



June 4, 2020



Brothers and Sisters

Pastor, Rev. Sharon Kichline
Assistant Pastor, Joshua Krakos
Music Ministry, Lamar Fitzgerald
Youth Ministry, Pastor Paige Foster
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Please join our On Line 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.



Special Offering for *Peace with Justice Sunday* is June 7

Gifts on Peace with Justice Sunday, to be celebrated June 7, 2020, fund programs that advocate for peace and justice in the United States and around the world. These programs empower United Methodists to speak out for removing structures and systems that harm God’s children globally.

Please give generously to this special offering!
Thank you,

Jan McCurley,
Risk-Taking Missions Chairperson



A Word from Our Bishop: “Outraged”

June 01, 2020

I am outraged. I hesitated posting what I really wanted to say yesterday because my blood was boiling.

The arrest of the white officer, seen pressing his knee to the neck of Mr. George Floyd, a black man who later died, does little to quiet my outrage. I am tired. I’m tired of the senseless killing of black people. But, I am not as weary as black people or, in a broader sense, as people of color, who have had to endure the aggression and violence that racism has produced for centuries at the hands of white people. I’m not as weary as my black brothers and sisters because I do have breath in my lungs. I have the ability to run down the street without concerns of being assaulted. I don’t have to tense up when I am pulled over by the police. I am not as weary because I have white privilege.

I have witnessed both explicit and implicit racism. I’ve been complicit in racism throughout my life. In the face of my outrage, I know that my faith calls me to get active and stay engaged even when it is hard. If the conversation around [#blacklivesmatter](#) and the news reporting creates a sense of discomfort, tension or uneasiness in you, I invite you to spend some time talking to Jesus about WHY it bothers you. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your heart to a place of conviction so that we might create God’s kingdom on earth where all people – regardless of their skin color, ethnicity, religion, identity or sexuality – might flourish.

It is not the job of black people to explain the structures of white supremacy, white privilege, racism, police brutality or any of the other byproducts that advances the white standard as the "normative" view. This is white people’s work and our need to engage in this work is urgent. Lives depend on it.

I am asking that every white United Methodist in Missouri but especially our appointed and assigned pastors, paid church staff and lay leaders read a book that has helped me better understand my own sin and complicity to the horrors of racism: *White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism* (2018) by Robin DiAngelo, PhD.

Please read this book. Read it as church, a staff and within small groups. If you’ve finished *White Fragility*, begin the next book which may give you some ideas on moving from not being racist to antiracist: *How To Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi.

We will have conversations as a Conference later this fall with these two books as our guide. I want Missouri United Methodists to be leaders in transforming their communities into less racist ones. Please join me. Lord in your mercy...

Buy White Fragility at <https://www.cokesbury.com/9780807047415-White-Fragility>

Buy How to Be an Antiracist at <https://www.cokesbury.com/9780525509288-How-to-Be-an-Antiracist>



A Word from the Pastor: Feels Like Déjà vu

Our news outlets have been flooded with stories and pictures of the civil rights protests across the country again after yet another brutal killing of a black man at the mercy of white law enforcement.

It feels like déjà vu. We've been here before in our own St. Louis community just six years ago, when another black man, Michael Brown, was killed in Ferguson, sparking off a new chapter of protests and destructive riots in the civil rights story of our country.

But this one seems different.

Maybe it feels different because the country got to see through multiple lenses of cellphone video the unnecessary and calloused killing. We heard George's pleas to be allowed to breath. The footage seems to leave no room for misinterpretation. Now that we've seen it, it's pretty hard to un-see it, to un-know what we now know with our very own eyes. George Floyd was not just killed. He was murdered.

The first time I saw the video, my brain exploded in disbelief. Did that just happen? How could that happen? Every fiber in my body screamed at the injustice. My stomach felt queasy, much as it did when we watched Ahmaud Arbery, a young black man gunned down by white men as he jogged through a neighborhood.

