

*Our vision is to be a diverse faith family seeking to love, grow, and serve.*

*Our mission is to make new disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!*

**Sundays: 9a Learning | 10a Fellowship | 10:30a Worship**

**Pastor**

Rev. Sharon Kichline  
PastorSharon@websterum.org

**Assistant Pastor**

Josh Krakos  
AssistantPastor@websterum.org

**Music Ministry**

Lamar Fitzgerald  
DirectorMusic@websterum.org

**Youth Ministry**

Paige Foster  
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**Children's Ministry**

Trish Sorenson  
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**Secretary**

Holly Graham  
Secretary@websterum.org

**Custodian**

Monica Jasper

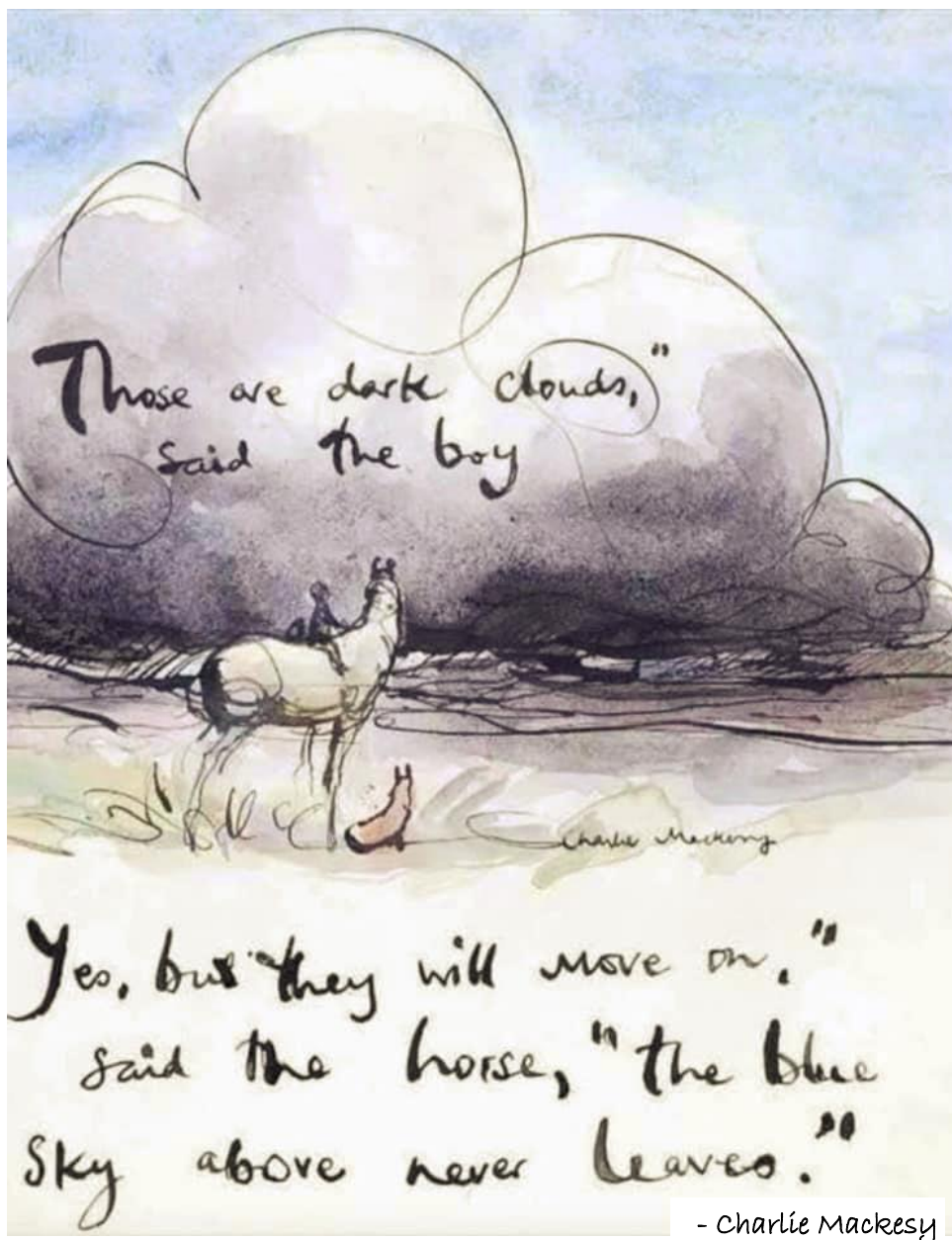
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Webster Groves  
MO 63119  
314-961-4133

