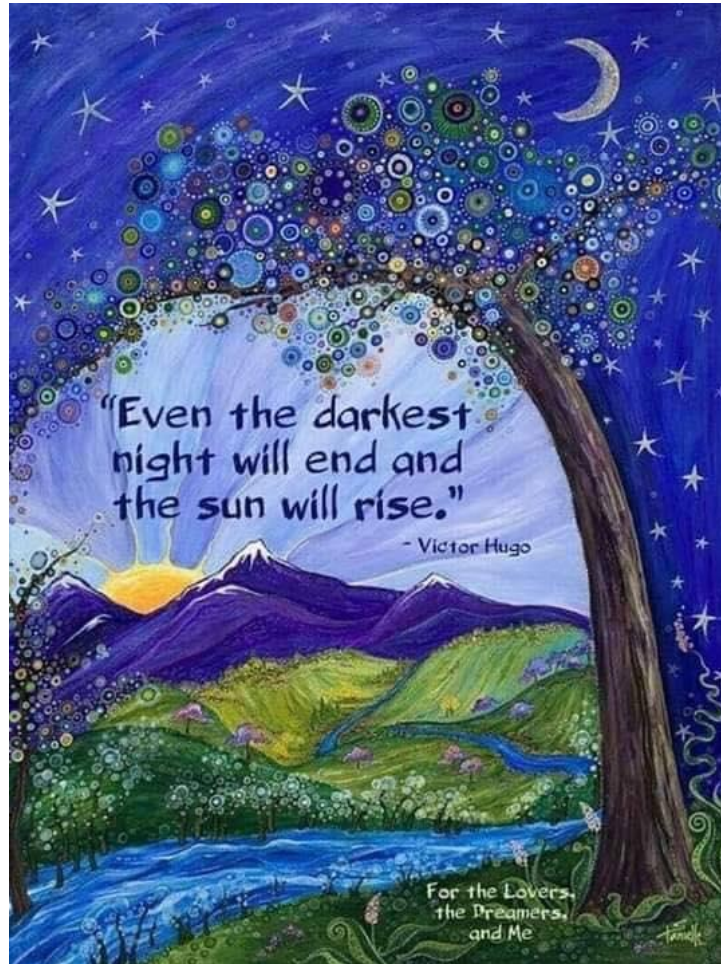


April 2, 2020



Pastor, Rev. Sharon Kichline
Assistant Pastor, Joshua Krakos
Music Ministry, Lamar Fitzgerald
Youth Ministry, Pastor Paige Foster
Children's Ministry, Trish Sorenson
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THANK YOU to all for reading through our “new”

newsletter! Just like many of you, I am working from home and don't always have all the tools that I regularly use that are in the office... So through all the mistakes and misspellings, I thank you for your patience!

Blessings of Plenty – Holly

Thank
you

PS: It'll get better- I promise!!!



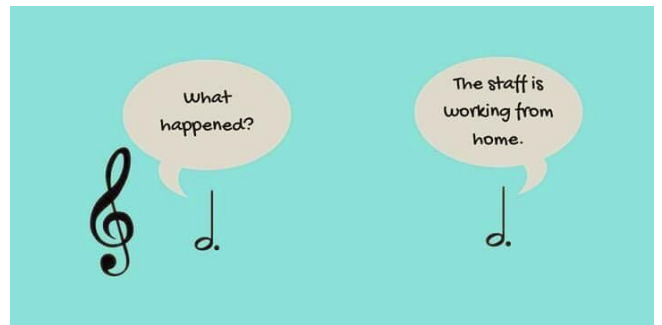
Greetings and Blessings to all!

Your WUM Newsletter has arrived!
Yes, we will keep publishing the newsletter through this home isolation.

I am working from home and I can access the church email from here! **So please, keep on writing and sending your information so that I can keep the newsletter current.** I love hearing from you!

Also, please do email either Pastor Sharon or me your prayer concerns and thanksgivings. We will publish our current prayer list every week as always. It is good to keep our church family connected.

Stay home and stay well, *Holly*



Church from Home

Dear Church,

Since last I wrote you, things have changed even more at the church and in our communities. We have now disbanded our worship teams and Pastor Josh will be Facebook live-streaming The Mountain Service from his dining room on Thursday evenings at 7:30p. I will be Facebook livestreaming Sunday Worship at 10:30am from my kitchen table, or maybe my backyard deck (depending on the weather). It's going to be weird, but wonderful too. I hope you can join us.

Not everyone has Facebook connections, so starting this week I will be mailing out my sermons and prayers to those folks who already receive a printed newsletter.

