



July 23, 2020

*Have You
Prayed about
it as much as you've
worried about it?*

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Please join our Online 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.



A Word from Pastor Sharon...

It's a Marathon

I am married to a man who has loved running all his life. Joel ran in track and cross country. During our sparking day, and the first 25 years of our marriage, he ran marathons and biathlons. Over time, I have come to learn some of his running lingo. Like the difference between a sprint and a marathon.

A sprint is a short foot race. You can see your destination just down your line of vision, 100 or 200 meters away.

In the beginning, you lean down and place your feet in starting blocks. At the sounds of the gun, in a mighty burst of energy, you push off with all your might. You run as hard as you can, imagining yourself flying like the wind. You give it your all, and when you've crossed the finish line, you are totally spent.

In a marathon, you cannot see the finish line. It is 26.2 miles away. You start out from a standing position in an easy pace, a pace you have been practicing for months before this race, and strive to maintain that same pace. If you go out too fast, you'll burn up your energy too soon.

Somewhere around mile 20, many long-distance runners hit the wall. Their physical energy is gone, and now they must rely upon their reserves. So, they dig down deep, looking for that mantra that keeps them pumping their legs. The key to running a marathon is in the pacing, the discipline, and in keeping yourself motivated.

Friends, when COVID-19 first showed up on the landscape, we may have thought this was going to be a foot race. Stay home, stay safe, and soon, like the wind, it will blow on by. But it hasn't done that. The virus is still spreading, still festering, still killing. Compliance issues abound, and our country and our world are still in its grip.

Clearly, this is not a sprint that we are in. It's a marathon.

Those of us who have been running with all our might are now feeling spent. Unfortunately, the finish line is nowhere in sight. Realistically, a vaccine may not be available for you and for me until sometime in the first quarter of 2021. That means that we need to change up our race. We're going to have to pay attention to our pace, practice our pace, and stay motivated. The finish line is there; we just can't see it clearly from here.

The Church Council met this past Sunday over the internet. We took under advisement the report of our Safety Team, the rising number of COVID-19 cases in our area, and the council of our Bishop to move slowly and carefully, "doing no harm". We have voted unanimously that August is too soon to open the Sanctuary for in-person worship. We will review the potential for a September opening later in the month of August.

In the meantime, we are continuing to offer Sunday morning worship at 10:30a each week. Many of you are choosing to watch from your homes at that time (as are Joel and I), and it feels like we are connecting with you through the Holy Spirit. I thrill when different ones of you give a shout-out, declaring your greetings and presence. Thank you! I encourage us all to do that, so we can feel the power and encouragement of each other's presence.

The Mountain Service continues to offer excellent worship on Thursday evenings at 7:30p. We worship together, scattered all over the parking lot, singing our praises to God under our masks. Bring your lawn chair and join us! Children are

invited to come and draw chalk pictures near their parent. Church pups, on leash, are welcome.

Despite what some end-time prophets declare, I do not believe this is the end of the world. We are in the middle of a challenging world event, yes. But as there was a starting point, so there will be a finish line.

Do your part, Church. Find a pace you can sustain. Not too fast, but not lying in bed all day either. Practice caring for yourself and others by wearing your mask, washing your hands, and physically distancing in public. When you feel emotionally overwhelmed, conserve your energy, and stay connected. In prayer, dig down deep to find your motivation in Christ. He kept going, and so can we.

The best part is of this challenge is that we are in it together, and the Holy Spirit is running right alongside beside us.

Find grace and peace in Christ,
Pastor Sharon



Are You Young, Not Just Young at Heart?



If you are, and you are voting August 4th by mail-in ballot, you must get it notarized. Well, as long as you are under the age of 65.

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church will offer free notarization services on **Sunday, July 26th from noon to 3:00. The church is at 45 W. Lockwood.** All voters and participants will be required to wear a mask, and Physical Distancing will be maintained. The activity will take place outdoors rain or shine.

Another choice to get your ballot notarized is at your bank's drive through. You will probably need to use the lane closest to the window.

In either case you will sign your ballot envelope in front of the notary, present an ID, and then sign the notary's log.



