

December 31, 2020

*Rejoice in Hope,  
Be Patient in Tribulation,  
Be Constant in Prayer.  
Romans 12:12*

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

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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](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 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](mailto:Secretary@websterum.org) (Nov. 18 through Jan 16, 2021)

## ...a message from Pastor Sharon

*"Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith."*

(Hebrews 13:7)

Dear Friends,

This past fall, because it had been such a very different year, we did something very different relating to choosing our 2021 leadership. You see, we had gathered a fantastic team of people for 2020. They were all trained and ready to go. But then along came COVID-19. And we had to send them all home. The work of creating our 125-year Anniversary Celebration and the continued conversations relating to the General Conference's reorganization has had to be postponed to next year.

That's not to say our leaders did nothing from home...but so many of our events, classes, services, and outreach activities that had been planned had to be cancelled. Mostly, our leadership has been engaged in creative planning to carry on the work of the church as best as we could, given our many physical limitations.

For that reason, the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development Team, co-chaired by Lay Leader, Deane Looney and me, have asked the current leadership to give us another year, regardless of when their term expires. Most have agreed, so our 2021 Leadership Roster will look nearly the same as 2020, with just a few exceptions, detailed below. For those who need to step down, we are extraordinarily grateful that you helped us keep the ship upright during these turbulent days. The gifts of all of our leaders have been deeply appreciated.

We give thanks to Debbie Lund for the exemplary job she has done in managing the staff of our church during a pandemic. Her steady and compassionate guidance through the building closure has cast a lifeline to our staff and therefore, our congregation. Debbie will continue to serve the church through musical and other support ministries. Thank you for blessing our church with your gifts of leadership, Debbie!

Debbie's successor will be Roger McCurley. Roger has led our Safety Team the last few years, guiding us through Armed Intruder preparations, the creation of a Safety Manual, and most recently, providing invaluable support relating to the

appropriate and safest use of our building during a pandemic. We are blessed by Rogers's career experience in management of Human Resources. Thank you, Roger for your gracious gifts of your time and talents!

Tom Pacatte has agreed to step into the chair position of the Safety Team, effective 1/1/2021. Among his many gifts he brings us, Tom's medial expertise has been a valuable resource to our church family for a long time. While serving on the Safety Team, Tom coordinated the acquisition and training for our new automated external defibrillator. Welcome to 2021 Leadership, Tom!

Cindy Foshee has served for the last year as our Chair of Hospitality and Connections. Because of the virus, she has decided that a move is in her future, and must step down from her leadership role. We are grateful for the efforts she has made in her short term, responding immediately with safety supplies to the threat of viral transmission for those who had to be in the church. We will also miss her lovely soprano voice in our Chancel Choir. Cindy's successor to this leadership role has not yet been filled.

**I give thanks to all** who have served this year in the many ministries of our church, even though your tasks have been dramatically different than you expected. Your work has been vital in continuing to breathe life into our mission. It is my prayer that you will continue to serve, as so many of the leadership has agreed to do, through 2021. Your Team/Committee Chairperson will be contacting you soon.

We are blessed to have such a fine slate of officers and leaders to take us into the uncertain future together. I feel so much confidence in them, and give thanks to God for their willing spirits to join hands and hearts in leading our mission *"to make new disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!  
Pastor Sharon

A more extensive listing of officers, committees, and teams will be made available through the church office after the leadership has polled their team/committee members.





Merry Christmas Church,

I hope you all had a wonderful, meaningful, safe holiday!! I pray that the love of Christ continues to resound through our hearts and homes as we move toward the New Year.

In my recent life I have experienced some upheavals, nothing debilitating or catastrophic, just changes in circumstance. That being said, I will be living in Lenexa, KS (my hometown) with my mom for the next 6 or so weeks. I have spoken with the Church Council and Pastor Sharon about this pivot. They were both accepting of these life changes and supportive in me doing what is best for me.

In the mean time I will continue to serve as the assistant pastor providing worship content and liturgy. Although the backgrounds in my videos may change, my joy of creating worship with and for Webster United Methodist remains unaltered. I will also continue my duties of leading the youth group online for the time being. We will continue to meet online at 5:30 and have our once a month on the parking lot gatherings. Our next one is schedule for January 31<sup>st</sup>.

I appreciate the support I have already received from members of Church Council and the staff. Webster has made a mark on my heart and I'm grateful that you all understand the bumps of life and are willing to offer grace as Christ has offered us.

This time of transition has set for me a path to hone my spirituality, recalibrate with God, and renew myself with family. I welcome and reciprocate your good thoughts, prayers, and wishes as we all enter a new year and find what makes us feel alive!

Blessings, life and peace,

Pastor Paige



*New Year Blessings  
To All*



## Choir!

God calls us to sing! During a year filled with monumental challenges, the singers and musicians of Webster United Methodist answered the call! I am so grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with such a diverse group of musical artists. We heard God's voice each week in your preludes and special music pieces, and during our Easter and Christmas celebrations. Your music enhanced our virtual worship services, and reminded us to praise God at all times! On behalf of the many souls blessed through your musical offerings, thank you!

Lamar, Director of Music



## 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](mailto:linda-guth-stangl@live.com) and she will make sure a copy gets to you.



## 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.





## Jig Saw Puzzles!

If you are working on the Noah Ark's puzzle, please let Carol Gilker know – she has the missing piece!



## THANK YOU CHURCH!

I am grateful for all the helpful hands, the shlepping of heaters and fire pits, the cheerful welcomes extended to our community guests, and the dedication and perseverance of our worship leaders, all contributing to make Christmas Eve 2020 a spirited and amazing celebration of the coming of the Christ Jesus!

Was it cold? Sure was—the Communion juice froze into a cup of solid ice! But it was also beautiful and bonding. That's what I will remember from this strange year— all of you coming together determined to worship and praise God as a faith family, and inviting others to join us. That made me warm inside.

Thank you, Church! Pastor Sharon



*Christmas Eve,  
2020*







# January 2021

*Webster United Methodist Youth Group*

*\*\*Virtual Gatherings unless noted\*\**

## **Jan 3 Among Us**

We will gather online for a game night of Among Us since technical difficulties derailed our initial Among Us night!  
See you online at 5:30!!

## **Jan 10 Spaghetti Night**

We will meet to make spaghetti for dinner! An ingredient list is in your inbox! We will start at 5:30 and make dinner for those around us. It will be a good time!

## **Jan 17 UMC and Race**

Join us as we talk about the United Methodist Church and its relation with race ahead of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

## **Jan 24 Take-Home Stations**

Boxes with station bags will be sent to your house! We will gather online to go through the activities of the stations together!

## **Jan 31 Parking Lot Fire**

Bring your masks as we gather around a parking lot fire and enjoy each other's company from a distance! See you all at 5:30.



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>

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



**Our Prayer Concerns:** Eric Schindling (Holly); Ellen Graves (Dan Pike); Lemasters/Daniels families (Lynne Wehrman); Julie Puckett, Uncle Bob, Stephanie and Mike, Elise, Aunt Ethel and son Ken (Clay Grumke); Cheryl Simpson (Kristen Kremer); Carol Carinci (Debbie Lund); Morgan (Margo Petracek); Ron and Carol Wright (Bev Mese); Mike Brooks (Debbie's husband), Jacque (Linda Austin); Lorraine Bemis; Doris Thomas, (Randy Thomas); Kristen Kremer; 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 or Prayer Requests 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)