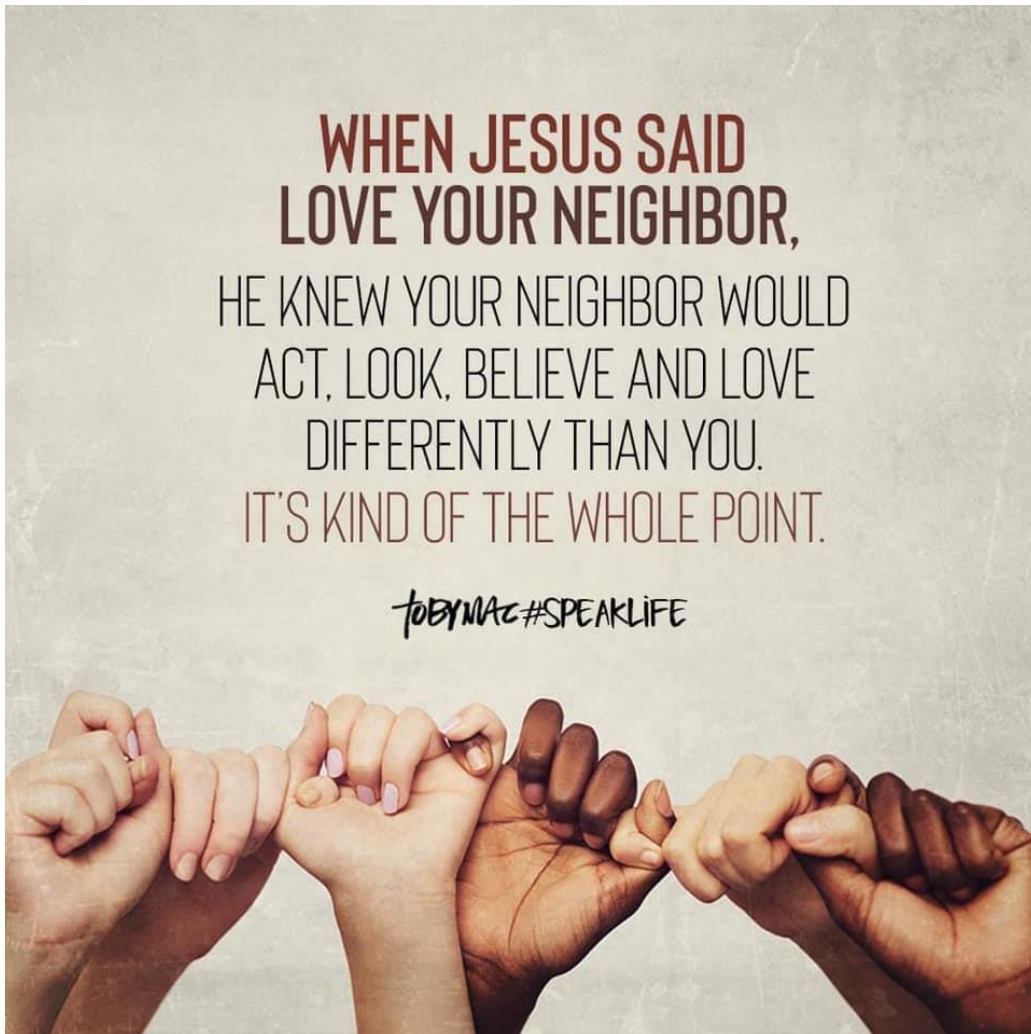


September 24, 2020



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

<https://websterunitedmethodist.org/>



Church,

I hope you can join me at Peace UCC on Friday, Sept 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30p with your sign. Mine will read:

**"All Lives Will NOT Matter  
UNTIL  
Black Lives Matter!"**

See you there!

Pastor Sharon



...a message from Pastor Sharon

## **WHERE Shall We Worship?**

As we move into the fall season of this most “unusual year”, the temperatures are dropping. I see more sweatshirts and sweaters at our Thursday evening Mountain Service out on the parking lot. Still it is lovely weather to be together for worship. But soon, the weather will not be as hospitable to people or instruments.