A Call for Systemic Change:

Vote "Yes" August 4 for Medicaid Expansion

A year ago, many of us at church signed the petition circulated by the Social Justice Team to place Medicaid Expansion on a 2020 Missouri ballot as Amendment 2 to the Missouri Constitution. That step succeeded. The next step is voting "Yes" on August 4 for Amendment 2. It's on the backside of my absentee ballot. If you vote in person, it is probably at the end of the ballot.

Our bishop, our pastor, lay leaders, newspaper editors, columnists and many more have spoken out passionately and eloquently about justice inequities post killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Some, but not most of us, have marched in the street protesting. One mantra is the need for systemic change.

Over the past few years, I became convinced that, while I don't march, I could do a better job of paying attention to what and who I vote on that impact's quality of life and good governance. One outcome: I worked to put Medicaid Expansion on the ballot and next week will mail in my absentee ballot.

Simply put, Medicaid Expansion will:

- expand access to healthcare to communities all over the state
- keep our rural hospitals open
- bring our federal tax dollars home
- save us all money

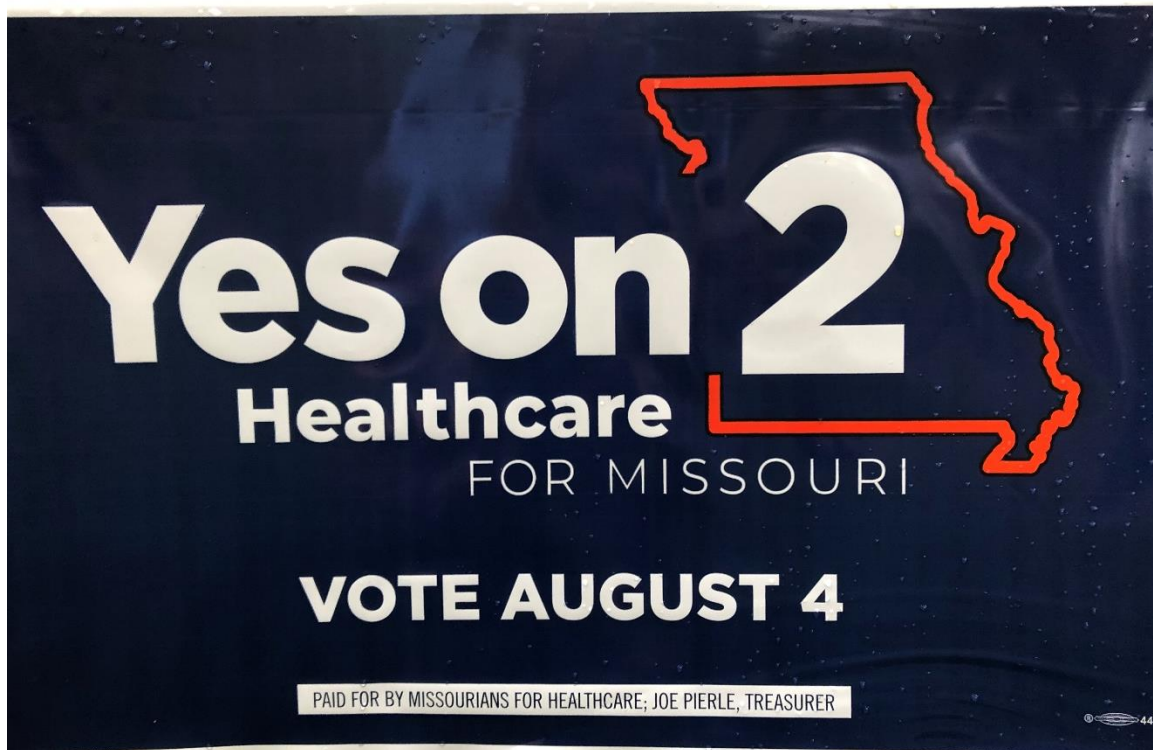
Furthermore, passage contributes to building bridges between urban and rural communities. It also corrects the refusal over the past 10 years of our legislature to allow a Medicaid Expansion bill on the floor, much less to debate it. The result? Missouri is just one of 13 states that has not expanded Medicaid.