Office Hours:  
M through F, 8:30a—3p

Web Site:  
websterunitedmethodist.org/

Facebook/WebsterUnitedMethodist

Network: WebsterUM  
Password: LoveGrowServe!



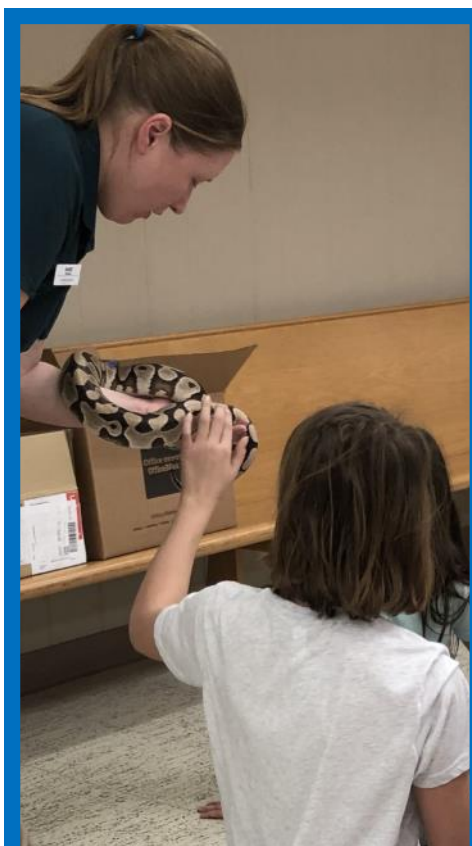
- Charlie Mackesy

God in Christ never leaves us either.  
"I will never leave you or forsake  
you says the Lord." Deut. 31.6





The St. Louis Zoo came to visit our Wild Wednesday program in March. We hope to gather again next month Wednesday, April 8, 5:30—7p.



## So much has changed since last I wrote to you.

Today, we are practicing social distancing and self-quarantines. School---cancelled, restaurant dine-in service---cancelled, vacations---cancelled, professional sporting events---cancelled, and church---cancelled. In a matter of a week, this thing has gone from “wash your hands and stay home if you’re sick” to a significant life style change for our country.

But we are a resilient bunch. With the help of technology, people are continuing to work, children are continuing to learn, and we are learning to hold church through the internet. Yea, life is different.

But one thing hasn’t changed. We are still the church, the Body of Christ. Each one of us, despite our own worries, inconveniences, and uncertainties, remain called to love God and love our neighbor.

What does that look like now that we cannot gather in worship? Or assemble rice packets together in the Fellowship Hall? Now more than ever, we need to cultivate and stand on our faith. Here are a few ways to “BE the church” when we cannot gather “in the church”.

**Keep the Sabbath.** Our curtailed activities may be a gift for many of us. We have more time to pray, more time to read our Bibles, and more time to connect with others. Come to worship electronically, if you are able; get the whole family together when we worship, either in the same room or from our separate locations. Talk about it afterwards, like you would at the restaurant during Sunday lunch.

