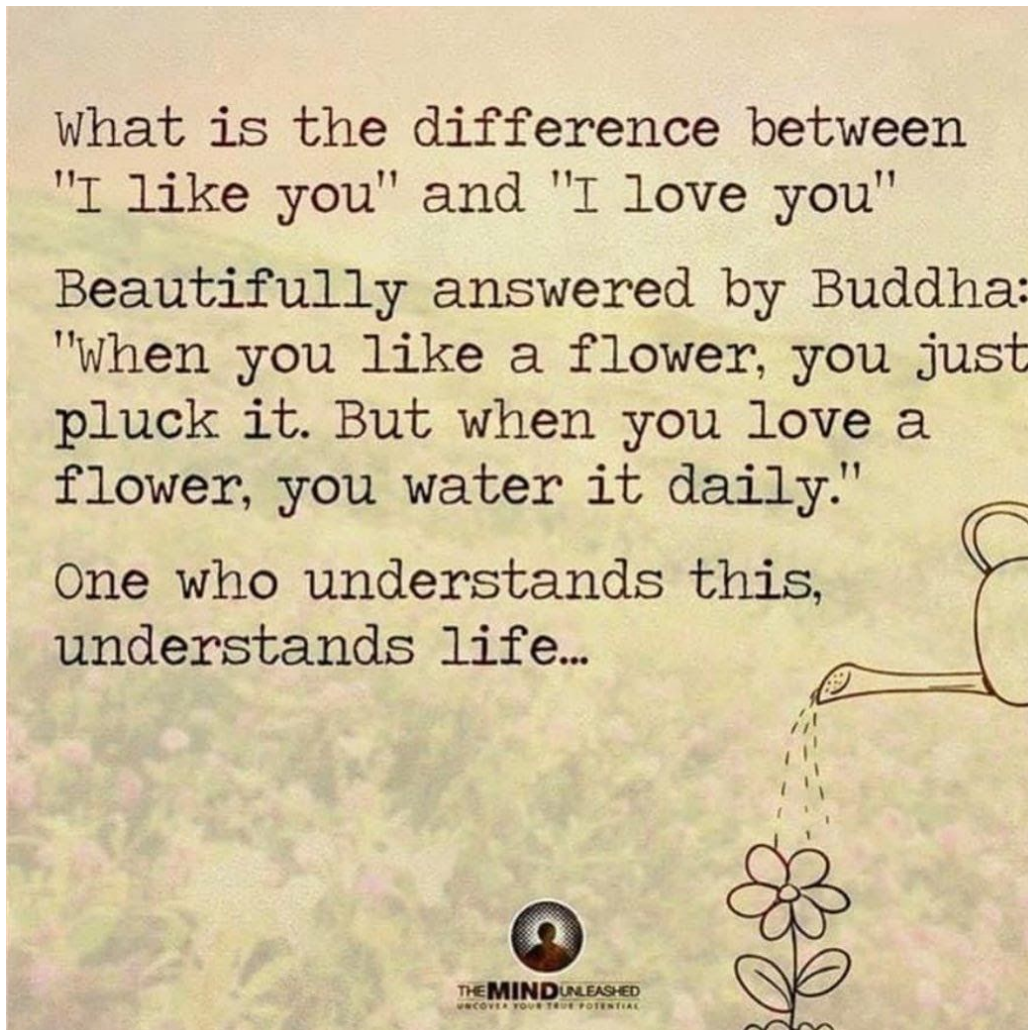


October 1, 2020



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
assistantpastor@websterum.org
directormusic@websterum.org
directoryouth@websterum.org
directorchildren@websterum.org
secretary@websterum.org