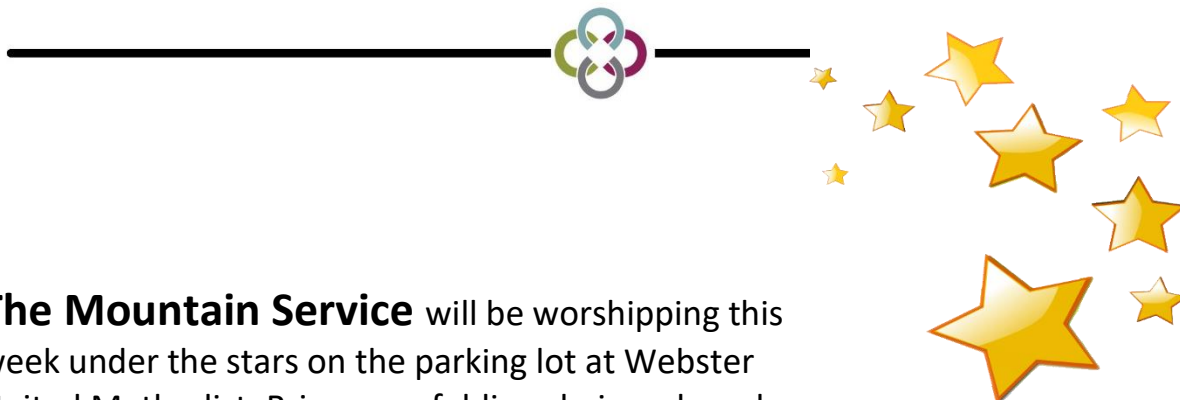
There's a reason this feels so sickening. We're witnessing the 21st century equivalent to a 20th century lynching. We feel the way we do because it is sickening.

It also seems different this time because the crowds of protestors include so much more racial diversity. Somehow, finally, White America is starting to accept that what we have believed to be a black problem is really a human problem. It is our problem. When there is injustice to one part of the human family, the whole is wounded and sick. These outrageous deaths belongs to us all, and should be mourned by us all. Justice should be demanded by us all.

One step closer to becoming stronger allies to the black community is to listen and learn. Our Missouri Bishop, Bishop Farr, has commended the book *"White Fragility: Why it is So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism"*. I am encouraging you to order or download your copy now. We'll be organizing conversation groups around the book in the coming weeks.

May the Holy Spirit move through us all to bring God's kin-dom come on earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.

Pastor Sharon



The Mountain Service will be worshipping this week under the stars on the parking lot at Webster United Methodist. Bring your folding chair and mask and come to worship at 7:30pm.





The Discovery Class has been meeting in the shade of the church building the last few Sundays. It's a big parking lot...maybe your class would like to meet there too!



Are you ready for some uplifting news!

The Finance Committee is honoring its commitment to bring you periodic updates on church finances. Thanks to your generous ongoing financial support we have been able to continue employment of all of the church staff, make payments to important needy mission programs, and have a healthier balance sheet than we had at the same time last year. How did we manage to achieve that?

- Pledge payments have been received as though we were together in the sanctuary.
- A few members have completed their 2020 pledge already.
- Our spending has been lower than we had budgeted, in part due to lack of building use.

While supporting our general budget, important donations for special offerings including Native American Sunday and Human Relations Day as well as local organizations have been important. Your designated donations as well as funds from our general budget have been sent to LifewiseSTL (Kingdom House),

Epworth Children's Home and Room at the Inn to support the unusual demands on their services of late.

There was concern that the absence of worship together in the sanctuary would have a negative impact on our giving but this was clearly misplaced. Our ministries continue in these unfamiliar circumstances and often in new formats and continue to need your ongoing support.

Derek Redmore, Finance Committee Chair.



Thank you Church and Gene Morse for a beautiful new hand-railing for Kristen and her family!



Volunteers Needed!

Our church needs volunteers to assist with sanitizing the sanctuary before and after worship services.

Pastor Sharon and her worship team will continue to offer web-based worship services for the foreseeable future. And there is too much uncertainty about the timing and severity of the second wave of the COVID-19 virus to know exactly when we can resume in-church worship. However, at some point – possibly as early as August – we will be back in church.

That is when we need volunteers to sanitize touched surfaces in the sanctuary and narthex each Sunday in order to comply with St. Louis County restrictions.

Many of our ushers and other members of the Hospitality and Connections Team are considered “high risk” for the COVID-19 virus by virtue of their age. This would be a great time for some of our younger worshipers to step forward. Sanitizing has suddenly become an essential part of worship. Please consider helping.

Contact Roger McCurley, Safety Team Chair, at mccurleyr@gmail.com to get more information or volunteer.



Father's Day Slide Show

To honor the men who have nurtured and fathered us, we will be creating a slide show of photos for Father's Day to be shared in online worship. To be included, please send a photo of the “dad” in your life to Cindy Andrews by June 14th. Since this will be in the online worship, no last names will be used so please *include the first name of your father* with the photo. Text will read like this: *Dave, father of Cindy*.

