

September 2, 2021



"...and love your neighbor as yourself."

Mark 12:31

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...a message from Pastor Sharon

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind and with all your strength.*

The second is this: ‘love your neighbor as yourself’.

There is no commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:30-31



What Does Love Look Like?

I have never had to leave my home to run for my life from the horrific power of a hurricane, the raging tide of flash floods, or the catastrophic impact of wild fires or earthquakes. Never have I had to leave my country in order to save the lives of my family. But there are so many people who have experienced these calamities just this summer. See Jan McCurley’s article on Page 4 for more on this.

We shake our heads, feel saddened at the news, and send our prayers. But Jesus calls us to “love our neighbors as ourselves”. What does loving people in distress look like? As United Methodists, we can also send tangible help.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) shows up immediately when there has been a disaster. Working through existing community organizations and local health providers, funds and supplies show up. Our people are often the first to arrive and the last to leave.

What makes our giving especially powerful is that all the expenses to run this ministry are already covered under our annual UMCOR Sunday Special Offering. That means that 100% of our gifts toward any particular disaster goes directly there to the affected area.

So often in that last few months, I have wished I could put my arms around hurting people who are so far away from where I am. This special offering is one way to do that. Please join Joel and I in giving your gift on September 12th.

Grace and peace+

Pastor Sharon



Welcome Back to Worship Sunday! September 12th

We're celebrating the opportunity to be in worship together in our sanctuary on September 12th! The Chancel Choir has begun rehearsals, and will be making their fall debut. Please wear a mask during worship and respect appropriate physical distancing.

Living Stones Returns! That is also the day that we will resume our Living Stones program for children aged 4 years old to 6th grade during worship (10:30a-11:30a), but it will have a different look.

Every Sunday, parents will walk their child/ren to the parking lot to check-in with Shae Parsons, Director of Children's Ministries. The whole program will be outside, and children will remain distanced, but will not be required to be masked (with permission from parents). There will be games, stories, snacks, and prayer. The children will be collected by their family after worship concludes. If there is inclement weather, the program will be moved into the Fellowship Hall with masks and physical distancing.

Fellowship Lunch After! We'll be grilling hot dogs for a light lunch and enjoy the opportunity to meet new people and catch up with your church family. There will be some music and we'll enjoy a visit from the ice cream truck-yummm! Seating will be outside under canopies, and distanced seating inside Fellowship Hall. Inside, just like at a restaurant, please keep your mask on until you are ready to eat, and then put it back on when you are finished.

We have missed seeing so many of you. We hope to see you September 12th!



September 12th UMCOR Special Offering

On our Welcome Back Sunday on September 12th, you will have a chance to help many people recover from a turbulent summer of earthquakes, floods, and fires by contributing to a special offering for UMCOR, The United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR is always quickly at work wherever help is needed around the world, as the following examples illustrate.

UMCOR's response to the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that left more than 2,200 dead and 12,000 injured in Haiti August 14 is underway. The organization has already awarded two \$10,000 grants to provide urgently needed medical supplies. The first grant to the Eglise Methodiste d'Haiti (Methodist Church in Haiti) in coordination with local doctors and nurses, will supply two clinics in Gebeau and Les Cayes with medical supplies. The second, to Service Chretien d'Haiti will supply Les Cayes General Hospital. These grants will enable procurement of bandages, gauze, IV fluids, antibiotics, and, given the continuing coronavirus pandemic, Personal Protection Equipment.

In late March into April this year, heavy rains around Middle Tennessee led to flooding in several parts of the state, and **UMCOR awarded the TNUMC Disaster Recovery Group a \$10,000 grant to help.** The funds will be used throughout the area to continue facilitating disaster case work for those affected in at least two counties. The solidarity grant from UMCOR will also allow the Disaster Recovery group to meet immediate needs for survivors as they help stabilize their households for long-term-recovery.

And, continuing to make tragic news almost daily are the fires burning throughout the west and southwest part of our country. There are currently 82 fires burning in the West, having destroyed 1.69 million acres of land in 13 states. The Oregon "Bootleg Fire" has become the nation's largest, burning over 413,000 acres and only about 50% contained at this time. California has six active wildfires, and so far those fires have burned almost four times the number of acres as this time last year. The Desert Southwest Conference of the UMC has Early Response Teams (ERTs) who stand ready to respond to the needs of survivors, and as such they need fire relief buckets containing such items as protective suits, gloves, goggles, and masks for the survivors as well as practical tools like hand trowels and rakes, trash bags, and tarps. Donated cash will help purchase the supplies in bulk. The ERTs also need fire sifters when working with

survivors who lost home in the wildfires. **UMCOR trains the ERTs ---who respond to natural disasters by cleaning debris, salvaging belongings, and helping the survivors through this painful process.**

Beyond the natural disasters, a political and humanitarian crisis has quickly unfolded in Afghanistan. Over 100,000 Afghani refugees have been airlifted from Kabul, leaving behind everything in order to flee the return of Taliban rule. They must start over in a new country, and will need the support that UMCOR stands ready to give.

