

August 20, 2020



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Assistant Pastor, Joshua Krakos
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Youth Ministry, Pastor Paige Foster
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My Dear Friends,

Your WUM Newsletter has arrived!

Yes, we are continuing to publish the newsletter through 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 calendar up to date and the newsletter current.* I love  hearing from you!

If you plan on doing anything anywhere in the church building, including the office, sanctuary, Fellowship Hall or any other room, you need to schedule a time that will be entered onto the calendar so that people do not cross paths. We are trying to keep our building safe for those that need to get things done. It is imperative that if you are planning on **scheduling a gathering**, whether outside in the parking lot, or anywhere in the building, that you inform the office (secretary@websterum.org) due to social distancing.

We welcome you, but we still need to keep a distance between people and groups by scheduling on the calendar. Please remember that everyone needs to wear a mask and sanitize all surfaces where you meet (before and after your meeting)! We will be sure to leave products for you to use in your areas.

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

Stay home and stay well,

Holly

PS: You can also keep connected by joining “Prayers with Pastor”, at noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays, on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WebsterUnitedMethodist> . We also will continue to worship together through Facebook on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm and on Sunday mornings at 10:30am



...a message from Pastor Sharon

This week we celebrate the 19th Amendment to our Constitution, giving American women the right to vote. I am sharing, in part, a piece written by Heather Hahn and printed in the United Methodist News on November 6, 2016.

“John Wesley was a fan of voting.

According to a 1774 journal entry, he urged Methodist Society members: “(1) To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy (2) To speak no evil of the person they voted against, and (3) To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.”

Not every society member could take his advice. In Wesley’s day, voting was strictly a land-owning, male affair.

Getting to the point where all adult citizens had a voice in choosing their government took hard work, great risk and tremendous faith. Fortunately, many faithful members of Wesley’s movement, especially women, joined the struggle to expand the right to vote.

In fact, the famed Woman’s Rights Convention at Seneca Falls, New York, found a welcoming host in Wesleyan Chapel, part of the Wesleyan Methodist denomination.

Such advocacy changed history.

“I continue to live in awe of the courage and dedication of the women throughout Methodist history who gave their all for the rights that we take for granted, especially the precious right to vote,” said Dawn Wiggins Hare, the top executive of the United Methodist Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

“How can we ever find ourselves too busy, too jaded, too uninterested to miss an opportunity to vote when those before us were beaten in the street for protesting?”

*Methodists have been activists to give a vote to those who are voiceless. We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, and suffered to ensure our voice.
Please honor them by casting your vote.*

To finish this article and read about some of these courageous women, go to <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/6-methodist-women-who-fought-for-the-vote>

Grace and peace+
Pastor Sharon



Our NEW Director of Children's Ministries!

Hello Webster UM! My name is Shaeleigh Parsons and I am your new Director of Children's Ministries!

A little about me: I've been attending Manchester UMC for the majority of my life. Ever since 6th grade I knew that I wanted to be very involved in church, taking on many different leadership positions throughout the years. I have also been very involved in Irish dancing. I have been doing it competitively for the past 12 years and teaching it for about 4 years. Being involved in these activities showed me just how much I love to work with kids and that I love to spread the good news of God! I am also currently a student at Webster University, working on a major in Human Rights with minors in both Graphic Design and Religious Studies.

Some random fun facts about me: I have one sister, Jaedyn, who is a year older than me. I also have a miniature pincher puppy named Ellie who is the cutest dog ever if you ask me. 😊 In my free time I love to watch Netflix or a good movie. I am a huge Marvel fan and my favorite superhero is either Captain Marvel or Black Widow!

Keep an eye out on this Facebook group for all upcoming events and activities. I am super excited to get to know all of you, even if it's just virtually for now.



Some of you may have noticed that our Reconciling Rainbow Flag has been torn by the winds. It has been removed, pending replacement.

-Pastor Sharon



School Supplies Drive Very Appreciated

Thank you to all my volunteers who helped with the collection to set up the rain/shade canopy, collect the items for the 4 days in August, divide the many supplies into 23 back packs, and shop for still- needed items! And, of course thanks also to all of our generous donors who gave mounds of wonderful supplies (more than 3,000 items) and cash. Your support was amazing. We had to move inside due to torrential rain on the last day, but some folks still found us! Lifewise was providing more than 400 families with school supplies this year--- more than they've ever had---so they were extremely appreciative. Epworth received the soft pencil cases they requested as well. In addition, 4 people from our church volunteered to help Lifewise with the packing and organization of school supplies & shoes to give out to families on Sat. Aug. 15th.

My blessings and gratitude to you all,
Jan McCurley



Six bishops to lead August 22 National Day of Prayer

Six bishops and eight United Methodist leaders will provide meditations and prayers during an

Aug. 22 National Day of Prayer, sponsored by the South Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Men.

Prayers will address calls for racial justice and the COVID-19 corona virus. People from across the nation are invited to participate in all or any portion of the three-hour Zoom gathering (Noon – 3 p.m. CDT)

Speakers include Bishop Rueben Saenz, Jr., Great Plains Episcopal Area; the Rev. Joseph Harris, assistant to the bishop and director of communications for the Oklahoma Annual Conference; Bishop Cynthia Harvey, Louisiana Episcopal Area; the Rev. Dr. Rick Vance, director of the Center for Men’s Ministries; Bishop Gary Mueller, Arkansas Episcopal Area and vice president of the General Commission on United Methodist Men; Joe Kelley, president of the South Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Men; Bishop Robert Schnase, San Antonio Episcopal Area; Migdiel Perez manager, Upper Room Prayer Center; Bishop Scott Jones, Houston Episcopal Area; George Houle, president of Great Plains United Methodist Men; Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe, Northwest Texas-New Mexico Episcopal Area; Ed Wroten, Touch Point Prayer Unity Advocate; the Rev. Sylvester E. Chase, Jr., Wesley United Methodist Church, Austin, Texas; and Mark Lubbock, a staff member of the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

[JOIN BY ZOOM \(https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85897250918\)](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85897250918)

MEETING ID: 858 9725 0918

Or you can call in by phone using one of these numbers: 346/248 7799 (Houston); 253/215 8782 (Tacoma); 408/638 0968 (San Jose); 669/900 6833 (San Jose); 301/715 8592 (Germantown) 312/626 6799 (Chicago) or 646/876 9923 (New York).

