

April 29, 2021



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Assistant Pastor, Joshua Krakos  
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Youth Ministry, Pastor Paige Foster  
Children's Ministry, Shaeleigh Parsons  
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## Extending Building Closure

After conferring with the leadership of the Safety Team, Trustees, and our Lay Leader, we have agreed to the prudence of continuing to keep the church building closed to groups. We will continue to monitor pandemic statistics, and reassess monthly.

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



**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!**  
[secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org)



## 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.



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

### **Back to In-Building Worship!**

The time we have longed for is coming soon.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Pentecost Sunday, at 10:30a, we will experience a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit as we return to worship in person inside of our own Sanctuary! Online worship at 10:30a will continue as before, but those who wish to gather in person will be able to do so under new conditions.

If you've been watching the news, you know that the combination of adhering to safety precautions and the addition of COVID-19 vaccines is making strides in creating safer places for us to gather. In response, we feel comfortable opening our Sanctuary again for in-building worship.

Our Safety Team, in conjunction with others in leadership, have worked to create a protocol for our return to in-building worship. These protocols are still a work in progress, and undoubtedly will be updated as we continue to learn and experience something new. Please offer your church leadership lots of grace.

Like many of you, I have missed the energy and strength I experience when we are gathered together in Jesus' name. I am certain my pent-up affection will bubble up when we finally come to worship in person again. My arms will ache to hug you. Though hugs and kisses are not in the plan yet, waves certainly are. We want our return to in-building worship to be successful and not harmful. Please join me in following the protocols carefully.

A special thank you to our Safety Team, chaired by Tom Pacatte, for their close attention, to Roger McCurley, author of the protocol document, and to the leadership of the Church Council who collaborated in its creation.

See you soon in church! 😊

Grace and peace+  
*Pastor Sharon*



## **PROTOCOL FOR RESUMING IN-BUILDING WORSHIP**

Welcome to Webster United Methodist! We are so thankful to be returning to in-church worship after closing our building for more than a year. Our online worship will continue uninterrupted, but our 10:30 a.m. service in the Church Sanctuary will resume on Sunday, May 23rd.

### **HOW WE'VE PREPARED:**

Our Church Council and Safety Team have adopted these guidelines to help ensure that we all stay as safe as possible. See the details below and check back periodically for updates.

### **LIMITED CAPACITY:**

At this time, attendance at each church service will be limited to 30% of the sanctuary's capacity. Our sanctuary seats 200, so we will take 55 reservations, and hold 5 seats for guests.

### **SAFE DISTANCING:**

Some rows and seats have been closed off to allow for safe distancing. Please leave 6 feet between family groups. The ushers will assist you with safe seating. Fellowship Hall will be closed, except for the restrooms on that level.

### **CONTROLLED ENTRANCE AND EXIT:**

Please enter the church via either the elevator (parking lot) door or the lower (ramp) Bompert door. Our ushers/greeters will provide instructions for safely leaving the building.

### **SANITIZATION:**

The sanctuary and restrooms are sanitized each week. Hand sanitizer and masks are available at both doors.

### **WORSHIP:**

A reservation system will be used for worship attendance so that no one is ever turned away due to limited seating capacity. The particulars of how to make your reservation will be shared soon.

Monthly, we will share Communion, using pre-packaged elements. We will have worship music, and worshippers may sing hymns.

**CHILDREN’S MINISTRY:**

While we are offering a Children’s Story during our Worship Service, we are not offering Living Stones, the Sunday school class that happened concurrent with Worship, or Nursery Care during the Worship Service yet. We are hopeful that it can be added later this year.

**LIMITED AMENITIES:**

Refreshments are not offered, and food & beverages are not permitted in the building, since consuming them requires the removal of masks. Water fountains are closed. Restrooms are available in the hallway by the Church Office and in Fellowship Hall.

**CONTACT-FREE GREETINGS:**

Greeters wave a warm welcome, but do not shake hands. Doors are propped open. Bulletins will not be distributed.

**WHAT WE ASK YOU TO DO:**

IF YOU DON’T FEEL WELL, or have been around someone exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19, please stay home and worship with us online.

MAINTAIN SIX-FOOT DISTANCE between you and others who are not part of your family unit.

FACE COVERINGS are required at all times inside the church.

WASH YOUR HANDS often with soap and water.

FOLLOW DIRECTIONS given by our ushers/greeters. Avoid the temptation to socialize while inside the church building.



