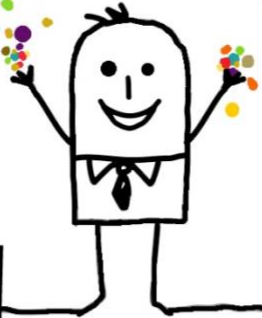


May 13, 2021



Welcome
Back!

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
assistantpastor@websterum.org
directormusic@websterum.org
directoryouth@websterum.org
directorchildren@websterum.org
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.

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



WUM Newsletter Deadline

All articles and submissions sent to secretary@websterum.org by **Mondays at 10a** will be included in that week's newsletter.



...a message from Pastor Sharon

Coming Back to In-Building Worship

Sunday, May 23rd is our re-opening for Sanctuary Worship!

We're very excited around here, and lots of people are involved in preparing the space to be in compliance with the St. Louis County protocols and our own. Here's what you need to know about being a part of the in-building worship experience.

- **We will be using a reservation system** for those who wish to attend in-person Sunday Worship. Currently, we must limit our capacity, so make your reservation between Sunday noon and Friday noon before the Sunday of worship you wish to attend.
- **There are three ways to make your reservation:**
 - **Sign up on our website**, websterunitedmethodist.org.
 - **Call the Church Office** at 314-961-4133 and leave your message.
 - **Contact the Secretary** at secretary@websterum.org
- **The doors to the building will not open until 10am.** If you arrive earlier, please wait in your car or outside the building. This is because we are still preparing all the technical aspects of streaming the service online concurrently with our live worship.
- **At 10:00am, the doors will swing open** and you are invited to enter the building either through the Elevator Foyer Entrance or the Upper Bompert Entrance (the one with the steps). We will NOT be using the ramp entrance for Sunday Worship.
- **Please put on your mask**, and keep it on throughout the entire service.
- **Upon entering the building**, an Usher/Greeter will escort you to your seat in the sanctuary. It may not be (actually it probably won't be) the seat you usually sit in. Please be flexible with us. We are seating folks from the front to the back systematically in order to reduce unnecessary exposure passing people in the aisles.
- **If you are using the elevator** to access the sanctuary, you will be seated in an area that is most convenient to the elevator after the service concludes.
- **Wave your greetings to others**, but do not get up and move about the space.

- **You may sing**, though the hymnals have been removed. You will receive a sheet of lyrics for worship.
- **In time, all bulletin information** will be projected through PowerPoint on the wall. For now, just relax and allow us to guide you through the worship experience.
- **When passing the peace**, you will be invited to nod and wave to others from your seat.
- **An Usher/Greeter will release your pew** at the end of the worship service, just like at a wedding. Please go when dismissed, rather than waiting to speak with others. Once outside, you can chat with your old friends on the sidewalk or parking lot.

For more information, read the protocol (see below) for details.

Thank you, dear Church, in advance for your joyful flexibility. Above all, we want to gather again as a faith family while still maintaining a healthy environment for everyone.

Grace and peace+
Pastor Sharon



WE NEED YOU!

Can you smile behind your mask and joyfully welcome people into our church sanctuary for worship?

Yes? Then we need YOU to help us as an Usher/Greeter as we prepare to return to in-building worship on May 23rd!

We need extra Usher/Greeters to

- Hold the door open for folks to enter at two entrances.
- Welcome them to worship with a bright and cheery “Good Morning!”
- Seat folks, just like in a wedding, and release them row by row at the end of the service.
- Offer a song sheet, and a mask if they are not wearing one.

- And thank them, as they leave, for having been in worship with us that morning.

We will have an Usher/Greeter training at **10:00am on Saturday, May 22nd**.

If this sounds like something you could do, contact Stacy Ponder at slsponder@yahoo to join us.



Love Your Neighbor: Exploring Our Biases to Create Better Relationships

June 8, 15, 22 7:00 pm Church Parking Lot

Join us for an exploration of biases and how they influence our relationships with each other.

Come ready to reflect, discuss, and consider new ways of thinking about ourselves and our relationships.

