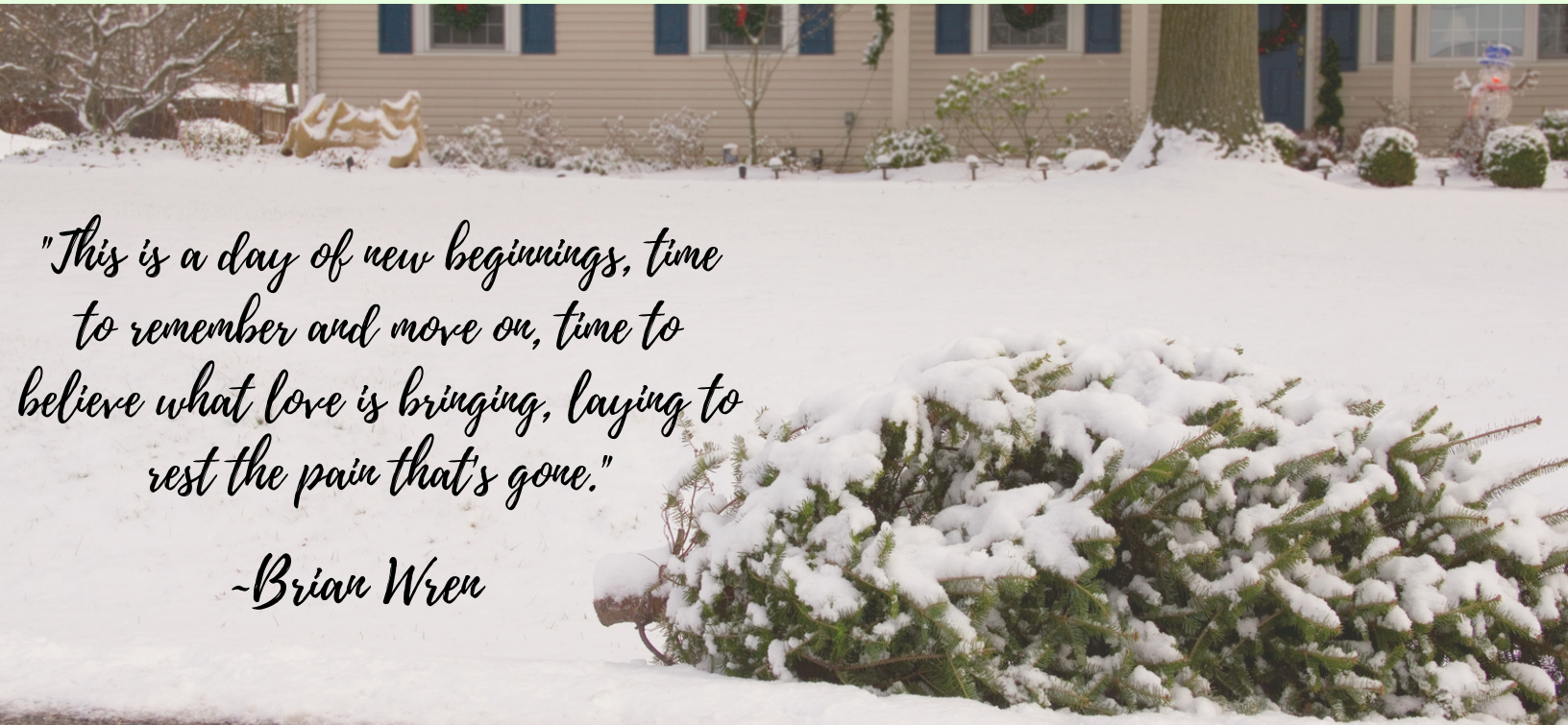


Weekly Newsletter



"This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone."

-Brian Wren

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A Message from Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

Friends, I am sharing a message from some years ago, modified for this moment. I hope it resonates with your hearts.

Some of you have spent the New Year's weekend packing up Christmas. Not us. My husband Joel loves the lights and tinsel of the season; he'd leave up our lights year-round if he could. Over the years, we've negotiated leaving up the tree until after his birthday, two weeks into the new year. By then, I've already vacuumed up half of the Christmas Tree.

I always feel a little relieved to have Christmas packed away. Now it's back to business as usual, right? But wait...was that Jesus that just fell into the box?

Perhaps you've had a heartwarming Christmas experience, sharing Holy Communion at Christ's Table of Grace, and passing the light of new life in a darkened Sanctuary to every soul. But how easy it is to pack away your tender Christmas experience together with the ornaments and wreaths so that you can move on to the next thing.

But our faith can be so much more than that melty sweet experience on Christmas Eve. Now is not the time to pack that glowing connection with God away...because our adventure with Jesus has only just begun. Now is the time to risk, to pray, to stretch, to grow in our relationship with God, as we partner with Jesus Christ in transforming the world.

***"Christ is alive, and goes before us
To show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings,
Our God is making all things new!"**

Come and be part of the adventure of loving, feeding, teaching, sharing, and building. Come be a part of something bigger than yourself. Don't pack Jesus away in the attic or basement, where He is to await your attention next December. Store Him in your heart.



See you Sunday,
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 Fellowship Hall 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 (shoebox size or smaller), 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, Wednesdays 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 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 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

WUM PROVIDES WORSHIP AT BETHESDA DILWORTH

On Sunday, January 16, 2022, our fully vaccinated and masked volunteers will return to Bethesda Dilworth (BD) to lead worship again.

The staff and residents of this skilled nursing facility have been fully vaccinated; therefore, we are able to provide a half-hour chapel service one Sunday every other month.

At 2:00 PM volunteers gather on the second floor to receive assignments from Chaplain Michael Tooley, and then escort residents who wish to attend via wheelchair. The half-hour service begins at 2:30. At BD we have the reputation of singing a lot because we begin singing beforehand. By 3:30 PM we have finished returning residents to their rooms.