## Wanted: Mother's Day Pictures!

We have begun work on our 2021 Mother's Day video to be shown in our Sunday worship on May 9th. If you would like to have your mom or another woman who has been a significant influence in your life included, scan and send your photo to Cindy Andrews at [cyndrews@gmail.com](mailto:cyndrews@gmail.com).

You do not need to send another photo if you sent one last year, as they will automatically be included.

Cut off for including photos is Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.



## Attention High School Seniors! Scholarships Available

**Scholarships are available** for students who will be graduating from high school this year. Seniors expecting to attend any institution of continuing education are encouraged to apply. Application forms are available by contacting Lettie Morse by email at [emorse01@earthlink.net](mailto:emorse01@earthlink.net) and must be returned by **May 8th**. Applicants must be a member of Webster United Methodist and participating in some church activities.



This is also a good time to consider making a donation to the Memorial or Scholarship Fund. Donations may be designated for scholarships or other church projects in memory or in honor of loved ones, such as a graduating senior.

Lettie Morse, Chair, Scholarship Committee





**Drive By Graduation Reception**

**Celebrate Our Seniors!**

**Sunday, May 23, 1:30 - 2:00p**

**WUM Parking Lot**

**600 N Bompert, Webster Groves**

**Please drive by on Sunday, May 23rd between  
1:30 and 2p, and offer your congratulation to our  
2021 High School Seniors!**

**Cards/gifts can be dropped off at that time.**

**Please plan to stay in your vehicle and wear a mask.**



## **First Hands in Mission Opportunity for 2021**

**Thanks to Everyone, April LifeWise Food Drive Made Its Goal & More!**

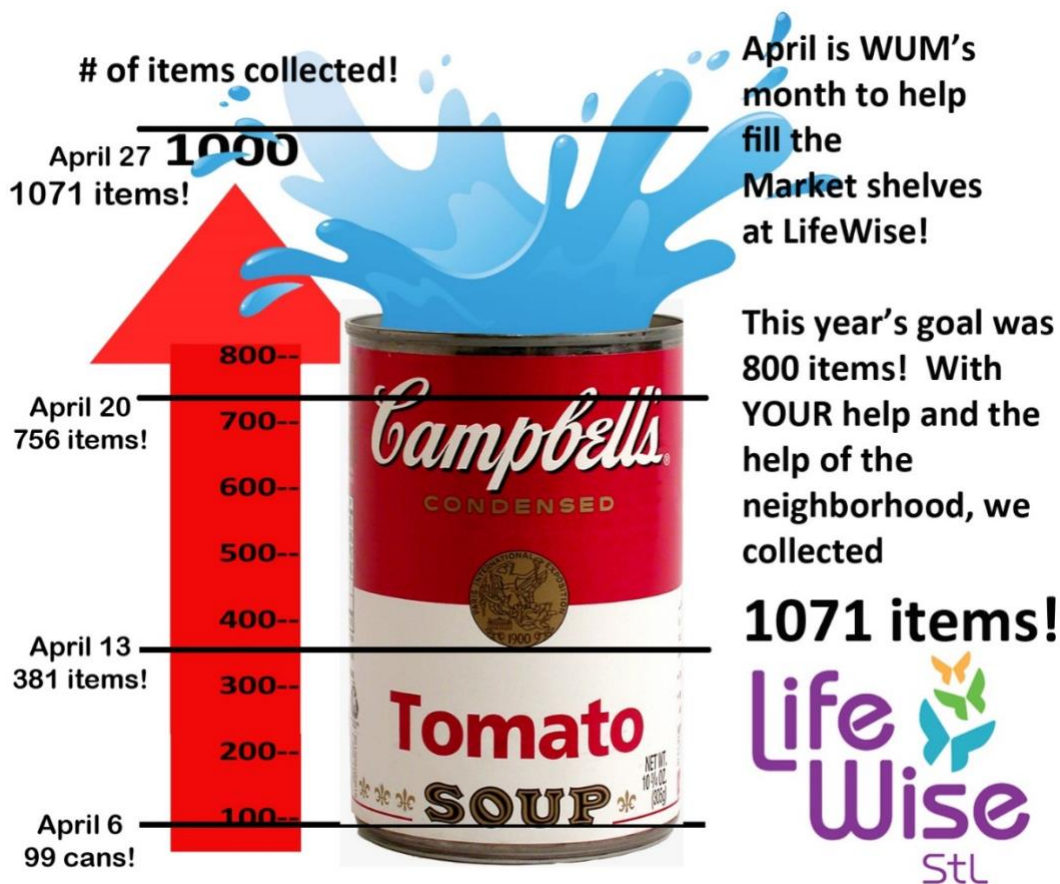
Even though on at least 2 Saturdays, we had more than "April showers," the Food Drive collected lots of food, and the volunteers braved some blustery, damp and

cool days this month to greet donors, put up the table, signs, and awning, and tabulate each day's donations.

