

May 5, 2021



Drive By Graduation Reception

## Celebrate Our Seniors!

Sunday, May 23, 1:30 - 2:00p  
WUM Parking Lot  
600 N Bompart, 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.

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](mailto:pastorsharon@websterum.org)  
[assistantpastor@websterum.org](mailto:assistantpastor@websterum.org)  
[directormusic@websterum.org](mailto:directormusic@websterum.org)  
[directoryouth@websterum.org](mailto:directoryouth@websterum.org)  
[directorchildren@websterum.org](mailto:directorchildren@websterum.org)  
[secretary@websterum.org](mailto: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 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

### Honoring the Women in our Life

The modern holiday of Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother, Anne, at St Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia.

Anne Jarvis had been a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the American Civil War, and created Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. Anna Jarvis wanted to honor her mother by continuing the work she started and to set aside a day to honor all mothers. In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day, held on the second Sunday in May, as a national holiday to honor mothers.

The holiday quickly became commercialized, as Hallmark Cards had started selling a line of Mother's Day cards and candy makers began marketing candy as the perfect way to honor moms. Ironically, Anna Jarvis then organized boycotts of Mother's Day, and threatened to issue lawsuits against the companies involved. Jarvis argued that people should appreciate and honor their mothers through handwritten letters expressing their love and gratitude, instead of buying gifts and pre-made cards.

Fast forward, and today we still honor and remember our mothers, many of us with cards, candy, and flowers. Yeah, there's lots of profits made off the holiday. But sentiment hasn't disappeared. The point is that we turn our attention to the women in our life who have been supportive and loving, who have shared their lives with us, and in many cases, given us life.

Jesus loved and honored his mother, using nearly his last breath, while hanging on the cross, to ensure her care. To his disciple John, he said, *"Here is your mother."* To his mother, Jesus declared, *"Behold, your son."* From that point forward, Mary lived in John's home. Jesus connected with his mother and gave her the gift of love by securing her continued care in a context where an unattached woman would surely become destitute.

There are women in your life who have given you life, physically or emotionally. You don't have to wait for that one day a year to express appreciation, but

certainly this Sunday, they will feel your love through a connection with them. Call them on the phone. Write them a letter, or if you've forgotten how to use a pencil, text or email these special women from your heart. Show up for a short visit. Cards, candy, and flowers are nice. But give them the gift of your time, and they will be over the moon.

I propose we honor these women beyond the holiday by living lives in a way that would make them proud. In the footsteps of Anne Jarvis, continue the work in the world that our mothers and mothers-in-faith undertook before us. How did they invest their love in the world?

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) Bompat 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 yourself 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.



## 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



## April LifeWise Food Drive

Today in the donation basket I found & then delivered to LifeWise 37 more items! That brings our total to 1,108 items! Thanks again to all!

Jan McCurley, Chair



## **Hello Church,**

I am writing to you with excitement as we open up our Mountain Service, outside on May 6th and will continue weekly until further notice. Last summer, our outdoor services were a blessing to the worship team as well as our neighborhood. Please join me on the parking lot on May 6th and every following week. I look forward to seeing you all there! Let me know if you have any questions.

Blessings,  
Pastor Joshua



## **Caring for Creation in PA March/April Response Magazine**

In the beginning God created the heavens and earth.....And God saw that it was good.

In 2011 a scientific study connected exploding water wells and flammable tap water in PA to contamination from hydraulic fracturing. In 2013 in PA a young boy's skin was burned from bathwater contaminated by the hydraulic fracturing pad near his home.

The author's grandfather, who lived in Frackville, PA, died of black lung after working as a coal miner.... God sees that this is not good.

Researchers found that expectant mothers living in the area of fracking were 40% more likely to give birth prematurely. And people are 4 times more likely to have an asthma attack. They are more likely to be hospitalized for heart conditions, neurological illnesses, and cancer. Children are at greater risk for respiratory problems.

Thankfully, God made humankind in God's image, allowing us to be caretakers of the earth. As Christians we are Good News people. What is the Good News? The sun and wind that can cause extreme damage can also be used for good. The sun can be harnessed for solar energy. The wind can power windmills. And instead of drilling for natural gas, we can tap into the land for thermal energy.

The women of Susquehanna UMW have created a Creation Care Ministry team. Some have lobbied in the state capitol for 100% clean renewable energy for PA. We support youth demanding urgent action for climate change. The author joined a clean energy co-op that invests money to cover the up-front cost of solar installations.

In United Methodist Women we pledge "Just Energy" for all. We pray that.....God sees this and that it is good.

UMW Reading Group Coordinator  
Carol Gilker



## **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 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:** Ron Boelloeni; 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)