

October 8, 2020

helping one person might not change
the whole world,



but it could change the world for
one person.

chibird

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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



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.

Thank you! -Pastor Sharon/SPRC



...a message from Pastor Sharon

He was driving to lunch. He passed under a bridge at Kingshighway where a young man was resting. The sight troubled him. So he turned his car around and went back. He asked the young man to have lunch with him, and learned that he had come from Texas to start a new life. The young father wanted to make his daughter proud of him. But instead of opportunity, he was out of money and out of hope. His lunch guest just wanted to find a job and make his own way. He wanted to find his self-respect again.

This conversation was the turning point for our friend and church family member, Severin Pelekara. It changed the way he understood homelessness.

Last month, Pastor Josh introduced us to the street ministry of InExcelsis that has sprung from Severin's chance encounter with the young man under the bridge. But the worship/lunch opportunity, with which we have been connecting through our Mountain Service Band monthly, is only part of the story.

Since December, 2019, Sev has gathered friends and set up a 501c3 not-for-profit organization. He needs lots of help, because he has some God-sized dreams. His passion is to create a way for displaced young adults to find their way, and to find their self-respect again. It involves physical, spiritual and emotional support, as well as job skill training. What is different for this ministry is that they take the love to the street first. It is there that they make connections and start working for each person individually. Today Severin shared with me about one of their clients whom he is helping to publish his first book of poetry. This young man is reaching for his own dream of self-sustainability and integrity.

There are some very concrete ways in which we can help this budding ministry take flight. The Winter Warming Drive and financial support for Street Sanctuary lunch are two. There will be a box in the elevator foyer throughout October for your gifts of warmth. If you are so moved, make your financial gift out to WUM and mark it for "Street Sanctuary Lunch" in the memo section.

Winter will soon force the ministry to move their worship inside, which will involve raising funds for rental space. There is a need for mentors, people who can write grants, and teachers who can help provide basic job skill training.

The Holy Spirit convicted Severin to start this ministry. I believe she is also inviting us to get involved.

If you would like to read more about InExcelsis please look at their website at <https://inexcelsislove.org/>

Grace and peace+

Pastor Sharon



A Message from the InExcelsis Team

Thank you for everything you do to support our organization in its mission To PROPEL homeless and displaced young people to achieve SOCIAL REINSTATEMENT and become SELF-RELIANT.

If your feet stepped on the mat lately, you probably have felt that chill in the air. As temperatures slowly begin to drop, InExcelsis, a St. Louis based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works exclusively with homeless and displaced young people, has also launched #WinterWarmingDrive first act from OCT 1st through OCT 31st.

This campaign is meant to collect most needed items, new and gently used, that will help our brethren on streets who are not fortunate enough to make the waitlists of shelters, who are sleeping on cardboard boxes, in tents or on bare concrete during fall and winter in our community.

These items are :

- Air mattresses
- Hats
- Gloves
- Boots
- Sleeping bags
- Blankets
- Winter coats
- Scarves
- Thick socks
- Hand warmers
- Earmuffs
- Underwear

The shocking truth is that over a 1000 people are expected to face the winter harshness, including women, veterans and displaced young people who are in urgent need of the lifesaving aid you can help us provide.

I will be honest with you. Due to the COVID-19, it's been difficult for us to raise the funds and items so desperately needed to help the

unhoused caught up in this situation — however, we MUST fulfill our commitment to help them.

I am asking you to please consider giving what you can and also to spread the word.

Again, thank you very much for your continued support of this important initiative of inExcelsis.

Best Regards,

Sev Pelekara
Community Outreach Planner
DARE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



New Sermon Series:



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



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



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.

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.





Mark your calendar for an event like no other! Join us **November 7-14** for **“Meet Me in St. Louis”** — a family-friendly scavenger and trivia experience! This weeklong, socially-distanced fundraising event is designed to help you get to know more about the city we love and serve!

During the **Scavenger Hunt**, teams of competitors earn points for submitting photos/videos of themselves at various locations around the city. Following the hunt, participate in our **Online Auction!** The auction will feature a wide selection of items that are perfect for gift giving or enjoying during the fall and winter months. To close out the week, join us from the comfort of home for a **Virtual Trivia Night** featuring questions about pop culture, history, and more, all based on St. Louis! Challenge yourself, explore new parts of the city, and support a great cause!

Gather your pals and register a team today! [Learn more.](#)



To my WUM family,

Thank you so much for the calls and cards. Your care and concern have brought me so much joy at this time. I am not feeling too bad, a little tired, but taking life day by day and taking every opportunity to spend time with my grandkids.

Gayle Fields



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 I am not supposed to do much for the 1st month.

Thank you,
Traci, Sandy
Seira, Eli, Sophia and Tony



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.



Vote NO on Amendment 3

Leading up to the 2018 November election, we were part of a coalition that worked successfully to get Amendment 2: Clean Missouri approved by 62% of Missouri voters. Clean Missouri instituted election reforms, importantly a process by which a non-partisan demographer appointed by the State Auditor, draws up

districts, continuing to use the actual number of all residents, but with a focus on fairness, competitiveness, and compactness which are then reviewed by the legislature. As of now, very few districts are competitive, resulting in mostly partisan controlled safe districts, often unrepresentative of the voters who live there.

Amendment 3 would return the redistricting process to partisan control and make drastic changes for drawing districts. Most importantly, it requires that only "registered voters" be counted for apportionment, rather than the current requirement (used by all states) that all residents be counted. While both suburban and urban areas would be disproportionately affected, once again communities of color especially lose out in representation in the political process. Additionally, citizens could no longer challenge the composition of districts and even judges would be severely restricted in challenging district mapping.

Don't be misled by the opening language relating to lobbyists' gift and contribution limits. These reductions are minimal compared to the changes already in place from Amendment 2 and serve to obscure the radical undemocratic change in redistricting.

The Justice Team invites you to join us in voting **NO on Amendment 3** and spreading the word.

References: cleanmissouri.org; SL Post Dispatch editorial 10/4/20



Youth News!—from Pastor Paige

Our new day for meeting is Sunday!
Same time, 5:30-7:30p.

Join me this weekend at 5:30p as we will tie dye blank face masks and shirts! If you are coming, let me know what size long-sleeve shirt your youth would like!!

I will provide the dye, masks, and shirts. You all bring a smile and some fun!! We will indulge in a wonderful cereal-for-dinner-evening!!! Of course we will keep our masks on and stay a safe distance apart. In order to minimize the mess and contain germs, all will be asked to wear gloves for the dyeing process since we will be sharing dye bottles and such.

October Calendar is out!

Blessings, soap & water,
Pastor Paige directoryouth@websterum.org



Trunk or Treat 2020 style!

Bring all of your ghouls and goblins to our family friendly, drive-thru trunk or treat! It will be on October 30th from



5:30-7:30p, right here in the church parking lot.

Masks are required and costumes are encouraged. There will be candy, a photo opportunity, and a haunted forest, all from the comfort of your own car.

We need candy and trunks!

There is a box for your candy donations in the elevator foyer.


If you would like to host a trunk, click here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0944a9ae2ea0ff2-trunk>"

Children's Info! Keep an eye out on the Facebook page for information regarding upcoming children's events. We are working on planning some awesome virtual options for the winter, as well as events such as our upcoming Trunk-or-Treat! Feel free to text or email me if you have any questions, comments or concerns. Thanks, Shaeleigh Parsons directorchildren@websterum.org

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 on 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:

We 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 at 7:30p!** Beginning October 15th, we will be in the Sanctuary.



Our Prayer Concerns: Scott & Henry Andrews (Cindy Andrews); 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); 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); 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