

December 24, 2020



Pastor, Rev. Sharon Kichline
Assistant Pastor, Joshua Krakos
Music Ministry, Lamar Fitzgerald
Youth Ministry, Pastor Paige Foster
Children's Ministry, Shaeleigh Parsons
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<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

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



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

I met my friend, Reverend Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, at the Festival of Homiletics maybe 5 years ago. Takouhi (pronounced Ta-Koo-Hee) was born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon in an Armenian family. Her parents were young survivors of the Armenian Genocide of 1915. While she was still a child, her family made their way out of Beirut through the mountainous roads of Lebanon into Syria, and from there, to the United States. Eventually, she was drawn to Canada who was actively welcoming Lebanese citizens. It was in her new forever home that she felt the call to ministry and was later ordained in the United Church of Canada.

Despite (or perhaps because of) a young life born of violence and turmoil, followed by extraordinary difficulties and change, Takouhi radiates the light of Christ. She is absolutely joy-filled. She draws people to her like bees to nectar.

Takouhi is also a poet. This week, with her permission, I share one of her Christmas poems from her book, "The TRUE Gift Lives ON...Christmas Poetry, Prayers, and BLESSINGS" ".

You can check out more of Takouhi's writing at www.revtakouhi.ca.

Simple, Silent
Holy, Different
Shepherds, Magi
Servant, yet King.
The First Christmas
An Infant Child
Hope Giver
Love Maker
Peace Pursuer
Joy Enabler
Light in the Dark
Life After Life
Love Abundant

Beyond Comprehension
Be Still
Be Ready
Be Patient
Be Free
God's Presence is Here
Emmanuel, YOUR PEACE!

I will also close with Tahouhi's blessing:

"Now may the Father of Love, Mother of Life, Giver of Peace, Maker of Light,
be evident to you on Christmas and Always."

Grace and peace+
Pastor Sharon



The Upper Room Devotional - New Issue Available

The Upper Room is a devotional magazine published in Nashville which presents a daily Bible passage, a personal story, a prayer, and a thought for the day.

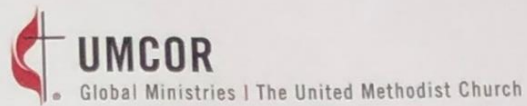
Our January-February copies are now available in the elevator lobby of the church and on the table in the hall outside the church office.

If you are unable to pick up a copy, please contact Linda Guth Stangl at linda-guth-stangl@live.com and she will make sure a copy gets to you.



Thank You for your Generosity!

This comes in response to our special offering for those affected by the summer/fall weather emergencies.



December 9, 2020

First United Methodist Church
600 N BOMPART AVE
Webster Groves, MO 63119-1904

"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." – Luke 10:27 CEB

Dear Friends in Mission,

Thank you!

The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be – *Thank you!*

Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of The United Methodist Church, providing disaster response and relief to areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters around the world. And through your financial support, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly-frequent and destructive storms – sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need!

Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Roland Fernandes".

Roland Fernandes, General Secretary

Supporting
UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery

Gift Amount
\$2,350.00

Date Received 11-25-20

Account #81292

Please retain this letter as your receipt. In compliance with IRS regulations, no goods or services were provided by the General Board of Global Ministries in consideration of your contribution.



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



Sharing Christmas In a Pandemic

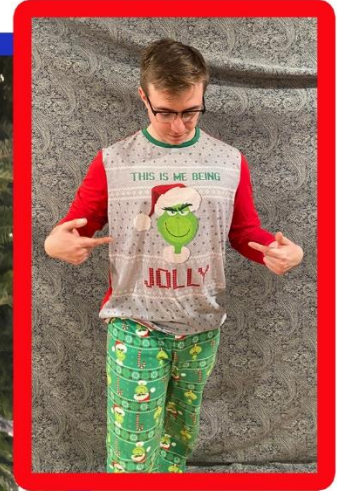
Our church will again be sharing our Christmas offering with others. This year, we will be splitting the shared portion with two ministries, Room at the Inn, and InExcelsis.

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.

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.

2020 has been difficult for everyone, but none more so than those living on the streets, sleeping in cardboard boxes over grates, 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.

Make your check out Webster United Methodist, and mark Christmas” in the memo section, or go to the GIVE link in our website to make your gift.



*Christmas Blessings from
Lamar, Sharon, Josh, Paige,
Holly and Shaeleigh*



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 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 pickup 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 be doing 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 Prayer Concerns: Cheryl Simpson, Lemasters/Daniels families (Lynne Wehrman); 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 Meseey); 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