

July 29, 2021



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Hello again!

I am in the process of moving my workday back into the church office. I will be in the building on **Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8a to Noon**. If I have missed your contribution to the newsletter this week, please let me know! (You know how sometimes things get misplaced when moving!) I will be sure to add it next week.

(Please wear a mask in the WUM building)

I look forward to seeing all of you again! -Holly



...a message from Pastor Sharon

Still Moving Forward

A year ago, in July, I wrote an article contrasting a sprint with a marathon, and using it as a metaphor for how we might sustain ourselves through the challenges and uncertainty of living during a pandemic.

The long and short of it is that if you are running a sprint, at the sound of the gun, through a mighty burst of energy, you will push off with all your might. You will

run as hard as you can, your eyes fastened on the ribbon ahead. You will give it your all, and when you've crossed the finish line, you will be totally spent.

But a marathon runner cannot even see the finish line. It is 26.2 miles away. The marathoner starts out from a standing position at an easy pace, a pace practiced for months before this race, and strives to maintain that same pace. Too fast, and the marathoner will burn up his energy too soon. That measured pace will serve the runner well, and enable him to meet an extraordinary challenge.

We are still engaged in the "Living-Through-a-Pandemic" Marathon, dear friends. Many of us thought the delivery of vaccines after the first of the year heralded the beginning of the end, a finish line in sight. But the rise of the Delta variant and the sluggish response to it have moved the finish line for us all, vaccinated and not.

Still we live. We serve. We love. We adjust. We run on.

Our church will continue to meet in-building for worship on Sunday mornings, but in compliance with the St. Louis County Executive, we are asking everyone to remain masked. Small groups and committee meetings may continue to gather in the church, but until the masking requirement is lifted, masks will be required. *(Folks, as Executive Sam Page's mask mandate has been reversed the day after it was announced, I'm not sure what our position is at this time. Stand by for more.)*

The Mountain Service continues to offer excellent worship on Thursday evenings at 7:30p. We worship together, scattered all over the parking lot, singing our praises to God, no mask necessary. Bring your lawn chair and join us! Children are invited to come and draw chalk pictures near their parent. Church pups, on leash, are welcome.

Despite what some end-time prophets declare, this is not the end of the world. We are still in the middle of a challenging world event, yes. But as there was a starting point, so there will be a finish line. It's out there, we just can't see it yet.

Have hope, and know that the Holy Spirit continues to work in us and through us as we continue to love, grow, and serve.

Grace and peace+
Pastor Sharon



Voting on Webster Groves Proposition 1: When a "Yes" means "No" and a "No" means "Yes"

One Justice Team connection is with the Alliance for Interracial Dignity (63119), a designated recipient of our 2021 Easter Offering. A current Alliance focus is support of the City Council change to the A-4 zoning ordinance (Ordinance 9145) that aims to increase housing options for residents by permitting more moderately priced 2-family homes in the A-4 zone. Two-family homes currently are not being built in Webster Groves. The City Council's decision is based on the policy expertise of the Webster Groves Department of Planning & Development, the Plan Commission, and regional scholarship.

A "Yes" on Proposition 1 on August 3 would overturn this City Council decision and reestablish more limiting restrictions established in the 1950s that implicitly have maintained a homogenous and affluent community. The WUM Justice Team supports the Alliance position of voting "NO" on Proposition 1.

Reasons the Alliance for Interracial Dignity gives for voting "No" on Proposition 1:

- This is a response to the increasing cost of home ownership and the loss of smaller homes to outsized new construction.
- Smaller homes are being torn down and replaced with larger, more expensive homes. The City Council's change frees up property owners' ability to choose to build two-family housing in the "missing middle" price range of \$250,000-\$400,000, significantly less than the houses currently being built.
- For ten years, the Alliance has heard residents share their desire for a welcoming community where we live side-by-side with all kinds of neighbors. Preserving these community values takes intention – we are up against a legacy of racial and economic segregation. The median price of housing is going up. The population of Webster Groves is declining.
- We cannot engineer socioeconomic and cultural diversity in our community, but we can reduce barriers and offer choices. Paying attention to affordability is one way to fight segregation and build a culture of inclusion.
- The effort to repeal the Council's vote has been funded by a single donor, Richard Mazarella. The campaign has spread misinformation and sown

distrust in public servants. If Prop 1 succeeds, it may jeopardize broader efforts to foster a consciously inclusive community in Webster Groves.

- Proposition 1 is a completely separate issue from the Douglass Hill Development, a proposal still before the Planning Commission.

Most importantly, if you are a Webster Groves resident, learn about this issue and vote.

Resources:

- Comprehensive: Webster-Kirkwood Times, July 23-29, pages 7-A, 8-A & 9-A.
- City Council website: webstergroves.org/Prop1.
- Mazzarella's website for voting "YES"- webstergrovesresidents.org.
- For voting "NO"- websterneighbors.org.

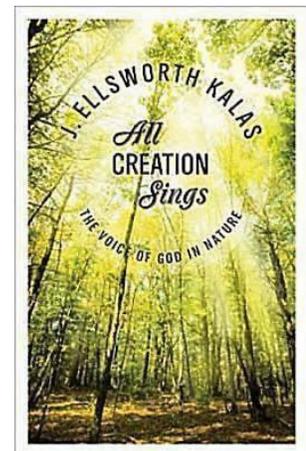
Carolyn Redmore
for the Justice Team



New Book for the King Class Sunday School

The King Sunday School Class will begin a new study on or about August 1st. We meet each Sunday, via the Zoom platform, at 8:45 am for about one hour.

