



Weekly Newsletter



the inn

HOUSING THE HOLY

ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

For the 4 Sundays of Advent plus Christmas Eve, starting next Sunday, we will begin a new sermon series entitled "The Inn - Housing the Holy." It will be a time to remember the journey of the Holy Family who was invited to rest in a manger at the Inn for the night. A time to reimagine whom we might invite into our church to rest, reflect, and/or experience restoration, too.

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A Message from Our Pastor



Dear Church,

As we enter into the season of Advent, and prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, our country is reeling from prolonged uncertainty and instability brought on by the pandemic. In the United States alone, millions have lost their jobs and are affected by whether or not landlords will evict them from their homes for failure to pay rent. A staggering number of families face food insecurity for the first time in their lives. And those who were already on the brink are even less sure how to survive. We are all exhausted in some way. Even if it is decision-fatigue. We have problems to address. And so did the Holy Family that night.

An oppressive regime had demanded everyone upend their lives and hightail it to their hometowns to register for the census--for tax purposes, likely. Mary was on the verge of giving birth and the AirBnB app just wasn't an option. Whether they got to town late or for some other reason, they had a housing problem that night.

The Innkeeper is a figure of our imaginations. Not referenced in the sacred texts, we assume that since Luke said there was an "inn," then there must have been an "innkeeper." Often our stories cast him in a negative light, someone who banished a pregnant woman to where the animals were kept. But what if, since we are engaging our imaginations anyway, what if he was truly an entrepreneur? Someone who saw a problem and thought, literally, "outside the box" to solve the problem of where Mary could have her child? Instead of thinking "there's nowhere," he said to himself first, "there has to be somewhere."

This begs the questions, could we start thinking outside of the box too? Is there some way to transform our property into a solution for one of our community needs, and strengthen our own viability in the process? Maybe offer affordable office space to nonprofits that work to alleviate societal issues, or create a ministry of care for specially-abled children or adults? Could we expand upon our Room at the Inn ministry, which creates safe temporary shelter for those who are looking to lay their head somewhere, or use our kitchen to feed our urban neighbors? No one church can solve everything but each one can do something, just like the innkeeper. Housing the holy work of Divine Love can happen in many ways. During this Advent -- the four Sundays before Christmas -- invite the Spirit to speak to you about how this church could "House the Holy."



Grace and peace+

Pastor Sharon



CONFIRMATION



This is a message for Young People, Grades 6-9 (but Adults can read it too)
Confirmation begins in January! (Get these dates on your 2022 Calendar)

When you were small, your parents and the church likely made promises on your behalf at your baptism. Now you may be ready to claim the name of "Christian" and take membership vows for yourself.

"Confirmation" is a time set aside for young people, typically grades 6-8, to learn, experience, and explore what they believe and what it means to be a person of faith, and more particularly, to be a part of the Body of Christ at Webster United Methodist. The experience of Confirmation culminates with a special Sunday when you will stand before the church and take your vows of membership, but in your own voice this time.

The Confirmation class will be led by Pastor Sharon and Pastor Paige. Occasionally, Pastor Josh will be able to join us too. We will gather from Noon-2:00 pm on Sundays beginning January 9th, through April 3rd. I'd like to set Confirmation Sunday on April 24th.

Participation is key and the expectations are high. There will be lunch and a 30 minute Parent(s)/Confirmand Orientation Meeting on January 2th, in the Fellowship Hall, beginning at noon. Please be there (and bring a parent or two) if you are seriously ready to explore your faith and your connection to the extraordinary body through which Jesus is transforming the world...the church!

Grace and peace+
Pastor Sharon



FORMING FAITH ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Beginning December 1st at 7:30 pm, join us during the Wednesdays of Advent for the study of Biblical passages related to the birth of Jesus. You can attend in person in the Space Room/Zoom Conference Room, or virtually through Zoom.

Sign up now on our [website](#), email assistantpastor@websterum.org, or sign up on the Blue Connection Card during Sunday Worship.

