



# Newsletter

September 11, 2025



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[Webster United Methodist](https://www.facebook.com/websterunitedmethodist)



[@websterunitedmethodist](https://www.instagram.com/websterunitedmethodist)



# A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

## **Matthew 18:5**

*5 Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.*

Greetings, siblings in Christ!

Our Nominations and Leadership Development Team has been meeting over the last month, and I am thrilled to report that so many of you have agreed, with enthusiasm, to step into new roles in your servant leadership. This is the role Jesus calls us into when he says that he himself came to serve and not to be served. It is also a key part of our vision as "a diverse faith family seeking to love, grow, and serve!"

That vision and that role also lead us outside of our own faith community, and the time has come around again for that call. Many of you know that we have a great relationship with Hodgen Elementary School in the St Louis area. If you are unaware of how we serve there, we commit to read one-on-one to students in Kindergarten, first grade, and second grade each week throughout the school year. It takes only a couple of hours of your time each week to help a child move forward in their education with a little extra help. The children are so blessed by our commitment to this, but I promise, you will be blessed as well. If you are able to give some time to this for the 2025-2026 school year, please reach out to the office or to Barb Sarich directly, and she will get you on the schedule.

If you know anyone outside of Webster who has a desire to serve in this way, let them know, too, and invite them to worship next Sunday, so I can thank them personally. I hope to see you all there.

*Yours In Christ*

PASTOR GLEN

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Marleen Anderson; Cindy Andrews; Margo Petracek; Kelly Goesch (Donna LaVoie); Julie Barnes (Julie Puckett); Peg & Jerry Chulick (Jo Ann Claywell); Pat & Jeff Outlaw and Jennifer & John Guyer (Beth Anderson); Mark Gudde & Peter Schüren (Debbie Lund); Jim Pemberton (Cindy Andrews); Pat Delf, Mariann Ruffle, & Alta Kopetzky (Marcia Kennon); the homeless in the USA; and peace in our schools and around the world.

*Sympathy To*

Thomas and Polly Williamson on the death of their grandson Aquil on Sunday, September 7, 2025. Arrangements are pending.



# Schedule SEPTEMBER

## THIS WEEK

### Group Discussion

**Fauna Week**

Thursday,  
September 11, 2025



**SPACE ROOM**

Thursday, September 18 at 7:30pm

**Group Discussion**

Thursday, September 25 at 7:30pm

**Group Discussion**

Thursday, October 2 at 7:30pm

**Worship Service With Communion**

**WEBSTER UNITED METHODIST & MAPLEWOOD UMC  
PRESENT**



# September Small Group

**Sunday evenings,  
Sep 7-28 at 7 pm**

Discussion  
around living  
into LGBTQIA+  
inclusion

- God's answer is always love.
- In God's kingdom there is room for everyone.
- Difference and diversity are invitations to understanding.
- God gathers the marginalized and outcast.

## WEEK 2:

Maplewood UMC  
Address: 7409 Flora Ave,  
Maplewood, MO 63143

For more information or to register, Call 314-961-4133



**SMALL GROUP**



# A GOSPEL AGAINST EMPIRE

READING THE GOSPEL OF MARK IN THE  
HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

◆ **STARTING FROM SEPTEMBER 8,  
FOR 4 WEEKS AT 7:00PM**

◆ **90 MINUTES OF LECTURE &  
GROUP DISCUSSION**

**LOCATION: SPACE ROOM @ WEBSTER UM + ONLINE OPTION AVAILABLE**

In this class, we will explore how the Gospel of Mark brought a message of hope to people suffering in the Roman Empire. Through a historical-critical lens, we will locate the political setting and message of Jesus in Mark's Gospel. Participants will apply the perspective of empire to interpreting the gospel in modern contexts.

Contact: [joncopeland@gmail.com](mailto:joncopeland@gmail.com) for Zoom link or for more details.

## Strengthen Your Faith With Intentional Prayer

Please come for a time of being present to  
God as we pray in a small group setting.

**Sunday, September 14,  
6:00pm in the Space Room.**

Email Linda Shantz  
at [lindawshantz@gmail.com](mailto:lindawshantz@gmail.com) with questions.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

# Fall Gathering

SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

REGISTRATION AND FELLOWSHIP AT 9:30 AM

BRUNCH (\$10) SERVED 10 AM

PROGRAM TO FOLLOW AT 11:15 AM

Our program will be an update on the work of United Women in Faith and the work of our NMIs. If you wonder what is meant by "NMI" then we look forward to seeing you and we will satisfy your curiosity and answer your questions.