Preference is to send via email to cyndrews@gmail.com but if that is not convenient, text your photo to 314-277-9368.

Deadline is June 14th, the Sunday before Father's Day.



Caring for Kristen

COVID has gotten in the way of our providing meal support to Kristen Kremer and her family during Kristen's cancer journey. However, Kristen still needs her church. She is continuing chemotherapy, and it depletes her energy.

WUM is inviting you to support Kristen by signing up on Kristen's Meal Train to provide **restaurant gift cards**, to be mailed or delivered to her home. Her address is in the new Church Directory. You can access Kristen's Food Train to sign up to supply a gift card at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054facab2ea3f49-meal>.

Kristen is happy with any kind of gift card just so long as it spares her from cooking. Family favorites include Subway, Jimmy Johns, Einstein Bagels, Imo's Pizza, McDonalds, Webster Garden Chinese Restaurant, Panera's and TGIF. It is important that the restaurant delivers.

You might consider also purchasing your restaurant gift card through WUM. Just contact Paula Murphy at pmathome@yahoo.com to inquire what she has on hand or could order for you. The church then gets a small percentage back as earned income.

Thank you, Church, for continuing to cherish and nourish Kristen and her children.
Pastor Sharon



A NEW Hands in Mission Opportunity!

The Risk-Taking Mission & Service Team is organizing a **Webster Rock Hill Ministries Emergency Food & Hygiene Drive** for the month of June.

Here's how you can help.

(1) You can **volunteer** to be part of a team of 2 people staffing a drop-off donation table in our church parking lot each Monday and Wednesday in June, beginning June 1, 11 AM -1PM. We ask each volunteer to wear a mask, and there will be a supply at the table of disposable gloves, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and disinfectant spray. We will store the donations in Fellowship Hall after each day's collection and drop them off at the WRHM in-take site on selected Fridays in June.

(2) You can **donate** urgently needed items to our donation site any of those days in June, or place them in Fellowship Hall if you can't make a drop-off day.



Currently the list of needs is the following, but it is subject to change if needs change:

- Toilet paper
- Hand soap and hand sanitizer
- Personal hygiene items (women's sanitary products, diapers, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.)
- canned meats & canned vegetables
- dry food items (beans, rice, cereal, etc.)

For questions or to volunteer please email Jan McCurley

Janis.mccurley@gmail.com

Thank You!



Hello Church, Pastor Paige here!

I hope you all are doing well these days. The youth and I have been meeting on Zoom on Sundays. We have figured out how to play games miles apart and how to have meaningful conversation virtually. Though we didn't intend to have to adapt, we have and it has gone smoothly! To the youth and parents at Webster United Methodist, thank you for your trust, your willingness to try something new and your courage in these times. THANK YOU!!

Now that our state has moved into a phase of 'Reopening', the youth have been asked if they would like to begin gathering at the church again. I know this may cause some anxiety, but I assure you that what is best for our youth is my number one priority, along with Pastor Sharon's.

So, in this manner the youth will begin meeting on the church parking lot beginning **June 4th. Yes, that is a Thursday.** The youth have decided that for this summer we will meet on Thursday nights. We will begin at **5:30** and wrap up by **7:30**.


In order to be as safe as possible the following measures will be implemented:

- Masks are required! Bandanas will be available if needed.
- Upon entering the building to access bathrooms, there will be hand sanitizer to use, as well as sinks for soap and water washing
- We will not be sharing food the first few weeks. You will BYODinner.
- We will use the parking spaces to mark safe social distancing
- Hand sanitizer will be available and used





- If you are feeling sick or unwell, especially with a fever and/or cough, please ask to virtually attend via FaceTime or Zoom.

As the Youth Director, I am committed to creating a safe and engaging space for our youth. I ask for your prayers as we move slowly and according to God's wisdom. We will move through this summer together, however that looks.

Blessings, soap, water and sunshine!
Pastor Paige



June 2020

 June 4th	BYOD-Bring your own dinner to the WUM parking lot! We will chat and play sidewalk picture game and other games!
 June 11th	We will design and create a new labyrinth and bike obstacle course/play area for our neighborhood friends!
 June 18th	Movie Night at WUM! Bring blankets or chairs and we will hang out!
 June 25th	Water Balloon Night! Balloons will be provided! Bring a towel and clothes that are okay to get wet!