I want to thank those who have taken the time to mail in your offerings and tithes. The church continues to make payroll and pay our bills on time. I am deeply grateful that we are financially in a position to continue to pay our staff, both hourly and salaried, during this time of confinement. Certainly not all churches have been able to do that. On my own and their behalf, I say thank you.

Let me give you a peek into what Holy Week (next week!) is going to look like. We will celebrate worship on Palm Sunday, 4/5, at 10:30am, livestreaming to Facebook. During the week, there will be opportunities for you and our immediate neighborhood to take part in activities located outside of our church building. I hope to chalk a prayer labyrinth on the parking lot when I know there will be a few dry days in a row. People will be invited to take a fan palm, some bubbles, a special rock, or hang an ornament on the Ted Hoyer tree.

Josh will host Maundy Thursday/Service of Darkness on Thursday evening at 7:30pm, again live-streaming to Facebook. Have your own candles lit wherever you are worshipping.

On Good Friday, I will place the cross on our church lawn with the black cloth hanging from it, blowing in the breeze, and replace that cloth on Easter Sunday with the pure white fabric, celebrating Christ's Resurrection.

There will be an avalanche of pinwheels in the church lawn that morning, with the invitation to take one to your own yard. I will celebrate Easter worship, live-

streaming to Facebook, at 10:30am, and encourage you to have an unlit candle there with you on a nearby table. We'll light our candles together during worship. I hope later you will take a Sunday drive past Webster United Methodist, and choose your pinwheel.

Friends, for the mission of the church, the silver lining in this dark cloud of separation that we're enduring, is that it offers a magnificent opportunity to include our walking neighbors in some new and ancient Holy Week rituals and Easter Celebrations. Please join me in praying that all the folks (and dogs) streaming past our church every day will feel the love of Christ.

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you in this very weird season+
Pastor Sharon



Kristen Kremer's Meal Train is still on track, and you don't have to cook!

Friends, Kristen and her family are still needing meals in April and May while she continues receiving treatments. If you are able to purchase gift cards for meal providers that deliver (like Panera Bread and Domino's Pizza), you can leave them in the cooler we've been using for her meals that is tied to her front porch. If you prefer to cook, that is wonderful.

Whether you're cooking or providing gift cards, go to signupgenius.com and click on the magnifying glass in the upper right hand corner. The next screen will have a search box, so type in "pastorsharon@wumc.org". That will bring up a screen where you look for the words "meal train for Kristen", under the photo of the hands holding the dish. Click on that phrase and the site will take you to the sign-up list. The dates listed are Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays. After you click on the date you want, the site will guide you.

Our church is providing 2 meals a week, so don't choose a Wednesday if Monday and Friday are already taken. Also, and apologies for this, Fridays mean Thursdays; Kristen realized her kids are not always all with her over every weekend.

Please feel free to email Linda Shantz with any questions. She will coordinate between you and Kristen to be sure she needs the meal on the date you've chosen. And, many thanks for helping her and her family weather this storm!



UMCOR Sunday on March 29

We observed the special offering **UMCOR Sunday** on March 29th this year, but it is not too late to give, if you have not yet had a chance to do so. The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated restrictions on group gatherings, and so our connections online are important to use. The good news is that our website has a place to electronically GIVE, including for special offerings such as **UMCOR**, (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, do the following:

- 1) go to www.websterunitedmethodist.org
- 2) find the links listed at the top of the page such as “Home,” “Welcome,” etc., and click on the link that says “**GIVE**,” which goes to the “Give” page.
- 3) Next, click on “**Give Now**,” and this will go to our Online Giving Page which will process the donation. (You will see a picture of UM Committee on Relief fund at that site). Follow the directions to complete.

The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico is dealing with recent series of more than 500 earthquakes in December and January, 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.

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



LifeWise Food Pantry! March is our month to fill the shelves!

Granted, we have moved past March and have begun the month of April (already!) but there is still a great need at LifeWise.

COVID-19 is adversely impacting all of us one way or another, but **some of the hardest hit are those we serve** at LifeWise StL. Families are not able to go to work because their kids are home from school, while others are losing their jobs outright. Families will have a difficult time having their basic needs met. However, LifeWise is open, and WUM can help.

How is LifeWise helping?

- LifeWise is distributing food and household supplies to the community during our normal market shopping hours through a drive-up line in front of our building to ensure families do not go hungry as their income is impacted.
- We are enabling families to keep working by providing childcare.
- Our social workers and other staff are doing daily mental health check-ins with our youth and adult participants via Facebook Live and phone calls.
- We have created an online check-in where moms can complete an anxiety/depression inventory and request that diapers, books and kid activities be delivered to their home.
- We are checking in on our immigrant participants specifically because they are more isolated, and we will take them supplies as needed.

