

May 27, 2021



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**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**

### **Living in Liminal Time**

Our Church Council leadership has embarked on reading a book together entitled "Being the Church in a Post-Pandemic World", by Kay Kotan. I know, we're not in a position to shake the dust of this pandemic off of our feet yet. But, after months and months of uncertainty, we are beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel, and it feels hopeful. We've just celebrated our return to worship in our sanctuary and small groups will be invited back to the church soon.

The author tells us we are in something called Liminal Time. That's the time between one season ending, (pre-COVID) and a new season beginning (post-

COVID). This time is marked by the disorientation that comes during transitions, like when we've survived a disruption in our life, and we're in that period before major adaptations are implemented as a result.

When my father had a massive heart attack and survived, he and my mother were in that space where they knew they couldn't go back to life as they had lived it, but they needed to listen and learn how to make healthy adaptations that would promote greater life for their future together.

So here we are with an opportunity to be proactive in how we move into a future changed by a year of complete disruption which has necessitated major adaptations to our way of doing and being church.

One of the things we learned this past year is how to create an online worship presence. Not only did it connect us to each other, but other people whom we haven't met yet are viewing too, as silent and anonymous guests. Our mission "to make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" calls us to figure out how to help them take next steps in their faith journeys.

Another critical thing we learned this past year is that our grounds offer great opportunities that we had largely neglected in the past. Because we are nestled within a neighborhood rather than on a main street, our Ted Tree out front of the church has become a marvelous connector to our immediate neighborhood, bearing messages, scriptures, invitations, VBS bags, and valentines. Our parking lot, too, is a huge asset we've learned to exploit, hosting worship gatherings, drive-thru children and youth events, celebrations, mission actions, small group studies, and prayer via the stone labyrinth.

Productive Liminal Time is a season of learning and listening, reflecting, and then planning action.

As our leadership continues to learn and reflect together, a new vision of reorientation will surely follow as we discern where God is calling us to point our feet. Please pray for our church leaders as we listen for God's whisperings.

*"Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them." (Isaiah 42:9)*

Grace and peace+  
Pastor Sharon

## Coming Back to In-Building Worship

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](http://websterunitedmethodist.org).
  - **Call the Church Office** at 314-961-4133 and leave your message.
  - **Contact the Secretary** at [secretary@websterum.org](mailto: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 Bompat entrance (the one with the steps). We will NOT be using the ramp entrance for Sunday worship.
- **Please put on your mask.**
- **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 of 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 again 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 Power Point 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 out on the sidewalk or parking lot.

Grace and peace+  
Pastor Sharon



## **Love Your Neighbor: Exploring Our Biases to Create Better Relationships**

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. We will meet on three separate Tuesdays, at 7 pm in the church parking lot. Together we will:

June 8: Explore the dynamics of implicit bias

June 15: Perform the online Harvard Implicit Association Test (IAT)

June 22: Create an individual action plan for one or two of our own biases

An offering from the WUM Justice Team

*To register: contact Carolyn Redmore at [cdredmore@aol.com](mailto:cdredmore@aol.com) or 314-249-8215*

## Two Scholarships Awarded in May, 2021



The Scholarship Fund was begun by Henry and Jan Prince several years ago. We are grateful for any love donations in memory or honor of loved ones. Committee members include Margaret Skouby, Stan Richert, Debbie Lund and Alice Treece.

The standards for the Henry and Jan Prince Scholarship Fund are as follows: The student must be a member of Webster United Methodist and have participated in church activities. The scholarship will be awarded based on the student's need as compared to the family's income. We also take in consideration the student's academic grades but a high grade average is not necessary to receive a scholarship. Both students who applied this year meet those qualifications. Rachel Krakos and Lily Nunes were both baptized in this church as babies. They will each receive a \$1000 scholarship.

Rachel has been a nursery helper, dance leader and communion steward at Webster UM. At school she was in band, Varsity Sports Club, Varsity Cougarettes and Special Olympics. She has graduated from Affton High School, and will be attending Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville with plans to be a Special Education teacher.



Lily has been a member of youth group and participated in all mission trips since she was eligible. She was on the Church Nominations Committee, was a nursery helper and has sung in the youth choir. At school she participated in soccer, lacrosse, and tennis. Musically she was in Acapella choir and vocal jazz group. She also attends Young Life group. She has graduated from Kirkwood High School, and will attend SEMO studying to be an occupational therapist.



