

September 9, 2021



## **Welcome Back to Church! September 12th!**

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

[pastorsharon@websterum.org](mailto:pastorsharon@websterum.org)  
[assistantpastor@websterum.org](mailto:assistantpastor@websterum.org)  
[directormusic@websterum.org](mailto:directormusic@websterum.org)  
[directoryouth@websterum.org](mailto:directoryouth@websterum.org)  
[directorchildren@websterum.org](mailto:directorchildren@websterum.org)  
[secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org)

<https://websterunitedmethodist.org/>

(314) 961-4133



## **Welcome Back to Worship Sunday! September 12<sup>th</sup>**

**We're celebrating** the opportunity to be in worship together in our sanctuary on September 12<sup>th</sup>! 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!** September 12<sup>th</sup> is also the day that we will resume our Living Stones program for children aged 4 years old to 6<sup>th</sup> 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, as well as 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 12<sup>th</sup>!



## **...a message from Pastor Sharon**

### **A Time to Remember**

Like many of you, I remember exactly where I was on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, when America was attacked. I was in my living room, watching the news. Tom Brokaw was reporting on what appeared to be a freak “accident” —a Boeing 767 had just flown directly into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. He was speculating on what might have happened to the pilot; maybe a heart attack, unconsciousness, or confusion. But then, 18 minutes later, even as he was reporting, it happened again. When the second Boeing 767 hit the South Tower, it was clear. This was no accident. We were under attack.

Not since Pearl Harbor have we experienced an attack on our American shores. The surprise and brutality of the four coordinated terrorist attacks by the militant Islamist terrorist group al-Qaeda against our nation left us all reeling. How could this have happened? Who are these people and why do they hate us? What is their intent, and what is going to happen next? Our prevailing national sentiments were anger, vulnerability, confusion and fear. The stores ran out of American flags as we all joined in expressing our patriotism and unity.

I remember feeling a fear so profound that it made my chest hurt. If we couldn't count on the strength and might of the US Armed Forces to protect us, what could we count on?

Then, my pastor reminded me that while we might not be able to count on guns and bombs, we can always count on God. When all else feels futile, chaos reigns, and the future frightfully uncertain, God is with us. Not pulling all the strings of the players, like directing little marionettes; that's not how God works. But present to our spirits as a source of peace and strength that can carry us through the night and into the morning light.

This Saturday, we remember what happened 20 years ago in New York City, Shanksville, Pennsylvania and The Pentagon. The attacks resulted in 2,977 fatalities, over 25,000 injuries and substantial long-term health consequences. It remains the deadliest terrorist attack in human history.

Today, our citizenry seems enormously divided over nearly everything—politics, racial equity, global warming, vaccination, masks, and more. It is my prayer as we participate in remembering, that we also remember how our fierce national unity, wrought by the attacks, made us feel. Despite our many differences, we united as one, and that was powerful.

May we also cleave onto the truth that sustained us then and is still our rock today: God is with us, has never left us, and still holds each of us, American and Islamist and all others, in the hollow of God's hand. We are all God's children. Grace and peace+

*Pastor Sharon*



## September 12th UMCOR Special Offering

On our Welcome Back Sunday on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 homes 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



## ***Mission Through Music*** is back!



On **September 24<sup>th</sup>**, Carol Gilker will be presenting a piano program. During the early days of the pandemic, Carol decided to use some of her extra time honing her piano playing skills. She did not predict that she would have SO many months to practice! As a result of her months of work, Carol has put together a program that includes a wide range of music from classical to old time hymns. In addition to piano, Carol has recruited singers for solos, small groups, and leading congregational singing on a few pieces.

As always, Mission Through Music programs are free but donations will be collected. All donations will go to the **International Institute of St. Louis** to assist *Afghan Refugees who will be settling in our area soon*. Mark your calendars for **Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** You won't want to miss this opportunity for a delightful evening of music to benefit a worthy cause!



## **2021 WUM YOUTH Calendar**

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

**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\*\***



## **Children's Ministries**

### **Living Stones Returns**

I am so excited to announce that after many long months of waiting and anticipation, our Living Stones Children's Ministry will be returning this Sunday, September 12th!

We will be meeting outside on the church parking lot during the 10:30am service for an hour of fun games, good Bible stories, and being in community. There will be safety guidelines in place, however masks will be up to the decision of the parents when we are outside. The Children's team has been meeting to make sure this will be a safe yet fun experience for all children.

We look forward to seeing you on the 12th, and every Sunday following!

- Shae Parsons, Director of Children's Ministry

## 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](mailto:directorchildren@websterum.org) by August 31st.

## Volunteers Needed

We still need 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](mailto:directorchildren@websterum.org). We can accommodate any scheduling needs and availability.



**Thank you** for the great support for our Undies Sunday! We collected \$910 for the youth served by Epworth Children and Family Services. They will provide new undergarments for a new season of learning. Well done, Church!

-Pastor Sharon



**Please wear a mask when entering the building and for all meetings & worship.**

**Thank you!**







## UPDATE on COVID-19 PROTOCOL

As more of us have received 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:** the family of Kristen Kremer, who passed on September 1st.

**Our Prayer Concerns:** Debbie Lund; Toni McCoy; Linda Redmore; Tim, Ruth (Vicki Hoyer); William and Danielle Kalesh, Caitlyn Kremer, Joyce & Scott Simpson; 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), for ALL to be vaccinated in our community, state, country, & world; for people in Afghanistan and Haiti.

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)



**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 the office to schedule ALL 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.