Pastor Josh



UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH

This special offering provides loan and scholarship funds for United Methodist college, university, and graduate students. Here is one example of how such funds can help... The son of parents struggling with addiction, Ricky Blue grew up without much hope for a future. However, when Blue's church family raised \$4,000 for him to begin college, hope was born. Today, Blue is a certified candidate for ordained ministry in the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference. Please consider giving generously to this special offering.

Jan McCurley (Risk-Taking Mission & Service Chair)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

LIVING STONES

This program is for children, 4-years-old to 6th grade to learn about God and is held during worship (10:30 am-11:30 am). Each Sunday, parents bring their children to the elevator lobby to check-in. The program will be indoors, and children will remain distanced, but masks will be required. There will be games, stories, snacks, and prayer. We may move the program outside, weather permitting. If you have any questions, please contact Shae at directorchildren@websterum.org. We look forward to seeing you every Sunday!

UPDATE: FAMILY GARDEN GLOW NIGHT - DEC. 11TH

Our Christmas Light Night on December 11th is changing slightly! Due to Tilles Park being sold out, we are shifting to Garden Glow at the Missouri Botanical Garden! Tickets will be discounted at \$7 apiece, but scholarships are available if needed. This is an all-family event for children, youth, and beyond! If you would like to come, please sign up here by November 28th to secure a spot:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0944A9AE2EA0FF2-family>

WILD WEDNESDAY CHRISTMAS - DEC. 15TH

We are so excited to bring back our monthly Wild Wednesdays! This month will be Christmas themed, as we will share in some Christmas goodies and make gifts for loved ones. This event will be from 5:30 to 7 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0944A9AE2EA0FF2-wild>



YOUTH MINISTRY

NOVEMBER/BEGINNING OF DECEMBER CALENDAR



November 28 - No Youth!! Enjoy the Thanksgiving weekend! Travel Safely!



December 5 - Zombie Tag; Mission Trip meeting at 7:40. We will gather at the church for dinner and the classic game! If you plan to attend the mission trip this summer please join us immediately following youth group for a mission trip meeting.

December 12 - White Tiger Gift Exchange. We will indulge in a delicious dinner and then share in exchanging gifts with each other. Spend no more than \$10 on a gift to bring wrapped up!!

December 19 - Main Event. We will splurge for a Christmas event to play at the arcade and do some other fun things! RSVP by December 10!!

**ALL EVENTS WITHIN THE CHURCH REQUIRE A MASK! **

Contact directoryouth@websterum.org to connect with Pastor Paige

United Methodist Women Craft Sale

Sunday Mornings, Dec. 5th & 12th

10:00-10:25 and 11:30-12:00

Come to Fellowship Hall before or after worship to find
Christmas gifts or something for yourself!



Silent Auction



This quilt will be sold as a silent auction item at the
United Methodist Women Craft Sale.

Minimum bid-\$50

Christmas will soon be upon us, as the UMW Craft group will have their Christmas Boutique (Craft Fair) on December 5th and 12th in Fellowship Hall.

We will be open at 10:00 am before worship service and again after until 12:00 pm both days

Our list as follows:

Paper dolls will travel
Doll clothes for 18 inch doll
1 Doll
Catnip mice
Candy cane people
Variety of towels
Microwave pot holders
Microwave huggers
Aprons
Casserole carriers
Table runner

Wreath
Variety of ornaments
Christmas stockings
Laundry bag
Pillows
Birthday gift bags
Slightly used jewelry
Divinity
Caramel corn
Kitty Cat lap quilt
Cards

Our prices are very reasonable. Money will go towards Missions.
Hope to see you or just come to browse.

Sharon Wersching and Cindy Andrews

SHOPWITHSCRIPT PROGRAM

As we enter the season of gift giving, I want to highlight our church's participation in the ShopwithScript program. Shop with Scrip is a fundraising program that requires no extra activities. Gift cards are purchased at face value from over 650 retailers, and the church receives a rebate from each card purchased. The rebates vary by retailer and range from 1.5% to 18%. Cards can be used for routine shopping, gift shopping or given as gifts or donations. This is a continuous program, and if there is interest, cards can be ordered on a regular basis. Here is the link with all the retailers available: <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/brands>
I will be placing an order December 6th with delivery of the cards by the end of that week. To request cards, call, text, or [email me](#).

