



April 23, 2020

Celebrate Earth Day

2020



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Let's all celebrate Earth Day this year!

This year, 2020, we have witnessed how connected we all are throughout this earth we live on. It's the only home we have.

Here is a link to the virtual Earth Day festival in St. Louis.

https://earthday-365.org/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Virtual%20St.%20Louis%20Earth%20Day%20Festival&utm_campaign=newsletter LRL





...a note from Pastor Sharon

I am re-sharing this earlier writing because it fits where we are...I don't know how to say it any better. Peace be with you.

*But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them,
“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made
him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”
Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the
other apostles,
“Brothers, what should we do?”*

Easter is over...and Pentecost, with its fury of fire and outpouring of the Spirit's unbridled power is still weeks away. We are passing through a strange time, called Eastertide in the early church, and it is a peculiar place to be. We aren't quite ready to launch into the regular flow of ministry, with our newfound passion and fever just yet. It seems emotionally, and metaphorically, we are left standing with our mouths gapping wide open, wondering, “What just happened here?”

Over the days of Holy Week, we experienced the poignant last teachings of Jesus, his bloody and cruel sacrifice, and the miraculous resurrection of Christ to new life. But now the festivities are over; the company gone home, the ham leftovers eaten up, and the plastic eggs stored back in the attic. We are like the early Christians, who sat in their Upper Room, some still dazed from the raw experiences of that week of passion, wondering what to do, with what we know, now that we know it.

And what do we know? That Jesus was dead. Good and dead. Not-flickering-an-eyelash, cold-and-blue dead. And then Christ was alive. In full living color, walking around, traveling and talking to folks, blessing, spirit-instilling, and cooking-them-fish-on-the-beach-for-breakfast kind of alive. How can this be? Because God has the power to bring new life to dead things.

In fact, God delights in bringing renewed vigor to the places in our world and in our lives that seem dead. We witness this miracle every spring when we see the green shoots boring their way through a cover of brown leaves in the flower beds. Imagine that maybe this could be your life, right now. If some part of your life is crunchy brown and dirt dead, God's power can make the living sap start running again, producing green vitality that leads to new blooms. God can do it. God has done it. God will do it again.

So what do we do with what we know, now that we know it?
Believe it. Own it. Live it. Share it.

Once, during this same in-between time, I sat with a dear friend who felt like there was nothing more for which to live. I wasn't sure how to offer him hope. I could have reminded him of his children who still needed their dad. I thought of ragging on him that his presence with us at church would be sorely missed. But none of those things seemed to touch the power of the truth that we had just lived through during Holy Week. Finally I whispered, *"God makes life new. I don't know how, but I know it, and you know it too."*

I whispered it, not because I didn't want the people around us to hear our conversation, but because it seemed like such a sacred and holy message. I didn't trust my voice to say it with all the meaning that I meant it to have. It was too big. Perhaps my whisper would convey the utter importance of these words of hope.

Soon the Spirit's power will burst forth, emboldening our voices to stand and shout from the rooftops. But now, while we are still saturated in a sense of shock and awe, let us share, even in a whisper, with eyes of wonder, what we have experienced to those who need to hear it. God has the power to bring new life to dead things.

We know it. Tell someone.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Sharon
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Epworth Children and Family Services

As many of you know Epworth serves children, youth and families in the St. Louis area and is associated with the United Methodist Church as one of our National Mission Institutes. The population they serve includes youth in our community who are homeless or at risk and the agency does so in a variety of ways including residential housing, emergency shelters, and outreach to homeless youth.

Epworth is certainly an essential business at all times but especially in this time of the pandemic and they need our assistance.

Of course, the first thing that would help is financial support. Many of you already do this but if you can do more it would be most appreciated. Also, if you generally give at the end of the year and could move that support up to the present it would be great. Donations can be made through Webster UM by designating your gift to Epworth in the memo line or clicking on the Epworth tab on our webpage.