Thank you so much to church folks who donated food for the LifeWise Market and to many of our Webster Groves neighbors, who dropped off things every Saturday. The last week's collection, ending on April 24, yielded 315 items, all of which helped our month-long drive to bring in a whopping 1,071 items!

Three shifts each of the four Saturdays in April meant we needed plenty of help, and I'm so appreciative for everyone who volunteered for a shift, and many worked 2 or more: Gene & Lettie Morse, Roger McCurley, Cindy Andrews, Louise and Randy Thomas, Helen Fuller, Carol Gilker, Dan Pike, Katie Renkins, Dave Hebner, Linda Guth-Stangl, Vicky Hoyer, Debbie Lund, and Alison McCurley. LifeWise and I are both truly grateful for your generosity!

Blessings,  
Jan McCurley







## **Volunteers needed to assist streaming Sunday Worship**

COVID has changed the way individuals attend worship and as a result, many churches will continue to offer online worship along with their in-person worship. We, too, plan to continue our Online Worship when we return to in-person worship. To be able to offer the flexibility of watching our worship from anywhere, or at any time during the week, we need volunteers willing to learn the exciting frontier of live streaming videos.

If you have an interest in learning new skills and assisting with streaming, please contact Gordon Ballam at [gcballam@gmail.com](mailto:gcballam@gmail.com). You do not need previous experience, although you need to be comfortable using computers and learning different types of computer software programs.



## **CHILDREN'S STORY TIME**

**Join us on May 15th for an Outdoor Children's Justice Event!**

We will play games, read a justice-themed book, and do mission projects. This will kick off our monthly, outdoor Children's Justice Storytime events! It will be held at 1pm on the church parking lot. Masks and distancing are required.



## 2021 SUMMER

This upcoming summer is going to be packed full of youth fun! We are in the midst of designing a Mission Experience, planning fun & community-based youth activities, and getting to know each other better.

We will spend some afternoons helping in the new community gardens. Some evenings we may spend playing with water balloons or other games!



Be sure to email [directoryouth@websterum.org](mailto:directoryouth@websterum.org) to be a part of the fun!!!

# May 2021

## WUM YOUTH Calendar

### May 2-Summer is Among Us

Join me on Zoom at 5:30 to talk about summer plans & Mother's Day! After our chat we'll play some Among Us!

### May 9-Mother's Day

No Youth!! Hang out with the special women in your world! They'll appreciate your presence.

### May 16-Parking Lot Planting

Join me on the parking lot for some personal planting. I'll bring dinner & the supplies to make personal herb gardens or flower gardens! See you at 5:30!

### May 23-Mission Trip Update!

Join me on Zoom at 5:30 to talk about our upcoming Mission experience this summer!

### May 30-Memorial Day Weekend-TBD



**Our Prayer Concerns:** Atlas and Ruth (Vicki Hoyer); Barb Stuart (Traci Stuart); Stacy Balafas; John Heddell (friend of the McCurleys); Joan Chellis, Linda (Lane Prather); George P (John Reed): Glen Gottshall (Sharon Vreeland); Joyce Simpson; Graves (Dan Pike); Lemasters/Daniels families (Lynne Wehrman); Ann Rittenbaum, Peter Schüren (Debbie Lund); Morgan (Margo Petracek); Ron and Carol Wright (Bev Mesey); Jacque (Linda Austin); Lorraine Bemis; Doris Thomas, (Randy Thomas); Kristen Kremer; Skip Reynolds (John and Sharon Wersching); Gayle Fields; Todd (Gordon Ballam); Sherry Dodd, Mia (Paula Murphy); Carol and Jim Simpson (Clarke Montford); Dorothy Reid (Sandy Reid); 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 Claywell; Joyce and Scott Simpson family; Ariana (Jan Hanson); Stuart/Reesor family; those

quarantined in close quarters; Sherry Bryan; 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.

Prayers will remain on the prayer list until we are notified to remove them.

**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) or contact one of our pastors:
  - Pastor Sharon at [pastorsharon@websterum.org](mailto:pastorsharon@websterum.org)
  - Pastor Josh at [assistantpastor@websterum.org](mailto:assistantpastor@websterum.org)
  - Pastor Paige at [directoryouth@websterum.org](mailto:directoryouth@websterum.org)