



August 26, 2021

Good Bye

Pastor, Rev. Sharon Kichline
Assistant Pastor, Joshua Krakos
Music Ministry, Lamar Fitzgerald
Youth Ministry, Pastor Paige Foster
Children's Ministry, Shaeleigh Parsons
Secretary, Holly Graham

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As always, I write to you with love in my heart...

After all these years, I have decided to leave the office at WUM to develop the more creative sides of my life that I have missed so much. I have picked up my paint brushes, I've started designing jewelry again, I've been designing new recipes and doing some catering too.

It seems like I've known some of you forever, and I know that many of you and I will continue our friendships for many years to come. I hold you close to my heart.

My last day in the office will be Monday, August 30.



Holly



...a message from Pastor Sharon



**Welcome Back to Worship Sunday!
September 12th**

The leaves are starting to fall from the trees. It's nearly time to turn over the calendar to September, and the students have returned to school. I hate to admit it, and even though the temperatures would challenge it, fall seems to have arrived.

Now it's time to consider returning to Sanctuary Worship, too.

You are right, COVID-19 has not gone away, and the risk of the new Delta variant is still present. But I figure that each of us has our own particular risk assessment

app/program running in our heads. At some point, the risk of gathering physically-distanced and with masks, may become more acceptable, depending on our personal vulnerabilities. So, I am inviting you to check in with your internal app now and consider coming on September 12th to reconnect with in-person worship.

For your knowledge, our Trustee folks have installed higher efficiency air filters for our worship space, our Safety Team has evaluated every movement in the space in light of the latest medical reports, and during worship, we wave instead of shaking hands, and drop our offering into the basket at the exit door. Once outside the building, many enjoy greeting and catching up with each other.

It was my hope a month ago to invite you to resume your attendance at Sunday school and fellowship time on this homecoming date, as well. But the Delta variant has postponed that possibility. So, for now, the celebration is limited to our worship service, beginning at 10:30a, followed by a light lunch and dessert. There will be options to sit inside, physically distanced, or outside under canopies.

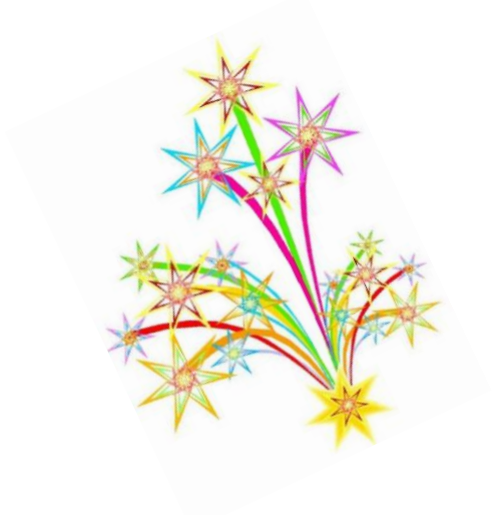
Coming together will offer us opportunity to see our church family again, and be seen. For many, it's been 18 months since you've joined in-person worship. That's a long time to be separated and emotionally distanced. But best of all, it will give each of us a chance to worship physically connected to and part of the body of Christ. There is something about that physical connection that is difficult to articulate, but life-giving to the soul.

We have new members, and guests have resumed coming, so please plan to wear your nametags. I miss you all. I hope to see you soon.

Grace and peace+

Pastor Sharon





Sunday, August 29, we will be celebrating August birthdays and anniversaries.



“I Have this Hope...”*

Well, a year ago about this time I was bringing you the bad news that we would have to put aside our traditional November Lord’s Acre Dinner and Auction due to the pandemic of the Covid-19 virus, and we all thought that our re-invented version would certainly be a one-time occurrence. With the release of the vaccines, many felt hopeful and safer...but then along came the Delta variant and new threats to our safety.

I’ll admit to being disappointed and sad that we can’t just “get back to normal” this fall, but Pastor Sharon’s sermon on Sunday, Aug. 15 was all about HOPE. I was inspired by her message and even her sermon subtitle...“I Have This Hope...”* to share with you that **I have this hope** that Webster UM can once again rally around our church’s mission goals to support not only our commitment of \$1400 to our Mozambique covenant church but also support the other hard-working agencies that help those who have so little. Last year’s “non-event fundraiser” succeeded in raising around \$7000, which I felt was nothing short of miraculous and credit it all to very loving, generous donors. I HAVE THIS HOPE THAT WE CAN DO IT AGAIN!