If you plan to attend, please contact Linda Guth Stangl at 314-961-4133.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

## PRACTICING HOPE TOGETHER

A REPORT FROM RESPONSE MAGAZINE MAY/JUNE 2025

The 2025 Mission U explores the theme Practicing Hope Together, focusing on the resurrection. It explores what it means to practice hope in God even when things fall apart. The curriculum asks questions such as What is hope in the face of neofascism? What is hope in a time of genocide? What is imagining a future for the next generation as our planet grows hotter by the season? What tools do we have to face the hard realities?

Hope is a seed that invites us to imagine. If we cannot imagine a different future, how will we get there? What does it mean for Jesus to tell his disciples, "Feed my sheep, in the shadow of Roman imperial power?"

In John 21:1-19, after his resurrection, Jesus asks Simon Peter, "Do you love me?" Peter answers, "You know I do." Jesus asks again and again, and Peter answers the same. Then Jesus says, "Follow me. Feed my sheep." How does this apply? With hope, we have the resolve to navigate the harsh places in our lives and world. We begin to understand that hope is not tied to outcomes, but is sacred, fully immersed in the Spirit of God.

We need to think critically about imagination in fostering hope and resisting an empire as an act of following Christ. Our communities possess the resilience to be creative even when our world is crumbling apart. Look around to find examples of hope and action in your neighborhood, town, and church.

Carol Gilker  
Reading Resources

COME JOIN US!



DOCUMENTARY

# 1946

**THE MISTRANSLATION  
THAT SHIFTED CULTURE**

**OCTOBER 4, 2025  
AT 2PM**

**IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**  
WITH DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW

Seeking to uncover the origins of rabid homophobia in the conservative church, a gay seminary scholar and a straight activist make a shocking discovery: In 1946, an erroneous translation led to the use of the term homosexual in the Bible that has been weaponized against the LGBTQIA+ community ever since.



# TRIVIA NIGHT



SCAN ME  
TO REGISTER

FRIDAY  
SEPTEMBER 26TH  
@ 6:30PM

111 S GEYER RD  
KIRKWOOD, MO 63122

**JACK: 636-399-3083**

[INFO@INEXCELSISLOVE.ORG](mailto:INFO@INEXCELSISLOVE.ORG)

## 2025 InExCelsis Wishlist

- Underwear (Men size M up)-New
- Underwear (Women All sizes)-New
- Bra (all sizes)-New
- Sports Bra (all sizes)-New
- Jeans (30x30 and Up)- New or gently used
- Deodorants (regular sizes)
- Sweatpants-New or gently used
- Leggings- New or gently used
- Blankets
- Towels & washcloth (New for Mobile Hygiene)
- Backpack
- Sleeping bags
- Laundry detergent
- Fast food gift cards
- First Aid kits
- Paper plates and cups
- Canned goods
- Snacks

- Water & other soft drinks
- Cleaning supplies
- Flashlight
- Shoes

### DIGNITY ON WHEELS (MOBILE SHOWER) NEEDS

- Drink/ Snacks
- Belts
- Socks
- Hair brushes
- Shampoo & Conditioner (regular)
- Towels (new)

### CASE MANAGEMENT NEEDS (CARE TEAM)

- Laptop (new or gently used)
- iPad (New or gently used )
- Christian Literature

# MERCY CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER'S UPCOMING EVENTS



## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1:00-4:00 PM AT MERCY CENTER, FRONTENAC.

Reflection of God's Word: Journeying through Sacred Scripture with Joyce Jones, Th.M. from the Office of Racial Harmony and Black Catholic Ministries for the Archdiocese of St Louis. Whether you are new to scripture or seeking to enrich your current understanding, this program will provide a solid foundation in biblical literacy. Cost \$25. Register by noon on October 2 at [www.mercycenterstl.org](http://www.mercycenterstl.org).

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 6:30-7:30 PM (VIRTUAL)

Community Resources for Caregivers presented by Maria Miskovic, founder of Care Choice Care Management. This program offers practical help for those caring for someone with a memory impairment. Includes functional support with medical, mental health, educational, and practical care coordination applications. Cost \$10. Register by noon on October 2 at [www.mercycenterstl.org](http://www.mercycenterstl.org).

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1:30-4:30 PM AT MERCY CENTER, FRONTENAC.

Dream Dynamics: Archetypes and Narratives, a workshop led by Noeli Lytton who has been practicing dreamwork in classes and groups for over three decades. Led by the Divine voice in our dreams, we can reclaim agency and wholeness. Bring 1 or 2 of your current dreams written down for study. Cost: \$50. Register by October 15 at [www.mercycenterstl.org](http://www.mercycenterstl.org).

## NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

All articles and submissions must be sent to [secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org) by Monday at 5pm to be in that week's newsletter.