

Newsletter

October 9, 2025



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WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Psalm 77:11-12

*11 But I will remember the Lord's deeds;
yes, I will remember your wondrous acts from times long past.
12 I will meditate on all your works;
I will ponder your deeds.*

Greetings, siblings in Christ!

Earlier this week I attended an evening event with David Worthington, who is the Global Ambassador of Methodist Heritage Sites for the UMC. He is visiting from Bristol, England while he tours various cities in the United States. Mr. Worthington's message for United Methodists was how the stories of John and Charles Wesley—our heritage—can help us navigate the current era of United Methodism.

He reminded us of the key moment in 1739, when George Whitefield invited Wesley to try field preaching, instead of remaining inside the church. Wesley described in his journal that until that time he had always considered the saving of souls to be nearly sinful if it was not done in the proper manner of a church setting. But when he saw the impact that preaching in the open fields could bring upon poor and outcast souls, he wrote in his journal that he "submitted himself to be more vile." It is a staunch reminder to us, that when the way we insist on "doing church" is no longer reaching those who need God's message the most, our practices need to change to serve the last, least and lost, rather than our own comfort zones.

I urge us once again to keep our hearts and minds open to new and creative ways the church can serve those whose voices go unheard and whose needs go unmet. And if you know anyone who desires the same, invite them to church this Sunday, and I hope to see you all there.

yours In Christ

PASTOR GLEN

PRAYER CONCERNS

Sharon Wersching; Cindy Andrews; Matthew (Linda Austin's great-grandson); Katie Renkins' nephew; Peg & Jerry Chulick (Jo Ann Claywell); Deanna (Janet Iggulden's niece); Gary (Donna LaVoie's friend); Judy France & Del Doss (Jennie Dent); Pat Delf, Marianne Ruffle, Ruth Hille, & Alta Kopetzky (Marcia Kennon); Mark Gudde & Peter Schüren (Debbie Lund); Jennifer Guyer (Beth Anderson); the homeless population of St. Louis City and County; our neighbors who are targets of ICE; and those who are severely disabled that they may find community.



Dear Webster United Methodist Family and Friends,

Roger McCurly asked Stan Richert and me to provide a financial update for the Gratitude & Generosity Giving Program this week, which we were happy to provide because of good news.

As you may recall, we entered 2025 with a projected income shortfall of over \$23,000 primarily because our insurance premiums increased from \$22,000 in 2024 to \$53,000 for 2025. Stan Richert and the Trustees were quickly able to moderate the premium to \$45,500 by increasing the deductible and reducing coverage. Insurance for this year was budgeted at \$45,500.

Trustees worked hard with our current insurance provider to further reduce premiums. However, this did not provide meaningful premium reductions. As a result, Stan and the Trustees contacted the Missouri Conference for suggestions for alternative insurance companies.

After a lengthy investigation and review process, the Trustees selected a new insurance company which will provide acceptable coverage at a much lower rate. The new annual premiums are \$26,500. Great news! Thanks to Stan and the Trustees.

The Financial report through August was very encouraging. Income slightly exceeded expenses, which was unexpected and was better than the projected net income loss. Higher envelope giving and rental income, accompanied by reduced expenses, contributed to the positive net income.

Forecasting the year-end finances is difficult because there are several important factors that influence giving. Most members no longer give weekly gifts but give different amounts at different times throughout the year. It is also unclear whether every gift commitment will be met.

Having said that, if August is an indication, we are expecting a much better year-end balance sheet than was previously forecasted.

We appreciate everyone's continued support of Webster United Methodist.

Gordon Ballam
Finance Chair

Stan Richert
Chair of Trustees

**STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH WITH
INTENTIONAL PRAYER**

**Sunday, October 12
6:30pm in the Space Room**

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

Email Linda Shantz at
lindawshantz@gmail.com
with questions.

HARVESTING HOPE FOR MISSIONS



Chili Dinner
& Auction



NOVEMBER 1, 2025

- A fundraiser for missions organizations including Epworth, InExcelsis, Lifewise STL, Webster-Rock Hill Ministries, & more
- Tickets \$10/adult, \$5/child 5-10, under 5 free Available from Missions Team members or online at websterunitedmethodist.org

5pm - Silent Auction & Appetizers

6pm - Chili Dinner

7pm - Live Auction

Share your harvest!
Donate live auction items & silent auction baskets. Contact nunes.lydia@gmail.com to donate.