If you would like to volunteer this month or be added to the e-list of volunteers, please contact **Beth Anderson**, (314) 781-9923 or treblecross1980@gmail.com.



HELP US FILL THE MITTEN TREE



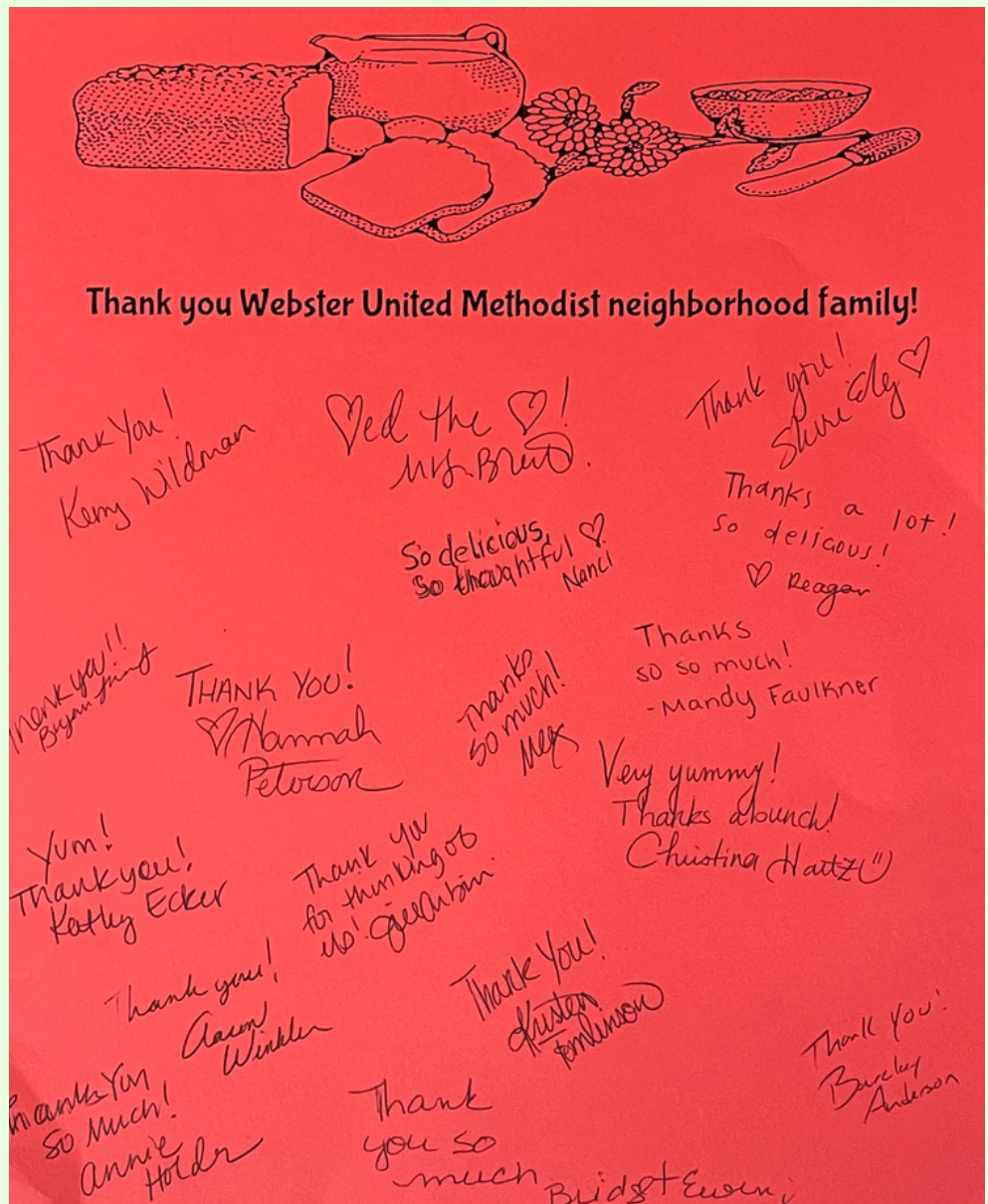
The Children's Ministry Mitten Tree in the elevator foyer can hold even more mittens, hats, scarves and socks to benefit InExcelsis ministries, helping homeless persons throughout the metro area. You can still help by bringing your donation by January 9th!

TREATS FOR AVERY SUCCESS!



The staff and teachers at Avery Elementary School were thrilled with the wonderful spread of treats and juices gifted by WUM on Tuesday morning! It was their first day back to school with students, and Principal Hannah Peterson invited everyone to stop by and enjoy. Thank you to all for your baking and shopping contributions and special thanks to Beth Gewinner, hostess extraordinaire!

We received this kind thank you note from the school! Thank you to everyone who donated and volunteered to make this happen for our well-deserving educators.





"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)



THANK YOU FROM THE CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group would like to thank everyone who shopped at our Christmas Boutique. We collected \$435 for Missions.

Sharon Wersching



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 Wehrmann; Cindy Foshee; the Widmer Family (Debbie Lund); Sharon and Tony (Linda Guth Stangl); Caitlyn Kremer, Marilyn (Cindy Andrews); Jerry Chulick (Jo Ann Claywell); Ron Wright (Bev Mesey); Ellen Hendrickson's sister Marilyn Cline; family of 6-year-old hit by school bus and for the driver of the bus; those trying to conceive; those traveling for the holidays; and for a closer relationship with God for guests attending Christmas Eve services.

CONDOLENCES

Sympathy to Deane Looney and family on the passing of his beloved wife Kay and to her many friends. Kay went to heaven on Wednesday, December 29, one day before their 61st anniversary.

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)