

# Weekly Newsletter



**HELP US CREATE**  
*Valentine's Day Cards &  
Letters for  
Healthcare Workers!*

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# A Message from Our Pastor



SENDING SOME LOVE

*Dear Friends,*

In the early months of the pandemic, as we watched the medical services of hospitals become totally saturated with COVID cases, with many requiring ventilators, every day seemed like the chaotic rush of a multicar pile-up for those providing the critical care. As pedestrian onlookers in our homes, we could see the physical and compassion fatigue building up in the faces of those healthcare workers featured in the nightly news. Communities all over America took to honking horns at 5 pm during hospital shift changes and gathering with banners at local hospitals to bring appreciation and encouragement.

Now as we are rounding the bend toward our second anniversary of the pandemic, the fanfare and cheers have quieted. Still, record levels of the sick remain in area hospitals, and workforce shortages are worse than ever, as many healthcare workers stay home because of sickness, exposure, or to care for ill family members. While members of the medical staff seem to be learning to shift their expectations to running a marathon rather than a sprint that our country originally expected, fatigue is still a critical drain on their strength and emotional wellness. What could we do to renew our support for them?

Just as Jesus predicted, "the little children will lead us!" (Isaiah 11:6). Our WUM children will be making Valentine's Day cards for healthcare workers at the February Wild Wednesday on February 16th (5:30 pm - 7:00 pm). They are inviting you and the neighborhood to join in on the fun!

You are invited to add your notes of encouragement and appreciation for those serving in the healthcare field working with children. Ask your Sunday school class, family, and your neighbors to participate. Send your Valentine's Day cards to our church office, marked with "Sending Love," by February 20th, and they will be shared with the medical staff at Mercy Children's Hospital before the end of the month. You can also drop them off in the Valentine's box located in the elevator foyer.

This is a season of sharing love and showing care. Jesus was confident in suggesting we follow the example of our children in doing both. Are you in?

**Grace and peace+**

*Pastor Sharon*

# WE HAVE A BOUNTIFUL RESULT!

Individuals braved the cold, the inclement weather, and COVID/Omicron variant to contribute to the MLK Jr. Food Drive benefiting Webster Rock Hill Ministries. We are blessed as a church to be surrounded by a generous community in addition to our own loving church folks! It is our hope that some of this community will join us when we get back together as a church body.

**Grand total collected for the week of January 1/15-1/23 = 1,085 food items!**

Our thanks to Louise Thomas, Kris Maly, Mary Taylor, and Jan McCurley. Thanks to the Tuesday work crew and Dennis Fuller who loaded up at least a ton of food to deliver to WRHM. Thanks also to publicity and promotion folks for their social media and website postings, and a new food drive banner (thank you, Joel) that captured the neighborhood's attention & drew them in. Church communications staff, Hannah Dippel, Esha Vij, and Gordon Ballam did a remarkable job on short notice posting to the Church website and Facebook sites.

Our sincere thanks,

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



## SPECIAL OFFERING FOR HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH @ 10:30 AM WORSHIP

Sunday, February 6th, is our somewhat delayed Human Relations Day, the first of the six special collection Sundays for all United Methodist Churches. On this day we will join other United Methodist congregations collectively to support neighborhood ministries. These ministries focus on community development, community advocacy, reaching at-risk youths, and easing the transition of formerly incarcerated individuals. Your gift truly makes a difference in the lives of those living in the margins of society.

Special donation envelopes will be available in the Church pews at the worship service, or you can designate Human Relations on your check to the church.

Thanks for your support of these life-changing ministries.

**Helen Fuller and Joel Kichline (Risk-Taking Mission & Service Co-chairs)** 3

# IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT WORSHIP

## IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL OPTIONS



We will return to in-person worship for the Mountain Service this Thursday (February 3rd @ 7:30 pm) and Sunday worship (February 6th @ 10:30 am)! Masks are still required upon entering the building. For a virtual option, all worship services will be live-streamed on our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube page](#).

Sign in on the [Connection Card](#) with your [prayer requests](#), and comment during [worship](#) so we can enjoy knowing with whom we are worshipping.

We look forward to worshipping with you in the Sanctuary once again!

**Pastor Sharon, Pastor Josh, and the Safety Team**

# 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](mailto:directorchildren@websterum.org). We look forward to seeing you every Sunday!

## WILD WEDNESDAY! - FEBRUARY 16TH



February's theme is love! Our children will be writing Valentine's Day cards and letters for caregivers at the children's hospitals in Saint Louis. The church and our neighbors are invited to participate too! We would love for you to participate in this activity led by our children.

**Shae Parsons**



## FORMING FAITH BIBLE STUDY

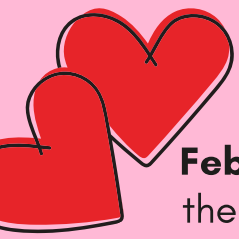
### *ANOTHER VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITY*



Join 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](mailto:assistantpastor@websterum.org) for a Zoom Link.