This past Sunday, Pastor Josh offered the Church Council three alternatives for when that time comes:

1. Return to broadcasting from his home, thereby eliminating the opportunity to come together for in-person worship each week.
2. Invest in propane heaters (like the kind found in outside restaurant spaces) to be used to increase the level of comfort for outside worship through the winter months.
3. Move the worship service into the building.

The Church Council debated the attributes and concerns of each option, and agreed to allow The Mountain Service to move to the Sanctuary, as the space is vastly larger and the risk of virus transmission less than in Fellowship Hall. All worshippers must wear masks, and cluster in family groups, at least 6 feet from one another and 25-30 feet from the band. Pastor Josh will make the determination of when it is time to move the service inside.

If we are willing to bring The Mountain Service back inside the building, you might ask, then why can't we hold in-person worship there on Sunday mornings as well? That's a fair question.

The issue is dependent upon two things: the number of worship participants and the County Positivity Rate. First, the number of participants. While we typically have 20-30 attendees at The Mountain Service, we average 110-120 at our Sunday Services. Currently, by mandate of the St. Louis County Executive, churches are subject to capacity limitations of 25%, or in our case, about 100 persons. That means we could be at maximum capacity immediately, and possibly beyond as soon as we opened back up. It would be necessary to take reservations, or expect to be turning people away. This is all doable, except for the issue of the Positivity Rate.

The Positivity Rate represents the percentage of those tested who are actually infected. The St. Louis County Positivity Rate is still in double digits, and this is considered high. Until it falls much lower and that drop is sustained, our Safety Team, affirmed by our Church Council, believes it is still too risky to be gathering a large group in the building.

Friends, I know many of us long to gather again in worship. However, it is our Wesleyan mandate to “do not harm”. Until the risks fall for virus transmission in our county, I invite you join me on Facebook on Sunday mornings at 10:30a (the service remains available later on fb and on our website) and/or Thursday evenings at The Mountain Service. Being together there is wonderful!

My invitation to you is to participate in worship, one way or another. I’ll see you there, wherever it is.

*Pastor Sharon*



## **How do YOU read your WUM newsletter?**

We will be re-formatting our newsletter soon, and need to know what format is the easiest for your viewing pleasure! Let me know, [Secretary@websterum.org](mailto:Secretary@websterum.org) if you read on your phone, desktop, notebook... Or is there another device that you use? Please let us know so we can keep that in mind with our redesign!

Thanks!  
Holly



## **World Communion Sunday on October 4 Provides Scholarships Around the World**

Sara Bless C. Sanchez is a scholarship recipient from the Philippines . Here is a bit of her story:

Ms. Sanchez recalls, “My teenage years were memorable and at the same time challenging. I experienced bullying and sometimes I felt I didn’t belong with my classmates. I am thankful that my parents encouraged me to get involved in church activities.” Sanchez served as the UMYF officer in her home church in Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines, became a Sunday school teacher, Bible study leader, and dance ministry leader. She helped to organize youth activities at the local church and annual conference level.

During college, Sanchez took a psychology course and fell in love with the discipline. She recognized how valuable a ministry in psychology could be to her country. “There are a lot of mental health issues arising,” she explained. When a friend informed her about the World Communion Sunday scholarship, she applied and was awarded the Leadership scholarship.

Sanchez went on to say that, “Receiving the scholarship has taught me never to doubt what God can do. Because of the scholarship, I am more excited and motivated to do mental health ministry. I am confident because I know God is with me in this journey.” She is presently pursuing a doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Far Eastern University in the Philippines.

The special offering provides World Communion Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program, and the Ethnic-In-Service Training Program. When you give generously on World Communion Sunday, you equip gifted, qualified students from around the globe to become the world changers God created them to be. There will be a special “World Communion Sunday” button under the GIVE menu on our website, or mail your check made out to Webster UM with “World Communion Sunday” on memo line.