Second, there are items that are essential to the work of the Drop-In Center and the Street Outreach. On Monday, I spoke with Jenn Deaton and she expressed that they are having difficulty getting enough of certain items including meals to give out on the streets and to serve at the Drop-In Center. Her wish list includes:

- Packaged Meals - Placed in zip-lock bags and containing items that do not require refrigeration. Things to include might be: easy-open canned meats esp chicken or dried meats, a fruit cup, cookies, energy or granola bars, crackers with cheese or peanut butter, fork, napkin.
- Washcloths
- Women's Underwear - any style - sizes 6 or 7
- Men's Underwear - boxer briefs combo - sizes medium or large
- Hand Sanitizer - small bottles for the homeless and bigger ones for the facility
- Meals for the center - They serve about 30 individuals per day (Monday thru Friday). Currently sandwiches are preferred because it is easier to keep everyone from contamination. This is where you can double your good works. Tuesday I went to our Old Orchard Subway and purchased 30 sandwiches. Not only was the restaurant helped but so were the youth. The owner even threw in some extra to help contribute to the youth.
- Fruit cups

If you can donate these things please bring them to our elevator lobby. If you would rather donate money for someone to shop make your check out to Webster UM and in the memo line put Epworth Items.

Last and most important is to pray. The folks at Epworth are working hard to keep everyone safe and it is stressful. Research studies show that prayer helps people. So let us pray for all involved.

Linda Guth-Stangl



The Upper Room Devotional

The Upper Room is a devotional magazine published in Nashville which presents a daily Bible passage, a personal story usually by lay writers, a prayer, and a thought for the day. We generally have copies available to interested persons in our church. Our May-June copies have arrived. If you generally enjoy using The Upper Room, please contact Linda Guth Stangl at 314-753-4292 by voice or text or e-mail her at linda-guth-stangl@live.com and she will make sure a copy gets to you. If you are at the church for another reason, you can find your copy on the table in the elevator lobby.

If you have never tried this devotional magazine and/or prefer electronic media you can enjoy a free 30-day trial. You can have it sent to your e-mail or smart phone every morning. See www.upperroom.org/welcome to order this.



...a note from Assistant Pastor Paige

Hello church! I hope the newsletter finds you well again this week. I hope you are continuing to attend your self and spiritual needs as you need best.

Our youth group has moved to an online format these days. We will be gathering Sunday nights at 6:00 on Zoom!!! We will also be doing a Bible Study via The Holy Bible App. It is called "Kickstarting a Conversation with God". I invite you all to at least download the app and explore the plans that are available. They offer a wide diversity of topics and lengths.

For iPhones go to the App Store and search 'bible'. Once you find the icon with a brown cover and a red bookmark, download it for free!

For Androids go to:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.sirma.mobile.bible.android&hl=en_US

Happy reading & learning!!!!

Blessings, soap and water,

Paige



Native American Ministries Sunday April 26

The United Methodist special offering Sunday on April 26 funds urban ministries with Native Americans, scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist seminaries, and Native American ministries Annual Conference.

More than 100 years ago, God planted a Methodist presence in Standish, Michigan, and the Saganing Indian Mission began. Recently, however, the congregation disbanded. In hopes of reviving the ministry, a pastor was provided for one year, but an active congregation did not result. Today, the Detroit Annual Conference Committee on Native American Ministries is implementing a vision for the Saganing Indian Church site, a ministry with the Saginaw-Chippewa tribe.

The Native American Ministries offering provides funding for such projects. Recently, Volunteers in Mission took a team to repair the roof and interior damage. The Committee will maintain the refurbished property and work in development.

“We’re looking to offer a meeting place, both for the community and for the conference,” a committee member said. “We can provide a gathering place of peace and harmony.”

Please prayerfully consider giving to this special offering on Sunday, April 26. You may give online at our website by clicking the "GIVE" button on the menu bar, at the top of the front page.

Thank you very much,
Jan McCurley, Risk-Taking Missions Chair



Hello Church,

Below I am to include a written tutorial on how best to join a zoom call in my experience. Please utilize zoom to join some small groups in the future!

Blessings,
Pastor Joshua

How to Join the Zoom Call

Most times in attending a zoom call, the host will send you an email invitation with a link to the zoom meeting. All you should do is click on the link provided in the email.

There is a meeting ID and password below that. You should not need this if you just click on the link. All you need to do is join the call by clicking on the URL and following the prompts that zoom gives you from there.

If you have not downloaded zoom, the zoom will prompt you to download it on to your computer. This extension of zoom makes it much easier for you to join zoom calls, but it is not required to join the meeting. I recommend you download the extension, it does not take long.