On your Sabbath, do things that bring your families together: take a walk, prepare a meal together, play a board game, call grandma, start a puzzle. *“Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God.”* (Exodus 20:9-10)

**Love your neighbors.** Check on them by phone, or by standing on the edge of their porch and talking to them through the screen door. Do they have what they need? Can you pick up some items for them on your next grocery run? Is everyone well? What are they doing for fun?

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Loving our neighbor also means buying only what you need when you go shopping. Hoarding is a product of fear. Hoarding is taking more than our share, and denying our neighbor what they need. We are a country of abundance. Our God is a god of abundance. We forget that when we buy into a scarcity mentality. Our God provides. Trust in God's abundance.

**Send in your pledge.** For as long as you are financially able, send in your offerings and tithes. Mail it, walk it in and leave in Holly's basket, or go to our website ([websterunitedmethodist.org](http://websterunitedmethodist.org)) and send it through the GIVE option. See more on how to access electronic options in the article on pages 6/7. It matters.

Our giving not only pays the church's bills, but also provides for the many ministries we support---some in our own community and some far away. Making your gift will help the church help others, especially at a time when that support is more important than ever.

**Pray daily.** Pray when you waken. Pray after lunch. Pray as you walk. Pray as you close your eyes at night. Pray for our church family, and for our community. Pray for your pastors and church staff. Pray for those infected, and those caring for them. Pray for the health care professionals and the first responders. Pray for the folks stocking the shelves, and checking us out. Give thanks for our many blessings, and pray for patience and wisdom.

I will be leading a few minutes of prayer daily at noon, live streaming through the church facebook page. I hope you'll join me there.

We are the Church. It is in such times as these that we must lean into our spiritual practices and disciplines. We need to BE the church. And together, the light of Christ will shine for others to see.

As ever, peace and grace be with you+



## We Will Celebrate UMCOR Sunday on March 29

As we observe **UMCOR Sunday** on March 29<sup>th</sup> this year, it will be in the midst of our absence from communal worship at Webster UM on Bompert Avenue in Webster Groves. The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated restrictions on group gatherings, and so our connections online will be important to use. The good news is that our website will now have a place to electronically **GIVE**, including for special offerings such as **UMCOR**, or the **United Methodist Committee on Relief**. Of course, you can also mail a check to the church, but if you want to pay online using credit or debit card, follow the instructions on **Page 6/7** of this newsletter!

An article adapted from the January, 2020 *UM News* states that as United Methodists observe UMCOR Sunday, they will assist communities in Puerto Rico still reeling from a recent series of earthquakes. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, more than 500 earthquakes of magnitude 2 or greater struck the area in December 2019 and January 2020.

“The aftermath of this is going to be much bigger than we can imagine,” said Gusmary Bianco Mersie, the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico’s social media director.

The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico is dealing with the situation through its own disaster-response organization and through partnership with the **United Methodist Committee on Relief**. **UMCOR** awarded them a solidarity grant to help with immediate needs. Glorymar Rivera-Baez, program director for disaster recovery with Rebuilding Communities with Hope (REHACE), was in touch with **UMCOR’s** U.S. Disaster Response team immediately after the earthquakes began. “Although this is a time of great hardship, one positive aspect is that we...have an ongoing relationship with **UMCOR**,” she explained.

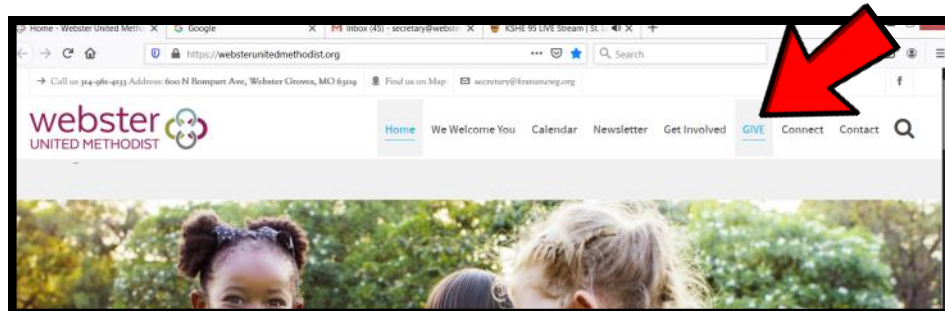
So, please be generous when you select that **GIVE** button and proceed to select “**UM Committee on Relief**” on the Online Giving Page. Your gifts through the **UMCOR Sunday** offering will help to ensure that **UMCOR** can respond wherever and whenever a disaster occurs.

