

December 3, 2020



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



## **WUM Newsletter Deadline**

We welcome news of your ministries! 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. Thank you! –Pastor Sharon



**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 due to the rise in Covid transmissions)** [Secretary@websterum.org](mailto:Secretary@websterum.org) (Nov. 18 through Dec 18)



## **...a message from Pastor Sharon**

### **Sharing Christmas In a Pandemic**

The leadership of our church has again voted unanimously to share our Christmas offering with others. This year, we will be splitting the shared portion with two ministries, Room at the Inn, and InExcelsis.

Our relationship with Room at the Inn (RATI) goes back a long time. Room at the Inn provides immediate, temporary shelter to homeless women and families in the St. Louis region. In addition, they work with them to create an individualized plan back to self-sufficiency, including counseling services and referrals to other human service agencies. Then they mentor them to improve their chances for success.

Typically, the clients move to a different location each evening, where they receive a warm welcome and a hot home-cooked meal. They are bedded down on inflatable mattresses and returned to their day space after receiving a hot breakfast. WUM created a home-away-from-home for RATI clients four times a year.

Since the pandemic, RATI has kept the families at its facility and hired caregivers and food workers to provide for them. This arrangement has put a significant financial strain on the ministry, so we hope our offering will help them continue serving our homeless neighbors.

Our relationship with InExcelsis is brand new. Founded by Severin Pelekara, a member of our church family, InExcelsis reaches out to the homeless, providing support in the way of meals, clothing, bedding, mentoring, and job skill training. The ministry also provides spiritual support through Shared Streets, a weekly worship experience that goes to the people. Once monthly, our own Mountain Service Band has led worship in North St. Louis and provided a hot meal afterwards. We have responded generously to Severin's Winter Warming appeal with sleeping bags and air mattresses, warm clothing and coats.

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. InExcelsis is a perfect complement to the work of Room at the Inn. 2020 has been difficult for everyone, but for none more than those living on the streets, sleeping in cardboard boxes over grates, in abandoned buildings, or safe harbors. When you think about your Christmas offering, please imagine their struggles to keep their children warm, fed, and safe during a pandemic. It is the kind of stuff of nightmares. Please give generously.

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 2 fire pits. I think we might want more. Can you help? Contact [secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org) to lend your patio space heater.



# Time to order your Epworth Auxiliary **Christmas Cards**

Front



Inside message:

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace..."*  
Romans 15:13 (NIV)

*May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace,  
The gladness of Christmas give you hope,  
The warmth of Christmas grant you love.*

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

Packed in Sets of 10 cards for \$10, plus S&H if mailed

To place an order EMAIL: [epworth.auxiliary@gmail.com](mailto:epworth.auxiliary@gmail.com)

OR

CALL: 314-753-4292 OR 314-434-2468

Linda Guth Stangl

Kathy Korbecki

FOR PICK UP: Webster Groves/South County West County

Or delivery to a mutually convenient location.

SHIPPING & HANDLING: \$3.99 for one pack + \$1.75 for each additional pack

Sharing this card helps Epworth Children & Family Services achieve their mission: *Empowering youth to realize their unique potential by meeting essential needs, cultivating resiliency, and building community.*

**Epworth Auxiliary Member with cards available for purchase:**

Name: Ellen Hendrickson

Phone: 314-968-2998 ( home) 314-304-7873 (cell)

Email: [ellenhendrickson9@gmail.com](mailto:ellenhendrickson9@gmail.com)



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](mailto: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](mailto: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 form. The notification will include information about the family. **Please plan to have all gift cards for your adopted family to WRHM by Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 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: [wrrhm@wrrhm.org](mailto:wrrhm@wrrhm.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:		
<b>CHRISTMAS</b>		
<b>GIFTS.</b> 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 [ ]	
<b>CHRISTMAS MEAL.</b> The suggested amount is \$25 <u>per person</u> for a family of four and \$20 ea. 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**



## **Epworth Christmas Adoption Appeal—Deadline 12/13**

Both Webster Rock Hill Ministries and Epworth have appealed to our church for help with their holiday adoption programs, as they have in the past. The WRHM program has an early deadline and is already underway, but one of our recent newsletters detailed the Epworth program and its needs.

To that end, Missions has made a **commitment for the church to adopt 5 individuals from the Epworth program, and they are asking for \$100 gift cards for each of those 5. The deadline is Sun., Dec. 13.** Certainly their need---as with all agencies--- is greater than ever this year, and so our goal will be to collect \$500 to be turned into Amazon gift cards for families/individuals to purchase Christmas presents safely this year. We will purchase the gift cards from our church’s script program.

If you can help us adopt these 5 individuals, please send your check to the church by Dec. 13, marking the memo line with **“Epworth Christmas” or select “Epworth Christmas “under the GIVE menu on our website.**

Thank you for your generosity,  
Jan McCurley, Risk-Taking Missions Chair



**Heartfelt Thanks for a Successful Lord’s Acre 2020**

When the pandemic forced us to reinvent our traditional Lord's Acre event benefiting our mission program, we weren't sure what would result. The church's wonderfully generous support of our non-event fundraiser was very successful! Since the final amount is still pending, I will report on that in another week or so. Please accept our most sincere thank you to each and every person who donated great homemade or handcrafted awards, baked homemade thank-you goodies, or donated money to this year's Lord's Acre. The winner of the beautiful Christmas quilt will be announced soon.

Most gratefully,  
Joan Ballam, Helen Fuller, & Jan McCurley  
Mission Team Steering Committee



## 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!!



- **Our Prayer Concerns:** Cheryl Simpson (Kristen Kremer); Jim Pemberton (Cindy Andrews); 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](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)