A correction: I did march July 9 in front of the church for expanding Medicaid, along with Mary Taylor, Katie Renkins, and Dan Pike. A second march in front of church occurs Wednesday, July 29, 5-6 p.m. Join us or come by and pick up a sign to put in your front yard. And VOTE YES ON AMENDMENT 2.

Carolyn Redmore, Justice Team



WUMC is providing “Yes on Amendment 2” yard signs for both church members and church neighbors. Please email Holly (secretary@websterum.org) if you’d like one, so we can get more. If you want the sign delivered to your house, we can do that too! Just let Holly know by sending your address! -Thanks!



Additional thanks go to Gene and Lettie Morse for putting up the blinds and artwork in our refurbished Youth Room! Looks great!



MUSICAL RELIEF! –contributed by Lamar Fitzgerald



As we continue to find new ways to live and enjoy life while physically distancing, I am exploring new ways to offer music and worship arts. We are currently coordinating a virtual service devoted to hymns. If you are interested in participating, or want to work “behind the

scenes,” let us know! Contact Lamar for more information or if you have questions.

Music for the FUN of it...

Classical pianist adds extended harmony to ‘deranged yelling cat’, and a masterpiece unfolds

Classical pianist harmonizes ‘deranged yelling cat’, calls it his magnum opus.

By Maddy Shaw Roberts Goto: <https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/instruments/piano/harmony-on-deranged-cats-yelling/?fbclid=IwAR1vEaWtoxySCBIE4to9p7QeK2OnsayZaPYDUp8z8ilg6CQ0pe5qXoaML18>



Epworth Mural

A very special event occurred on July 15th when Epworth unveiled a mural at the Webster Groves campus. The mural is a creative expression of healing, community and support. Cbabi Bayoc is the designer and artist of this colorful tree.

He is based in St. Louis and used the words that had been given to him by the youth of Epworth to create the colorful mural.



Epworth Children and Family Services welcomes community members from all walks of life, races, socioeconomic backgrounds, cultures, genders, and identities. The programs at Epworth are committed to helping children, youth and families move toward self-sufficiency. They are supporting change for the betterment of life and prosperity physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. The mural is just one way in which Epworth is reaffirming their mission. They also raised the Pride and Black Lives Matter flags beneath the United States flag so all 3 fly from the pole located next to the mural.

If you want to see the mural, it is visible from Elm as you drive past 110 North Elm. It is a message to all of the youth that they are heard and seen and that

Epworth will continue to work to empower each of them and to improve this community.

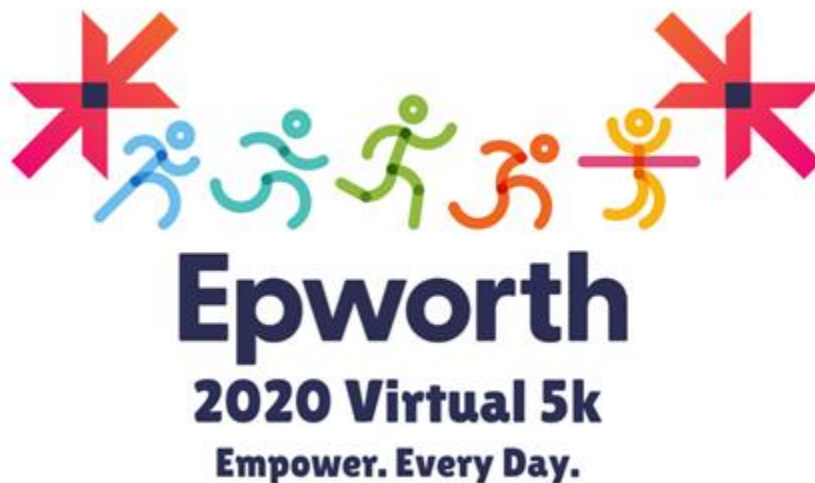
Linda Guth Stangl
Member of Epworth Board of Directors



Epworth Children and Family Services

Many of you have supported Epworth Children and Family Services in a variety of ways in the past and present. I give thanks for each of your contributions. Now in this time when we cannot volunteer our services for tie-dying or ballgame tickets we can still help in 2 ways. Epworth is holding a virtual 5K fundraiser July 24 to 26 and details/links are in the article that you see in the newsletter. Since many of you are keeping fit during this time of the pandemic you could sign up to participate in the virtual 5K. If you do not want to participate you can help by donating to support others including Epworth Youth who will be running, walking, biking in the 5K. Thank you for your consideration.

