

April 22, 2021



*Choose Kindness Everyday!*

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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. Thank you! –Pastor Sharon



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

### **GUILTY**

The morning newspaper declared “Guilty on All Counts!” in inch-high letters. Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was convicted on Tuesday of murder and manslaughter after pinning George Floyd down in the street with his knee on Floyd’s neck for over 9 minutes. During that time, Floyd struggled to breathe, and called out for his mother. Then he was still.

What makes this a unique verdict is that, while it is but one of many violent encounters between black folk and white police officers illuminated this past year with the technical assistance of cellphone video, it is the first one where the white officer has been found guilty of murder by a jury of peers.

There have been other cases, other deaths, other videos, all alarming and seemingly clear-cut. But the cases, for one reason or other, didn’t make it to a guilty verdict. And even while this one seemed a slam-dunk, our nation still fretted over whether our historically white, male-dominated justice system would find a way to protect the perpetrating officer.

It is my prayer that this guilty verdict acts as a seminal moment for our country’s fight against racial injustice. President Biden hopes so too, saying Floyd’s death was “a murder in full light of day, and it ripped the blinders off the whole world” to see systemic racism.

There have been some notable changes in our country in the last year. From the pressure of tens of thousands who have taken to the streets in protest, many Confederate statues and flags have been removed from civic properties. Sales images for products like Uncle Ben’s rice and Aunt Jemima’s syrup have been rethought. And Peer Intervention Training, instilling the idea that officers have a duty to act as a check on their fellow officers’ misconduct, has been added to officer training in many police departments.

Perhaps most importantly, white awareness of potential racial discrimination has been raised, and continues to grow. Our un-seeing has been a sin of omission of our white culture, and especially of those of us who live in bubble-wrapped suburbia. I have certainly been guilty of it. Raising our awareness to both explicit

and covert discrimination against people of color is critical for all lives to really matter in our country, as they already do to God.

As Christ followers, we must continue to grow in vigilance, advocacy, and personal examination and transformation. There's a lot of guilt to go around.

Grace and peace+  
*Pastor Sharon*



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

**Risk-Taking Missions will run a food drive for LifeWise during the month of April.**

**Collection times are 9-12, 12-3, and 3-6 each of the four Saturdays in April.**

We'll have the awning over the outside table to protect volunteers & donations from sun or light rain. (In the case of bad weather, we will move volunteers & the table to the elevator lobby.)

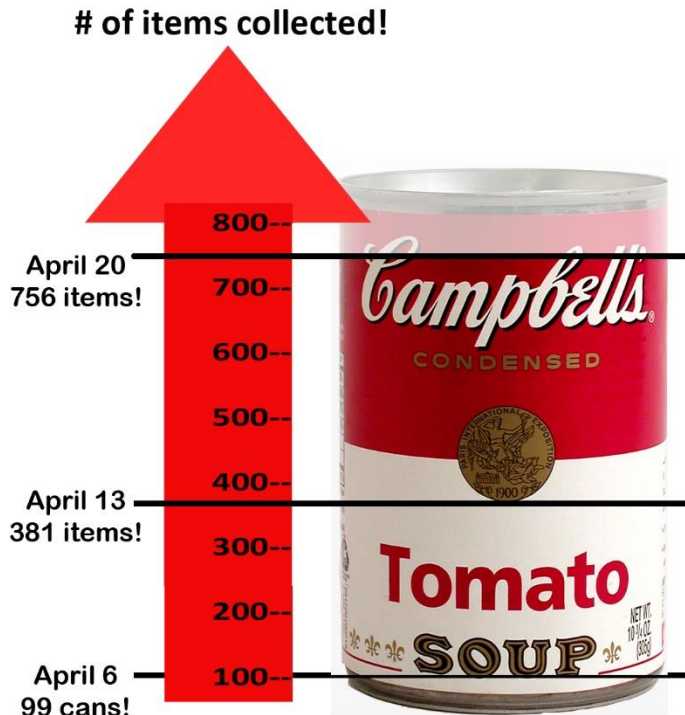
**Thanks for volunteering for the April Food collection Saturdays. The shifts are all filled. However, there will be another drive in June, so please consider volunteering then. More information later.**

Thanks from the Missions Team!  
Jan McCurley, Chair of Risk-Taking Missions



# We're almost there!

## And there's still one more Saturday to go!



April is WUM's month to help fill the Market shelves at LifeWise!

This year's goal is 800 items!

Let's watch the can of soup GROW!!



## Suggested Donations for LifeWise Grocery Collection

### Dry Goods

almond butter, cashew butter  
canned tomatoes  
canned tuna  
cereal  
dried beans – black, pinto, lentils  
flour  
grits  
oatmeal  
olive oil  
pasta – whole wheat, regular  
peanut butter  
rice – brown or white  
spices  
sugar

### Frozen

chicken breasts  
fish filets  
ground beef  
ground chicken  
ground turkey

### Fruits & Vegetables

fresh, frozen

### Perishables

almond milk  
butter  
cheese  
coconut milk, soy milk  
eggs  
yogurt  
**grocery store gift cards**

**SEE YOU SATURDAY, 9a-6p!!**



## 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.



## 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!!!

# April Youth Calendars 2021

**\*\*On Zoom unless noted\*\***

## **April 25-WEBSTER GROVES BIKE RIDE**

Bring a bike and helmet. I will talk to Joel if you need to borrow one! We will venture out to get some fresh air & exercise & probably some ice cream!! **We will hit the road this Sunday at 5:30p from the WUM parking lot.**



**Our Sympathy to** the family of Patrick Claywell who passed away April 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Our Prayer Concerns:** 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)