Our new book is "All Creation Sings" by J. Ellsworth Kalas. The author writes "I pray that this little book will help us look beyond nature's wonders to the God of creation - and then, with gratitude, to treat nature with the reverent sense of stewardship that God intended us humans to employ." If you would like to attend these weekly Sunday sessions, please contact Earl Jones at 636-305-0779.



UPDATE on COVID-19 PROTOCOL

As more of us have become inoculated with one of the COVID-19 vaccines, our community has been opening up quickly this summer. Our church, while staying on the conserving and cautious side, has begun to review our earlier safety protocols, and loosened many of the requirements, as follows:

- Worshippers are welcome to choose their own seats in the sanctuary. The ushers are no longer seating and releasing people from the pews.
- We are asking folks entering to maintain appropriate physical distancing, and on exiting, not to congregate in the aisles, but talk outside the building instead.
- Masks are still required, but for the vaccinated, may be taken off when seated (the St. Louis County Executive order to wear masks inside has been reversed, so the vaccinated may take off masks during worship). Out of a desire to protect others, including children who have not yet been vaccinated, unvaccinated persons need to keep their masks on throughout worship.
- Reservations are no longer required. There is room for you!

Thank you all for your continued support of our church family.

-Pastor Sharon and Tom Pacatte, Chair of Safety Team



WUM Youth Group

Hello Church,

First, a big thank you! Thank you for supporting the youth ministry with your prayers, goodie bags, and participation in our fundraisers!

This year, as the youth headed off to Louisville, KY, we got to work with a group called



CrossRoads Missions. This organization partners with local ministries in Louisville, New Orleans, Appalachia, and Piedras Negras in Mexico.

We worked with two equine therapy facilities. One was in its newborn stages, called Cope's Hope, and is creating a therapeutic space for those with special needs to gain hope, healing & pleasure. While we were there, we cleared out an upstairs space in the soon to be AirBnB. Some of us cleared brush and logs and helped tote them to a burn pile. Later in the day we all teamed up to help put sand down in the back half of the outdoor paddocks. Getting to meet the daughters of the owners was very special. Both of the girls suffer with some severe special needs, but both find joy and ability when on a horse.

Our Wednesday morning was spent at StormHaven Youth Ranch. The owner there, Gae, told us about how she rescues horses, rehabilitates them, and then invites the horses to do the same for young folks who are struggling. Gae attested to how a rescued horse helped rescue her at a hard time.

While there, we painted a fence which enclosed a mini-pony named Leo and a very shy horse named Mariposa. We stained the outside of a shelter. Adding paint and stain to the wood helps it last longer. Longevity is KEY on the StormHaven Ranch! Of course, we got to muck some stalls and scoop some poo. It's a ranch...there's lots of poo. We even made some animal friends. Ely & Jillian became pals with a painted horse named Aspen, and Caroline, Lily, and Jillian fell in love with the barn cat Boo.

After a sweaty morning in the sun, we picked up some gas station burgers, snarfed them down and headed out to Hurricane Bay water park. We splashed and laughed and had a good time.

On Tuesday we started our morning at a place called Hosea's House. The ministry's mission is to help women and children who find themselves in dangerous situations. While this is wonderful, we encountered some nerve-racking theology about conversion & evangelism. We were reminded that we are called to love all of our neighbors unconditionally. Hosea's House challenged our theology and our muscles. Paityon and Ely operated jackhammers. YEP...that's right, jackhammers!! They busted up a large, thick concrete pad. During their breaks others helped load wheelbarrows full of chunks and haul them to the dumpster. That hardworking crew GOT IT DONE!

Tuesday afternoon and all day Thursday we spent at a house that will be a transitional home for newly released inmates. An awesome dude named Tony Cash is the leader of a ministry called Freedom Lake, Inc. Tony hopes to give formerly incarcerated people a chance to start fresh in a safe place. While there we learned how to patch drywall, tape, and mud. We also painted the majority of the baseboard and door trim. With lots of hard-working youth we got a lot done. Mr. Cash was very grateful!!

This entire week was awesome! We worked hard, we played hard, we got to know God, and we got to know each other. This trip will always be special to me. If not for Lucy breaking her arm, then for the wonderful youth and parents I get to call my friends!

Lots of love,
Paige Foster



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 to connect with Pastor Paige.

Sunday, August 1: Meet Joel in the church parking lot at 3:00 pm this Sunday to gather and see “Jungle Cruise” at the movies! Be sure to bring a mask! Expect to return to the church by 5:45 pm.



Community Garden Day

On August 9th from 4-6pm, we will be collaborating with our community garden at Eden for a children's night at the garden! We will hear all about how community gardens impact our

community and church, and get our hands dirty doing some work. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0944A9AE2EA0FF2-childrens2>

Living Stones Logo Contest

As we get closer to starting up our Living Stones ministry again, we are in need of a new logo! Anyone under the age of 13 is invited to enter their logo design. They will be put to a vote, and the winner will become the new logo! The only requirements are that the words "Living Stones" and "Webster United Methodist" are included. All designs should be sent to directorchildren@websterum.org by August 31st.

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers for different aspects of the children's ministry. We are looking for Sunday School teachers, substitutes, and helpers for our one-off events. If you have any interest, please email directorchildren@websterum.org. We can accommodate any scheduling needs and availability.





Our Prayer Concerns: PJ Petracek (Margo Petracek); Paulette Carr (Helen Fuller); Tracy Claywell Williams (Jo Ann Claywell); Joesephyne (Joyce Simpson); the unvaccinated to get their vaccinations; Jonathan Zigman; German villagers devastated by floods; for a change of heart in the divisive forces in our nation; Phyllis Thaler (Kris Maly); prayers of thanksgiving for Darlene for her wonderful recovery and her celebration of her 80th birthday (Vicki Hoyer)

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



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 ALL 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.