**Graduates Lily Nunes, Rachel Krakos, and Caroline Christensen. Well done!**

There will be a Graduation Mountain Service Celebration for our Webster University graduates on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:30p.

- Jessica Clones
- Amber Kelso
- Scott Leeker



## Here's A Hands in Mission Opportunity for June!

The Risk-Taking Mission & Service Team is organizing **a Webster Rock Hill Ministries Food & Hygiene Drive** for the month of June. Here's how you can help.

- **Volunteer** to be part of a team of 2 people staffing a drop-off donations table in our church parking lot each Monday and Wednesday in June, **beginning June 7, 11 AM -1PM & 2 Saturdays in June, 6/12 and 6/26, 4-6 PM.** We will store the donations in Fellowship Hall after each day's collection and drop them off at WRHM on selected Fridays in June.
- **Donate** urgently needed items to our donation site any of those days in June, or place them in the elevator lobby collection bins if you can't make a drop-off day. Currently the list of needs is the following, but it is subject to change if needs change:
  - Toilet paper
  - Hand soap and hand sanitizer
  - Personal hygiene items (women's sanitary products, diapers, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.)
  - canned meats & canned vegetables
  - dry food items (beans, rice, cereal, etc.)

We need at least 7 more people to volunteer for those times, so please email Jan McCurley soon at [Janis.mccurley@gmail.com](mailto:Janis.mccurley@gmail.com)

Thank You!  
Jan & the Mission Team







LifeWise STL seeks to build strong, literate and empowered youth prepared to make a difference in themselves, their families, communities, nation and world. As such, our organization became a Freedom Schools Program Partner in 2016. By providing this program, LifeWise STL plays a much-needed role in helping to curb summer learning loss and close achievement gaps.

For Summer 2021 Freedom School Read Aloud, we are offering both in-person and virtual volunteer opportunities!

### **In-Person Opportunities**

Volunteers will join our scholars for morning activities, which include cheers and chants, a time for quiet reflection, and a read aloud! You are welcome to bring your own age-appropriate book/poem/article with you to read, or one can be provided. If you do choose your own, we ask that the reading you choose take no longer than five minutes to read aloud, as this will allow for time for scholars to ask questions.

***Please note:*** All in-person readers **MUST** submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination. Volunteers are also required to abide by the [guidelines provided here](#).

### **Sign Up!**

We're using SignUp.com to organize our upcoming SignUps.

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click one of these links to see our SignUps:  
[Samaritan UMC Sign-Up \(K-2\)](#)  
[Maplewood UMC Sign-Up \(K-4\)](#)  
[LifeWise StL Sign-Up \(K-4\)](#)  
[The Connection UMC Sign-Up \(K-2\)](#)

[Beloved UMC Sign-Up \(5-8\)](#)

[LifeWise StL Sign Up \(HS\)](#)

2. Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like. [Click here](#) for more detailed instructions.
3. Sign up! It's Easy – you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.

Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact us and we can sign you up manually.

### **Virtual Opportunities**

Volunteers will choose a book/poem that is meaningful to them and age-appropriate, record themselves reading the piece, and send it to us at LifeWise to be included each morning as part of our summer program.

### **Sign Up!**

We're using SignUp.com to organize our upcoming SignUps.

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click one of these links to see our SignUps:  
[Virtual K-4 Sign-Up](#)  
[Virtual 5-8 Sign-Up](#)  
[Virtual HS Sign-Up](#)
2. Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like. [Click here](#) for more detailed instructions.
3. Sign up! It's Easy – you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.

Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact us and we can sign you up manually.

### **Contact Us**

If you have any questions, please contact Dan Richter, Director of Volunteer Engagement & Service Learning, at [drichter@lifewisestl.org](mailto:drichter@lifewisestl.org) or 314-627-1233.

A direct link might be helpful! Here you go:

<https://www.lifewisestl.org/summer-reader-volunteer-sign-up/>



## **JUSTICE NOTES: PEACE WITH JUSTICE OFFERING SUNDAY, MAY 30**

This offering funds proclamation of the Good News through support of ministries of the General Board of Church and Society (GBSC) and our annual conferences. Two examples: In 2019, the reading mentoring program at Hodgen Elementary in St. Louis (in which several of our members participated as mentors), was supported by a Gateway Central District Social Justice grant made possible by the Peace with Justice Offering. This month the GBSC is supporting May being the Asian American Pacific Island Heritage Month which has touched me and I pray touches you, too.