[This is the fifth National Day of Prayer.](#) Each day has been sponsored by leaders of United Methodist Men in each of the five U.S. jurisdictions.



United Methodists Stand Against Racism

The tipping point for broad and clear protest against racism was the killing of George Floyd in Minnesota on May 25.

Our bishop, our pastor, and many others spoke in righteous anger, aptly summarized by the banner now anchored outside our church: United Methodists Stand Against Racism. At Webster United Methodist relevant book discussions are underway. The two I am aware of: *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo (2018) and *Holding Up Your Corner* by F. Willis Johnson (2017). Sermons, displaying the banner, and reading/discussing timely books are needed icebreakers in relation to facing anew the long standing and ongoing realities of racism.



A critical question concludes *White Fragility*: "Where Do We Go From Here?" More pointedly, how do we move forward with actions that work in specific ways to change the lived experiences of people of color and work to change our unwitting contributions to those experiences. I call each of us to reflect on what we might do. I want to hear from you. I also want to know if you are willing to join a task force to explore how we might work together on change.

I have a quiet lifelong passion for equity and justice fueled upon my return six years ago to St. Louis by the death of Michael Brown and the protests that followed. From my participation in community conversations (mostly listening),

I have some stories to tell. I believe some of you have stories to tell, also, of how you became aware or more aware of racial inequity. How can you/do you tell those stories? A suggestion: Let's tell them in coming issues of this newsletter.

Telling our stories cannot substitute for actions in the here and now, but they can prime us for how we might be ready for new actions.

Carolyn Redmore
Chairperson, Justice Team
cdredmore@aol.com; 314-249-8215



...an Invitation from Assistant Pastor Josh

Hello Church,

It has been quite some time since last I spoke with you all. During my time with the Marines, I was able to reflect about the coming season, and how to continue to develop new ministries for our church. One of the ministries I would like to announce to you all is called "**Forming Faith**". This will be a small group bible study that will meet weekly and will go through the very first things to know about reading the Bible, as well as, understanding scripture, and the historical context of the Bible. I am designing this class for folks who are wanting to dive more deeply into scripture but do not necessarily know where to start. We will have a special emphasis on folks who did not grow up in the church, or new to our congregation.

Although my main focus is Young Adult Ministries, I will be opening this group to **all ages and all people**. There is no pre-requisite to be in this class and it will be accessible to folks 9 years of age, to 90! We will be meeting through zoom, but the time and date has not yet been determined. I am going to gather a list of everyone who wants to be involved and work out the best time from there. If you are interested please email or text me!

Blessings,
Joshua



Youth News!—from Pastor Paige

Hello Church friends! This past week, the youth packed school supply bags for neighborhood families! We packed 10 bags full of school goodies. To reward ourselves, we will be heading to the famous Kichline Cabin! We will caravan from the church at 9:00AM on Saturday, August 29th. We will arrive to the lake around 10AM. Bring the following:

- Mask**
- Swimsuit**
- Towel**
- Water shoes/old tennis shoes**
- Change of clothes to ride back in**
- Sunscreen**
- Bug spray**
- Fishing poles and tackle**
- Side dish to share**
- A FRIEND!**

The Kichlines will be feeding us sandwiches for lunch. For dinner we will have the lake classic foil packet!! We will wrap up the evening around the campfire with s'mores and a devotional. This weekend will be so fun! I'm so pumped to spend some time on the lake with you all. In order to be safe, we will mobilize in family pods. Basically, like a little jellyfish pod of family members. IF you choose to be a butterfly you will be asked to stay at least 6 feet apart from others! Joel will be

offering boat rides and tubing. The boat will have 3 youth, Joel and one other adult. The extra adult will wear a mask, and everyone will be asked to stay as far apart as possible on the boat.

I hope you can join us on the lake!!

Blessings, soap & water,
Paige



Each week on the WUM Children's Facebook page, Trish has been posting videos on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of an activity. Now I will be offering interesting and fun content for your children. 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!

Thank you all who helped with the Vacation Bible School bags on the Ted Tree!
It was a super success!

Thanks,
Shaeleigh Parsons
directorchildren@websterum.org



Sympathy to: Sympathy to family and friends of Elaine Filsinger who passed away on July 28 after a fall earlier this summer.

Our Prayer Concerns: Jacque (Linda Austin); Tom Bennet, Kelly and Jeff Whittemore, Sherry Dodd, Mia (Paula Murphy); Darlene (Vicki Hoyer); Carol and Jim Simpson (Clarke Montford); 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; 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, 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); Ryanlyn Mathis; Health and Healing for COVID patients; Our country's future; Teachers as they prepare many plans for an uncertain autumn semester; 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.

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:
 - Pastor Josh at assistantpastor@websterum.org
 - Pastor Paige at directoryouth@websterum.org

- Pastor Sharon at Pastorsharon@websterum.org