Thank you,  
Jan McCurley, Risk-Taking  
Missions Chairperson



## What About Lord's Acre in 2020?

As we all know, this year---since March at least---has been a time like no other we've experienced. Since so many activities of our lives have been shut down, including our own in-person Sunday worship---our usual routines are at something of a stand-still, an enforced rest, if you will. But, maybe if we look on the positive side, we can use this time to rest and reflect, to refuel and rejuvenate. Actually, that idea is Biblical. **Exodus 23:11 calls on the people to let the land they farm "rest and be fallow, so that the needy of your people may eat."** Fallowing soil has been used for centuries in many parts of the world as a method of sustainable land management, and more recently it has been used in Canada & the Southwestern United States too. So it is this year with our church's long tradition of sharing our Lord's Acre together. We can't keep everyone safe if we eat together and compete for auction items and services. But we must be creative because "*the needy of your people*" still need our support.

But, the Risk-Taking Mission Team has a plan for still carrying out our mission goals to support our Mozambique covenant church with \$1400 and our beloved local agencies with some amount of help to them in this difficult year for all non-profits.

Our plan is to have a non-event fundraiser. We are asking families/individuals--- between Nov. 8 & Nov. 21---to contribute to our Lord's Acre fund the amount you would have spent at this year's dinner and auction, or what you spent last year, or to consider contributing for the first time if you've never participated. We'll have some incentive rewards in the form of homemade pies for our higher donors and thank-you goodies for everyone who contributes something. I know some of you enjoy making lovely things each year for Lord's Acre, so if anyone wants to give us handcrafted items that you **price**, we would love to award them to donors giving that amount. We also hope to have a drawing for a large prize to enter for those top givers, with a minimum to be determined soon.

We are still planning more opportunities, so please watch for more information in the coming weeks. Please be in prayer about how you can participate. I know you all to be a very generous congregation.

If you have questions, please contact Jan McCurley, [Janis.mccurley@gmail.com](mailto:Janis.mccurley@gmail.com) or 314-781-3969.



## Voting!

These times are difficult and uncertain for many of us. Both with the pandemic and for the discourse that is happening in our country. The Black Lives Matter movement has shown us how important and crucial activism is right now, as well as highlighting systematic oppression in our systems of government.

As an effort in activism, I will be trying to organize free transportation for voters on November 3rd. As one of the communities of activists that I am connected to, I am going to ask two things of you all.

1. I am going to attach the link below for how folks sign up for transportation to the polls on November 3rd. If you or someone you know needs transportation on voting day, please fill out the link and share it to your circles.

2. If you are willing to be a driver, we will need you. Please let me know and I will include you on our list. I know that this is a lot to ask with the uncertainty of the pandemic right now. I am doing the best I can to maximize safety for transportation. This will include a health screening, required masks, and limited car occupancy.

### [Transportation Link](#)

November 3rd is a very important day. We lost two giants in democracy in the past two months. I know the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Congressman John Lewis is still a fresh pain on everyone's heart. They spent their lives fighting for the freedom to vote and chose our own paths. I hope you all consider taking this year extra seriously in regard to advocating in your own circles to exercise the right to vote and to support our community.

Best,  
Joshua Krakos





# VOTER REGISTRATION DAY



**Saturday, September 26, 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Volunteers from the League of Women Voters will be available outside all St. Louis County Library locations to assist with voter registration.

Presented in partnership with  LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'  
OF METRO ST. LOUIS



## From "Standing Against Racism" to "Working for Equity" In Webster Groves

**Who:** Concerned Webster Groves citizens with support of WUM Justice Team

**What:** Vigil and exploration of action paths forward.

**When:** September 25, 2020 5:30p-7:00p



**Where: Peace UCC, 204 E. Lockwood (CDC guidelines--wearing masks + social distancing)**

Why Now?

Recently white supremacist graffiti targeted Barbre Park and sister churches along Lockwood holding Friday vigils calling for racial justice. The September 25<sup>th</sup> gathering is a proactive community wide response to take ownership of improving equity in Webster Groves. There will be a time of learning about what work is underway in Webster Groves and how regular people can find their place in influencing further change. We will end with a half hour vigil along Lockwood Ave.