While living in Tucson, Arizona, I learned from my (Asian American) Bishop Hoshibata that during WW II, a Japanese internment camp was located just southwest of Tucson on Tohono O'Odham Nation land in spite of that nation's opposition to the internment camp. He visited the ruins of that site and thanked Tohono O'Odham leaders for their quite understandable stand against the internment. Bishop Hoshibata was an active leader of Church & Society's General Board.

I was reminded of this piece of my experience reading an email from Susan Henry-Crow, General Secretary of the United Methodist Church's General Board of Church and Society, on May being AAPI Heritage Month. She began by highlighting the diversity and multiple ways these citizens have enriched our churches and community, then moved on to reflect on the sobering reality of historic and recent acts of violence and hatred that have resulted in death and injury of AAIP persons. She quoted the National Federation of Asian American United Methodists: "These acts of hatred are neither sporadic nor haphazard. They reflect a larger systemic trend of anti-Asian American animosity brought on during the COVID-19 pandemic." She commended the U.S. Senate for passing the anti-Asian hate crimes bill by an overwhelming majority of 94-1. This bill seeks to address the drastic increase in hate crimes towards people of Asian descent in the U.S. during the pandemic. She calls us to contact our Representative, urging passage of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act. She concluded: "Together, we can bring about a more just and peaceful world where all God's children are valued, safe, and loved."

(gbcs@umcjustice.org/news&stories/standinginsolidaritywiththeAIPcommjunity ). BREAKING NEWS: COVID-19 Bill passed the House last week.

You may give online or by check/memo line Peace with Justice Offering (mailed in or placed in the offering basket at church). Join me in a 2nd action step of calling a Congressional Representative and thanking them for passage of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act.

Peace and Justice  
Carolyn Redmore--Justice Team Facilitator



**UPDATED: Two Dates to Sign Up for ZOOM Safe Sanctuary Training!** If you signed up last week, please do so again as the email address was incorrect. The correct email is: [Louisethomas1@att.net](mailto:Louisethomas1@att.net)

Saturday Morning, June 5<sup>th</sup> 9:00am-10:15am  
OR  
Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm-7:15pm



**All those** who would like to work with children, youth, or vulnerable adults in our church family in a leadership role or as a helper need to take this annual training and be certified. Please contact Louise Thomas at [Louisethomas1@att.net](mailto:Louisethomas1@att.net) to sign up for your preferred date.



## Wanted: Father's Day Pictures!

Father's Day is fast approaching and we are working on our 2021 Father's Day video that will be shown during our Sunday worship on June 20th. If you would like to have your dad or another man 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 Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup>.



### 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!

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.

If this sounds like something you could do, contact Stacy Ponder at [slsponder@yahoo](mailto:slsponder@yahoo) to join us.





## 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

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

## June 2021

### WUM YOUTH Calendar

**ITS SUMMER!!!!** Come hang out at Webster UM. Most evenings will include activities outside to keep us safe. Masks will be required whenever we are indoors or unless otherwise stated. Keep up the good work! We have been able to stay healthy because of our diligence!!

### **June 6-Swing Around Fun Town!**

We will meet at Swing Around Fun Time for a spectacular evening!! Bring a friend as we'll be able to spread out throughout the facility. Time TBD.

### **June 13-Water Balloons & Ice Cream Sundae Bar**

We will party on the parking lot kicking off summer with some water balloons! Bring a towel, clothes you can get wet in, and your favorite ice cream topping!!!! 5:30-7:30 with dinner provided.

### **June 20-Community Garden Day**

We will join some of Josh's friends in their community garden. Plan to get a little dirty. I'll feed ya! See ya at 5:30

### **June 27-Yoga Night!**

I'm in cahoots with a black-owned yoga studio! Hopefully they'll be able to come out and lead us in learning some stress & anxiety reducing techniques! 5:30 dinner time before yoga.



I am so excited to announce this year's VBS! The title is Compassion Camp: Changing the World with Lovingkindness. It will focus on learning about compassion through lovingkindness, and how we can be more compassionate, Christ-filled people.

There will be a mix of online and outdoor in-person events throughout June 14th-18th. The in-person events are not necessary for the curriculum, but will be a lot of fun for those comfortable joining! Please use this link to register by June 4th. This initial registration is for VBS as a whole. There will be additional registration for the in-person events later.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vacation-bible-school-compassion-camp-tickets-155849212189>



**Our Prayer Concerns:** Paulette Carr (Helen Fuller); 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.

Beginning this week, prayers will remain on the prayer list for two weeks.

**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)