



Newsletter

July 31, 2025



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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Romans 12:2 ceb

2 Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

Greetings, siblings in Christ!

A couple of weeks ago, I was part of a discipleship workshop. My biggest takeaway was the lack of transformation in the discipleship path in our churches. I'm not blaming anyone in particular for this. The suggestion was that we have given people, both inside and outside the church, lots of information—even over and over again—but we fail to allow for time for reflection and application. The workshop argued that these latter practices will lead individuals toward transformation and, ultimately, mature discipleship.

If you joined us in worship last Sunday, we took time during worship for an exercise of visioning towards God's final destination for us, and reflecting on how we do our part to get there. My hope is for us to continue this kind of practice--reflecting, not only with our thoughts (What do you think about this?), but also with our hearts (How do you feel about this?), and then to imagine what we might do differently (What will you do about this?). There may be times when we can share our reflections with others.

I hope these practices will bless our own discipleship and also bless our faith community as we strive to make new disciples who love, grow, and serve together. If you know anyone who might be blessed by having this practice more in their life, invite them to join us at church. And I hope to see you all there.

Yours In Christ

PASTOR GLEN

PRAYER CONCERNS

Janet & Ray Iggulden; Clyde Gilker; Erin Rising (Nicole Sarich Rising's sister-in-law); the family and friends of Nancy Clark (Beth Anderson); Mary Schiller's family (Connie Kroenung); Bob (Greg Kroenung); Jerry Chulick (Jo Ann Claywell) Jim Pemberton (Cindy Andrews); Paulette Bellistri (Julie Puckett); Pat Delf & Mariann Rufe & Ruth Hille (Marcia Kennon); Randy R. (Beth Anderson); the poor and homeless of the USA; people who are traveling; our church and Chiphongo UMC (our Covenant Church in Mozambique); those rebuilding after the May 16th tornado in St. Louis; America's disabled population; and the people of Gaza.



Webster United Methodist Finances

My goal this year was to share our finances on a regular basis throughout the year. This is the first of several reports.

2025 Budget approved by Church Council:

Personnel	\$185,293 ¹
Operating Expenses	\$25,400
Property Care (Church & Parsonage)	\$90,000 ²
Programming	\$16,900
Apportionments	\$33,663 ³
Missions	\$8,700 ⁴
TOTAL	\$359,956

¹ Includes all salaries, Pastor's expenses (housing allowance, expenses, education) Pastor's health insurance & pension, and FICA & Medicare for other employees. While proportionally personnel expenses seem high, they are in line with other churches and non-profits.

² Includes cost of insurance.

³ Supports broader ministries of the denomination including global missions, and ministry activities at the local, conference, and jurisdictional levels.

⁴ These are a small portion of our total missions. Harvesting for Hope, United Women in Faith, Designated Offerings and Apportionments provide additional missional support.

Early in developing the 2025 budget, the proposed income and expenses were similar. Unfortunately, late in 2024 we were made aware that insurance premiums for 2025 would increase from \$23,000 to over \$50,000. Unfortunately insurance companies increased insurance premiums across the country this year. The Trustees worked to reduce premiums to \$45,500. This is still a large increase resulting in a projected net income for the year \$23,000 below expenses. This budget was accepted by the Church Council because of a healthy bank balance, the renewed energy created with having a new pastor, and the potential that enhanced programming would attract new members.

The Trustees are continuing to evaluate options for lowering insurance premiums and the Finance Committee is working to lower spending.

Finances through June 30, 2025

Income is higher than last year. However, the loss of rental income and higher insurance premiums resulted in net income to be \$15,000 below expenses. Looking forward we are optimistic about our ability to reduce the projected negative net income through further reductions in insurance premiums and expenses and through new sources of rental income.

Gordon Ballam, Chair Finance Committee

The MOUNTAIN SERVICE



SCHEDULE *Upcoming*



@themountainsservice

THIS WEEK

Group Discussion

Thursday,
July 31, 2025

 Space Room

Thursday, August 7 at 7:30pm - Fellowship Hall

Worship Service with communion

Thursday, August 14 at 7:30pm

Group Discussion - Space Room

Thursday, August 21 at 7:30pm

Group Discussion - Space Room

Successful Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross set a goal for us to have 30 appointments, and they were very happy with our results of 29 donors with 25 products (units) collected. Donors included folks from our congregation, neighbors, and friends who came on July 22nd, ready to roll up their sleeves.

Thanks to Cavin, who created notices and posted them electronically, and to those who took and distributed/posted flyers. Thanks to Denny and Barb Sarich and Carolyn Redmore for working the reception/check-in station and the canteen (donor recovery) station. And a huge thanks to those who came to donate!!

Blood collected by the American Red Cross helps millions of patients in over 2,500 hospitals and other facilities across the country. Blood drives provide 84% of blood donations.

We will be scheduling another blood drive. How can you help?

Grab & Go BBQ

Friday, September 5, 5:00-7:00pm

Grace Episcopal Church Parking Lot
514 E. Argonne, Kirkwood, MO 63122

BBQ meals to go with all of your favorite sides will be available for curbside pickup



Tickets on sale now, \$20/each
go to shepherdscenter-wk.org for online sales or scan the QR code below with the camera on your smartphone



All proceeds benefit the Shepherd's Center's essential services for older adults – medical transportation, simple home repair, seasonal yard cleanup, lifelong learning & fitness programs, tech support and more.

To purchase tickets, please contact Gordon Ballam

WELCOME NEIGHBOR STL

AFGHAN DRIVE THRU



\$40
PER MEAL

**CLICK HERE
TO ORDER**



**SEPTEMBER 6, 2025
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**



WEBSTER UNITED METHODIST

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