Please pray for all the victims of these disasters, and I hope you will consider giving to the special UMCOR disaster relief offering September 12th. You can give cash in the offering plate at our in-person worship, give or mail a check made to WUM with "UMCOR" on the memo line, or give online at our website under GIVE.

Thank you,
Jan McCurley, Mission Chair



Lord's Acre

Our annual Lord's Acre Auction to raise funds for mission projects has a long tradition at Webster Methodist. But why is it called "Lord's Acre"?

The name comes primarily from rural agricultural traditions of farmers setting aside a portion of their land or produce, such as an acre, and giving the proceeds of that land to the church. It's the same tradition going back to Biblical times of bringing the first fruits of the harvest to the temple as offerings to God.

My first experience of a Lord's Acre auction was in the early 1950's in Nebraska at a little United Methodist Church just outside of my hometown. I remember seeing farmers bringing in wagons loaded with corn from their fields. There were about a dozen wagons circling the little church yard. Inside the church were tables lined with homemade pies, cakes, jellies and jams prepared by the members for sale. People came from all over the community, and everyone enjoyed a delicious meal served by the members. Then the auctioneer started his familiar auction chant, and the corn was sold to the highest bidder. Sometimes a

few animals were also sold as well. It was an exciting time, a time of gratitude when everyone thanked God for the harvest and His sustaining love.

Here at Webster United Methodist in the mid-1970's the Mission Committee under the leadership of Dale Dill took this familiar tradition and adopted it for our church. Rod Cooper has been the auctioneer from the start and the members of the mission committee prepare a wonderful chicken dinner with all the trimmings. In the early years members would gather to make homemade noodles as well. Members still share their gifts of handmade crafts, produce from their gardens, artwork and of course homemade pies, candies, and jellies.

A special feature of our Lord's Acre Auction has been a partnership with the Quilting Group. Throughout the year they make beautiful quilts that they donate to the Lord's Acre to be sold to the highest bidder. The sale of the beautiful quilts is always a high point of the evening.

Of course, the real high point is the mission service that is made possible with the proceeds. Epworth, LifeWise and our partner church in Africa are some of the projects receiving support.

So again, this year let us all show our gratitude to God for his many bountiful gifts and share from our Lord's Acre.

Eugene Morse



2021 WUM YOUTH Calendar

Fall is here!!!! Come hang out at Webster UM. Most evenings will include activities outside to keep us safe and 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.

Sept 5-NO YOUTH. It's Labor Day weekend, so enjoy the weekend with family & friends. Be safe!

Sept 12-Haunted House Brainstorm!!!! Bring a friend & some ideas! I'll feed you a good dinner and we will head upstairs to start preparing for some kind of Halloween activity! Be sure to bring a mask!

Sept 19-iPod Devo! Bring a song to share with the group and tell us what it means to you!

Sept 26-Zombie Tag! The days are getting shorter...the darkness comes sooner...and the ZOMBIES have emerged. Come slay some Zombies with us! Dinner is at 5:30!

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



**Living Stones is Returning 9/12!
More details on page 3.**

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 events. If you have any interest, please email directorchildren@websterum.org. We can accommodate any scheduling needs and availability.



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





Sympathy to: Roy Day on the death of his brother James Day on August 24, in South Carolina, Sandy Reid on the passing of her mother Dorothy Reid on August 26, 2021, and the family of Kristen Kremer, who passed this week on Wednesday, September 1st.

Our Prayer Concerns: Tracy Claywell Williams (Jo Ann Claywell's daughter); Pam Day (Roy Day's sister-in-law), Olivia Nelson (Debbie Lund's niece); Annie & Duke (Cindy Andrews); 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); Bill Haub (Jo Ann Claywell); Jacqueline Baetz (Mary Taylor's granddaughter); for ALL to be vaccinated in our communities, state, country, & world; for all those in Afghanistan & those who have perished.

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 Secretary 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.

