

Weekly Newsletter

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that..."

-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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A Message from Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an American Baptist minister and activist who became the most visible spokesman and leader in the American civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968. King advanced civil rights through nonviolence and civil disobedience, inspired by his Christian faith and the nonviolent activism of Mahatma Gandhi.

King participated in and led marches for Blacks' right to vote, desegregation, labor rights, and other basic civil rights. King led the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott and later became the first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. King helped organize some of the nonviolent 1963 protests in Birmingham, Alabama. He helped organize the 1963 March on Washington, where he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

Through his courage, his words, and even his death, King ignited a movement that is still necessary as our country fails to ensure guaranteed civil rights to all of its citizens.

This weekend, our country will celebrate the life and justice work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It has been our tradition for many years to help lead a community-wide celebration involving a march from City Hall, a soup dinner with a ton of homemade cookies, and a program filled with music, essay awards, and a special speaker. But because of the pandemic, for the second year, we will be forgoing this large group event. Instead, we are going to serve our community.

Food insecurity seems like an unlikely condition in what some perceive as a fairly affluent community like Webster Groves. However, statistics tell us that it is prevalent, especially among families of color and our aging neighbors. For those whose families have called this town home for generations, it is becoming more and more difficult to live here, to meet the rising taxes, and/or to raise a family. In the spirit of MLK, can we help?

In collaboration with other Webster organizations, our Mission Team will be hosting a Neighborhood Food Drive of non-perishable foodstuffs from 9 am-noon on Saturday (Jan. 15th), Sunday (Jan. 16th), and Monday (Jan. 17th) to restock the shelves at Webster Rock Hill Ministries. The big green collection unit will be positioned on the parking lot next to the elevator entrance for easy drive-by drop off and wheeled back inside at noon each day.

As you shop for your contribution, think of aging folks and some of their special needs, and families with growing children. They are our neighbors. Stocking their pantry is a good way to tell them they are loved. It's a great way to drive out the darkness of poverty, depression, and hunger. As Christians, we celebrate that the Light of the World has come. Let's share some light.



Grace and peace+

Pastor Sharon



MLK DAY OF SERVICE FOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY - MONDAY, JAN. 15TH - 17TH

As a part of the Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, we will be joining several other Churches and organizations in a food drive from 9 am-12 pm Saturday, Sunday, and Monday (January 15-17th). All the food collected will be delivered to Webster Rock Hill Ministries for distribution.

The big green collection unit will be positioned on the parking lot next to the elevator entrance for easy drive-by drop off and wheeled back inside at noon each day.

We are in need of volunteers to help collect items during the time slots mentioned above. Contact [Helen](#) and [Joel](#) to sign up!

Helen Fuller and Joel Kichline (Risk-Taking Mission & Service Co-chairs)



SUNDAY WORSHIP IS VIRTUAL



Church,

In recognition of the holiday wave of omicron virus flooding St. Louis, and in consultation with members of our Safety Team, we will be virtual-only worship this Sunday and for the time being. Do not come to the church on Sunday, January 16th for worship; I hope you will find us on YouTube and our Facebook page instead.

Click [here](#) to find our YouTube channel, [here](#) for our Facebook page, and [here](#) for our website.

Sit tight, friends. This too shall pass, and we will resume our in-person worship again.

The church is still open for those needing to come in to do tasks and small group gatherings. Please remember to socially distance and wear your masks, even if vaccinated and boosted.

Grace and peace be with you+

Pastor Sharon



NO MOUNTAIN SERVICE TONIGHT

Unfortunately, our Mountain Service worship will be canceled this week due to the fact we are unable to stream this Thursday.

We will resume this worship service next Thursday, January 20th at
7:30 pm!

Pastor Josh

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

LIVING STONES

Living Stones will be suspended during virtual services. It will be replaced with a children's moment within our online service. Please keep an eye out for more updates to our children's programming as we make these changes.