Paula Murphy



WRHM'S CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY



WRHM's Adopt-A-Family program has announced its Christmas schedule and guidelines for helping families facing financial challenges this year. Deadline for delivery of all donations to the Christmas program is Friday, December 3rd, at noon. Individuals or groups interested in reaching out to an assigned family or families must fill out a donor registration form and return it as soon as possible to 111 East Waymire Ave, Webster Groves, MO 63119 or scan and email it to holidays@wrhm.org. Registration forms are available at church near the elevator entrance, on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board, or near the upper and lower exterior doors facing Bompert Avenue. Registration forms may also be dropped in the mail slot at WRHM offices after hours.

If you prefer to contribute to a combined church donation, rather than to register for the Adopt-A-Family donation, no registration is needed. The church will again collect gift cards and grocery cards in such denominations as you care to give. They will be collected in a designated place in the church office (a box on the desk) or received by the office in the mail.

Suggested guidelines for all donations are: Christmas dinner and gifts, \$25 per person for a family of 4 and an extra \$20 for any additional family members;

For Adopters only: Gift card amounts of your choice (enclosed in individual Christmas cards with the recipient family member's name written on the envelope).

COVID restrictions are still in place, so please limit donations to only grocery store gift cards and regular gift cards. Although this makes the program less personal, it ensures the health and safety of our WRHM clients, volunteers, and donors.

Questions may be directed to the WRHM offices between 9 and noon on weekdays at (314)961-5082. Identify yourself as a donor from Webster United Methodist Church. Thanks to those who contributed (on short notice) to a substantial combined church donation to the WRHM Thanksgiving program.

Please consider purchasing your gift cards through Webster United Methodist's Gift Card Program Director, Paula Murphy, who is available after church services and by [email](#)

Mary Taylor (WUM Representative to WRHM's Board)

HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR EPWORTH & LIFEWISE STL

Are you considering donating to Epworth and LifeWise this holiday season?

Donations to Epworth:

If you want to provide gift cards to Epworth & let recipients purchase gifts, instead of "adopting" a person or persons & their gift requests, place the gift card(s) in the blue/white envelope marked "EPWORTH GIFT CARDS" in Jan McCurley's church office "Risk-Taking Mission & Service" mailbox (located across from the copier). All donations must be Amazon gift cards OR selected online and placed in Jan's mailbox no later than Fri. 12/3.

Donations to LifeWise STL:

If you would like to purchase any gifts (found in the most needed items list linked below), please place them in the "LIFEWISE CHRISTMAS GIFTS" marked box in the elevator lobby no later than Fri. 12/3. If you prefer to donate gift cards to LifeWise, place it in the blue/white envelope labeled "LifeWise Gift Cards" in Jan's mission mailbox across from the copier.

Click here for more information and a list of the most needed items:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jrzXyoRSFdPW9hEhc0Kget-2SxnrEvtr/view?usp=sharing>

Please consider purchasing your gift cards through [Paula Murphy](#), our gift card program director, and the [ShopwithScrip](#) program.

Jan McCurley (Risk-Taking Mission & Service Chair)

Email: janis.mccurley@gmail.com



LORD'S ACRE FUNDRAISER IS OFFICIALLY OVER, BUT YOU CAN STILL DONATE!

There are a few incentive gifts remaining offered for your monetary donation.

Last day to accept donations will be Sunday, Nov. 28.

We have had many donations, and the Mission Team sincerely thanks everyone who supported this campaign! Please make sure to designate on your check memo line or in the online "notes" section which incentive gift you want for the amount you donated. Or, if you DO NOT want a gift, please write "NO GIFT" on the line or notes section.