○ Necessary Precautions:

- We will not be sharing food the first few weeks
- Masks are encouraged
- We will use the parking spaces to mark safe social distances
- Hand sanitizer will be available and used



Each week on the WUM Children's Facebook page, I have been posting videos on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of an activity. Here are this week's activities.

Monday: Social Justice Resources

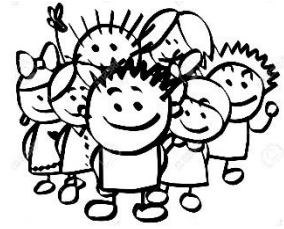
Wednesday: Story- Chapter 7 of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Friday: Cooking- Healthy Ice Cream, Round 2

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/708071979728500/?ref=bookmarks>

I also invite you to post your fun suggestions too!

Thanks,
Trish Sorenson,
Director of Children's Ministry
directorchildren@websterum.org



Sharing!



What are you doing while at home? Let us know! It would be fun to share what you have learned and what projects you have done. Did you start a quilt? Did you learn a new recipe? Did you clean out a closet? *(I built a little patio where we can sit in the evenings and visit with our neighbors – at a distance, of course!)* Did you finish a project? Or did you start a project? Send a sentence or send a paragraph with a photo or two! We are looking forward to connecting with you and hearing from you all summer!

Please send to secretary@websterum.org for inclusion in our newsletter. Thanks!

Pastor Sharon: Pastor Sharon has been working the daily Sudoku to keep her brain from turning to mush! Finally finished a 5 star!!





MUSICAL RELIEF!



As we all continue to find new ways to live and enjoy life, I wanted to share events to offer you and the ones you love a bit of musical relief!

This is a big week for online events! Music lovers will be treated to another week of concerts and musicals. Additional highlights include the *Virtual Tony Awards*, and a very special commencement. Happy streaming!

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

American Idol season 10 champ Scotty McCreery is performing to benefit **MusiCares**. His set kicks off at 7:00 p.m. on the [country singer's Facebook page](#).

Apollo Theater Presents: Let's Stay (In) Together: Featured performers include Michael McDonald, The Temptations, Kool & the Gang, Gary Clark Jr., and Robert Randolph. The concert will begin streaming at 6:00 p.m., and the link can be found at www.apollotheater.org.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

Live From Lincoln Center will broadcast a 2013 performance of *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Carousel*. The production stars Kelli O'hara, Audra McDonald, and Nathan Gunn. The musical will begin at 7:00 p.m., and links are available at www.lincolncenter.org.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

Barack Obama is set to give a commencement speech during YouTube's "**Dear Class of 2020**" virtual commencement. The event will also feature appearances by Beyoncé, Lady GaGa, Alicia Keys, Kelly Rowland, and more. This once in a lifetime event can be streamed on [YouTube](#) at 2:00 p.m.

The **Philadelphia Orchestra** will perform with special guests Wynton Marsalis, Steve Martin, Nicola Benedetti, and Lang Lang. The program will include jazz, classical, and folk music. This event begins at 7:00 p.m., and will stream live via Facebook and www.philorch.org.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

This is Tony Award season! For the first time, the ceremony will be a virtual event. Tune in at 5:00 p.m. at www.tonyawards.com or view the show at Broadway on Demand.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

Amazon will host the **All in WA** streaming concert to raise money for COVID-19 relief efforts across the Washington State region. Performers include Pearl Jam, Ben Gibbard, Sir Mix-a-Lot, Macklemore, Dave Matthews and many more Seattle based musicians. In addition to streaming live on Amazon, the concert will air on local NBC affiliates, and can be streamed on Amazon Prime on demand.

Lamar Fitzgerald,
Director of Music



Our Prayer Concerns: Joe Krabbe and family; Mary Felden Peters; Jodi and Chris Medieta (Joel Kichline); George and Norena Badway (Toni Miceli's parents); Jo Ann and Pat Claywell; Joyce and Scott Simpson family; Sophia (Anna Schwind); Jacque (Linda Austin); Earl Emert and Roger Johnston (sons-in-law of Jean Major); Lucy Kroenung; Ariana (Jan Hanson); Val (Nephew of Lois Brodt); Everett, Thomas, Heather and Amanda (Karen Clark); Stuart / Reesor 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); Sherry Bryan; 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; 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 my friend Barrett” (Jack)