**Pastor Josh**



# YOUTH MINISTRY

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

**February 6** – Nintendo Switch Game Night! We will wash our hands and share in the virtual world of Mario and Dance Dance Revolution. We have folks who have graciously agreed to let us play some games on their Nintendo Switch devices. We will have dinner and then play games followed by a devotional time. Hope to see you there!

**February 13** – Valentine’s Evening!! We will do an old-school Valentine’s exchange! We will have a Valentine’s box decoration time and then share our little cards and candies!! Bring a box and a set of Valentines. I will have various art supplies for you to decorate your box.

**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!

\*\*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

Hello, church! It is that time again! The youth are looking forward to engaging in a summer mission trip. To do so, we are starting a TJ’s Fundraiser this week. We are available from now until Feb 27, 2022, to take your favorite pizza and cookie orders. The youth will be able to accept cash or checks made out to Webster UM with ‘Youth Fundraiser’ in the memo line.

Your support is key in helping us deepen our relationship with Christ in different communities. Once the forms are turned in, we will let you know the delivery date, likely around March 13. 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**



# COMMUNITY BOOK STUDY UPDATE

## FOUR WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1. Morning Zoom discussion, Thursdays, February 3rd, 10th, & 17th, @ 11 a.m.  
To join, contact host Deanna Gent ([deannajent@gmail.com](mailto:deannajent@gmail.com)).
2. A community discussion at The Novel Neighbor, February 9th, @6:30-7:30 (may be changed to Zoom). Register [here](#).
3. Read the book on your own. Available at libraries; order from The Novel Neighbor or Left Bank Books.
4. Listen on Zoom to Heather McGhee's [Ted Talk](#) or the [book chat](#) with Heather McGhee and Trevor Noah on the Daily Show.

A sample review: "A vital, urgent, stirring beautifully written book... a compassionate road map out of our present troubled moment."

George Saunders, author of *Lincoln in the Bardo*

**The Justice Team is pleased to start 2022 ministry with this opportunity.**



## THE KING SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS



A VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL



Join us as we read and discuss 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](mailto:aemjjones@att.net). All are welcome!

**Earl Jones**



# FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CHECK OUT THESE THREE SHEPHERD'S CENTER OFFERINGS

## **Book Discussion - *Barracocon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo"* by Zora Neale Hurston (In-Person)**

Friday, February 11, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Free: Call (314)395-0988 to join the discussion

*Barracocon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo" is a non-fiction work based on Hurston's interviews in 1927 with Cudjoe Lewis, the last presumed living survivor of the Middle Passage. Barracocon is the February selection for the Shepherd Center's monthly book group. A limited number of books are available to borrow from the Shepherd's Center office.*

## **Celebrating Black Artists - Online Art History**

Presented by Betsy Solomon, MA, Art Historian and Executive Director, Shepherd's Center

Fridays, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm CT

\$12/3-week session To register [CLICK HERE](#)

February 11 - Duncanson & Bannister: Two African American Painters

February 18 - Harlem Renaissance and the Visual Arts

February 25 - Horace Pippin: American, Modern

## **Summer of Soul - Film Screening & Discussion (In-Person)**

Friday, February 25, 1:00 - 3:30 pm

Free/registration required: [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

In his acclaimed debut as a filmmaker, Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson presents a powerful and transporting documentary—part music film, part historical record created around an epic event that celebrated Black history, culture and fashion. In 1969 The Harlem Cultural Festival was filmed in Mount Morris Park (now Marcus Garvey Park). The footage was largely forgotten—until now. Summer of Soul shines a light on the importance of history to our spiritual well-being and stands as a testament to the healing power of music during times of unrest, both past and present. The feature includes concert performances by Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, Sly & the Family Stone, Gladys Knight & the Pips, Mahalia Jackson, B.B. King, The 5th Dimension, and more. SPACE IS LIMITED - NO WALK-INS

**WUM Justice Team, the Shepherd's Center Board Members,  
Pastor Sharon, & Stan Richert**



# BECOME A VOLUNTEER DRIVER FOR SHEPHERD'S CENTER

Shepherd's Center needs more drivers since the program has grown over the years and to replace those not able to continue driving.

If you are interested, contact me at [shrichert@earthlink.net](mailto:shrichert@earthlink.net) or Karen Zelle at [kzelle@shepherdscenter-wk.org](mailto:kzelle@shepherdscenter-wk.org). Karen is the staff coordinator for the Transportation Ministry.

Find out about all of Shepherd's Center's programs at <https://shepherdscenter-wk.org/home/services/>

**Stan Richert**



## 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 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](mailto:secretary@websterum.org) and [admin.communications@websterum.org](mailto:admin.communications@websterum.org) to schedule all usage!

## OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Marilyn, sister of Ellen Hendrickson (Cindy Andrews); Pastor Gloria Kawang; Darlene, Debra, Stuart (Vicki Hoyer); 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](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.
- 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)**