



September 3, 2020

**GRACE IS WHEN GOD GIVES US GOOD THINGS THAT WE DON'T DESERVE. MERCY IS WHEN HE SPARES US FROM BAD THINGS WE DESERVE. BLESSINGS ARE WHEN HE IS GENEROUS WITH BOTH. TRULY, WE CAN NEVER RUN OUT OF REASONS TO THANK HIM. GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME.**


Pastor, Rev. Sharon Kichline  
Assistant Pastor, Joshua Krakos  
Music Ministry, Lamar Fitzgerald  
Youth Ministry, Pastor Paige Foster  
Children's Ministry, Shaeleigh Parsons  
Secretary, Holly Graham

[pastorsharon@websterum.org](mailto:pastorsharon@websterum.org)  
[assistantpastor@websterum.org](mailto:assistantpastor@websterum.org)  
[directormusic@websterum.org](mailto:directormusic@websterum.org)  
[directoryouth@websterum.org](mailto:directoryouth@websterum.org)  
[directorchildren@websterum.org](mailto:directorchildren@websterum.org)  
[secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org)

314-961-4133

Facebook.com/WebsterUnitedMethodist/  
<https://websterunitedmethodist.org/>

My Dear Friends,

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](mailto: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.

Bring your lawn chair and mask and join us at our in-person worship with The Mountain Service every Thursday evening on our parking lot at 7:30p!



## ...a message from Pastor Sharon

### The Perfect Storm

If I were to describe the perfect combination to produce a potent mix of fear, anxiety, and violence, we might just read newspaper headlines from this summer.

COVID-19 numbers are on the rise, yet another shooting of an unarmed black man brings masses of civil unrest out in protest, incidents of domestic violence have sharply risen, fire, hurricane and tornado victims abound, small businesses are collapsing left and right, there's been a shooting death of a St. Louis police officer, and students and teachers are struggling with on-line teaching/learning while parents try to figure out how to return to work. All this is upon us as we move into an extraordinarily contentious political season.

It feels like a perfect storm.

Where do we turn in a storm? How do we protect ourselves?

That is probably what the disciples were wondering when a storm was raging about them and the waves threatened to swamp their boat on the Sea of Galilee. You might remember the story from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke:

*<sup>24</sup> Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping.<sup>25</sup> The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"<sup>26</sup> He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. <sup>27</sup> The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!" -Matthew 8:24-27*

Storms can be frightening. They can also be very dangerous. This ancient story brings us our help in times of upheaval. Scripture tells us to trust in God. That it is only in God that we will find real peace, even in the midst of the most horrible confluence of storms. It is just that simple. And just that difficult.

“God is love” proclaims the Bible (1 John 4:8). And love triumphs over evil. Love triumphs over hate. And love triumphs over fear. God’s love enveloping us, and then being carried by each one of us into our communities, can still the waters of the storms facing us. Love is our life preserver. Hang on.

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Sharon*



## ***“How To Be An Antiracist: The 2020 Election & Beyond”***

**September 10th, 2020**

**6 p.m. - 7 p.m. via Zoom**

*Join the School of Social Work as The Emmett J. and Mary Martha Doerr Center for Social Justice Education and Research, located in the SLU School of Social Work, & The Msrg. Shocklee Lecture Series Foundation Present Professor Ibram X. Kendi and “How To Be An Antiracist: The 2020 Election & Beyond”*

**This event is free, but requires registration.**

**To learn more and to register, go to**

**<https://sites.google.com/slu.edu/socialjusticelecture/home?authuser=0>**



## **The Upper Room Devotional - New Issue Available**

The Upper Room is a devotional magazine published in Nashville which presents a daily Bible passage, a personal story, a prayer, and a thought for the day. Our September-October copies are available in the elevator lobby of the church. If you are unable to pick up a copy, please contact Linda Guth Stangl at [linda-guth-stangl@live.com](mailto:linda-guth-stangl@live.com) and she will make sure a copy gets to you.



## Philanthropic Landscape 2020

"Cultivating a Culture of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion"

**Thursday, September 10**

**11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

A Virtual Conference (via ZOOM)

**[Learn More & Register Now!](#)**

Join us for this special event featuring keynote speaker Birgit Smith Burton, a national diversity expert and Executive Director of Foundation Relations at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. Birgit will discuss ***Attracting, Hiring, and Retaining Diverse Fundraising Talent - Are You Truly Prepared?***

As usual, we will also present the finding from our local surveys of grant makers and nonprofits and compare those results to national trends provided by Giving USA.

### **Why This Topic?**

The May 25th death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police sparked renewed urgency around dismantling systemic racism. Nonprofit and philanthropic organizations issued statements decrying racist practices, but many also wondered what to do next.

Culture is a powerful place to start. This event will provide actionable advice for organizations seeking to become more diverse, equitable and inclusive. As always, attendees also will learn about national and local trends in philanthropy.

**Philanthropic Landscape 2020 is a virtual event via ZOOM. This event is free of charge, but reservations are required. **Please respond by Tuesday, September 8.****



## Epworth Children and Family Services - Food Pantry

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 continues to be very grateful for our church's financial donations, meals, and other items given so that they can feed and care for their clients. Something that was expanded because of the pandemic and at the request of the NAACP was the food pantry at the Normandy location. Previously, it provided food for the youth who came to the Drop-In Center but the needs in the community have become so great that the expansion was very important. **They are in need of any of the typical pantry items such as canned fruits and vegetables, cereals, canned meats or other protein items, pasta or rice type food, etc. Another need is bottled water.**

If you are able to donate these things please bring them to our elevator lobby and place them in or near the Epworth boxes or contact [linda-guth-stangl@live.com](mailto:linda-guth-stangl@live.com) for a way to transport the items. 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".

