

June 17, 2021



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...a message from Pastor Sharon

CHANGING PROTOCOLS

Dear Church,

As we move through this season of thoughtful re-opening, our Church Council has approved the following changes in our current COVID Protocol:

- The hymnals, Bibles, pencils and “I Give” cards are back in the sanctuary.
- The Joseph Bags are available for the children again.
- Vaccinated worshippers may remove their masks when they are seated in the sanctuary. Those not vaccinated should remain masked.
- People may seat themselves, with the caveat that they maintain 6-foot distances from others.
- Small groups including both vaccinated and un-vaccinated persons may gather in the building for Sunday school, classes, quilting, and the like. Unvaccinated persons need to retain their masks during group gatherings.
- We will continue to use the two entrances to reduce traffic.
- We will continue to restrict the elevator to two 2 persons (or one family).
- We will continue the cap of 70 persons in total, which follows the 6-foot protocol.
- We will continue to release persons by pew at the end of the service.
- We will continue to encourage conversations outside of the building.

The question arose about whether we are okay to allow unmasked singing in the sanctuary during worship. The CDC's current recommendations, found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>, are clear that not only can we get the vaccinated choir back together when they are ready to resume their rehearsals, but also that vaccinated persons sitting in the pews may sing unmasked without fear of exposing others. Unvaccinated persons should remain masked when singing.

Friends, it seems like there are new guidelines and protocols every week as the country opens up again. Our overarching goal is to “do no harm”. To that end, we are guided by the science and the recommendations of health professionals.

I look forward to seeing more and more of you in worship soon.

Grace and peace+
Pastor Sharon



Annual Conference 2021 Offering for Migrants and Refugees

Our theme this year at Annual Conference is Abundant Mind, Body, and Spirit. One of the offerings being taken at Annual Conference is in support of migrants and refugees living and working in our state. Let me tell you a little about it.

Part of living abundantly means sharing God’s gifts with others, including Missouri’s migrant and seasonal farmworkers and refugees resettled within our state. Monies shared during this offering will be distributed among two Methodist-heritage agencies supporting the work of refugee and migrant communities, Della Lamb and LifeWise STL, and with the Migrant Farmworkers Assistance Fund.

If you would like to contribute to this worthy offering, send in your check to WUM, and write “Migrants” in the memo section.

---Pastor Sharon



Food/Hygiene Drive

The first week of our Food/Hygiene Drive to benefit Webster Rock Hill Ministries successfully brought in **240 items** with lots of hardy volunteers braving our extreme heat.

We filled 2 cars with donations for WRHM on Tues. June 15, totaling 424 items so far this month!

New Executive Director Derrick Bastion met us with multiple shopping carts and asked that we please convey to the church how grateful they are.

Thank you for your continued generosity! Thanks to all those volunteering and donating, and please continue to give your time and donations.



Jan McCurley & the Mission Team



The Food & Hygiene Drive volunteers on Monday, June 14 had some lovely stories to share from the community. Thanks to Ellen

Hendrickson and Louise Thomas for passing these along! They also collected 184 items just that day!

A couple of nice stories I will share with you. One was from a family that used to live down the street from the church and had gone to our preschool for one year before they moved over near Webster High School. The little girl had her 9th birthday party over the weekend and didn't want presents but asked her guests to bring some canned goods if they would like. She probably had at least 30 cans or more.

There is a white basket filled with items—the lady said she was clearing out her parent's pantry and she wanted to donate it. She said for us to keep the basket so feel free to use it however.

Another lady brought 3-4 bags or boxes of food. She said she was a teacher when CASA music school met at our church (before the pandemic) and usually brought something each week to put in the baskets in the elevator entryway. Since they hadn't been meeting for a long time, she just loaded up and brought a very generous supply as she had seen our sign. Such generous and very nice people.



*Thank you
your supplies have
shipped!*



*For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings,
I will sing for joy." Psalm 63:6*

Midwest Mission sent a shipment through our partner, Food for the Poor, on June 3rd, going to the people of Haiti.

The shipment sent essential humanitarian aid to the non-profits Food for the Poor, Higgins Brothers Surgicenter, Hearts for Haiti, and School of Hope to disburse around Haiti. Higgins Brothers Surgicenter helps perform surgeries for the people of Haiti through Haitian Christian Mission. Hearts for Haiti helps provide an array of services to the children of Haiti, and School of Hope gives the children of Haiti an education. It now serves over 400 students from Kindergarten through 9th grade.

The people of Haiti will receive;

- 560 Midwest Mission Student Kits
- 130 Midwest Mission Student Desks
- 23,768 Midwest Mission Rice Meal Kits

All supplies valued at \$84,668.00

Midwest Mission would like to thank you and those that partnered with you to assemble these much-needed kits.



The online GIVE opportunity.

Have you tried “GIVE” on the church website yet? This online option provides an alternative to check writing for making donations to the church budget and other giving opportunities. It can be especially convenient when you are not able to be in the church. The online site can be used for occasional giving or can be used for regularly scheduled donations such as a weekly or monthly pledge payment. This option can also provide you with a summary of your online giving.

