

November 26, 2020



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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. Thank you! –Pastor Sharon



Every week, the office will be closed to everyone from Wednesday 6p to Thursday 10a. Thank you! -Pastor Sharon & SPRC



Our calendar <https://websterunitedmethodist.org/calendar/> is important for us to schedule different groups, times and places in our church building...Be sure to email Holly in the office to schedule usage! **(NOTE: The building is closed to all groups for the next 30 days (Nov. 18 through Dec 18) due to the rise in Covid transmissions)** secretary@websterum.org



...a message from Pastor Sharon

Messing with Time

Advent is upon us...beginning this Sunday, November 29th. During the season of Advent, Christians sing songs such as, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” and “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus.” These songs anticipate the hope that God’s people felt as they waited for their Savior. People of the Christian faith light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, like an emblazoned clock counting down to God’s intervention in the world.

The Advent season plays with our notion of time. The church gathers in the present to ponder the past for a future hope. It’s a lot like the story, *A Christmas Carol*, a tale in which the past, present and future all come together in one transformative night for old Scrooge. Certainly this story is about love of money, but it is also a story about how Scrooge cannot let go of his past. Early in the story, after establishing that Marley, his business partner, had been dead for some time, Dickens writes, “Scrooge never painted out Old Marley’s name. There it stood, years afterwards, above the warehouse door: Scrooge and Marley”. Scrooge seems to cling to the past because his (only?) friend Marley represented the only things in which Scrooge trusts: hard work, frugality, unwavering discipline and action that can be weighed, measured and counted.

Jesus came to save us from counting our past as our only reality. It’s like when Moses led God’s people out of Egyptian slavery into the wilderness. Before they reached the Promised Land, the Book of Exodus describes how the Israelites complained against Moses in the wilderness. They were hungry and tired, and wished they had stayed back in Egypt, even under oppression. Because living in the wilderness was difficult and they were caught wandering between where they were and where they were heading, the people complained and wished they had died as slaves. The people became stubborn and bitter, almost “Scrooge-like” in their relationship with God and one another. Instead of moving forward in faith, trusting that God was with them, the people kept looking over their shoulders, hopelessly lamenting over the way things used to be.

Advent is like living in the wilderness between what was and what will be. We should know something of that wilderness as we approach our 10th month of life within a pandemic. Living into this tension, remembering God’s promises, and depending on faith become spiritual disciplines that keep us from turning into

Scrooges ourselves, even though COVID-fatigue has long since set in. While the Promised Land may seem far off, that time when we can go back to work, school, and church fully, without reserve or fear, we must hold tightly to the promises of our God. Scripture declares *"It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."* (Deuteronomy 31:8)

Grace and peace+
Pastor Sharon



WANTED: Christmas Eve Patio Heaters and Fire Pits!

If permitted, we are hosting our Christmas Eve service on the parking lot at 4:30pm and desire to **BORROW** patio space heaters and fire pits that are raised above the ground (even a few inches) for this adventure. Currently, we have 3 space heaters and 1 fire pit. I think we might want more. Can you help? Contact secretary@websterum.org to lend your patio space heater.



Our 1st Church Chat was a Great Success!

Join us for our next Church Chat

Sunday 11/29 after Worship

11:30a-12:15p

Connect with others on the Zoom platform

Hosted by Pastor Sharon

RSPV to secretary@websterum.org and a link will be sent to you.



Spreading Joy To St. Louis Youth and Families!



Each year, Epworth partners with local churches, organizations, and generous donors to provide gifts and items for St. Louis youth and families for the holiday season. Over 450 individuals were provided with gifts in 2019, which included warm clothes, coats, toys, and more! Donors can "adopt" one or more clients and sponsor their gifts to join Epworth in spreading cheer during a year when it's needed the most. For the safety of our Epworth clients and our donors, this year's Holiday Wishes contributions look a little different:

- We are accepting **generic gift cards** (Walmart, Visa, Vanilla, Amazon, etc.) or **monetary donations** so that Epworth colleagues and parents can safely shop for our youth and families.
 - To avoid crowding of stores or public places, we are asking donors not to shop directly for our youth and families.
 - A maximum of \$100 per 'adoptee' is recommended.
- To add a personal touch to your Holiday Wishes contribution, we welcome and encourage you to decorate and write a personalized card to your holiday adoptee(s)! Letters, cards, and gift cards can be sent to:

Epworth
110 North Elm Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63119
Attn: Holiday Wishes

To ensure that everything is purchased and ready for Christmas on December 25th, **please submit your gift cards and donations no later than December 18th, 2020.** We need the help, love, and support of our Epworth community in order to make this year's Holiday Wishes a success! Our Epworth colleagues are aiming to make this holiday season both personal and warm for our sponsored youth and families, even with the circumstances of the pandemic.

If your family, church, or organization is interested in adopting a St. Louis client this year, please click the link below to sign up!

Please contact Brittany McIntyre at bmcintyre@epworth.org with any questions regarding your Holiday Wishes adoption or donation! <https://www.epworth.org/donate/>



Christmas 2020 at



Even a global pandemic cannot stop the joy of families celebrating Christmas. In past years, we have helped make Christmas special for WRHM families by participating in the Adopt-A-Family program. It has never been more important to help. Recognizing the real health and safety challenges presented by coronavirus, as with Thanksgiving, the Adopt-A-Family Christmas program will include only gift cards. While this makes the program less personal, it ensures the health and safety of all: families, volunteers and donors.

How to help: Fill out and return asap the registration form below, preferably by email wrhm@wrhm.org or deliver to 111 East Waymire, Webster Groves, MO 63119, Tuesday-Friday, 9 - noon. You will be matched with an appropriate family and notified of your match via an email from. The notification will include information about the family. **Please plan to have all gift cards for your adopted family to WRHM by Friday, December 4th at noon.** Clearly mark a large envelope with your name and the client family's name that contains:

1. Gift card(s) for Christmas dinner. The suggested amount is \$25 per person for a family of four + \$20 for any additional family members.
2. Gift cards for children/adult's presents enclosed in individual Christmas cards with the recipient's name written on the envelope.
3. The form at the bottom of this page for identifying the donor and client family.

Given how late we are in publicizing this information, an alternative is to make a financial donation to support Adopt-A Family program by visiting <http://wrhm.org/help-us/> and in the special instructions box, indicate "Adopt-A-Family".

Please use form on the following page:

-----Please detach and return with your Christmas donation-----

WRHM -ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM-DONOR FORM-2020

Please return this form to WRHM asap: wrhm@wrhm.org ; 111 E. Waymire Ave. Webster Groves, MO 63119

Name of Individual, Church, Business, Group, School or Organization		
Contact Person	Phone	
Address		
City/State/Zip		
Email address:		
CHRISTMAS		
GIFTS. We ask that donors provide gift cards for gifts for children and for adults. Describe the type of family you would like to adopt.		
Families with Children []	Seniors []	Disabled []
Single Adult(s) []	Please assign me any type of family []	
CHRISTMAS MEAL. The suggested amount is \$25 <u>per person</u> for a family of four and \$20 for any additional family members. This would be in addition to gifts provided to children and adults in the family. With that in mind, what is the maximum number of people you would like in the family?		
How many families would you like to adopt?		



Dear Church,

As a response to the sharply rising COVID-19 transmissions in the St. Louis County, we are closing the church building for the next 30 days to all groups. Individuals with specific tasks may still access the building as needed – wearing a mask. Dates: November 18 through December 18, 2020.

Grace and Peace+

Pastor Sharon



TO GIVE AWAY: CHOIR LOFT SEATING

Do you know of an organization that would benefit from our choir loft seats? They are now located on the stage in Fellowship Hall for your inspection. We only ask that the recipient take care of hauling them away. The Tuesday Crew can even help get them out to the parking lot.



If you don't know of an organization, would you like a couple to add to your TV theater to have as a remembrance when they served our music program? They can be broken down into sets of two seats. Keep in mind, they must be secured to the floor to keep them from tipping.

