

DECEMBER 30, 2021

webster 
UNITED METHODIST

Weekly Newsletter



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A Message from Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

With the coming of the New Year, several terms in leadership have been completed. Two who have led the ministries and administrative functions of the church are stepping down to allow others to grow in leadership and faith. When I consider their many hours of service, the prayers, the meetings, and the generous outpouring of their creative energies, I am deeply appreciative that they answered God's call to serve. Many thanks to these followers of Christ who have completed their term of leadership:

Jan McCurley Chair of Risk-taking Missions

Pastor Paige Co-Chair of Stewardship

Joel Kichline Co-Chair of Stewardship

Thank you also to those who have concluded your service on our many ministry teams and administrative committees. Your work has been invaluable in bringing life to our mission.

We are blessed to have a fairly full slate of officers and leaders who will take us into the future together. I give thanks to God for their willing spirits to join hands and hearts in leading our mission "to make new disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." We welcome the following new leaders to their positions:

Hannah Dippel Coordinator of Communications and Admin,
Co-Chair of Communications Team

Deanna Jent Chair of Care Team

Helen Fuller Co-Chair of Risk-taking Missions

Joel Kichline Co-Chair of Risk-taking Missions

I am deeply thankful for our returning leaders and team members who continue to offer their gifts to God with gusto. Thank you also to all those who have newly agreed to join one of our many ministry teams and administrative committees.

A more extensive listing of officers, committees, and teams is available through the church office after the first of the year.



Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Pastor Sharon

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 are 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!



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



God is wild about creating joy to bring to others. Our children will be challenged to co-create with God using some recyclables and other materials.

The church family is invited to bring small cardboard boxes, wrapping paper tubes, and cardboard egg cartons (not Styrofoam or plastic) to the elevator lobby and place them in the large container for this creative activity.

You can sign up your child for this free event [here](#). Dinner will be served first, followed by a time of reflection and creation!

Masks are required except while eating. Contact directorchildren@websterum.org with your questions.



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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

JANUARY CALENDAR

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!

January 16 - iPod devo/sledding! If it's snowy, layer up and bring your sleds and we'll hit the local slopes!!! If it's not, we will share our new music obsessions from 5:30-7:30 pm!

January 23 - Sledding/Zombie Tag! If we missed the snow last weekend, hopefully it'll be snowy this weekend! If not, plan for a game of zombie tag

****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

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

TORNADO RELIEF TO SAMBURG, TENNESSEE



Thank you to all that donated and helped our church's effort to bring supplies and support to those affected by the tornadoes and storms by Reelfoot Lake. Joel Kichline was able to deliver all of the donations to those in need. We continue to offer our prayers to those affected.





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** (note change of date), 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 Monday, January 3rd (note change of date).



COMMUNITY BOOK STUDY UPDATE

THE SUM OF US: WHAT RACISM COSTS EVERYONE AND HOW WE CAN PROSPER TOGETHER BY HEATHER MCGHEE

About a dozen WUM folk have indicated an interest in participating in this book study. The two general options for group participation are a Community-wide group (register at tinyurl.com/63119reads) or a WUM group. For a WUM group, planning is in progress, (time-morning, late afternoon, evening; mode --Zoom or Zoom+Zoom Conference Room) and will be announced soon. All who are interested need to obtain the book and read it by mid-January when the study is set to begin. Suggested sources: library, The Webster Groves Bookshop, The Novel Neighbor, Left Bank Books.

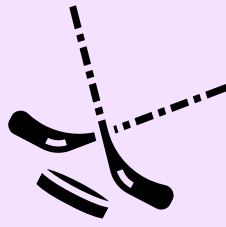
Three WUM members who have read the book or heard the author speak highly recommend it. It explores the social and economic costs of racism that all of us pay and makes the case that racial unity results in the enrichment of all Americans. This opportunity comes to us from the Alliance for Interracial Dignity and the Webster Equity Bridge. The Justice Team is pleased to support it.

It's not too late to "sign on." Email or call 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 WHITE CANDLE OF CHRIST



The Thomas Family

*We light the white candle of Christ,
representing the best gift of all, Jesus!*



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

Lynne Wehrmann; The Looney Family; Cindy Foshee; Margo Petracek; Morgan Murphy; Simpson/Kremer/Kalish Family; Josh Pemberton; McBride Family; Caitlyn Kremer, Marilyn (Cindy Andrews); Jerry Chulick (Jo Ann Claywell); Ron Wright (Bev Mesey); Ellen Hendrickson's sister Marilyn Cline; Dallas Reed, Holly Turner (Connie Kroenung); Colleen Seematers' mother (Paula Murphy); family of 6-year-old hit by school bus and for the driver of the bus; Tony and others suffering after Typhoon Odette, Paul (Linda Guth Stangl); for a closer relationship with God for guests attending Christmas Eve services; holiday travelers; families in crisis; healthcare workers; families separated by COVID; those suffering due to storms and tornadoes; and for all to be vaccinated.

CONDOLENCES

Condolences to the Looney family as they mourn the loss of Kay Looney who passed away on December 29. Arrangements are to be announced soon.

THANKSGIVINGS

Guests Grady & Jessica at Christmas Cafe wrote, "Thank you for having us! We appreciated all the prayers. God bless and Happy New Year!"

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)