

# Weekly Newsletter



"REACHING  
FOR  
THE  
LIGHT"

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# *A Message from Our Pastor*

## REACHING FOR THE LIGHT

*"Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, 'I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.'"*

*John 8:12*

Joel and I have returned home safely after experiencing an adventure of a lifetime! Thank you to all who kept the wheels on the bus spinning so beautifully in our absence.

I suspect you will be hearing bits and pieces about our time in paradise as they find their way into my writing and preaching for a time. I am still bedazzled by the beauty of the islands and the warmth of its people.

One of the wonders that we viewed on the Big Island of Hawaii was the volcanic lava fields surrounding Kilauea, an active volcano with a crater roughly 5 miles long and 3 miles wide. At almost 600,000 years old, Kilauea is still quite young for a Hawaiian volcano and is shaped more like a lunar crater than a cone. When lava erupts and spills out, which has happened in recent history fairly often (in volcanic terms), it covers the ground with a thick layer of molten rock. All life is sealed beneath the suffocating, hardened crust.

Yet, that is not the end of the story. Over time, the seeds lying dormant in darkness began to stir and waken, then over time, to break through the lava shell. These tender shoots are compelled to push toward the light. The picture on the cover of this week's newsletter features a small but gritty little fern that I observed that has escaped its darkness and appeared to be dancing in the balmy breeze and the sunshine.

When our lives take a turn, which they do sometimes, and we find ourselves in darkness, it is not the end of our story either. God is present with us in that darkness and offers us hope for new life. Our challenge is to imagine the Light and stretch out to touch it. It is there, ready to embrace us, wash us in warmth, and infuse us with new life. Scripture declares that Jesus is that Light. Following Jesus will lead us out of our imprisonment in the darkness.

He did that for me. I know He will do it for you too.



**Grace and peace+**

*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. Children will remain distanced and masks are required. There will be games, stories, snacks, and prayer. We look forward to seeing you every Sunday!

## WILD WEDNESDAYS ARE BACK!

**By February 20th** - Send your Valentine's Day cards/letters to our church office or place in the Valentine basket in the elevator foyer, marked with "Sending Love," by February 20th. They will be shared with the medical staff at Mercy Children's Hospital.

**March 9th @ 5:30 pm** - Our theme will be dance! We will celebrate St. Patrick's day by bringing in Irish Dancers from the Clark Academy of Irish Dance. They will perform and teach us a jig! We will also see how dance is used throughout the Bible to praise God. Sign up [here](#).

**April 13th @ 5:30 pm** - Our theme of course will be Easter! Sign up [here](#).

If you would like to volunteer, bring food, or cook food for any of these or future events, please email me at [directorchildren@websterum.org](mailto:directorchildren@websterum.org). I would love your help!

**Shae Parsons**



## JOIN THESE BIBLE/BOOK STUDIES!



*Opportunities to Participate Virtually*

FORMING FAITH BIBLE STUDY - WEDNESDAYS @ 7:30 PM

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

THE KING SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS - SUNDAYS @ 8:45 AM

If you are interested, please contact Earl Jones at [aemjjones@att.net](mailto:aemjjones@att.net).

# YOUTH MINISTRY

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR



**February 20** - Tie-Dye night!! We will tie-dye shirts, so if you plan to come, let me know what size you'd like. Also, we may try the bleach dying that is so popular these days. I will have both black and white t-shirts!

**February 27** - With hope & faith we will bring back ZOMBIE TAG! After working up a sweat, we will sit down to chat about our summer Mission Trip!

**\*\*ALL EVENTS WITHIN THE CHURCH REQUIRE A MASK! \*\***  
Youth Ministry meets on Sundays from 5:30-7:30 pm!

Contact [directoryouth@websterum.org](mailto:directoryouth@websterum.org) to connect with Pastor Paige



## YOUTH MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

The youth are looking forward to engaging again in a summer mission trip. Your support is key in helping us deepen our relationship with Christ in different communities. One way you can help and also enjoy a treat is to participate in our TJ's Fundraiser. We are available from now until Feb. 27, 2022, to take your favorite pizza and cookie orders. Once the forms are turned in, we will let you know the delivery date, likely around March 13. The youth will be able to accept cash or checks made out to Webster UM with 'Youth Fundraiser' in the memo line. Donations can also be made through online giving. Click the GIVE tab on the top right of our website or choose the GIVE option on your phone, and follow the "[Give Now](#)" link.

We appreciate your gifts and your prayers as we continue to organize and plan a life-changing mission experience for our youth!!

Blessings,

**Paige Foster & the Youth of Webster UM**





# INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

## *Call for Lenten Devotional Writers for 2022*

When joining the United Methodist Church, we state that we will faithfully participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. It is an encouragement to others and helps all of us grow in faith. That is our intent as we embark on compiling devotions to be used during Lent.