Thanks, Jan McCurley, Risk-Taking Missions Chair



## Webster United Methodist Online Giving

We are excited to announce that Online Giving is now available on our website. Members have been asking for the opportunity to give online and we are pleased this is now available. You can donate online to different funds such as the, “United Methodist Committee on Relief”, by following these guidelines.

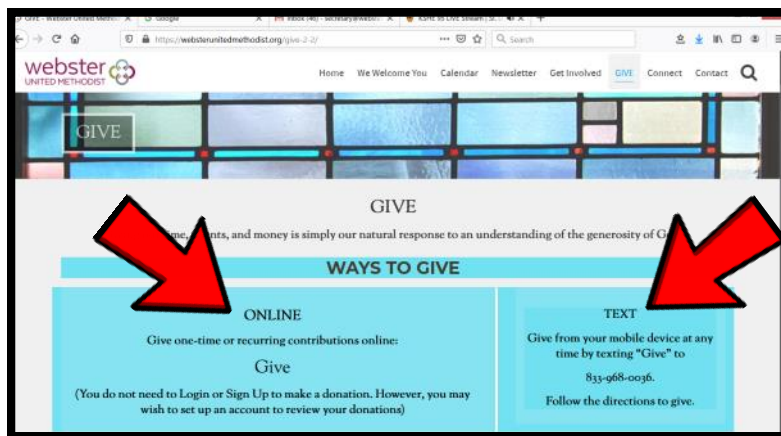


Go to our website, [www.websterunitedmethodist.org](http://www.websterunitedmethodist.org), and click on the GIVE button at the top of the front page.

Then Click on the “Give Now” button and follow the instructions on the online giving page. You may also go directly to this page by clicking on the following link: <https://websterunitedmethodist.org/give-2-2/>

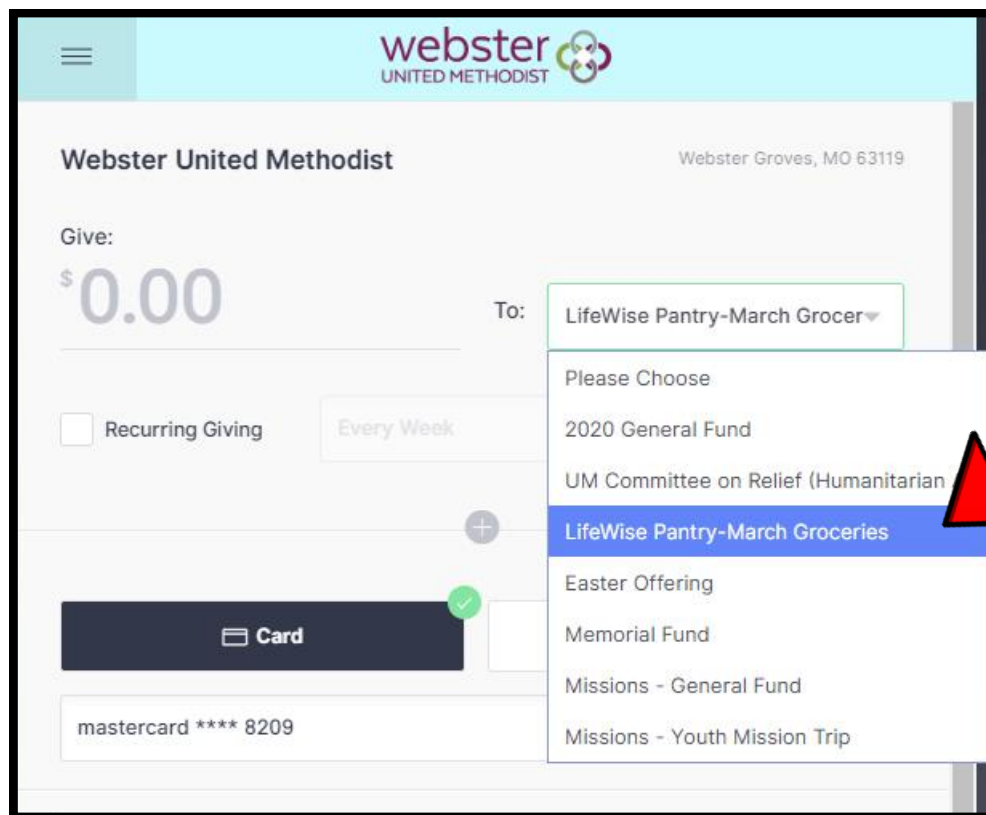
Once the transaction is complete, you will receive a confirmation email from Pastor Sharon. Your gift will also be included in your quarterly giving statements. If you need help navigating online giving, guidelines are available on our website at:

