

Weekly Newsletter

DECEMBER 12, 2024



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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Luke 2:7 ceb

7 She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Greetings, siblings in Christ!

Make sure to join us this coming Sunday as we once again celebrate the holidays by sharing in one of the long-standing traditions that many at Webster treasure most during this season: the March to the Manger. There will be some new elements this year, as well as the same ones that have given us treasured memories; and, of course, we will also celebrate Communion together as part of the service.

If you haven't invited friends or family to church in a while, this Sunday is a special worship event that gives you the perfect opportunity to do so. There will be Christmas carols, sacred journeys, courage, faithfulness, and discovery of love along the way.

Invite folks you know to come learn, once again, what Christmas is really all about—faith and community. I Look forward to worshipping with you all Sunday!

14 The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. - John 1:14 ceb

Church family,

I need to let you know of another big change this Christmas season. I have spoken with several members of the congregation, including the worship planning team. The consensus seems to be that it is time to do something new on Christmas Eve: one new service starting at 5pm. This service will include elements for families and children, as well as our traditional carols and candlelight at the end.

While this is a shift, I hope you will join us so that we might lift our hearts and voices as one community, as we welcome Christ again into our world, our hearts and our lives. Looking forward to a meaningful and blessed Christmas together.

Yours In Christ

PASTOR GLEN

PRAYER CONCERNS



Andrew Kennon, Alta Kopetzky, & Marian Junge (Marcia Kennon); Randy Turman & Karen Leach (Lettie Morse); Janice Pauken (Debbie Lund); Jeff Outlaw (Beth Anderson); Kroenung Family; Bev Mesey; Dianne Wallace; Floyd & Linda Emery (Jo Ann Claywell); Reesor/Stuart Family; Margo Petracek & her sister Cheryl & her friend Allison; Steve Wojtowicz (Janet Iggulden's son-in-law); Rita Milford (Maggie Stevens' mother); Peter Schüren (Debbie Lund); holiday travelers; our country; the homeless population of St. Louis; and world peace.

The **MOUNTAIN SERVICE**

SCHEDULE *December*

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Small group @ 7:30pm - Space Room

Thursday, December 19, 2024

**Traveler's Christmas Service
Fellowship Hall @ 7:30pm**

Thursday, December 26, 2024

Small group @ 7:30pm - Space Room



FINANCIAL UPDATE

As we near the end of 2024, Webster United Methodist has been blessed with strong financial support for which we should all be thankful.

Our Gratitude and Generosity Giving Program also showed strong financial support. We are waiting for just a few more Commitment Cards. If you haven't had a chance to complete a card, we ask you to prayerfully consider beginning or renewing your commitment by completing a commitment card. To date we have received commitments from 76 adult givers and 9 youth and children givers for a total of \$289,761. We are excited to report that over 70% of givers increased their financial commitment.

With all the financial success in 2024, we unfortunately incurred several large and extraordinary expenses. The cost of renovating the parsonage exceeded our projections, even with donations supporting those renovations. We also had higher than expected costs in other areas. While we projected our expenses to slightly exceed our income, the higher than projected expense will cause our deficit to exceed \$20,000, without additional support.

We understand that most families are unable to give more than they already have. Money is tight. Especially this time of year. If however, you have the resources we ask that you prayerfully consider giving an 'extra mile' to improve our finances. If you are able to give, please designate your giving for the "Extra Mile" or select "Extra Mile" in Online Giving.

Respectfully,
Gordon Ballam, Chair of Finance

WEBSTER
UNITED
METHODIST
PRESENTS



MARCH TO THE *Manger*

DECEMBER 15 AT 10:30AM

CELEBRATE WITH LIVE NATIVITY!



Come Join Us!

TRAVELER'S CHRISTMAS @
THE MOUNTAIN SERVICE

DECEMBER 19, 2024
AT 7:30PM

*We invite all who will be
traveling during Christmas, to join us!*

FELLOWSHIP HALL @
600 BOMPART AVE, WEBSTER GROVES, MO 63119



WUM
YOUTH GROUP
PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS COOKIE MARKETPLACE



SATURDAY, DEC. 14
9AM - 12PM



HUNDREDS OF HOMEMADE COOKIES
& HOLIDAY TREATS SOLD BY THE POUND
YOU PICK THE ONES YOU WANT!
(COME EARLY FOR THE BEST SELECTION!)




ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT NEXT
SUMMER'S YOUTH MISSION TRIP

600 N BOMPART AVE,
WEBSTER GROVES, MO 63119




CHRISTMAS GIVING OUTREACH TO METROPOLITAN CONGREGATIONS UNITED



Derek and I returned to St. Louis ten years ago, the same time the tragedy in Ferguson unfolded. That tragedy broadened and deepened our consciousness of systemic racial injustices in the St. Louis area. As a person of faith, I felt called to engage where the focus was on systemic change. Metropolitan Congregations United met that call. MCU, an ecumenical 501c 3, puts faith into action by developing leaders who move their congregations, organizations, and communities to change public policy for the common good. Such leadership does not come naturally for me, but with the unfailing support of MCU organizers, both staff and volunteers, I have led in two areas: voter engagement and breaking the school to prison pipeline.