Available Items

\$40 = 1 batch of homemade Buckeye Brownies, Peanut Brittle, or a mixed batch from Ellen Hendrickson

\$50 = Beautiful, soft, handknit rose pink Scarf from Leah Richert

\$50 = a Kilim, flat woven wool bucket bag with woven leather straps

\$60 = Tasty Nebraska Chokecherry Jelly from Gene Morse

\$70 = Pendleton crossbody wool plaid small bag

\$175 = Handcrafted Bird House from Gene Morse (only 3 available)

\$400 = Riverlands Sanctuary Vacation Home Weekend (2 available) from Sandra Hoffman

Jan McCurley (Risk-Taking Mission & Service Chair)



A MESSAGE FROM THE JUSTICE TEAM

The Webster Equity Bridge and the Alliance for Interracial Dignity are sponsoring a community-wide book read of *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather McGhee. Let's dive in together!

This community-wide book study will explore the social and economic costs of racism that all of us pay. Author Heather McGhee shows that racism is the understory of many problems in America, from rising student debt to collapsing infrastructure. She discusses how the false notion of a "zero-sum paradigm" has resulted in a mindset among many white Americans that they'll suffer if Black Americans make gains. The book illustrates how this way of thinking has led to negative consequences in education, housing, labor, political representation, and the environment. Ultimately, McGhee makes the case for racial unity, which would result in the enrichment of all Americans.

Organizers are excited about this opportunity for neighbors to work together to build a community of learners interested in nurturing each other's perspectives, growth, and humanity. We will foster constructive conversations with nuance, work to seek multiple viewpoints, and consider the dividends that solidarity can yield. Plan to read from November to January, and then discuss in late January and early February.

More information regarding where to check out or purchase discounted copies of the book and register to join a discussion can be found at the website tinyurl.com/63119reads or allianceforinterracialdignity.org. If interested, fill out the blue connection card on Sunday to receive more information.

Carolyn Redmore & WUM Justice Team



NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

All articles and submissions must be sent to secretary@websterum.org and admin.communications@websterum.org by Mondays at 10 am in order to be in that week's newsletter.

CHURCH SPACE RESERVATIONS

It is important for us to schedule specific dates, times, and rooms in our church building. Be sure to email secretary@websterum.org and admin.communications@websterum.org to schedule all usage!



WE CELEBRATE THE MINISTRY OF

Webster United Methodist

for faithfully giving 100% of Conference,
national and global apportionments for 2021 to
support United Methodist connectional ministries in
our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the
transformation of the world.

We give God thanks for your extravagant generosity!

Bishop

District Superintendent

Council on Finance and
Administration Chair

*"For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means,
and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of
sharing in this ministry ..."*

2 Corinthians 8:3

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Paulette Carr (Helen Fuller); Those traveling for the holiday, continued strength (Jim Murphy); Liston Jent (Deanna Jent); For all of us to become compassionate listeners (Debbie Lund); Alta Kopetsky, Susan Garith (Marcia Kennon); Uncle Larry (Michelle Hostmeyer); J. Denison & family (Carolyn Redmore); for all to be vaccinated (Cindy Andrews); Alice Treece; great-grandfather Ed (Megan Gesse); Jodi, Earl Beeks, Mia (Paula Murphy); Sonny (Katie Renkins' sister-in-law's brother); Ann, Debra (Vicki Hoyer)

THANKSGIVINGS

Lucy Kroenung shares the joy of a newborn baby girl of her Young Life's leader and prays for a happy life.

Debbie Lund shares that daughter Haley Day and Trevor Gudde's wedding day was perfect.

Prayers & thanksgivings will remain in the newsletter for two weeks.

To have your prayer requests included, please contact us using the:

*Connection Card (online or in person)

*Prayer Requests (on our website)

*Email secretary@websterum.org

*Contact one of our pastors



COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

The current requirements are:

- Worshippers are welcome to choose their own seats in the sanctuary.
 - Please maintain appropriate physical distancing.
- 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 not required.

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

-Pastor Sharon and Tom Pacatte (Chair of Safety Team)