Pray for the vigil. Participate (car pool from WUM to Peace at 5 PM).

RSVP to Carolyn Redmore  
314-249-8215; cdredmore@aol.com



## **Ministry of Imagination, Creativity, and the Arts (MICA)**

My church's Ministry of Imagination, Creativity, and the Arts (MICA) has received a Vital Worship Grant from the Lilly Endowment through the Calvin Institute of Worship at Calvin University. The result is a series of webinars, *Journey through Creation: Earth, Art and Faith... Alive!*

This series of webinars stresses the importance of environmental stewardship as part of our Christian calling. I encourage you to extend this invitation to members of your congregations to attend the first in the series – “Our Story as Earth’s Story” – Saturday, September 26 at 7:00PM. This Spirit-filled, renewing opportunity is an event that participants will find empowering and energizing.

More information is available [from our website](#). Registration materials will be available soon for download.

Peace.

**Rev. David A. Denoon**

Pastor

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves

United Church of Christ

10 West Lockwood Avenue

Webster Groves, Missouri 63119

“Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.”



## **Special WUM Offering for US Weather Disasters**

**The news is bad for people, trees, and wildlife** in Oregon and California. Wildfires are sweeping out of control through thousands and thousands of acres of forest, consuming the homes of all living things. The skies are grey with smoke. But the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has already begun to respond.

**Last month, Hurricane Laura ravaged coastal communities** in the path of the storm’s heavy winds and rain in Louisiana and Texas. Last week, Hurricane Sally smashed into the coasts of Florida and Alabama. UMCOR is there too, guiding the initial assessments, forming Emergency Response Teams, and coordinating delivery of supplies and PPE.

**Relief efforts for the widespread damage** caused by the mighty high-wind storm, or “derecho,” in Iowa and Illinois have been organized by UMCOR-trained conference disaster response coordinators. Emergency response teams have been deployed and UMCOR is in communication with the impacted conferences. A solidarity grant has been awarded to the Iowa Conference.

**UMCOR and its partners are responding** to disasters in the United States every day, providing funding to meet immediate needs and continuing to work with conferences in the days and months to come. Please join us in prayer for the affected areas and consider giving to UMCOR U.S. Disaster Response to support these efforts. 100% of our gift will directly support UMCOR and its partners in the work of alleviating human suffering and advancing hope and healing.

**Write your check to Webster United Methodist, and add UMCOR in the memo line.** We will collect through September and send in our offering on **October 1<sup>st</sup>.** You can also go to our website at [websterunitedmethodist.org](http://websterunitedmethodist.org), and click on Giving to find this offering opportunity.



## HOLLY'S HOURS

Beginning September 17<sup>th</sup>, Church Secretary Holly will be maintaining new office hours.

**The office will be closed to everyone from Wednesday 6p to Thursday 10a.**

In order to protect our staff, there will be no foot traffic in the church office during those hours.

Of course, Holly will continue to work remotely from home. Contact her at [secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org) with your questions, articles, and space requests.

**As a reminder, masks and appropriate social distancing is absolutely necessary for all visits to the church building.**

Thank you! -Pastor Sharon/SPRC



## WUM Newsletter Deadline

We welcome news of your ministries! We are starting to get back to some normal routines at the church, which includes the publication of our newsletter. All articles and submissions sent to [secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org) by **Mondays at 10a** will be included in that week's newsletter. Please make every effort to meet this deadline. Thank you! –Pastor Sharon



## Welcome to Korean Faith Community

We welcome the University Bible Fellowship, a Korean faith community, to our parking lot for a small worship service each Sunday from 10:30a-1:30p. This is a lovely opportunity to share our resources with a faith community who does not have an outside space for worship. Should you see Pastor Choi and his gathering, please make them feel welcome.

