way to serve others with your gifts and graces. Give of yourself. And while you're busy, and least expecting it, may the Spirit stir your soul, and your heart be strangely warmed.

Grace & peace +

PASTOR SHARON



PRAYER CONCERNS

Wersching Family; Redmore Family; Leah Richert; Margo Petracek; Bev Mesey; Andrew Kennon & Ellie Klein (Marcia Kennon); Brian Pinkerton (Joyce Simpson); Steve Holland (Julie Puckett); Byron Long (Cindy Andrews); Jonah (grandson of Jan & Steve Hanson); Metropolitan Churches United (MCU); Palestine; and the Israel-Hamas War.



NET NEWS

Conversations for Suicide Safer Homes

The Safer Homes Collaborative, a joint effort between firearm and suicide prevention advocates has created the free training, Conversations for Suicide Safer Homes (CSSH), to teach community members how to have a conversation about access to lethal means with someone who is suicidal. Safely, responsibly, and legally storing firearms, medications, poisons, or anything else used in a suicide attempt is an effective intervention to prevent someone in crisis from dying by suicide. The Safer Homes Collaborative offers free, virtual CSSH trainings every month on the second Tuesday at 12 pm and the fourth Tuesday at 6 pm. Mental Health Awareness Month is the perfect time to complete a training. You can register online at [saferhomescollaborative.org/CSSHCourses](https://www.saferhomescollaborative.org/CSSHCourses). You can learn more about the Safer Homes Collaborative at <https://www.saferhomescollaborative.org/>. To schedule a free CSSH training for your organization or community, visit <https://www.saferhomescollaborative.org/conversations-for-suicide-safer-homes-training-instructor-map/>.



Letter from Church Council Chair

Hello Webster United Methodist,

I wanted to send you a brief update about our last Church Council meeting on April 16th. We had two major updates at our meeting. First, Tom Pacatte was kind enough to attend Church Council and provide us with training regarding CPR and the AED device in our church. Second, we had an excellent update from Amanda Furbee about children's ministry and our youth group.

Tom provided us with an overview regarding the correct way to perform CPR on an unresponsive person in cardiac arrest. He also let us know about the AED device located next to the entrance on lower Bompert Ave. Your ministry leaders were instructed how to use this device appropriately, but to be clear nobody at this training became certified CPR or any other lifesaving procedure. The AED sounded like an amazing device, and it was designed so non-medical individuals—like many of us at WUM—would be able to save the life of someone who might be in cardiac arrest. As Tom indicated, the device is designed only to work on those for whom it is medically necessary. It will not function if the device determines the victim is not actually in cardiac arrest. If you find someone unresponsive in our church, you should call 911 and use the AED located near the entrance door on Bompert Ave. Once turned on, the device will provide you with the instructions you need to potentially save a life even if you are not medically trained.

We also had an outstanding update about the fun and enriching activities of our youth and children from Amanda Furbee. The youth are set to complete a mission trip in eastern Tennessee this summer. While there, the youth will focus on home improvements for needy residents and yard maintenance. They are also planning several fundraisers in the near future to help pay for this fun and important experience (One is listed on page 5 of this newsletter). They already hosted their trivia night on April 27th, but if you missed that and would like to support the youth mission trip there will be opportunities in the near future. Be on the lookout for those other fundraisers in our weekly announcements. We also learned a lot about Living Stones, the children have been taught lessons in the Bible through an educational series called Grow Together Now, and we also heard about the fun and engaging activities the children are engaged in on Wild Wednesdays. It was wonderful to hear about our active youth and children ministries.

Best,
J Mark Leslie
Chair of Church Council



Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

Adopt-A-Mile

DONATE \$1 FOR EACH MILE OF THE YOUTH TRIP TO AND FROM COPPERHILL, TN.

*Any amount helps fund
the 1040 mile trip!*

Make checks payable to WUM with Youth Mission Trip on the memo line. Online donation available on the church website.

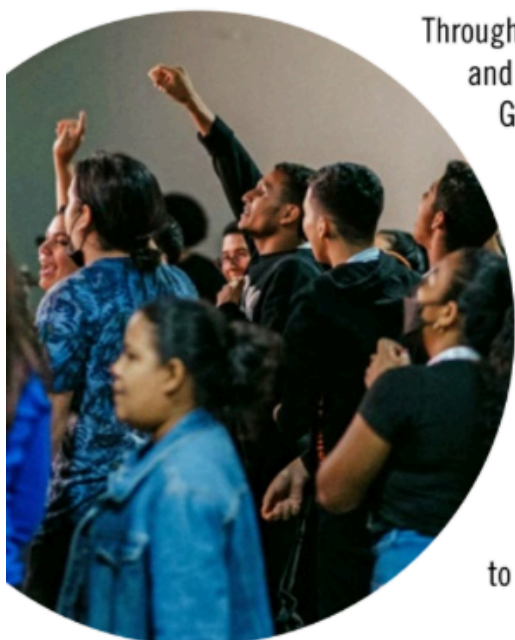


**Sunday,
May 26th**

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

Rising Justice: Pursuing the Peaceable Kingdom

One of denomination's six special offerings, Peace with Justice Sunday encourages United Methodists to participate in transforming the world and challenging injustice by calling on our leaders and elected officials to prioritize policies that support communities and reflect God's economy of abundance and grace. It is our duty to share the call for justice in the public square and invite others to join the movement for justice. "Peace with justice" is the only way to address root causes of suffering.



