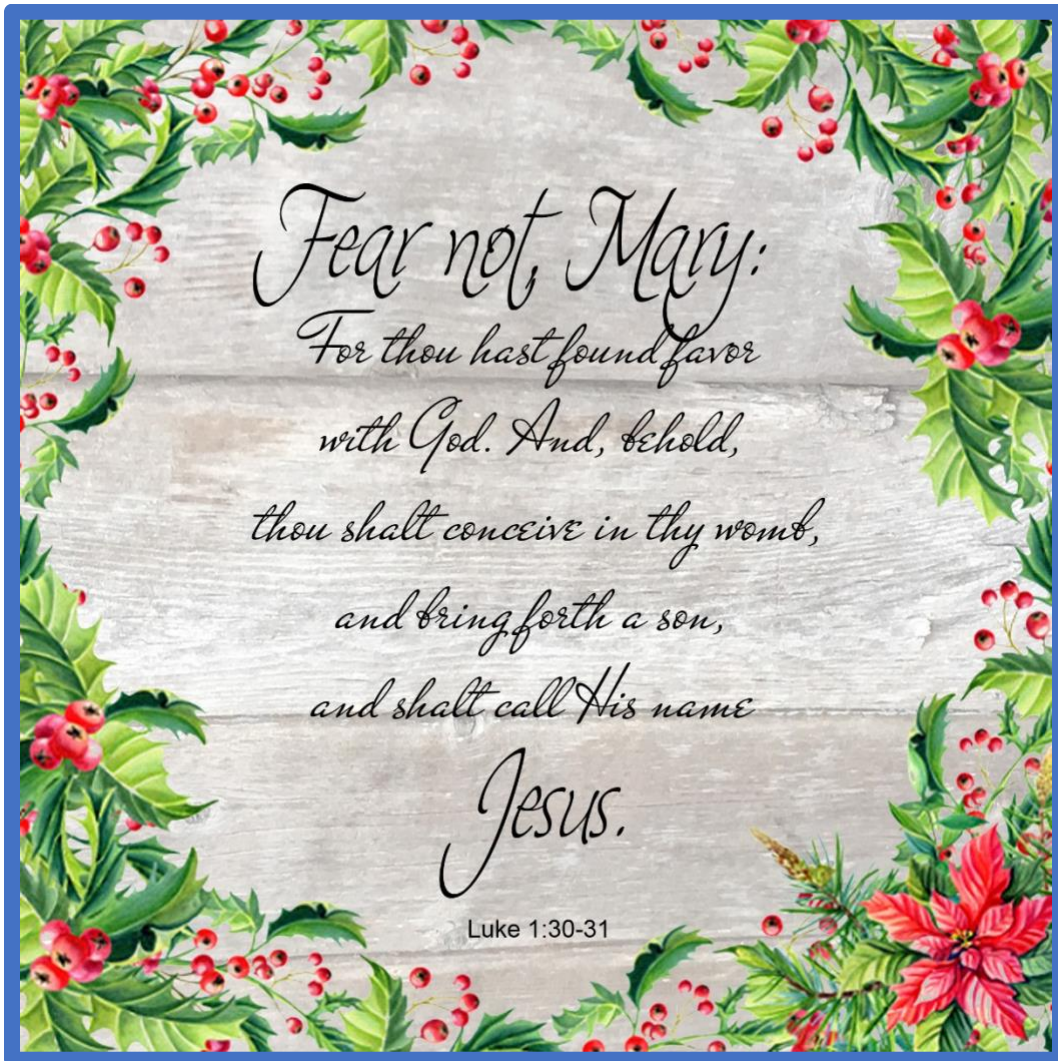


December 17, 2020



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

<https://websterunitedmethodist.org/>

Extending Building Closure

After conferring with the leadership of the Safety Team, Trustees, and our Lay Leader, we have agreed to the prudence of extending the closing of the church building to groups for another 30 days, *through January 16th*. We will continue to monitor pandemic statistics, and reassess in January.

As before, individuals who have a task to perform may still come into the church as long as they follow all COVID protective procedures, including masking, handwashing, and physical distancing.

Thanks all,
Pastor Sharon



Every week, the office is 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 by **Mondays at 7a** 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 individuals, 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 another 30 days due to the rise in Covid transmissions)** secretary@websterum.org (Nov. 18 through Jan 16, 2021)

...a message from Pastor Sharon



“After they had heard from the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.” (Matt 2:7-10)

Very soon, we will be able to witness a rare event in the night sky that has not been seen for almost 8 centuries. The two largest planets in our solar system, Jupiter and Saturn, will align on December 21st to create what has been dubbed the Christmas Star, or the Star of Bethlehem.

Actually, this happens every 20 years, but the last time Jupiter and Saturn were this close together and actually visible from the earth was in the Middle Ages, in the year 1226.

