

Weekly Newsletter

Christmas Eve

WORSHIP

IN-PERSON & ONLINE

4:30 PM **Family-Friendly Worship**

Created for children (includes contemporary music)

7:30 PM **Traditional Candlelit
Worship**

Our Staff

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A Message from Our Pastor

WHAT TO DO THE DAY AFTER...



Friends,

After all the celebrations of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, what shall we do the day after, on December 26th? We could clean our house (again), rake leaves, or start to pack away Christmas. I have a better idea.

Come relax and worship with your church family!

At our regular time of 10:30 am, we will be gathering in our Fellowship Hall on December 26th for Café Christmas, a tradition we began some years ago. This is a laid-back, casual time of worship and fellowship. We'll sing lots of your favorite Christmas songs, pray, laugh, and share a brief interactive message.

Bring your leftover cookies and fruitcakes to share.

Unless eating or sipping hot chocolate, masks will be the fashion for the morning.

P.S. Thank you to all who have made contributions to Joel's run to Samburg, Tennessee, a small town that was slammed by the recent tornado. He's filling his van on Wednesday and heading down early Thursday. He is very grateful for your generosity.



Merry Day After Christmas!

Pastor Sharon



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

LIVING STONES

Our children's Sunday program shifts to the sanctuary until January 2nd. We invite children and their parents to participate every Sunday and to join the family-friendly Christmas Eve Worship Service on December 24th at 4:30 pm where the children will journey to find the Christ Child.



WILD WEDNESDAY! - JAN. 19TH @ 5:30 - 7 PM



January's Wild Wednesday theme is CREATE. We will explore how we can use our skills to create things that help us share God's love. Dinner will be provided.



YOUTH MINISTRY

DECEMBER/BEGINNING OF JANUARY CALENDAR

December 24 - Live Nativity reading at 4:30 pm. Please plan to arrive at the church at 3:30 pm to prepare.

December 26 - No Youth! Enjoy all of your Christmas presents & your families. BE SAFE!

January 2 - No Youth! Celebrate the New Year and be safe!!!

January 9 - Indoor swimming at the Lodge of Des Peres! We will meet at the Lodge to start swimming at 2 pm and swim until 5 pm! I'll buy snacks for you at the concession stand!

We will enjoy the waves & warm water of the indoor Des Peres swimming pool! There are waves, so be mindful of your skill level & strength in the water. Of course, lifeguards will be on duty!

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

Contact directoryouth@websterum.org to connect with Pastor Paige

NEW STUDY FOR THE KING SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS



A VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL



The King Sunday School Class will begin a new study on January 2, 2022. We will be reading and discussing Max Lucado's book titled *Grace - More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine*. Lucado writes, "Grace is God's best idea. His decision to ravage a people by love, to rescue passionately, and to restore - what rivals it?"

Come join us on Sunday mornings at 8:45 am via Zoom. If you are interested, please contact Earl Jones at aemjjones@att.net. All are welcome!

Earl Jones



FORMING FAITH BIBLE STUDY



ANOTHER VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITY

Start the New Year by joining Forming Faith to study the prophetic texts of Ezekiel, beginning January 5th at 7:30 pm. This class is offered through our Zoom Conference Room, so you can elect to come in person or connect through Zoom.

Sign up now on our [website](#), or email assistantpastor@websterum.org for a Zoom Link.

Pastor Josh

CONFIRMATION



Calling young folk who are interested in joining a Confirmation Journey of Faith!

Interested prospective Confirmands (currently in grades 6-9) and their parent(s) are invited to join Pastor Sharon and Pastor Paige for a Parent(s)/Confirmand Orientation Meeting on January 2nd, in Fellowship Hall, beginning at noon.

Confirmation is a special season of learning for young people to prepare them to take their own membership vows. The meeting will take about 30 minutes, and we hope to answer a lot of your questions. Please RSVP to secretary@websterum.org.

The classes will begin the following Sunday, January 9th. If you wish to enroll in Confirmation, but cannot attend the Orientation Meeting, please contact Pastor Sharon at pastorsharon@websterum.org.

Grace and peace+
Pastor Sharon



TREATS FOR AVERY!



In appreciation of all they do for the children of our neighborhood, Webster United Methodist would like to provide mid-morning treats for the teachers and staff at Avery Elementary School on **January 4th**, when the adults return to the building (the students return the next day). We will need many bakers and shoppers to make it happen.

Pastor Sharon hopes to deliver juice and homemade cookies, muffins, brownies, and coffee cake. Bagels are welcome too. Please bring to the church kitchen by Sunday, January 2nd for delivery the next day.



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.

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, contact Carolyn Redmore (cdredmore@aol.com).

Carolyn Redmore & WUM Justice Team



"POWER PLAY GOALS FOR KIDS" DONATIONS FOR LIFEWISE



LifeWise has been selected as one of four charities that will participate in the Ameren Missouri and St. Louis Blues Hockey "Power Play Goals for Kids" program!

Each participating charity is guaranteed a \$1,000 donation, yet the charity receiving the highest number of votes via an online voting contest will receive \$500 for every power-play goal made during the season. There are five more months to the regular season, so that total has nowhere to go but up!

We all know LifeWise is a winning organization! Now it's time to let St. Louis know and help them be the winner of the Power Play Goals for Kids program!

There are several things you can do:

1. First and foremost, cast a vote DAILY! Voting ends on January 31st. Voting once a day means 62 votes for LifeWise! All you need is a valid email address to vote.
2. If you have a Facebook and/or Twitter account, share your vote to your news feed or story so your friends and followers gain awareness of the contest and of LifeWise (that's a win-win!)
3. Ask your family, friends, and co-workers for their votes, too.

It's easy to vote ... simply go to www.amerenmissouri.com/blues and click "Vote Now." To vote, simply enter your email address, select LifeWise, and cast your vote. Once you've cast your vote, you'll receive a confirmation screen, where you'll have the option to share your vote to Facebook and/or Twitter.

As always, thank you for your continued support!

LifeWise StL
(Submitted by Roger McCurley)

OUR ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE



Fourth Sunday of Advent
Kris and Alexis Maly

We await the Christ Child with great love!



NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

All articles and submissions must be sent to secretary@websterum.org and admin.communications@websterum.org by Mondays at 10 am 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!

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Caitlyn Kremer; Margo Petracek; Morgan Murphy; Simpson/Kremer/Kalesh Family; The Szydowski Family; Sharon, Mike, Sarah, & Alex Vreeland; Haley Day; Josh Pemberton, McBride Family, Marilyn (Cindy Andrews); Stuart Chase, Fritz Meitzen, and Don Kopp (Vicki Hoyer); Dallas Reed, Holly Turner (Connie Kroenung); Colleen Seematers' mother (Paula Murphy); Tony and others suffering after Typhoon Odette, Paul (Linda Guth Stangl); Ron Wright (Bev Mesey); families in crisis; healthcare workers; families separated by COVID; those suffering due to storms and tornadoes; those traveling for the holidays; victims of violence; expanding the reach of the church; and for all to be vaccinated.

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)