Writers will be given guidelines and samples of devotions. We will discuss with you how to start, if you feel you need help. If you want assistance, please contact us by February 18th. Since Lent begins on March 2nd, the deadline for submissions is February 25th.

The Intentional Faith Development Committee thanks those who have already volunteered. Again on Sunday, the Connection Card will have an opportunity for you to sign up or to seek more information. If you have questions or need assistance, contact Linda Guth Stangl at [linda-guth-stangl@live.com](mailto:linda-guth-stangl@live.com).



## JOIN OUR WORSHIP STREAMING TEAM!



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST IN THE EXCITING WORLD OF STREAMING SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES!

If you have an interest in learning new and valuable skills and assisting with streaming, please contact Gordon Ballam at [gcballam@gmail.com](mailto:gcballam@gmail.com). You do not need previous experience, but should be comfortable using computers and learning different types of computer software programs. We look forward to hearing from you!

# JOIN A VOLUNTEER-IN-MISSION WORK TEAM FORMING FOR MAY!

We have reserved a workweek with space for 10 people for May 1st - 5th at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center near Springfield, IL. Some people from last year's team are eager to return, but there are plenty of spaces open to join.

**Depart on Sunday, May 1st – Return either Thursday, May 5th in the evening or Friday, May 6th in the morning**

\*What is MMDC? It is a United Methodist-affiliated disaster relief facility providing disaster relief kits, school desks, educational & medical supplies, etc., locally, nationally, and internationally.

\*The work: There is something for every ability — packing kits, sewing school bags, building & refinishing school desks, repairing bicycles and sewing machines, organizing materials, unloading items, filling shipping containers, etc.

\*Cost: TBD based on number of people going, but it will be minimal for dormitory lodging and supplies, plus food & gas expenses.

If you are interested in joining the team, call Jan McCurley or email [janis.mccurley@gmail.com](mailto:janis.mccurley@gmail.com) no later than March 3rd.

**Jan McCurley**



## CALLING ALL QUILTERS AND CRAFTERS



All quilters and crafters are invited to join WUM's quilter and crafting groups. Since the number of COVID cases is going down, we would like to start our groups again. Quilters meet in the old nursery from 9 am until noon every Tuesday. Crafters meet in Fellowship Hall from 9:30 to 11:30 am every 4th Tuesday of each month.

Each group has a sale or auction with the money going to missions. If you would like to join or have questions, call Sharon Wersching.

MASKS ARE REQUIRED AT ALL MEETINGS.

**Sharon Wersching**

# BLACK HISTORY/OUR HISTORY IN THE MAKING

## THE TEACHING OF U.S. HISTORY IN SCHOOLS

Currently, there is a focus among educators on equitable and accurate teaching of U.S. history in schools, where no group's stories are omitted or erased. In practice, this has not been the reality for students of color. One push back against this focus is the introduction of bills in the Missouri House Elementary & Secondary Education Committee which would prevent equitable and accurate teaching of our country's history. Strong opposition to these bills has been voiced in hearings, but more voices are needed.

In support of the focus on equitable and accurate teaching of U. S. history, the Justice Team invites you to add your voice by joining Metropolitan Congregations United at the following rally. For more information contact Carolyn Redmore [cdredmore@aol.com](mailto:cdredmore@aol.com).

**MCU/Education Task Force**  
**Truth in Education: Let Them Learn**  
**Saturday, February 19, 2022**  
**11 am - 12 pm**

**University City School High School**  
**7401 Balson Ave., 63130**



## NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

All articles and submissions must be sent to [secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org) and [admin.communications@websterum.org](mailto:admin.communications@websterum.org) by Monday at 10 am to be in that week's newsletter.

## CHURCH SPACE RESERVATIONS

It is important that the church calendar is accurate and up to date. If you want to schedule a space for your group, check the calendar and send your request to [admin.communications@websterum.org](mailto:admin.communications@websterum.org) to schedule all usage!

## OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Margo Petracek; Meagan Day; Sandy Hoyer, Darlene, Debra (Vicki Hoyer); Kathy Linss (Beth Gewinner); Family of Jeff Jason, Carol Carinci (Debbie Lund); Paige Solomon, Johnathan Ziggler (Connie Kroenung); Tim Mosier & family (Kris Maly); Ted Stockwell (Sharon Kichline); Marilyn, Mary Lynn Wright (Cindy Andrews); those with cancer; elderly parents; safe travel; healthcare workers; social justice for all; for our planet; and for all to be vaccinated.

## CONDOLENCES

Condolences to the Hardin Family as they mourn the death of Donald Hardin, husband of Pat Hardin, who passed away on February 9th. The visitation will be Tuesday, February 22nd at 10 am and the memorial service at 11 am.

*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](mailto: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.
- Please wear masks throughout worship.

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