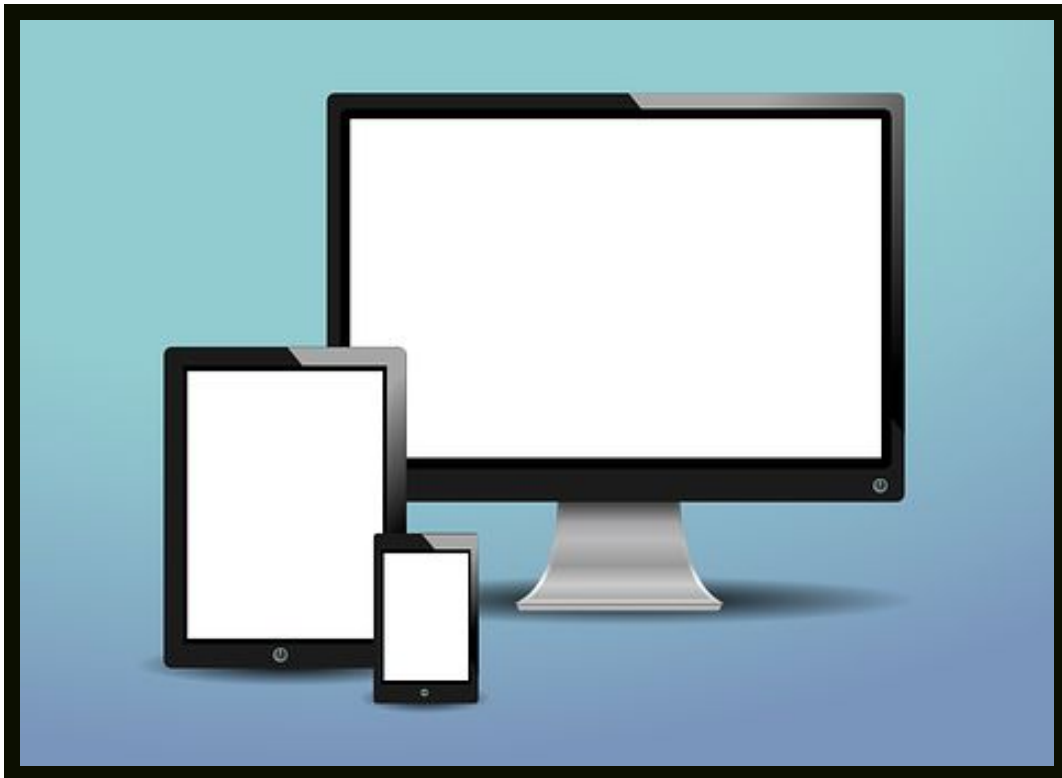
314-961-4133



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 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



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 by **Mondays at 10a**

will be included in that week's newsletter. Please make every effort to meet this deadline. Thank you! –Pastor Sharon



...a message from Pastor Sharon

Where I Stand

As I write this, the first Presidential Debate between the two candidates is scheduled to be broadcast tonight. This is one of the most contentious political seasons I have witnessed since I became a voter about a thousand years ago.

Officially, the church is not supposed to take a position for one candidate or another. Practically speaking, every church probably has persons of every political persuasion, Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Green Party, and others. For a pastor to side with one candidate over another would surely alienate someone in the faith community. It would be an unjust use of my pastoral authority.

I do have a preference and I will vote my conscience. But when asked where I stand, I would prefer to talk about issues than candidates. I want to stand where Jesus would have stood on any given matter. And so if you think you hear me saying I'm for one person over another, please listen again. I am very careful in my preaching not to go there, so as to keep the doors of communication wide open. Not to mention the fact that we could lose our tax exempt status if I start pounding the pavement for a particular party or candidate.

One place I stand with certain enthusiasm is in encouraging us all to exercise our right and duty to make our voice heard through the vote. This year promises to be a little complicated if you are voting from home. Read and follow the instructions carefully. Press on, my people. Get it done. The stakes are high, and our future should be decided by all of us, not just those who can stand in the line at your polling place.

If you need a ride to the polls, contact Pastor Josh. His Young Adult Ministry are offering to drive folks to and from.

Grace and peace+
Pastor Sharon



New Sermon Series Coming this Week:



Week 1: IN Connection
Week 2: IN Support
Week 3: IN Relationship
Week 4: ALL IN!



This Sunday, 10/4, we will celebrate World Communion online with our Love Feast. Have food and a drink available so we can feast together with other Christians all over the world at the conclusion of our worship service.

-Pastor Sharon



YOUR MISSOURI VOTE

VOTE ABSENTEE

- Absentee Ballots begin to be mailed out SEPT 22
- Apply for your ballot ASAP
- Notarize ballot (exemptions: illness or COVID risk)
- Mail or return in person to YOUR county election office
- DO NOT MAIL ballot after OCT 20 - return ONLY in person

VOTE ABSENTEE IN PERSON

- SEPT 22 - NOV 2 at your county election office
- SATELLITE OFFICES OPEN for absentee voting/ballot return:
 - Kansas City - SEPT 22
 - Union Station, Innovation Room - 30 W. Pershing
 - St. Louis City - OCT 12
 - Buder Library - 4401 Hampton
 - Central Library - 1301 Olive St.
 - Julia Davis Library - 4415 Natural Bridge
 - Schlafly Library - 225 N. Euclid
 - St. Louis County - OCT 22
 - Mid County Library - 7821 Maryland
 - North County Rec Complex - 2577 Redman Rd
 - South County Govt Center - 4544 Lemay Ferry Rd
 - West County Govt Center - 82 Clarkson Wilson Centre

VOTE IN PERSON NOV 3

- Wear a mask, prepare to wait and vote early in the day
- Didn't get your Absentee Ballot in time to mail? Take it with you to the poll to be spoiled & then vote in person
 - COLUMBIA/BOONE COUNTY - anyone can vote at TIGER STADIUM
 - KANSAS CITY - anyone can vote at ARROWHEAD STADIUM
 - ST. LOUIS COUNTY - anyone can vote at any polling place



Vigils to Action for Racial Justice: We Were There

Last Friday evening just under a dozen Webster United Methodist members joined the weekly vigil at Peace UCC on Lockwood learning, kneeling, and standing for racial justice. Our signs proclaimed versions of "All Lives Matter When Black Lives Matter." Jackson Hotaling, forced to return home to Webster Groves

because of the pandemic, turned his energies to making happen this community response to racist targeting of the churches on Lockwood and Barbre Park.