When you click on GIVE on the front page of our website (websterunitedmethodist.org) you are directed to the GIVE page where you click, “Give Now”. Next, you are asked to enter the amount you wish to donate (no need to login). Next, choose where the donation should go, General Budget (pledge), Loaves & Fishes, or other options such as Special Offerings. Next your name and address and email address are requested so that you can receive an acknowledgement of your gift. To make the payment you are offered the option of using a credit card or your bank account. Finally, you can choose to cover the fee charged by the service. This amounts to about 3% for a credit card and 1% for a bank account. For example, if you make a \$50 donation on your credit card the fee will be about \$1.80. If you choose to cover the fee the church receives \$50, if not the church receives \$48.20. [Your giving statement will show either \$51.80 or \$50]. Your donation is almost immediately acknowledged with an email from our Pastor.

The online giving option is provided for your convenience and is already used by a number of our members. You may wish to give it a try; it’s as easy as shopping online.

Derek Redmore, Finance Committee Chair



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 one last Tuesday at 7 pm in the church parking lot or Fellowship Hall. Bring a lawn chair and your smart phone.

If you haven't been able to attend, you can still come to the final meeting. You may want to explore the implicit biases in your world by taking one of the Harvard Implicit Bias tests online (<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>).

On June 22 we will create an individual action plan for one or two of our own biases.

This conversation is an offering from the WUM Justice Team.

To register: contact Carolyn Redmore at cdredmore@aol.com or 314-249-8215



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.

Bring urgently needed items to our donation site 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.

Thank You!
Jan & the Mission Team



CONNECTING WITH JUNETEENTH

Growing up in southwest Louisiana, I was vaguely aware that Juneteenth was something celebrated in the "Quarter" (where Black folk lived in my small home town). Two years ago, I became aware that a local group was sponsoring a Juneteenth celebration at Deer Creek Park in Maplewood (aka "the rocket park"). United Methodist Women made a donation to cover registration for clients of Webster Rock Hill Ministries and donated watermelon. Edna Johnson enthusiastically brought several of her Unity friends with her, as she has celebrated Juneteenth in Houston with her daughter, Jeannie. Derek and I enjoyed being with Unity friends, having traditional Juneteenth food and drink, learning about the "underground" meaning of gospel music and what the celebration means to a North Webster resident, Karen Anderson.

This experience reminded me that Juneteenth can be a time for all of us to connect with the challenging journey from slavery to freedom that continues to this day. Six guidelines for White folk from the UMC's General Commission on Race and Religion:

- Respectfully attend or volunteer at events.
- Preach, teach, about the current face of racism.
- Support Black churches, charities and businesses.
- Listen and read about challenges and achievements of African-Americans today.
- Confront the history in our community.
- Focus on Juneteenth in church school and small groups.

For starters: Juneteenth (June 19) marks the day in 1865 when U.S. federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to take control of the state and ensure all slaves were freed. Why a full two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation had been signed? Literacy for enslaved people in southern states had been illegal. Since White folk controlled and manipulated information, that

news was suppressed in Texas. Upon learning of their legal freedom, African-Americans celebrated, calling the celebration Juneteenth.

How has White control continued to impact full freedom for all?

Carolyn Redmore for the Justice Team



HELLO CHURCH! Our youth group is going on a mission trip to Louisville, KY July 18-23 and we hope you will encourage us along the way!

We know you'll all be praying for us and sending us well wishes, but this year we'll be doing something new! You, as a part of the Webster UM family, can 'sponsor' a youth or adult mission trip participant!



Sponsors are expected to pack a small bag of goodies for their sponsoree. No larger than a brown paper bag-one for every day (5). Bags will need to be delivered to the elevator foyer by 8:00pm July 16.

You can fill these bags with treats, snacks, sunscreen, Chapstick, deodorant, sunglasses, silly string, bouncy balls, beef jerky, Gatorade, juice boxes, etc. We hope you will add notes of encouragement or prayer and hints about who you are if you wish to remain anonymous.

Your sponsoree will open one bag per day! Having done this in the past, waking up to a sponsor bag is amazing!

Be on the lookout for a memo on this week's Connection Card! Please check YES! I hope you'll take this adventure with us!

Blessings,
Paige



June 2021 WUM YOUTH Calendar

ITS SUMMER!!!! Come hang out at Webster UM. Most evenings will include activities outside to keep us safe & precautions. 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!!

Contact directoryouth@websterum.org to connect with Pastor Paige.

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 5:30p.

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! 5:30p-- dinner time before yoga.





Our Prayer Concerns: Pam and James Day (Debbie Lund); Carol Burbon (Jo Ann Claywell); Barb (Traci Stuart); Johnny Denison (Carolyn Redmore); Alta Kopatsky and friend's dog Yogi, (Marcia Kennon); Gayle Fields (Cindy Andrews)

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



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.