WILD WEDNESDAY! - POSTPONED



Wild Wednesday scheduled for 1/19 is being postponed to February. This is due to the recent spike in Omicron cases in our area. The hope is to continue on the third Wednesday of next month, but final decisions will be made when we have more information.

Shae Parsons



FORMING FAITH BIBLE STUDY



ANOTHER VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITY



Start the New Year by joining Forming Faith to study the prophetic texts of Ezekiel, Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. This class is offered through our Zoom Conference Room and will be Zoom-only until the Omicron surge is past and we return to in-person worship.

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

Pastor Josh

YOUTH MINISTRY

JANUARY CALENDAR



January 16 - iPod Devo!! Bring your favorite jam to sing in the car! We will be wearing masks and taking extra COVID precautions. We will enjoy our tunes with plenty of space from one another. I will not be cooking but will instead grab some carry-out for dinner. I'm thinking Raising Cane's.

January 23 - Sledding/Board Games! If there is no snow, plan for a night of board games. We will have cards, Uno, and other board games. If you have a favorite from home you'd like to share with us, feel free to bring it! We can Lysol it before you take it home!

January 30 - Parking Lot Bonfire! We will roast up some hot dogs and hang out and enjoy the winter together. Be sure to wear warm clothes! We'll have s'mores & hot chocolate. Be sure to bundle up!! Immediately following we will have a Mission Trip meeting at 7:40 pm to decide on where we'd like to travel!

****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 began a new study on January 2, 2022. We are 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

UPDATE FOR WORSHIP AT BETHESDA DILWORTH

Due to the surge in COVID cases, Chapel at Bethesda Dilworth will not be held this month.

Beth Anderson



A MESSAGE FROM UMW

FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION



Fracking is one method of extracting natural gas and petroleum from the earth. It involves injecting water, sand, and chemicals at high pressure into bedrock to break it up, giving access to fossil fuels that are the top source of energy in the world. This process is dangerous, causing methane leaks, contaminated water, overuse of water, earthquakes, and noise pollution. Its impact on health includes headaches, cancer, and birth defects.

United Methodist Women members toured fracking fields in PA to see the impact of fracking firsthand. While there they visited a single father and his son who have suffered ear infections, heart problems, bladder and bowel issues, neuropathy, and asthma due to drilling at a well Chevron built 60 yards from their home. The father showed them a box of letters he'd written to the Dept of Environmental Protection, but has received nothing from them.

United Methodist Women's Just Energy for All is working to end our dangerous dependency on fossil fuels. The campaign works with companies and governments for a just and equitable transition to clean, renewable energy. Chevron, the 2nd largest emitter of carbon dioxide in the world, is one of the companies to whom UMW has appealed.

Action begins with education. Awareness leads to positive change. This national effort is supported by local action and by members sharing the realities of climate change and fossil-fuel use.



"POWER PLAY GOALS FOR KIDS" DONATIONS FOR LIFEWISE



Have you voted for LifeWise today? Don't forget that your vote counts toward extra money for LifeWise!

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)



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

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR KAY LOONEY



FRIDAY, JANUARY 14TH @ 3 PM

Because of the holiday wave of Omicron, masks and physical distancing will be the tune of the day, and those attending the memorial will be seated by an usher and later released from your pew by an usher. You will be asked to move to an exit directly, and do your visiting outside. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and observance. There will not be a reception after the service.

The entire service will be live-streamed, so you may prefer to stay home. We planned to do this initially so we could include folks who couldn't travel to St. Louis. Now, it offers a reduction of risk to the family and close friends who would otherwise be in a packed church. Thank you to those who elect to watch through live streaming.



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

Deane Looney and Family; Lynne Wehrman; the Widmer Family (Debbie Lund); Sharon and Tony (Linda Guth Stangl); Caitlyn Kremer, Marilyn (Cindy Andrews); Ellen Hendrickson's sister Marilyn Cline; those trying to conceive; and for those traveling for the holidays.

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

Worship will be online only as we avoid Omicron and the accompanying surge. Please check the website and this newsletter for updates on when we will return to in-person worship.

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

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