[https://websterunitedmethodist.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/WUM-Online-Giving-Help\\_Mar-16-2020.pdf](https://websterunitedmethodist.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/WUM-Online-Giving-Help_Mar-16-2020.pdf)



You are also able to give from your mobile device at any time by texting “Give” to 833-968-0036 and follow the directions to give.

Additional online giving information, such as setting up and managing your personal online account, will be available in future newsletters.



## Adapting Our Lifewise Food Collection

Thanks to all who have already giving generously to the LifeWise food collection this month . But, since we are all staying away from church and other places as much as possible due to COVID-19, I'd like to suggest an alternative to achieve our goal of 800 items. For the rest of the month, each person/family is encouraged to go to our online Giving tab entitled GIVE on our website. Instructions are given on pages 6—7 in this newsletter.

Or, you could send a check to LifeWise STL for the amount you would have spent on grocery items. The address is LifeWiseSTL, 1321 S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Louis, MO 63104.

I know that in these uncertain times, Lifewise would appreciate your financial support for the Market .

Thank you,  
Jan McCurley, Risk-Taking Mission Chair



**At Festival of Sharing,** we take the health and well-being of our communities very seriously. Our team is monitoring the updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), medical professionals and local health departments.

In light of current recommendations and in a collaborative effort to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), we have made the difficult decision to **cancel** the Festival of Sharing community meeting scheduled for March 26th in Republic.

We have scheduled a GoToWebinar for **Thursday, April 16th at 11 AM CDT** to learn about the history of Festival of Sharing and how we can serve our communities together. Register for the webinar [here](#). If you're unable to make the date, if you register, you will be emailed a recording of the session.

Please contact Festival of Sharing Coordinator, Sidney Owens, with any questions:

[festival@socket.net](mailto:festival@socket.net) or 573-474-3332.

**Check us out on [Facebook](#) for more information and events.**



## U.S. 2020 CENSUS: For a Fair and Equitable Future

Every ten years the U.S. Constitution mandates a count of everyone living in the U.S. and its territories (Article 1, Section 2). By law responses are protected and used only for statistics. No personal information is disclosed. The Census Bureau sends out Invitations beginning March 12.

Invitation means "choice." Why choose? This count is the tool for determining political representation and distribution of federal government dollars for over 100 programs. It is used by states and communities in multiple ways (planning re schools, clinics, roads, citizen services & more). Historically minority communities and vulnerable populations were undercounted. In 2010 an estimated one million plus children under four (4.6%) were undercounted. Such an undercount negatively impacts funding of services and programs, e.g. health care, public education, housing, and infrastructure.