A Justice Team offering developed and led by Lisa Miller and Jan Hanson

Carolyn Redmore



V.I.M. team working at MMDC was enriched by new experiences, accomplished a wide variety of tasks, and enjoyed warm fellowship.



From Sunday, May 2 through Thursday, May 6, Webster UM was well represented at Midwest Mission Distribution Center by five hardy volunteers who succeeded in assembling or building necessary items for the health, safety, and learning of adults and children needed anywhere in the world. Team members were Ellen Hendrickson, Jan McCurley, and three first-timers at MMDC: Lynne Wehrman, Kris Maly, and Pastor Sharon.

Monday and Tuesday, Ellen and Jan built two school desks which will accommodate three children each in some part of the world, while Lynne, Sharon, and Kris assembled seemingly tons of boxes of feminine hygiene kits and personal dignity kits. Each group said they reflected as they worked on children sitting in a classroom, maybe in Honduras or Africa in their new desks, or young women unable to leave their homes for school at certain times of the month who would be able to confidently do that now. Wednesday morning the group shared a lovely communion prepared by Pastor Sharon before she departed for home and vaccine #2. The remainder of Wednesday was a Rice Kit Packing day for the 4 volunteers, joining with 4 more regular MMDC volunteers to complete 523 rice kits by day's end. And, even though the group worked only a morning shift on Thursday, they were still able to fill, seal, and stack 2 ½ pallets worth---each holding 60 containers---of household cleaning buckets, for a total of 153!



The work is always rewarding at MMDC, and the team effort as well as the people we work with at the center are also gratifying. Accommodations in the dorm are some of the most comfortable offered to volunteers doing mission work, and each person's contribution of a supper meal this year was tasty and fun. We

already have reservations to return next May, 2022, and will be able to accommodate as many as 10 in the dorm. Thank you, Church, for your support of our work, and I hope each person reading this will consider joining us next year.

Yours in Christ,
Jan McCurley & VIM 2021 Team



Our Volunteers Return to Bethesda Dilworth

On Sunday, May 16, 2021, our fully vaccinated and masked volunteers will return to Bethesda Dilworth (BD) to lead worship. The residents and staff at BD have been fully vaccinated which allows us to return for the first time since January, 2020. The service will be held in the dining room to allow for social distancing. Song sheets will be used instead of the *Sonshine* songbook.

At 2:00 pm volunteers gather in the dining room on the second floor to receive assignments from Chaplain Michael Tooley, and then disperse to escort wheel-chair-bound residents who wish to attend. The half-hour service begins at 2:30. At BD we have the reputation of singing a lot because we begin singing beforehand. By 3:30 pm we have finished returning residents to their rooms. If you would like to volunteer this month or be added to the e-list, please contact Beth Anderson, #314-781-9923.



To all who donated to the **UMW Lenten Mission Project**, we thank you for your generous contributions. We collected **\$429.20** to benefit the six projects highlighted in the newsletter during Lent: *The Poultry Project, Girls Without Future: Sewing Project, Soap Project, Moore Community House-Women in*

Construction, Red Bird Mission-Vocational Technical School, and Gum Moon-ESL Classes. Thank you ALL!



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
Risk-taking Missions



Hello Church,

I am writing to you with excitement as we continue our Mountain Service outside. We opened on May 6th at 7:30pm, and will continue weekly until further notice. Last summer, our outdoor services were a blessing to the worship team, many of you, as well as our neighborhood. Please join me on the parking lot Thursdays at 7:30pm. 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



Drive By Graduation Reception

'21 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.



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. You do not need previous experience, although you need to be comfortable using computers and learning different types of computer software programs.



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 upper (stairs) 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.

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 concurrently 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.





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.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0944A9AE2EA0FF2-outdoor>



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 to be a part of the fun!!!

May 2021

WUM YOUTH Calendar

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: Caitlyn Kremer; 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 or contact one of our pastors:
 - Pastor Sharon at pastorsharon@websterum.org
 - Pastor Josh at assistantpastor@websterum.org
 - Pastor Paige at directoryouth@websterum.org