

June 3, 2021



1 John 4:8

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Youth Ministry, Pastor Paige Foster
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<https://websterunitedmethodist.org/>



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

Another Skeleton Unearthed

Over the weekend, we heard a lot about the Black Wall Street Massacre, a secret of our history that was never taught in my American History class. Probably not in yours either.

May 31 to June 1 marked the 100th anniversary of the massacre, which occurred over two days in 1921 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It saw an armed white mob, many of them deputized and given weapons by city officials, descend upon Tulsa's Greenwood District. Greenwood was one of the wealthiest Black communities in the United States and home to hundreds of Black-owned businesses, earning it its nickname. The violence that ensued killed as many as 300 of the city's Black residents, injured hundreds more and left 35 city blocks "in charred ruins." It has been described as "the single worst incident of racial violence in American history," and much of the property and wealth the city's then-prosperous Black community had built up over decades was destroyed. This event was catastrophic to those who lived through it, but it served to also impact succeeding generations by preventing the passage of their wealth to their descendants.

How this egregious hate crime was covered up and buried over a century speaks volumes about white power and privilege. It is another distressing skeleton in the history of our country that has surfaced to rain on our patriotic parade. It just lies there, waiting to be faced.

What do we do with this? What would justice for those buried in trench graves look like? What kind of reparations could ever be adequate to bring about restoration? And where would that money come from? And if for them, then what for other peoples who have suffered at the hands of a white empire?

Friends, the pain and damage done in the name of white sovereignty and superiority is deep and wide. It makes me feel super uncomfortable, and I'm left shaking my head in response. I haven't a clue how to make it right to those who have suffered at the hands of my white forefathers. But I can look at my own heart. What biases do I nurture there that affect how I see and treat others?

I am ready and willing to be more uncomfortable so I can learn about them, and I invite you to join me. Come to the Bias Conversations being led by our Justice Team, June 8, 15, and 22 in the church parking lot at 7pm.

Email credmore@aol.com to register.

It's a place to begin.
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.
 - **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.**
- **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



Camp Invention – Plenty of Opportunities!

Camp Invention, a program for children in kindergarten through 6th grade is being held in our education facilities the week of June 14th to 18th. Here are some of the opportunities:

- More students are welcome. There are currently 56 registered but more can be included. For more info about the camp, go to <https://www.invent.org/programs/camp-invention>.
- Leaders in training (7th - 9th grades) are needed.
- Leadership Interns 10th grade and older are also needed.
- Certified Teaching positions are available which include stipends. Teaching certificates are required.

Contact: [invent.org](https://www.invent.org) or terrirell@gmail.com for details.



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. Bring a lawn chair and your smart phone.

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 or 314-249-8215



Our College Graduates are

- Jessica Clones,
- Amber Kelso, and
- Scott Leeker!

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

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 Mondays and Wednesdays **June 7-June**

23, 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, adult diapers, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.)
- canned meats & canned vegetables
- dry food items (beans, rice, cereal, etc.)

Any questions? Please email Jan McCurley at Janis.mccurley@gmail.com or [call/text 314-378-5504](tel:314-378-5504)

Thank You!

Jan & the Mission Team



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. 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 12th.





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 the reading you choose takes 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.

Virtual Opportunities are also available. For more info, go to
<https://www.lifewisestl.org/summer-reader-volunteer-sign-up/>



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

Saturday Morning, June 5th 9:00am-10:15am

OR

Wednesday , June 9th 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 to sign up for your preferred date.





Brad and Janet Ballam brought their daughter **Nora Rita Ballam** on Sunday, May 30, 2021, to be baptized by Rev. Sharon Kichline in the presence of church members who pledged their support.

Brad and Janet live in Portland, Oregon where Brad works in Finance at Nike, and Janet is an RN in Neurology at Oregon Health and Sciences University.

Nora's grandparents Joan and Gordon Ballam, and George and Rita Yu, Aunt Christina and Uncle Robert with cousins Benjamin and Nicholas, and

Aunt Irene and soon-to-be Uncle Mike were also a part of the celebration of Nora's baptism.

Brad was raised in this church, and he and Janet have continued to pledge every year, and worship with us every Sunday through our online worship service. Before they moved, they were both active in our Room at the Inn ministry. Their 5-year plan will hopefully bring them back to us in St. Louis to live among the grandparents one day soon.

Brad and Janet, technology changes the way we do church now. We are blessed to be your church and to baptize Nora Rita Ballam. Welcome to the family!





2021 SUMMER

Be sure to email Paige at 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 & precautious. Masks will be required whenever 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 amongst 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 Loving-kindness.

It will focus on learning about compassion through loving-kindness, 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 whoever is 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: Bev Mesey, 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)

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