Not only does your count matter, EVERY count matters. Choose to be counted and spread the word. Together we can raise our voices to ensure all people are counted.

### The Census Bureau timeline ([www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov))

- March 12 - April 30 U. S. residents receive four mailings from the U.S. Census Bureau with invitations to complete the 2020 census.
- Respond : online (new), by phone, by mail.; residence should be as of April 1.
- March 30-April 1 census takers count those experiencing homelessness, e.g. at shelters, soup kitchens, tent encampments, on the street/in parks.
- April 1: Nationwide Census Day.
- May-July census takers go door to door visiting non-responders.
- December: Apportionment counts delivered to the President and Congress.

March 31, 2021: Counts delivered to states to use re-drawing legislative districts based on population changes.

Metropolitan Congregations United is hiring for part time canvassers. For more information contact Jenniqua "Jai" Johnson, MA at [Jai@MCUStL.com](mailto:Jai@MCUStL.com).

Carolyn Redmore for the Justice Team

## ***This week at Webster United Methodist:***

### **Friday, March 13**

Noon, PWP. Prayer With Pastor live on our Facebook Page

### **Saturday, March 14**

Noon, PWP. Prayer With Pastor live on our Facebook Page

### **Sunday, March 15**

### **10:30a Worship LIVE on FACEBOOK!**

<https://www.facebook.com/WebsterUnitedMethodist/>

*10p Newsletter Articles Due to Secretary@websterum.org!*  
**YES!** We will still have a weekly newsletter and I need all your information and tips to publish so we all can keep in touch!

### **Monday, March 16**

Noon, PWP. Prayer With Pastor live on our Facebook Page

### **Tuesday, March 17**

Noon, PWP. Prayer With Pastor live on our Facebook Page

### **Wednesday, March 18**

Noon, PWP. Prayer With Pastor on our Facebook Page

*10p Bulletin Information Due to Secretary@websterum.org!*

### **Thursday, March 19**

Noon, PWP. Prayer With Pastor live on our Facebook Page

**To see our Church calendar online,** go to our web site:

<https://websterunitedmethodist.org/calendar> and events/ church events/calendar

**To book a date on the calendar,** please contact Holly in the office at

[Secretary@Websterum.org](mailto:Secretary@Websterum.org)

Thanks!!

**Prayer Concerns:** Rachel Krakos; The Skelton Family; Al & Sheila Naegeli, Nicole & John Pollard, Mary Peters (Joel Kichline); Dianne Wallace & her family ( Earl & Martha Jones); Our mom (Bob & Jillian); Michelle, Bob Kopp, Teresa & family (Vicki Hoyer); Donna Ash (Brenda Haverman); My family (Traci & Sandy); Mia & her parents, Susan Basile (Paula Murphy); Claudia Hoffmann (Beth Gewinner); Linda Redmore (Carolyn Redmore); Andrew Kennon, Cheryl Kincade, Amanda Kohlfeld (Marcia Kennon); Kathy Sucher & Mark Olinger (Linda Guth Stangl); Mike Long, Becca Stevens & family (Cindy Andrews); Scott & Carol Althen, Carol & Jason Wright (Beverly Mesey); Mike, Kim, Joan, Gwen (John Romanko); Ray & Janet Iggulden; Kristen Kremer & family; Emma & Matt Haymos; Len Burns; Barbara Corey; Brenda Yost; Lorraine Bemis; Fran Allen; Joe Krabbe; Elaine Filsinger; Phil Bryan; Jean Ransdell; People of Nashville & tornado area; victims of school shootings; thank you for church leadership, for students, for those battling mental illness, thank you Lord, for the opportunities we have to spend time with our grandchildren, for improved gun control in the US; Chiphongo UMC (our covenant church in Mozambique); for the continued growth of the Mountain Service; for a focus on global warming; for global leadership

