

Weekly Newsletter

JUNE 6, 2024



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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Church Family,

As I prepare for my family's reunion beginning next Wednesday, I came across this piece I wrote many years ago. You and I are both preparing for a new adventure, you with a new pastor, and I at a new church. Church dynamics are so much like biological families, and in the best of times, we take on life's adventures together. Thank you for allowing me to adventure with you these many years. Though we will part soon, we will still be connected through the power of the Holy Spirit, and the love of Christ.

Adventure on!

Pastor Sharon

A Wet Family

I have just returned from a wonderful 5 days with my three older brothers, and their families, some significant others, and a few folks just thrown in for good measure. This week I have held babies, shepherded a 3-year old over the giant boulders of Elephant Rock State Park, floated my fanny in an inner tube in the crystal-clear Black River, and eaten way too many slices of chocolate pie. Today, I have spent my Monday washing the sand out of e-v-e-r-y-thing, medicating my sunburn, and making high-level decisions like whether to throw out the cheese that was found floating in the cooler. I have also been thinking about what a wonder this thing called "family" is, whether biological, adopted, chosen, or formed by happenstance. It has a lot of parallels with the bonds that are created in the church, if you think about it, formed through shared experiences of challenge and delight.

Take for example...the float trip. With our backsides snugly plunked in rubber tubes...the water burbling all around us, we set out for an adventure, just as we all do in life. Just naturally, we seemed to end up connecting in a glob, our feet and arms draped over each others' tubes, traveling together in a sort of flotilla. So too, as we enter a relationship with the church, we find ourselves clustering with others to accomplish things greater than ourselves. The advantage of being together is that we can draw strength from the many kinds of expertise that different folk bring to the group. On the water, some preferred to steer and guide us through the perils of the river because they knew what they were doing and they liked to be in charge.



This, of course, allowed others of us to “not be in charge”, to indulge in inward reflection, meditating on the beauty of God’s creation about us, socializing, and building relationships. It was one of the kids who drew attention to the frog on the log, and the silver fishes popping out of the water.

Together we could do things that we could not do alone, like taking on the marauding canoers that splashed by with loaded squirt guns. Though perhaps getting a good soaking, because of our unity we did not become unbalanced and flip. I have seen it again and again in the life of the church, where someone’s life has metaphorically hit a rock, and the stability of their church family, through meals, prayer, presence, and support, is what kept them from flipping over. Perhaps most important of all, because of our connectedness, no one gets left trailing behind, possibly to get caught up in the river debris or stuck on a sandbar. Even my oldest brother... whose inner tube sat deepest in the water... was securely entangled in our web of family arms and legs together with our youngest members, and all traveled in safety.

But then people will be people. Everywhere. Somebody declared that we needed to hang left to catch the challenge of the riskier white water, while others of the group wanted to stick with the calm waters of the main channel. Sound like church? You bet. The result involved some hooting and hollering, and very quickly, flailing arms and legs paddling as our now alert group entered the unstable turbulence of a new path. And God bless him, somebody let loose of the tube bearing the beverages and it was rapidly carried away. Loud wailing and gnashing of teeth could be heard...with blame and judgment shortly behind. Long-buried issues of sibling competitiveness reared up, and barbed comments were exchanged. There was conflict and just about everybody got wet. That sounds like church, too. Our good humor...and the beverages...were eventually regained, and this new story has already become woven into our family legend. The point is, like church family, we gathered, the greatest and the smallest of us, to embark on a challenging adventure. We honored the expertise and wisdom each brings, protecting those who needed a little extra TLC. When we hit the choppy waters, we work together to find our balance, clinging all the closer, emerging exuberant, albeit a little wet, the evidence of a true adventure.

We are church. We are family. It’s ok to get wet.

So, are you ready for a new adventure?
Pastor Sharon

PRAYER CONCERNS



Seira Stuart; Bev Mesey; Carl & Jenny Mesey; Justin (friend of Bob Pallia); Steve Holland (Julie Puckett); George Gewinner (brother-in-law of Beth); Ron Morse (Lettie Morse); Layla Kolley and family (Amanda Furbee); Andrew Kennon and Alta Kopetzky (Marcia Kennon); Peter Schüren (Debbie Lund); those seeking employment; judicial branch of USA government; and homeless single moms & their kids.