-Pastor Sharon



## Dear WRHM Supporters,

These past several months have taken a toll on our corps of very loyal volunteers. They have worked very hard to meet client needs under trying circumstances. Now, they need some reinforcements. Thus, we are putting out a call for new office and program volunteers. Volunteer opportunities range from office reception and client in-take to work in the food pantry and on other programs. All volunteers will be fully trained. Anyone interested in volunteering at WRHM may email us at [wrhm@wrhm.org](mailto:wrhm@wrhm.org) or call 314-961-5082.



Many thanks,  
Laura Arnold  
WRHM Boardmember



## Dear Friends of Webster-Rock Hill Ministries,

We write to you today to share that our long-time Executive Director Ed Johnson announced his retirement at our September Board of Directors meeting. We are grateful for Ed's faithful service and his commitment. He has made our community more compassionate and secure for many people.

From the turbulent times of the Great Recession to a global pandemic, Ed has rooted his leadership in faith and been committed to serving the needs of those encountering challenges in their lives. Throughout his 13-year tenure, he has been a hands-on leader. You were as likely to find him hauling food pantry donations as speaking to a congregation about the programs of WRHM. Our office volunteers are devoted to him for his support of their work and his fellowship. We are grateful for the many partnerships he created and maintained from the Webster Groves School District to the Old Newsboys Association.

The WRHM Executive Committee and Crisis Task Force are working to ensure that essential services are maintained during this time. We expect to engage transitional leadership to allow for a period of internal reflection and stakeholder engagement before beginning a search for a permanent executive director.

Ed has chosen to take his remaining vacation to conclude his time with us and will no longer be in the office. We are working to ensure we can continue to meet the needs of our clients. If you have questions, you may contact Reverend Jeff Moore at 314-330-8994 or [jeffmoore@wgcc.org](mailto:jeffmoore@wgcc.org).

Thank you for your continued support of WRHM. Please join us in wishing Ed and his family well as he retires.

Sincerely,

Reverend Jeff Moore  
Chair, WRHM Board of Directors



## **Next Book Study:**

***UNAFRAID, Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times,***  
by Adam Hamilton

Before our world was turned upside down by COVID-19 and stay-at-home orders, our church had begun a new Bubble Class, facilitated by Gilbert Jones. At the time, it seemed like the perfect study to prepare us for a year that promised

denominational upheaval. Now, six-months into a world pandemic, a new wave of civil unrest, tornados/wildfires/and hurricanes, and an exceedingly acrimonious political race, we have even greater need to find wisdom about our fears.

Fear is a complex emotion. Sometimes it saves us. More often it robs us of the life we want. It wreaks havoc on our relationships and communities. It leads us into making bad decisions. It hold us back from the very pursuits that promise fulfillment and joy.

**Beginning Wednesday, September 30, from 7:00p-8:15p**, we will reboot this study, beginning with the first chapter, via ZOOM. Please contact the church office at [secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org) to sign up, and let us know if you need a book.



## Youth News!—from Pastor Paige

### Check out the September YOUTH Calendar!

- **Sept. 24th**-With parent approval, Zombie Tag, a youth classic, will return!  
**5:30p-7:30p**
- **Sept. 26th**-Mini Youth Mission: Deer Creek Clean Up –Hopefully, the Maplewood youth group will be joining us to do some local clean up. Lunch and worship together to follow on the parking lot. Bring a friend!! Wear old tennis shoes or boots and long pants.  
**10a-12:30p**

Blessings, soap & water,  
Pastor Paige  
[directoryouth@websterum.org](mailto:directoryouth@websterum.org)



**Children's Info!** I will be posting a challenge for the kids to complete on our facebook page. 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!


Look for a Wild Wednesday/ Children's Choir blacktop event coming soon!

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)



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!

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)) so we can respect social distancing of groups.

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!**







**Our Prayer Concerns:** Lorraine Bemis; Doris Thomas, (Randy Thomas); Gayle Fields; Kristen Kremer; Traci Stuart, Richard (Beth Anderson); Skip Reynolds (John and Sharon Wersching); Ruth Day, Peter Schüren (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); Ron and Dianne Wallace; Darlene Hyry, Henry Hoyer (Vicki Hoyer); 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)