-Linda Guth Stangl



The COVID-19 pandemic has been overwhelmingly difficult and isolating for our St. Louis community members. Many in-person events, fundraisers, and celebrations have been cancelled or postponed for the year to maintain the safety and well-being of the participants but with the warm weather quickly moving into our beautiful city, it's no secret that the toll of responsible distancing is being felt.

Now, when a number of activities are still not safely possible until COVID-19 is no longer a threat to our society, Epworth wants to provide our tremendous supporters with the opportunity to come together in spirit and activity to continue to support those who need us the most – the youth, teens, and families who rely on Epworth year-round. From **July 24th to July 26th, 2020**, we will be hosting the Epworth Virtual 5k, an event in which participants will be able to stay active, engage with their community, and raise money for the future of Epworth's youth and families.

Epworth invites ALL of our community members to participate in the 5k. Whether you walk, run, swim, or even skate to your 5k goal, all are welcome (invite friends and family)! Guidelines and instructions for registration are below.

Sign up on our official race page at www.RunSignUp.com/EpworthVirtual5k to get started! Your Epworth Virtual 5k must be completed between July 24th at 12:00am and July 26th at 11:59pm and a screenshot of your 5k time must be emailed to development@epworth.org by July 27th at 11:59pm. Feel free to use whichever fitness-tracking app you feel the most comfortable with. Prizes will be given to 1) the participant with the fastest 5k completion time and 2) the participant with the most donations raised in their name.

Don't want to complete the 5k but still want to contribute? That's totally fine! You can support a participant by making a donation in their name by going to our official race page at www.RunSignUp.com/EpworthVirtual5k and selecting "Donate Here!" from the top menu.

We can't wait to get started with you!

- The Epworth Team



VBS-In-a-Bag starts the week of August 3rd.



Stop by church on Monday, August 3rd, Wednesday, August 5th, and Friday, August 7th to pick up your daily bag of goodies from the “Ted Tree”. This year’s theme is **“Creating Community from a Distance.”**

Each bag will include: the theme of the day, bible passage, craft, and activity- all able to be done in a physically distanced format. We hope you’ll stop by that week with your kids to take a VBS lesson off our tree!

Each week on the WUM Children’s Facebook page, I have been posting videos on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of an activity. Follow this link for this week’s activities.

<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



Supporters of Webster Rock Hill Ministries,

On July 18, 2020, WRHM Executive Director Ed Johnson was notified that a member of the KWRH-LP radio station staff was exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19. This staff member had been in their facilities and in contact with staff members and volunteers. Our first priority is the safety of our clients, campers, staff members and volunteers. Thus, Executive Director Johnson has suspended radio station operations and the on-site summer camp immediately. WRHM facilities will be closed until we can ensure the safety of our clients, campers, staff

members and volunteers. This includes testing of staff members and a thorough cleaning of all facilities. We will update you when we reopen.

Thank you for your continued support of WRHM.



Our Sympathy to:

Laurie Schloss and family on the passing of her mother, Bernice Edmonson, on July 2nd

Peggy Browne and family on the passing of her uncle, Jon Browne, on July 5th.

Vicki Hoyer and family on the passing of her mother-in-law, Dolly Hoyer, on July 12th.

Our Prayer Concerns: Henry Copeland (Jon Copeland); Dorothy Reid (Sandy Reid / Bev Mesey); Ron and Dianne Wallace; Tom and Greg (Connie Kroenung); Wanda, Mark Kailbourn, (Cindy Andrews); Mallory (Paula Murphy); Darlene Hyry (Vicki Hoyer); Peter Schüren (Debbie Lund); Victor Browning (Janet Iggulden); Andrew Kennon and family, Amanda Kohlfeld (Marcia Kennon); Elaine Filsinger; 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; 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; 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); Dianne and Ron Wallace; 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 provide

To have your prayer requests included, please contact us using the:

- Connection Card located on our website,
- Prayer Request form on our website,
- Email secretary@websterum.org
- Contact one of our pastors:
- Drop your prayer request in the outside box next to the ramp door.