Sympathy To...

Amanda Furbee's daughter Layla Kolley and her extended family on the loss of her grandfather, Tim Kolley.

Father's Day PHOTOS

We will feature a slide show of photos of church family fathers during worship on **Father's Day, June 16th**. To include your fathers, please send photos to Cindy Andrews, cyndrews@gmail.com, by Wednesday, June 12th. Include your father's first name & his children's names (example: Dave, father of Cindy). If you have provided a photo in recent years, it is not necessary to send a new one. If you want to check to see if I have a photo of your father, please send his first name to me with your inquiry. (The slides are in alphabetical order by first names.)

Webster United Methodist Presents

VBS 2024



FRIDAY, JUNE 28

5PM-7:30PM

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

9AM-3PM

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

10:30AM-1PM

We will make new friends and have fun as we explore timeless Bible stories that demonstrate how people trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name! Parents are encouraged to join us on Sunday for our 10:30 am worship service including a special performance by our Camp Firelight campers and lunch in the Fellowship Hall after service!

Sign Up

Please Email
directorchildren@websterum.org
or fill out the Google Form below!!
Click [Here](#)

**Ages,
4 - 12**



Join us as we honor the years
of service and dedication of our beloved
Pastor Sharon Kichline
with a retirement BBQ celebration

This joyous event
will be held on
June 23rd...

...after service in the
fellowship hall. We would
love the contribution of
sides and desserts.

To leave a personal note of appreciation,
please visit the online Kudosboard: Click [HERE](#)
and add your message to the collective
well-wishes for a future filled with blessings
and joy.

If you are able to contribute
to the potluck, or have any
questions, please let us know on
the Sunday Blue Connection Card
or contact Julia Ward at
juliaharalson@gmail.com or 206-799-6441.



WE ARE MOVING THIS SUMMER!

We are happy to announce that the Shepherd's Center will be moving into a new office/classroom suite in Webster Groves Presbyterian Church this summer! (45 W. Lockwood Avenue, Webster Groves, MO 63119)

Many of you may have heard that Webster Groves Christian Church will be selling their building and property. The Church is not dissolving, they will be continuing their important ministries in a new location. The Shepherd's Center is very grateful to WGCC for the past 5 years of in-house partnership and 25 years as a founding sponsoring congregation. We look forward to continuing the relationship in the future.

ALL of our programs and services will continue with Webster Groves Presbyterian Church as a new home base beginning in August. We look forward to having a dedicated classroom space just for Shepherd's Center programs, volunteer meetings, etc.

The target move timeframe to relocate the Shepherd's Center to Webster Groves Presbyterian Church is early August. Please watch your email for details in the months ahead.

If you have any questions about our center relocation, please email shepctr@shepherdscenter-wk.org or call 314-395-0988.

MERCY CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

Care for the Caregiver is a workshop at Mercy Conference and Retreat Center Saturday, August 3, 8:30-3:30. Cost \$30; lunch included. Register by July 26 at mercycenterstl.org The workshop will focus on exploring support for persons caring for those with dementia. Presenters will include a gerontologist and a licensed social worker, both with expertise in dementia; a mindfulness teacher certified in dementia care; and a representative of an organization that works with families of persons with dementia. Ample resources will be provided.

A Summer Silent Directed Retreat will be held in July at Mercy Conference and Retreat Center. This silent retreat allows you to withdraw from the busyness of life and reflect on and deepen your relationship with God. You will meet with a spiritual director each day to accompany you through these graced days of silence and contemplation. Two possible options:

- 6 days, \$700, Monday, July 8 arriving 9am through Saturday, July 13 at 4 pm
- 4 days, \$425, Monday, July 8 arriving 9 am through Thursday, July 11 at 4 pm



THE 4th ANNUAL EPWORTH

DUCK DERBY

YOU ADOPT THE DUCKS, WE RACE
THE DUCKS, YOU WIN CASH PRIZES

CARNIVAL
GAMES

FOOD
TRUCKS

CASH
PRIZES

Saturday, June 22
11am-2pm

Epworth Webster Groves
110 N. Elm Avenue

epworth.org/duckderby



The Mountain Service

PRESENTS



PRIDE MONTH

SERMON SERIES

COME JOIN US!
EVERY THURSDAY
AT 7:30PM IN JUNE

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

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