

Weekly Newsletter

DECEMBER 20, 2024



Pastor

Rev. Glen Connoley

pastorglen@websterum.org

Music Ministry

Lamar Fitzgerald

directormusic@websterum.org

Director of Youth &
Children's Ministry

Amanda Furbee

directoryouth@websterum.org
directorchildren@websterum.org

Administration &
Communications Coordinator

Cavin Clive

admin.communications@websterum.org

Student Pastor

Cassandra Lenoir

clenoir@eden.edu

Secretary

secretary@websterum.org

www.websterunitedmethodist.org

314-961-4133



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Psalm 33:1-3 ceb

1 Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright. **2** Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings. **3** Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

Greetings, siblings in Christ!

The Advent study was a joy for me, to hear you all discussing and challenging one another in how we look at Jesus, and what it looks like to follow Jesus in our time and place. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did, and thank you to all who participated.

This coming Sunday, I get the blessing of joining you in yet another Webster Christmas tradition, as our worship team and choir bring us the Christmas Cantata. We will celebrate the season, and our God, with praise and singing, as the Psalms call for us to do. We will also share Communion together, as Jesus calls us to do.

This will be our last worship before our 5PM CHRISTMAS EVE service, bringing together our whole congregation to celebrate the blessing of Christ coming into our lives and community at Webster UM. I hope you will join us for all of it and bring family and friends as well; perhaps even strangers who need to know the peace of Christ in their hearts and world. I look very forward to worshiping with you 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

PRAAYER CONCERNS



Bev Mesey; Margo Petracek; Thomas, Sutton, & Kellerman families; Justin Hernden (Mike Pallia); Jennifer Crawford and Helen deCruz (Tracey Richmond & Donna LaVoie); Tom Delanty (Beth Gewinner); Barb (Pat Hardin's sister); Cheryl Harre, Morgan Murphy, & Allison (Margo Petracek); Alta Kopetzky, Andrew Kennon, and Marian Junge (Marcia Kennon); Peter Schüren & Janice Pauken (Debbie Lund); Randy Turman & family (Lettie Morse); Jeff Outlaw (Beth Anderson); Kroenung Family; Dianne Wallace; Floyd & Linda Emery (Jo Ann Claywell); Reesor/Stuart Family; Steve Wojtowicz (Janet Iggulden's son-in-law); Rita Milford (Maggie Stevens' mother); holiday travelers; our country; the homeless population of St. Louis; and world peace.

Sympathy To...

- Randy and Louise Thomas, Randy's sister Beverly Sutton, and extended family and friends, on the death of Randy's brother-in-law John Sutton on December 14th in Texas.

WEBSTER
UNITED
METHODIST
PRESENTS

Christmas Cantata

**DECEMBER
22, 2024**

**AT
10:30AM**

A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Webster United Methodist
Presents



Christmas Eve Service

December
24, 2024

At
5:00pm

600 N Bompert Ave,
Webster Groves, MO 63119

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING 2025

Hi Church,

It is time to do our yearly Safe Sanctuary training. This is scheduled for Sunday, January 5 after the church service, in fellowship hall 11:30 to 12:15. We do this every year to discuss how to better keep our children, youth, and vulnerable adults safe.

If you have questions, please contact Louise Thomas, 314-497-7508.



MARCH TO THE Manger

Dear friends, a huge thank you to everyone who participated in the March to the Manger on December 15th. What a wonderful job you did! I really appreciate your dedication and your hard work. You created a beautiful experience for the congregation. I know that what you did has made Christmas even more meaningful for everyone. From the actors to the readers to those who helped with costumes, you were an invaluable part of the team! And that includes the choir, the Tuesday Guys and our sound team!

Thank you, one and all! Merry Christmas!

Barb Sarich

Cast

Narrator: Ned Stevens

Readers: Natalie Kuelker and Jesse Hebison

Angel: Joan Connoley

Mary: Maggie Stevens

Joseph: Mark Leslie

Shepherds: Anna Connoley, Pastor Cassandra Lenoir, Randy Thomas

Magi: Dan Pike, Carolyn Redmore, Stan Richert



United Women In Faith Half Price Sale

Items include:
Doll Dress
Child's Knit Hat
Ear-Warmer Headbands
Pillows
Hot Pad and Potholders
Dish Cloth
Felt Bag
Coaster Set
Adult Bib
Wine Bottle Holder
Christmas Ornaments
Scottie Dogs
Bracelets
Seashell Candles
Table Runners
Handmade Greeting Cards
Plaid, Cloth-Covered Boxes
Pillar Christmas Candle
Pin Cushion
Hummingbird Figurine

All items are in the George Stevens room which you enter from Fellowship Hall. The prices are marked or on the list and will be adjusted to half price. You may shop anytime and bring your payment to church on Dec 22nd or give it to the Church Office Volunteers.





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



UPDATE

**NO NEWSLETTER NEXT
THURSDAY, 12/26/24.
WE WILL BE BACK IN 2025,
1/2/25.**

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED ON DECEMBER 25, 2024.**

WE WISH YOU ALL...

**Merry
Christmas**