Once you join the call make sure you connect with video so we can see you. Then the next thing will be to connect to the audio once you are in the zoom. That will be at your toolbar of the zoom window. Use "Internet Audio"

Then everything should be set for us to start the class. If you have trouble joining the class here are some FAQs and troubleshooting fixes.

If you only have your phone to do this meeting, you can still join us. Just access the email from your phone and follow the instructions I have above. If this is what

you are going to do, please download the zoom app before the meeting. You will be able to see us and talk just like the viewers on their computers.

If for some reason you cannot hear us or we hear you once you are in the zoom please check the following: your camera does not have a red line through it, your audio is not muted on the app or your computer, and your audio is connected using the instructions I provided earlier.

If you cannot access the video at all, you can call into the zoom using the number provided in the email. I would only do this as a last resort because you will not be able to see us.

Thank you for everyone who was able to make it to the learning session for zoom on Friday. Below is the link for the video that Gordon has mentioned he would share. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to help with zoom!

I missed you all on Easter, Christ has risen!
Pastor Joshua

For more training, see https://zoom.us/rec/play/ucYoIumtq243G9fAswSDUPArW9W-eKis1Cga8_EPmk7mAnFQMAevZ7IQZefBr9eLpOtBNxuUZZ4WFxrQ?continueMode=true



...a note from Assistant Pastor Josh

Hello all,

I am writing to spread the news that I will be starting a new zoom Sunday school to try and still gather us together in small groups to develop our faith and theology further.

I invite you to join me starting **THIS Sunday at 9am on zoom** for a small group over the theology of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. I will bring passages of his theology and connecting it to scripture and United Methodist doctrine and facilitating dialogue.

Everyone is invited, all I need in order to get you in the class **is for you to email me back and let me know you are interested in attending the class!**

We had a good turnout for our first meeting this past Sunday. Please email me back if you are interested in joining us! Please feel free to forward to people you believe would be interested!

Blessings,
Joshua



...a note from Children's Director, Miss S

Hope y'all had a wonderful Easter Weekend! Please join our newest Facebook group "Webster United Methodist: Children, Youth, and Families" for videos, resources, activities, and stories throughout each week. Also, look out for weekly emails from me with a children's bulletin. If you would like to be added to the email listing for that, please contact me at directorchildren@websterum.org. Stay healthy!

Trish Sorenson



New Zoom Class Hosted by Pastor Sharon

On Tuesdays at 7:30p, you are invited to join our new zoom class, discussing Harold Kushner's book, "When Bad Things Happen to Good People". A group of 8 met this week, but there's room for you! Contact Pastor Sharon if you would like to jump in.





Our Prayer Concerns

Sophia (Anna Schwind); Jacque (Linda Austin); Earl Emert and Roger Johnston (sons-in-law of Jean Major); Lucy Kroenung; Cindy Burke (Carol Gilker); Ariana (Jan Hanson); Val (Nephew of Lois Brodt); Everett, Thomas, Heather and Amanda (Karen Clark); Traci Stuart and family; Sally Cobb; Brent and Alison McCurley (Jan McCurley), Libbi Pacatte; Becca Stevens and family (Cindy Andrews); Kate Fuller, Sherry Montford, the Emergency Dept at Barnes Hospital (Helen Fuller), those quarantined in close quarters; Amanda and Caleb Sawyer (Debbie Brooks daughter and husband); Phil Bryan and Emily Moroney (Sherry Bryan husband and granddaughter); Ginger (Alma and Merv Wright's daughter); John and Carolyn Denison (Carolyn Redmore's brother and sister in law); Diane and Ron Wallace; Matthew Francis (Lisa Carswell's son); Ryanlyn Mathis; Rachel Krakos; people suffering through natural disasters; medical personnel caring for the sick; those infected with virus; for workers who bring us food; for those caring for small children, doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, and other healthcare providers

And from our outside Prayer Box: "Please pray for the people with the coronavirus", and "Please pray for my family."



Please join our Live-streaming Worship
Thursdays at 7:30pm
and Sundays at 10:30 am,
on Facebook at Webster United Methodist,
or our website at websterunitedmethodist.org.

You are also invited to join "Prayers with Pastor Sharon", at noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays on Facebook or on this page within our Facebook window.