Robert Sadler, a professor of natural science at Culver-Stockton College said, "It's a conjunction in the sky of planets Jupiter and Saturn. Now, these planets are about 400 million miles apart. But from our line of sight they appear like they're together in the sky," Sadler said.

To view the star, Sadler said it's best to look close to the horizon in the western sky. You can find the pair near the moon just after sunset between December 16th and Christmas Day. The two will appear to "merge briefly" during the event, which is called mutual occultation, but they're actually still millions of miles apart. The brighter one is Jupiter. The dimmer one is Saturn.

This heavenly event has been dubbed the "Christmas Star," because some astronomers and Biblical scholars have theorized the bright star

in the sky that caught the attention of the Magi after the birth of Jesus could have been a rare conjunction involving both Jupiter and Saturn. Back in ancient days, all the bright lights in the sky were considered stars.

As this phenomenon will not be repeated until 2080, we are invited to follow the Star of Bethlehem right now. When we travel with Christ in our life journey, walking his path seeking justice, offering mercy, and keeping with our God, we become star-followers too.

The night of December 24th, we will have an opportunity to worship under the night sky together, just as the Magi did over 2000 years ago. I think that is pretty cool. It's time to invite your family and friends for this rare opportunity. Bundle up and I will see you there!

Grace and peace+
Pastor Sharon



WANTED: Christmas Eve Patio Heaters and Fire Pits!

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 to lend your patio space heater.



BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Hello Church,

Christmas is approaching and as we continue in the season of Advent, I would like to tell you all about a Blue Christmas service taking place on Thursday, **December 17th on Facebook at 7:30 pm**. This will be a time for us to lament the very difficult year we have had as a community and lift up prayers. Below I am attaching a link where you can send us your prayers to pray about on Blue Christmas. Even though we can't be together, we can still pray together.

Please take some time right now to fill out the Blue Christmas prayer link so we can join together as an Advent people.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P7ZHXP>

Blessing,
Pastor Joshua



CHURCH CHAT SUNDAY

Join Pastor Sharon for a zoom visit on Church Chat, 11:30a-12:15p this Sunday, December 20th. Contact her at 314-566-0332, or pastorsharon@websterum.org to rsvp, and she will send you the link at 11:20a on Sunday.





Join us!

*Outdoor Worship at
4:30pm on December 24th
in the Webster United Methodist
Parking Lot: 600 N Bompert 63119*

**Bring your own chair and mask.
Wrap your family up with coats and blankets
and join the contemporary Mountain
Service Band to celebrate Peace on Earth.**

Our worship will include a story and a special gift
for the children. We will close with Silent Night and
sharing the flame of our candles
through the night to break the darkness.

Also!

**December 24:
Traditional Worship at
7:30 on our Web Page & Facebook Page**

<https://www.facebook.com/WebsterUnitedMethodist>
websterunitedmethodist.org



Hands in Mission Team Helped LifeWise on December 9

Six folks generously gave their time to help with the shopping for the LifeWise Holiday Market on Wednesday afternoon, December 9. In teams of two, four of us worked to Christmas shop for families from a list of requested items, in addition to a warm hat, scarf, and gloves for every family member.

We moved from houseware/linen items, teen gifts, toys, sports equipment, and winter clothing rooms in the lower level of the LifeWise building to shop for parents and each child in the family. Two team members served as our checkout and baggers in the gym. The families will pick up their large bags curbside on Monday, Dec. 14. The new safety/health procedures to accommodate both clients and volunteers worked smoothly.

Sincere thanks to those volunteering their afternoons: Joan Ballam, Ellen Hendrickson, Linda Shantz, Helen Fuller, Roger McCurley, and Jan McCurley.



Our Advent-in-a-Bag activities have been a hit! As you can see here, the kids have gotten quite creative with their crafts. The wreath has been made with their handprints, and they've added a candle each week.

Don't forget to pick up the last bag this Monday under the Ted Tree!

O Come, Emmanuel!





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 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!!





Hey guys!

Happy Advent season! Thanks to everyone who has picked up the Advent in a Bag so far. The last one will be out for pick-up the Monday before Christmas. Make sure to pay attention to the Facebook group - Webster Children, Youth, and Families - for an exciting poll during the third week!

On 12/24 at 4:30 we will have an outdoor Christmas Eve service. There will be a special message and gifts for the children. We will remain masked and distanced to maintain safety requirements.

Join our Facebook group! There you can find the latest updates, events, and the weekly message, as well as occasional activities and crafts for the children. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/708071979728500>

Have a great Holiday season!

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



Our Sympathy to: Family and friends of Sally Cobb who passed on December 14.

Our Prayer Concerns: Julie Puckett, Uncle Bob, Stephanie and Mike, Elise, Aunt Ethel and son Ken (Clay Grumke); Cheryl Simpson (Kristen Kremer); Jim Pemberton (Cindy Andrews); Sally Cobb; Carol Carinci (Debbie Lund); Morgan (Margo Petracek); Ron and Carol Wright (Bev Mesity); 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