This church joined me more than once with voter engagement, most recently enabling us to vote on November 5 to raise the wage and require paid sick leave, earlier to expand Medicaid. Tougher is taking action to interrupt the school to prison pipeline. In the face of one step forward and two back, the work goes on: Work to shift the focus on youth discipline from punitive to transformative responses that lessen the chances that youth, disproportionately those of color, wind up incarcerated. But given that too many youth do face criminalization via the juvenile court system, MCU organizes support for youth & their families to know their rights so as to enable the best possible outcome.



Each year, in response to our celebrating Jesus' birth, a portion of our Christmas offering reaches beyond WUM. This year Metropolitan Congregations United is the recipient of our outreach. I wrote about two areas of MCU's work. There are others, e.g. Environmental Justice. To learn more go to <https://mcustlouis.org/> or tap me for a conversation.



Carolyn Redmore
A Justice Team Leader



Epworth Auxiliary

CHRISTMAS CARD *Sale*

All proceeds to benefit Epworth
Children and Family Services

12 CARDS FOR \$15



To order, contact: Linda Guth Stangl

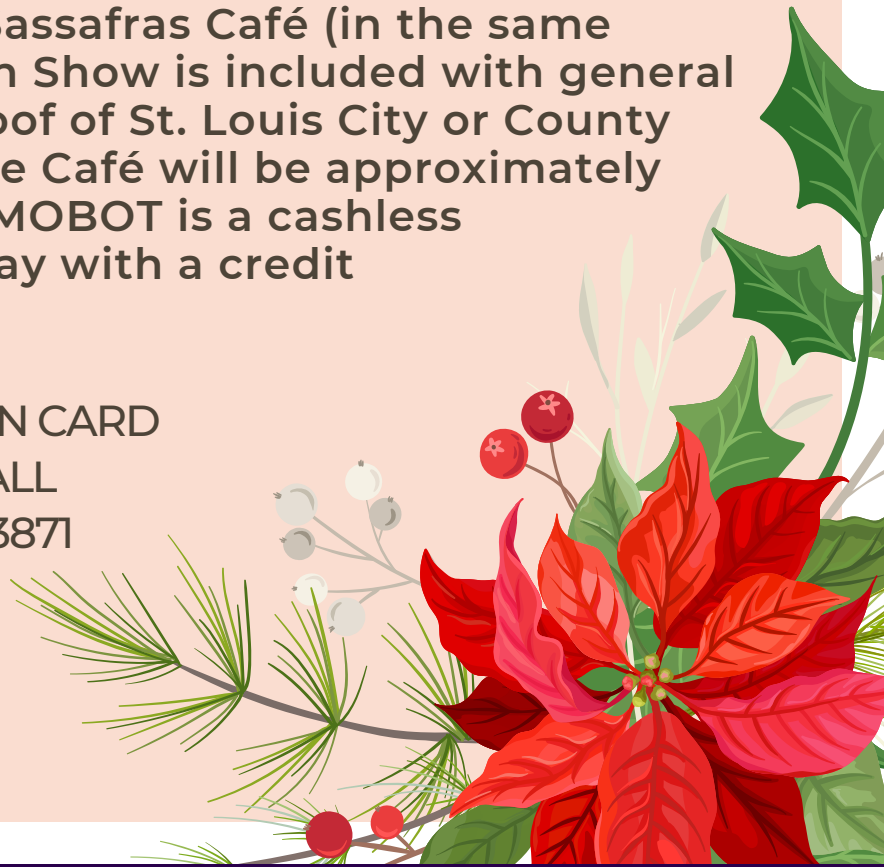
at: 314-961-4133



Senior Cruisers to Winter Flower & Train Show!

The WUM Senior Cruisers are planning a trip to the Winter Flower & Train Show at Missouri Botanical Garden on Friday, December 20th. We will meet in the church parking lot at 10:30 a.m. to carpool to MOBOT, see the Flower/Train Show, and have lunch at Sassafras Café (in the same building). The Flower/Train Show is included with general admission fee (\$6 with proof of St. Louis City or County residency) and lunch in the Café will be approximately \$15-\$20. Please note that MOBOT is a cashless venue—you will need to pay with a credit or debit card.

SIGN UP ON THE CONNECTION CARD
ON SUNDAY MORNING OR CALL
MARCIA KENNON AT 314-914-3871
OR CINDY ANDREWS
AT 314-277-9368.



"Hate Divides/Love Unites" yard signs are being ordered again on December 16.

We are placing a joint order with Unity UMC. Cost will be determined based on quantity ordered; but is expected to be less than \$20 each.

Please sign the Connection Card on this Sunday, or call the church office, #314-961-4133, to let us know how many you need.