So, the Risk-Taking Mission Team prayerfully asks families/individuals --- between November 6 and 26---to contribute to our Lord’s Acre fund the amount you would set aside this year to spend at a lovely dinner and auction, or, to contribute at

least the amount you gave last year, or consider contributing for the first time if you've not participated in Lord's Acre before.

We will have incentive awards again as we did last year, as well as a thank-you goody for everyone who contributes something. And with what has been a long-standing tradition of the Lord's Acre, we are hoping many of those awards will be hand-crafted items similar to last year's lovely bird houses, delicious pies and jellies, gorgeous crewel-embroidered decorative pieces, beautiful doll clothes, weekend-stay vacation homes, quilts, or whatever your creative, talented minds can donate. Please contact Jan McCurley at Janis.mccurley@gmail.com or 314-378-5504 with your ideas or any questions. You will hear more about Lord's Acre 2021 in the coming weeks.

Jan McCurley
Chair of Risk-Taking Missions



Community Gardening as a Justice Endeavor



Last Sunday, 20 folks gathered after worship in the shade on Fairview for a guided conversation with

Pastor Joshua Krakos on community gardening and an introduction to the community garden our church supports in south St. Louis. Beginning with the big picture and examples in St. Louis, we explored food security/insecurity, the variety of realities that relate to it, such as income, race, access to food, and the umbrella concept of intersectionality (how factors compound each other in lived experience). We moved on to considering how one outcome of urban living can be isolation from the origins of our food, which is something community gardening can address. Other outcomes of this "hands in the dirt" experience is building community, affordable access to fresh healthy foods, and enhanced support for a sustainable environment.

Under Pastor Joshua's leadership young adults and young at heart older adults work a plot at Pennsylvania and Winnebago called "One for the Crow". Some harvested food is left just outside the gate to the garden. A community artist has created a mural of four faces drawn from that community and placed at the outside corner of the garden. We concluded our afternoon with a tour of the garden and the opportunity to harvest and take home herbs, veggies or fruit. It's a work in progress. Anyone wanting to visit or get their hands in the dirt of the garden, contact Pastor Joshua (assistantpastor@websterum.org).

The Justice Team is pleased to have sponsored this event.



Taking Action for God's Creation

As United Methodist Women members, our faith guides us to care for God's creation and the "least of these". Addressing climate justice requires a commitment to 100% renewable energy, clean transportation, and just transition. It also calls for policies to ensure that marginalized communities are not negatively impacted by the transition. We need to recognize the disproportionate harm faced by Tribal and Indigenous communities, Black and Brown communities, low-wealth communities, rural communities, and particularly by women within these communities.

We try to make sure we aren't just talking amongst faith groups. We need to connect with environmental justice frontline groups that are directly being

impacted. As an act of faith, calling on government representatives to enact legislation can lead to energy delivery that is sustainable and does not disproportionately harm marginalized communities.

Contact your representatives by phone, email, or letter and tell them to enact these targets and strategies for reaching 70% renewable energy by 2030 and 100% by 2050.

1. Support only energy sources that are renewable, such as wind or solar.
2. Ensure adequate, equitable access to funding and finance for clean renewables.
3. Eliminate subsidies for polluting fuels.
4. Expand public transportation that is clean, reliable, affordable, and accessible to all.
5. Ensure a just transition for impacted workers.

Be a part of the movement to restore God's creation in all its forms.

Carol Gilker



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.

- **Because of the virulence of the Delta variant, and out of a desire to protect others, including children who have not yet been vaccinated, we need to keep our 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



2021 WUM YOUTH Calendar

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

Aug 29-Water Balloons & Ice Cream! Bring a towel & clothes you can get wet in. We'll chat about the first couple of weeks of school!! See you at 5:30p with your towel! Bring a friend too!!

****ALL youth events require masks while inside the building****



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: Alexis Maly (Kris Maly); Mary Ship (Bob & Jillian Pallia's grandma); Mia Murphy; for students & teachers, especially those entering new schools, to be vaccinated; Paulette Carr (Helen Fuller); Tracy Williams,

Bill Haub (Jo Ann Claywell); Jacqueline Baetz (Mary Taylor's granddaughter); Annie & Duke (Cindy Andrews); for ALL to be vaccinated in our community, state, country, & world; for people in Afghanistan.

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 TOD
- 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.