We first listened.

In relation to "White Work": Mimi Shipp liaison from "Faith & for the Sake of All:" "What begins as individual steps must lead to collective action." City Council member, Pam Bliss, on the city's work on improving equity. Kevin Prange, Peace UCC liaison with Metropolitan Congregations United, laying out why voting "NO" on Amendment 3" is critical (more to come on that in next week's newsletter).

Critically, from African American leaders: Ezra Parks, WG high school senior on his moving from participation in the June student rally at Ivory Crockett Park to working with the school district staff on equity in education policies and anti-racism communications. Two North Webster residents speaking of that community's historic exclusion from the rest of Webster that in response built a vibrant community under ongoing threat. Concluding with St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney, Wesley Bell, witnessing to reforms instituted which have significantly reduced incarceration for low level offenses and its harmful impacts on family life and ability to work. (Most of us had not heard him speak before.)

After listening, we kneeled for 8' 46", the time a police officer kneeled on George Floyd's neck. We then stood for 20 minutes, the elapsed time before attention turned to Breonna Taylor after she was shot. The rally ended by standing along Lockwood with our signs.

We left with commitment cards outlining action steps that follow from the presentations. Look for the cards just inside and to the right of WUM's parking lot entrance. Take one and find a step (or more) you will take.

Carolyn Redmore
Justice Team leader



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 the 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 that everyone who gives will enter.

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 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 choose 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



HOLLY'S HOURS

Every week, the office will be closed to everyone from Wednesday 6p to Thursday 10a. This will allow Holly access to the office to do work that needs to be completed every week. 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 with your questions, articles, and space requests.

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

Thank you! -Pastor Sharon/SPRC



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 or call 314-961-5082.

Many thanks,
Laura Arnold
WRHM Boardmember



Thank You!

We want to thank everyone for your prayers for my (Traci) surgery and my recovery which is going really well. Also we want to thank everyone who has taken time to cook meals for our family and for those who will be cooking meals for our family. It helps a lot since Traci is not supposed to do much for the 1st month.

Thank you,
Traci, Sandy



Next Book Study: There is still time to sign up!

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

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 holds 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 to sign up, and let us know if you need a book.



Youth News!—from Pastor Paige -Youth Deer Creek Clean Up!

We had a great turn out and picked up loads of trash.

Thank you all!



This week, we change to our new day for meeting: Sundays!
Same time, 5:30-7:30p.

October 4th we will be filling boxes for our College Students. There's lots of them,
so bring a friend!

Blessings, soap & water,
Pastor Paige 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



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) 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!**



**ARTS & FAITH ST. LOUIS
PRESENTS ITS TENTH**



ANNUAL INTERFAITH CONCERT

Event: “Songs of Compassion,” the Arts & Faith St. Louis Interfaith Concert

When: Sunday, October 25, 2020 at 4:00 PM

Access: Live-streamed on HEC-TV, AT&T U-Verse, the HEC-TV website and Facebook



Soprano Christine Brewer and Jazz vocalist Anita Jackson

Our tenth annual Arts & Faith St. Louis event, **“Songs of Compassion”** on October 25th, will be livestreamed at 4 PM on HEC-TV from The Sheldon Concert Hall without an audience to assure the safety of our artists and audience. The program will feature powerful music sung by soloists from diverse faith communities—including Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh, The Sheldon’s City of Music All-Star Chorus, renowned soprano Christine Brewer and dynamic jazz vocalist Anita Jackson. As a special feature, we will pay tribute to the many dedicated doctors, nurses and healthcare workers who are doing their works of compassion during the pandemic, through a new song by Paul Reuter entitled “Thank You” sung by Christine Brewer. During the song we will show moving photographs of healthcare workers, including Christine’s own daughter Elisabeth who is a nurse. Throughout the program we will also show images of works of compassion performed by faith communities represented in the concert.

Access to the live-streamed concert on HEC-TV will be on cable in St. Louis City and County on Charter/Spectrum channel 989 or channel 108.26 or 118.26 for those with digital TVs, and on AT&T UVerse. It can be also viewed live on the HEC-TV website – www.hecmedia.org and on Facebook.

Arts & Faith St. Louis began in 2011 on the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and continues to bring together the faith and arts communities by using the unique power of the arts to create shared experiences and inspire thoughtful discussion among diverse audiences.

For more information go to: www.artsfaithstl.org or call 314.533.9900

Arts & Faith St. Louis | 3648 Washington Blvd. | St. Louis, MO | 63108



Our Prayer Concerns: Loraine Bemis; Jacque (Linda Austin); 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
- Contact one of our pastors:
 - Pastor Josh at assistantpastor@websterum.org
 - Pastor Paige at directoryouth@websterum.org
 - Pastor Sharon at Pastorsharon@websterum.org