Please call me if you have any questions. Thank you.  
Linda Guth Stangl



## Goodie Boxes for our College Students

The church is gathering goodies for send to our college students! If you would like to contribute a packaged edible or fun item, drop your goodie into the box in the Elevator Foyer.

If you know a college student to whom we could send a box, please contact the church office at [secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org) with the name and address.

Pastor Sharon



## Youth News!—from Pastor Paige

Hey friends, here is the calendar for the month of September!!! This week we will indulge the warm temperatures and do water balloons, so bring your towel and mask! Next week looks like a great evening to be outside hanging out, playing games, being together, so come hang out!

Invite your friends to the Deer Creek Clean up-many hands make light work!

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 19th for our day at the Kichline Lake Cabin!!

## Check out the September Calendar!

- **Sept. 3th**-Water Balloons-bring a towel and a mask. We will have fried chicken and veggies for dinner!

- **Sept. 10th**-Outdoor game and Fall Ice Cream Social-We will feast on BBQ and hang out and enjoy the fall weather and our group! We will play some games and eat some yummy ice cream.
- **Sept. 19th**-Lake Day at the Kichline Cabin-We will head down to the Kichline Cabin to enjoy an afternoon floating, tubing, and catching some rays
- **Sept. 24th**-TBD-With parent approval a youth classic will return.
- **Sept. 26th**-Deer Creek Clean Up -Hopefully we will be joining the Maplewood group to do some local clean up. Bring a friend!!

Blessings, soap & water,

Pastor Paige

[directoryouth@websterum.org](mailto:directoryouth@websterum.org)



**Each week on the WUM Children's Facebook page**, I will be posting a challenge for the kids to complete. Keep an eye out for those, as well as other updates and activities.

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

Since I can't meet you guys in person, I set up a form for the kids to fill out so that I can get to know them. This can also be found in the Facebook group!



If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or don't have access to Facebook, feel free to shoot me an email.

Thanks,  
Shaeleigh Parsons  
[directorchildren@websterum.org](mailto:directorchildren@websterum.org)



## Vacation Bible School Success!

Thank you to everyone who helped with VBS for the week of August 3! Our theme was “Creating Community from a Distance”. **A total of 67 bags were used by children of our church and community.** The Ted tree was again a focal point by offering the bags. This event helped us connect with our church family, folks new to our church (in some cases even new to the neighborhood), and to reconnect with old friends.

Special Thanks to:

The Children's Ministry team for ideas and help;

Trish Sorenson for pulling everything together, developing the lessons, purchasing the supplies and designing the colorful handouts;

Joel Kichline for the sign installation;

Stacey Ponder for bag deliveries;

Dan Pike for helping to take down the display.



## Invitation from The Shepherd Center

Dear Everyone,

As many of you know, I am on the Board of Directors for the Shepherd's Center. Some of the essential services the Shepherd's Center offers include: transportation to medical appointments, grocery delivery, simple home repair, and programs (including virtual) that help to abate feelings of isolation felt by so

many senior citizens – especially now. Every year the Shepherd’s Center serves over 1200 older adults in our immediate communities.

Every year the Shepherd’s Center hosts several fundraising events. Because of COVID-19 we are down to one – Grab & Go BBQ on Friday, September 11 from 5:00-7:30. We need your support.

Enjoy some great BBQ, maybe win a GIANT TV, support the important work of the Shepherd’s Center.

Many thanks,

Stan Richert

Questions? Contact Stan at [shrichert@earthlink.net](mailto:shrichert@earthlink.net)

*Shepherd’s Center on the Move*  
**Grab & Go BBQ**

**Friday, September 11, 5:00-7:30**  
**Webster Groves Christian Church Parking Lot**  
**1320 W. Lockwood Ave., Glendale, 63122**

BBQ meals to go with all of your favorite sides will be available for curbside pickup  
*(tickets to the cancelled Chef Showcase event in April can be presented for BBQ to go)*

**Tickets on sale now, \$20/each**  
**go to [www.shepherdscenter-wk.org](http://www.shepherdscenter-wk.org) for online sales**



*All proceeds benefit the Shepherd Center’s essential services for older adults – medical transportation, grocery delivery and more.*



**Our Prayer Concerns:** Kristen Kremer, Richard (Beth Anderson); Karen Van Buren Jacobs and Charles Reynolds (John and Sharon Wersching); Ruth Day (Debbie Lund); Gayle Fields; Todd (Gordon Ballam); Jacque (Linda Austin); Sherry Dodd, Mia (Paula Murphy); Carol and Jim Simpson (Clarke Montford); Henry Copeland (Jon Copeland); Dorothy Reid (Sandy Reid / Bev Mesity); Ron and Dianne Wallace; Darlene Hyry (Vicki Hoyer); Peter Schüren (Debbie Lund); Victor Browning (Janet Iggulden); Andrew Kennon and family, Amanda Kohlfeld (Marcia Kennon); 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; Ariana (Jan Hanson); Stuart / Reesor family; Sally Cobb; Libbi Pacatte; those quarantined in close quarters; Amanda and Caleb Sawyer (Debbie Brooks daughter and husband); Sherry Bryan; John and Carolyn Denison in Lake Charles, LA (Carolyn Redmore's brother and sister in law); Ryanlyn Mathis; Health and Healing for COVID patients; Our country's future; Students and Teachers; people suffering through natural disasters; 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](mailto:secretary@websterum.org)
- Contact one of our pastors:
  - Pastor Josh at [assistantpastor@websterum.org](mailto:assistantpastor@websterum.org)
  - Pastor Paige at [directoryouth@websterum.org](mailto:directoryouth@websterum.org)
  - Pastor Sharon at [Pastorsharon@websterum.org](mailto:Pastorsharon@websterum.org)