**Every Thursday
at 7:30pm**

THIS WEEK

**OCT
9**

**Group
Discussion**

📍 SPACE ROOM

UPCOMING

**OCT
16**

**Group Discussion
@ Space Room**

**OCT
23**

**Group Discussion
@ Space Room**

**OCT
30**

**Group Discussion
@ Space Room**



[villageofgracestl](https://www.instagram.com/villageofgracestl)



Trunk or Treat



October 25, 3:30pm - 5:30pm

600 N Bompert Ave, Webster Groves, MO 63119 (Parking Lot)



MESSAGE FROM THE SAFETY COMMITTEE

Believe it or not, cold weather is coming. Just a few reminders on how to protect yourself, your family and friends from the usual flu bugs and cold viruses. If you are sick, please stay at home until symptoms are resolving; this helps decrease spread of viruses to others and helps protect all of us. Wear a mask when in crowds, especially if you have a serious medical issue. Wash your hands frequently and use alcohol based hand cleansers. Try to make it a habit to wash your hands the first thing when you return home. This helps decrease bacteria/viruses that you may have been exposed to. Ideally, washing hands for 20 seconds is best. Avoid crowds when flu/covid infection rates are high. Masking can help decrease exposure and spread. Lastly and probably most importantly, get your flu vaccination. These really do help, especially at preventing hospitalizations for flu related symptoms. You might still get the flu, but it will not be as severe and will keep you out of the hospital. Especially for folks 65 and over, the vaccination will decrease the severity of symptoms. The recommendations are for you to receive a "quadrivalent, high dose vaccination". These are readily available and provide better protection against the flu. As we age, our immune systems don't work as well and the high dose vaccination helps boost the immune system's response and give better/longer protection. Also, think about a covid vaccination along with a flu shot. The current Covid shot protects against the latest mutations of the virus that are spreading in the community. Covid is not going away and this shot can protect us from exposure and slow the spread to others. Hope this is helpful and that we all enjoy a healthy winter.

Thanks, The Safety Committee.

EAT PIZZA RAISE DOUGH

OCTOBER 21, 4 - 9PM

Mention this Giveback Night when dining in or ordering carryout and up to 20% of sales will be donated to CROP Hunger Walk. Online orders must mention "GBN" in the Order notes.

112 E LOCKWOOD AVE, WEBSTER GROVES, MO 63119



DEWEY'S  PIZZA

CONTACT: 314-961-1000



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Last Sunday, we celebrated the unity and diversity of the universal Christian community with World Communion Sunday. As we gather around the Lord's table, we recognize our unity in Christ, joining with others worldwide in Holy Communion. Embracing this commitment, United Methodists are dedicated to nurturing diverse leadership within the church by allocating funds for scholarships and leadership training for under-represented students. Contributions fund scholarships for U.S. and international students, as well as grants for global inclusion, diversity, equity, and access training. We will still collect for this cause this coming Sunday, October 12. Please consider what you can contribute to support our church's unity in Christ.



If you live to sing, come share your voice
in the 4th annual



The only singing talent show exclusively
for our community's amateur singers

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

EARLY PRACTICE SESSION - OCT. 26, 3-5PM

COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL,
LOWER-LEVEL ROOM 10 @ WEBSTER UNIVERSITY

REHEARSAL - NOV. 7, 7-9PM

COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL,
CONCERT HALL @ WEBSTER UNIVERSITY

TALENT SHOW - NOV. 8, 7-9PM

This is a FREE live music event and open to the
entire community.

COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL, CONCERT HALL
@ WEBSTER UNIVERSITY

If you are interested, please email Dave Buck at dave@buckstl.com or text him at 314-952-0910 by noon, October 25, and provide your name, age, your one or two song selections, and if you will be providing sheet music for our piano accompanist, or singing to a track or acapella.

MERCY CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER'S UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT. 19, 1:30-4:30PM

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 Oct, 15.

Register at
www.mercycenterstl.org

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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