Stan Richert, Chair Trustees



Puzzles!



Fall and winter are perfect seasons for a puzzle! Pick out a new one or swap out one you've already done. Different levels of difficulty. Located in the elevator foyer at the church. Come help yourself!



Thank you!

Dear Webster United Methodist Church,

It is my privilege to thank you on behalf of the InExcelsis team for participating to our Winter Warming Drive campaign. You chose to roll up your sleeves and came together as one to erect a bridge of compassion, love and a spark of hope in this particular time of uncertainty, fear, frustration. It really makes a difference for the homeless community we serve here in St. Louis.

The simple truth is, at InExcelsis we can dare to make a difference because of supporters like you. It is your kindness and generosity towards the unhoused that stocks our shelves with socks, sleeping bags, work boots, underwear, toiletries and many other most needed items distributed during our community outreach events.

Thanks to you, our friend David is winning the battle against addiction and currently enrolled in a woodwork apprenticeship program. On the day he celebrated his first month of sobriety, when asked what triggered his decision to embrace that journey, he simply replied: "because you guys treat me very well, you showed me that you care and convinced me that I am valuable." Like David, many other friends are willing to turn their lives around and live their very best life.

It is our honor to have you as part of the InExcelsis family. If you ever have queries or you'd like to see for yourself the difference you now make possible, I invite you to ring us on 314.701.6271 or leave us an email at info@inexcelsislove.org Thank you again for your continued support of the unhoused!

Best Regards,
Sev Pelekara
Community Outreach Planner InExcelsis



December 2020

Webster United Methodist Youth Group

Virtual Gatherings unless noted

Advent Study

Advent Astrology & Astronomy

This advent season we will do a Bible study learning about new characters and also taking into account astronomy and astrological signs. We will learn about celestial bodies and the story of Christ in light of heavenly bodies. This is sure to be a season of fun conversations!! We will start our Zoom sessions with these conversations before playing a game or doing an activity.

December 6

Tonight we will gather on Zoom to begin our Advent study and for some fun games; Pictionary, Tic-Tac-Toe, Hangman, Heads Up, etc! Invite a friend to come play games with us!

December 13-Secret Santa Gift Exchange

You will be given a member of the youth group to buy a gift for. Spend no more than \$10-15! Keep it fun and appropriate. Drop your labeled gift in the church hallway by the elevator by Dec. 12! I will pick them up and drop them off on porches Sunday morning. We will meet on Zoom to open our gifts at 5:30!

December 20-Church Parking Lot Bonfire

We will gather on the parking lot for some s'mores and conversations! Wear layers! The youth budget will provide us with individual dinners that night! Don't forget to wear a mask!

December 27-Among Us Night

We will gather on Zoom and play some Among Us from a distance! Invite a friend to come hang out with us online!!



Hello!

I hope everyone has been having a great fall/winter. As we are approaching the holiday season, we've had to change up how we can celebrate. Because of this, we are doing Advent-in-a-bag! There will be scriptures, activities, and crafts to go along with each week of Advent. We can either deliver all of these to you this coming weekend, or they will be out to pick up off of the Ted Tree each week. If you would like them delivered, please respond with your address and number of children by Saturday afternoon (11/28).

Have a great Thanksgiving!

Shaeleigh Parsons
Director of Children's Ministry
(she/her/hers)



Our Prayer Concerns: Sally Cobb; Bud and Jason Billingsley (Lettie Morse); Carol Carinci (Debbie Lund); Morgan (Margo Petracek); Ron and Carol Wright (Bev Mesey); Linda Dill; Mary Emery Waston (Beth Anderson); Mike Brooks (Debbie's husband), Jacque (Linda Austin); Lorraine Bemis; Doris Thomas, (Randy Thomas); Kristen Kremer; Richard (Beth Anderson); Skip Reynolds (John and Sharon Wersching); Peter Schüren (Debbie Lund); Gayle Fields; Todd (Gordon Ballam); Sherry Dodd, Mia (Paula Murphy); Carol and Jim Simpson (Clarke Montford); 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; 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 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