Thanks to their dedicated staff, **last week LifeWise served 600 people with 400 bags of most needed food items at a cost of \$6,800.** This was as much

as we usually spend in one month! We expect the number of served to grow as jobs are impacted.

Kay and Deane Looney loaded up a carload of food products last week that had been brought to our church for delivery to LifeWise. Staff was extremely grateful for our support in their time of need. Their food pantry stocks had been seriously depleted and the food was enthusiastically received.

I know that it's very difficult to assemble food stuffs during this virus challenge. But if you are somehow able to bring food products to the church, The Looney's are happily willing to take them down to LifeWise. They need our help.



More info on LifeWise donations!

If you are adept at Amazon.com, food items can be purchased online and delivered directly to LifeWise (1321 S 11th St, St. Louis, MO 63104).

LifeWise is also happy to receive monetary donations – they are able to shop in bulk for needed items. Send your check to WUM, 600 N Bompert Ave, Webster Groves, 63119 with LifeWise on the Memo line.



Webster Rock Hill Ministries COVID-19 Updates

Because WRHM has increased need for specific items, as well as increased client requests at this time, we are instituting a new procedure for in-kind donations. Beginning Friday, March 27, 2020, we are asking that **all In-Kind Donations (see list below) be brought to Webster Groves Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 1320 W. Lockwood, 63122**. Webster Groves Christian Church is located on the south side of West Lockwood, just west of Berry Road. Enter the church parking lot from the east and follow signs and directions from volunteers. Donors are asked to remain in their cars. Volunteers will unload and receive your donations and provide you with an acknowledgement of your donation.

In-Kind donations will be accepted at the following times:

Tuesdays between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM
Thursdays between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM
Fridays between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM

We are not currently accepting in-kind donations at our Waymire location.

Urgently Needed Items include:

Toilet Paper
Personal hygiene items
hand soap and hand sanitizer
canned meat and vegetables
dry food items

As always, we continue to need and appreciate monetary contributions. Please give when you drop off your in-kind donations at Webster Groves Christian Church or give online at <http://wrhm.org/help-us/>

Thank you for all you do to help strengthen our community!

Stay well.

Ed Johnson, Executive Director
Mary Taylor, Board Chairperson



Staying Connected

The United Methodist Church is a connectional church with each church supporting others. And we are a connectional people so being under a stay-at-home order and not being able to worship together, eat donuts, and visit with each other is very hard. However, these restrictions are necessary.

In response, to this your church family is organizing a way for everyone to touch base once per week. There are individuals (Care Callers) who have agreed to reach out to 5-6 people.

They will do this by individual calls, phone conferencing, or zoom. The calls will be a brief time of prayer, conversation, and support.

So that we can organize and not have anyone “fall through the cracks” or be forced to participate”, we are asking each of you to call and groups will be made.

Also, if you have a network and are feeling supported you may choose to opt out, or if you have special needs, contact the same phone/email.

In this time, I am remembering Bible passages that remind us that God is in charge. Philippians 4:4-7 is one of my favorites.

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again; Rejoice!

Let your gentleness be evident to all.

The Lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Linda Guth-Stangl



Prayer Concerns

Brent and Alison McCurley (Jan McCurley), Libbi Pacatte; Josh Pemberton (nephew of Cindy Andrews); Kate Fuller, Sherry Montford, and all ER personnel; the Emergency Dept at Barnes Hospital (Helen Fuller), those quarantined in close quarters, Kate Stewart; 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); Barb Sarich; 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 of Nashville and tornado area; medical personnel caring for the sick; those infected with virus; for workers who bring us food; for those caring for small children.

And from our outside Prayer Box: “Please pray for the people with the coronavirus.”



Puzzles!

Thanks to the generous donation of Martha and Earl Jones, we have started a Puzzle Exchange in the Elevator foyer at the church. Puzzles are a great way for families to connect, and can be soothing to a weary spirit.

You are invited to take one that tickles your fancy, and contribute your old ones if you have them (but it's not necessary). There are both children and adult puzzles to choose from. Thank you Martha and Earl!



Trish Sorenson, our Director of Children's Ministries, has started a new Facebook page for families to swap ideas for keeping our kids engaged, active, and thinking, devotions, events, and resources. Please join and contribute!

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/708071979728500/>



Please join our Live-streaming Worship Thursdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 10:30 am, on Facebook.

You are also invited to join "Prayers with Pastor Sharon", at noon each day, Tuesday-Saturday, on Facebook or on this page within our Facebook window.

