

June 24, 2021

**I'D RATHER BE EXCLUDED
FOR WHO I INCLUDE**



**THAN BE INCLUDED
FOR WHO I EXCLUDE**

Pastor, Rev. Sharon Kichline
Assistant Pastor, Joshua Krakos
Music Ministry, Lamar Fitzgerald
Youth Ministry, Pastor Paige Foster
Children's Ministry, Shaeleigh Parsons
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...a message from Pastor Sharon

PIE DAY!



A Celebration of Pride Sunday

This Sunday, we will celebrate Pride, our kinship with and affirmation of all persons of the Igbtqia+ community (“queer” for short). We pause to celebrate because our affirming position as a Reconciling Church (since 2014) is an important part of our identity in our community and in Christ.

In searching for worship materials, I stumbled across this logo of a pie baked in a rainbow pan. Well, I love pie, so I was intrigued.

PIE stands for **P**ublic, **I**ntentional, and **E**xplicit.

When we were exploring stepping into membership of the Reconciling Ministries Network, the question arose, if we believe we are already a welcoming church, why do we have to say it out loud by joining a group?

The overwhelming response: that just isn’t enough. For people who have been shunned or shamed to change, our queer siblings need more than a generic “good morning” at the door. They need a sign. A sign that this will be a safe space, and that they are being welcomed because of their diversity, not “regardless”, or “despite” it. That their personhood will not only be invited in, but it will be affirmed as a beautiful expression of God’s love for the world. That they have a family of allies wanting to include them in this sacred space to worship a God of extraordinary diversity and grace.

That is why we pay our RMN dues, and fly our rainbow flag outside. To offer a sign.

We celebrate **PIE Day** this Sunday to be **P**ublic, **I**ntentional, and **E**xplicit in our welcome.

I hope you will join us for in-building worship at 10:30a, or online at websterunitedmethodist.org (or on our Facebook page: Webster United Methodist).

The liturgy for our worship service is one of two commissioned for Affirming PIE Day 2020 by Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble and Affirming Connections from Enfleshed, which has its roots in the United Methodist church in the USA and beyond. Used with permission.

Grace and peace+
Pastor Sharon



2021 Missouri Annual Conference Report

This year the conference was conducted in a hybrid model with most clergy and lay delegates attending via live stream, with a much smaller number of folks attending in person. The over-arching theme was **Abundant: Mind + Body + Spirit**.

Overall, the Missouri conference is financially strong. The leaders are thoughtful and prayerful on how to lead us forward now and in anticipation of the upcoming General Conference. There are no outstanding lawsuits in the conference. The music was great, the videos well-produced highlighting great people and great work of the Missouri conference. There were many videos that focused on the mental health of the clergy and the need for leaders (and all of us) to reach out for professional help if (when) it is needed.

The learning time was on the Appointment Process (how pastors get moved around). It was interesting and complicated. As we already learned – **Pastor Sharon Kichline will be staying with us** for another year.

There were also worship, ordination, licensure, recognition and retirement celebrations.

The business of the conference was taken care of, votes were taken on several topics most routine, and one very big topic that is anything but routine.

RESOLUTION TO THE 2021 SESSION OF THE MISSOURI ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON DISTRICT RE-ALIGNMENT (93% yes)

The proposal has three parts:

1. Eliminate district apportionments

This has the goal that those funds would use at the local level.

2. Establish 5 new districts from 9 districts (currently named A, B, C, D, E). The cabinet recommended the geographic areas and the Bishop has the final decision on the actual configuration. A few questions raised during conference:

a. Where will the district offices be in the new districts? The location of district offices will be determined once the final districts lines have been finalized by the cabinet and Bishop.

b. Why change districts in July 2022 and the apportionments not until Jan. 2023? At this conference we approved the budget for 2022, **and** the redistricting proposal. The committee wanted to allow time for the current district offices to finish business and settle affairs after June 30, 2022 and that will take funds and personnel.

3. Reconfigure district assets for the new districts

Assets would include without limit: checking accounts, savings accounts, investment accounts, endowments, personal property and real estate. The assets of churches would be fairly allocated to the new district. The current 9 districts would be legally ended, and the new ones be created as non-profit organizations. There will be lots of legal and financial work to do at the district levels. An example of distribution would be: if 100 churches are moving to different districts and 40 move to District A (they get 40% of assets) and 60 move to District B (they get 60 % of assets).

Other business: voted on 2022 budget; clergy support in retirement, both pension and insurance; and approved the closure of 19 churches and disaffiliation of 5 churches.

Respectfully submitted by your Lay Conference Representative,
Paula Murphy



2021 UMW Mission Study

PUSHOUT - The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools

In writing the Leader's Guide for this study, Vanessa Wilson was very cognizant of the range of beliefs and experiences in United Methodism. She needed to write a document with credibility and connectivity to a diverse group of women -- and maintain her authentic voice to touch the hearts of so many different women. Prayerfully, she was hoping to build a bridge between "Pushout" and Methodist beliefs and values, connecting the mission of Christ "to preach good news to the poor, proclaim release to prisoners and sight to the blind, and liberate the oppressed."

She admits, although working in activism for criminal justice, she was not aware of the problems as criminal justice related to Black girls. Well aware of systemic racism in the US, the way it has impacted the lives of Black girls was a startling revelation. Growing up a Black girl in public schools, she was well aware of negative attitudes by some teachers, but dismayed that these types of incidents seem to be intensifying and are supported by school policy. The lines between education and criminal justice are blurring. She, herself, was mentored by UMW telling young people they had endless possibilities.

It is her hope that after finishing this study, UMW will feel called to engage in acts of mercy and justice. She gives examples to implement this goal and agrees continuous education is necessary.

For more on this subject, read "Pushout". Copy available in Fellowship Hall in UMW library; also available from the local library.

Carol Gilker, Reading Resources, UMW



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



Here's A *Hands in Mission* Opportunity for June

The last day for contributing to the Webster Rock Hill Ministries Food & Hygiene Drive is Saturday, June 26th, from 4-6p!

Bring urgently needed items to our donation site this Saturday, or place them in the elevator lobby collection bins if you can't make the drop-off day.

Currently the list of needs is the following:

- 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



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. 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 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: Barb Sarich, Stacy Balafas, Paulette Carr (Helen Fuller); James and Pam Day, Peter Schüren, Brett Nelson (Debbie Lund); Johnny Denson (Carolyn Redmore); Joanie AuBuchon (Joel Kichline); Ginny Donaho, Pat Price (Holly); Carol Burbon (Jo Ann Claywell); Barb (Traci Stuart); 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.