Throughout the Bible, God calls on us to challenge unjust leaders and serve as advocates for justice and peace. We must heed God's call for us to do justice (Micah 6:8), to repair brokenness in our communities (Isaiah 58, 61), and to seek peace and pursue it (Psalm 34:14).

At a time when it may feel like we have lost so much, embracing God's love for us can shift our perspective to recognize and share abundant grace. United Methodist Special Sunday offerings celebrate vibrant ministries while investing in servant leadership, community building and ministries of peace with justice. Concentrating our resources to support these important ministries equips us to work together, empowered by God's love.

The Peace with Justice offering is administered by the General Board of Church and Society and benefits peace with justice ministries in the annual conferences and around the world. Half of our gifts stay with local ministries in this conference and half support the work of Church and Society globally.

HOW TO GIVE

Special donation envelopes will be available at the May 26th worship service. Please designate Peace with Justice on the memo line of your check to the church, or give through our website websterunitedmethodist.org/give



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®



LIFEWISE STL

GOLF TOURNAMENT AND DINNER AUCTION

LifeWise is holding its
annual Golf Tournament and
Dinner Auction

Monday, June 3, At the Forest
Hills Country Club.

Not a golfer? No problem! Just go to the
website ([LifeWise StL.org](http://LifeWiseStL.org)) and
sign up for the 4:30 social &
silent auction followed by the
5:30 dinner & live auction.

This is the biggest fund raiser
of the year for LifeWise, and
they count on the continued
support of Webster UM. Let's
see if we can fill a table of 8.





CALLING ALL DOGS, DOG LOVERS & DOG WALKERS OUR 2ND ANNUAL



Saturday, May 25 • Old Orchard Gazebo Park

(across from the Webster Starbucks)

This is a **FREE** event!

No sign-up, just show up and have **FUN!**

7:45 am - Gather together at Gazebo Park.

8:00 am - Begin our Community Dog Walk.

Head west on the sidewalk along Lockwood to the Eden Seminary Green Space for a fun detour and some simple dog agility activities all dogs can do. Proceed west on the Lockwood sidewalk, then cross over and return on Lockwood to Gazebo Park for community connections, FREE Starbucks Brewed Coffee for you and FREE Starbucks "Pup Cups" of Whipped Cream for your dogs!

The entire event should take around one hour or so.

See YOU & Your DOG There!!!





Care for the Caregiver

AT MERCY CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER



WHEN

Saturday, August 3, 8:30 AM Check-in and coffee.
9:00 AM-3:30 PM Program

COST

Cost: \$30 in-person; lunch included. This special price is possible since this program is being underwritten.

REGISTRATION

Register at: mercycenterstl.org by Friday, July 26.
In-person space is limited for this workshop.

DESCRIPTION

Caregiving for persons with dementia can be both rewarding and depleting - an act of love cushioned in feelings of burnout, despair, and loneliness. The question becomes: who cares for the caregiver?



If you are concerned that you will not be able to attend in person, please phone and leave a message for Rita O'Dea 314.909.4663.

DETAILS

This workshop will focus on exploring support for the caregiver, support that will come both from the caregiver him- or herself and from the community.

- Dr. Kaori Sakurai, a gerontologist with expertise in dementia care, will share thoughts about healthy approaches to caregiving that take into account the needs of the caregiver as well as the person being cared for.
- Cheryl Kinney, LCSW, a licensed social worker with expertise in dementia care, will share a person-centered approach to communicating with and providing support to individuals with dementia.
- Coke Hennessy, a Mindfulness Teacher certified through U C Berkeley and certified in dementia care through the Alzheimer's Association, will share ideas of self-care available to refresh and replenish the caregiver physically, emotionally, and mentally.
- Maria Miskovic, MSW, LCSW, from Care Choice Care Management, an organization which works with families of persons with dementia to find optimal care for everyone involved, will discuss resources available in our community to support caregivers.



Congratulations!

WE CONGRATULATE

Jaedyn Parsons

on earning her Associate Degree at St. Louis Community College! We are so proud of her accomplishment!



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.