

July 1, 2021



*Wishing you a meaningful 4th of July*

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Music Ministry, Lamar Fitzgerald  
Youth Ministry, Pastor Paige Foster  
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## **...a message from Pastor Sharon**

### **Celebrating our Nation**

This week, we will celebrate our nation's birthday. It will be a time of parades, ice cream cones, and sparklers. Joel and I will be with extended family at our cabin. I will be holding babies.

This morning, I am thinking about this big birthday party from a theological perspective. Where is God in the midst of a distinctly secular celebration? How does our national pride fit into our worship service this Sunday?

I am reminded that in seminary, we learned that the Sanctuary of a church is meant to represent the Kingdom of God, where God, not the President (nor the Queen-or whoever runs your country), presides. It is therefore meant to be a place where the pursuit of justice and righteousness is palpable; where grace and mercy are found in abundance. It is not red. It is not blue. When one steps into God's house, we leave our national, political, and public affiliations behind. It is meant to be a place where radical welcome and equality reign, where diversity is honored, even while unity is cherished.

That is why the American flag has been removed from many sanctuaries. The flag of our nation champions unity through our patriotic affiliation, rather than unity through our faith in Jesus Christ. In God's Kingdom, there are no flags. Only a table of abundance where all peoples are ultimately gathered, and there is enough for everyone.

God is not American. Nor is God Russian, or Scandinavian. God is above all those limiting human constructs. Still, there is a proud American flag-waving, nation-loving patriot that lives in me, and maybe in you too. If we are not waving flags, pledging allegiance, or singing the National Anthem at church, how will we celebrate our nation and all our many freedoms?

**We will pray.** For our country, for our President, for all our leaders. We will pray that God's Holy Spirit will move in their lives, and they will be receptive to her leading, over the pulsating noise of public opinion, or the alluring song of personal power.

**We will remember.** We will remember the sacrifices of those who have protected us from harm, and our country's early mothers and fathers who reasoned and then fought this country into being.

**We will give thanks.** For the men and women who have served our country in the past; for their sacrifices made to keep us safe. For those who wear the uniform today with courage and honor. We will ask God's protection for them. These gifts, wrapped in love and respect, will be the perfect offerings.

Pastor Josh Krakos, Corporal in the United States Marines, will be leading our worship.

Grace and peace, in the name of Jesus Christ,  
Pastor Sharon



## Youth Car Wash!



**July 10-** come to the WUM parking lot and get your car washed!!! **Youth will be washing cars from 9:30-12:30 to raise funds for our mission trip to Louisville, KY!!** We'd love to see you, AND tell a friend!!



# Mission Trip Fundraiser at Kendra Scott

**in store & Online  
July 10 & 11**

Support the Webster  
United Methodist youth  
group mission trip to  
Louisville, KY

*While shopping in store at  
Kendra Scott, Plaza  
Frontenac, mention  
Webster youth group.*

*20% of your purchase will  
help us!*

*Online shoppers: use code  
GIVEBACK-AFDZY*

*\*\*NOT combinable with other  
offers\*\**



## **WEBSTER ROCK HILL MINISTRIES FOOD/HYGIENE DRIVE RESULTS IN GRAND TOTAL OF 876 ITEMS**

Thanks to both a generous church and a generous community, our June collection for WRHM, which ended June 26<sup>th</sup>, did quite well. After an earlier delivery on June 15<sup>th</sup> of two carloads amounting to 424 items, we delivered another full carload of 310 items to the agency on Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>! One of the women

receiving our donations said, “No one in Webster Groves should be hungry or unhealthy after this donation! Thank you so very much.”

On our final weekend, June 26-27<sup>th</sup>, in spite of frequent rain & wind, our collection time and a late drop off resulted in 142 more items, including an entire box of medical supplies and many personal hygiene items. These will be delivered on Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you so very much to the many “hands in mission” who assisted in numerous ways. The volunteers worked through extreme heat, strong winds, pouring rain, and the challenge of setting up or taking down the “tent” or awning, carrying in the table and supplies, as well as counting and transporting all donations to storage places in Fellowship Hall. Thank you, too, for those who gave their time and energy to help find and put up the large banner and help take it down again.

Jan McCurley & the Risk-Taking Mission & Service Team



## 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 3 parts

### **1. Eliminate district apportionments**

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

**2. Establish 5 new Districts, reducing from 9 districts to 5** (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 were 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 being 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 5 churches disaffiliated.**

Respectfully submitted by your Lay Conference Representative,  
Paula Murphy



## **Film Screening and Discussion - July 21 at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**

The film, “On the Other Side of the Hill”, reminds me of the saying that the grass is greener on the other side of the fence. That’s only true because you aren’t standing on the other side of the fence. Which leads me to the other advice-as-adage: walk a mile in someone else’s shoes and you will think differently about anything. This short (30-minute) documentary will give us a chance to look at the challenges of the climate crisis and how rural Oregon residents are trying to address it.

The film is made available to us by [Interfaith Power & Light](#), an ecumenical faith-based non-profit that seeks to find ways of being good stewards of the planet God created. They write:

The film is a hopeful, inspiring look at local leaders on the ground in rural America who are leading climate action in their communities. But it is also about coming together, finding common ground and new climate frameworks, and shining a light on rural voices as we envision a path forward.

I hope you’ll be able to join in the viewing and discussion in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, July 21, at 7 p.m. We will plan to be socially distanced and unvaccinated persons should wear a mask.

Debbie Lund  
For the Justice Team



## **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 on UMW library; also available from the local library.**

Carol Gilker, Reading Resources, UMW





**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





## July 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!!

Contact [directoryouth@websterum.org](mailto:directoryouth@websterum.org) to connect with Pastor Paige.

**July 4- NO YOUTH!** Celebrate the holiday safely with friends & family!!!

**July 10-** come to the WUM parking lot and get your car washed!!! Youth will be washing cars from 9:30-12:30 to raise funds for our mission trip to Louisville, KY!! We'd love to see you, tell a friend!!

**July 10 (evening)-** Drive in night with Connie & Joel; waiting to be confirmed!!!

**July 16-** Mission Trip sponsor bags are due in the elevator entry!

**July 18-23-8th** grade and up youth participants will be serving the community in Louisville on a mission trip!

**July 25-** Movie Night!!! Let's watch The Blind Side!! I'll provide all kinds of snacks



## VBS

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's VBS! Although things were changed around due to heat, it still seemed like everyone had a great time. If your family wanted to participate but couldn't make that week, please send me an email ([directorchildren@websterum.org](mailto:directorchildren@websterum.org)). All of the curriculum and videos are still accessible throughout the summer!

## Sunday School Volunteers

I am going to be in need of some volunteers for Sunday School. We do not know quite what it will look like yet, but if you have any interest, please let me know! We are hoping for an early fall start. This wouldn't be a commitment, just collecting interest. Please email me at [directorchildren@websterum.org](mailto:directorchildren@websterum.org).



**Our Prayer Concerns:** Peg Chulick and Bill Haub (JoAnn Claywell); Clyde Gilker (Carol Gilker); Ruth (Vicki Hoyer); 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); 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](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)



**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.

