

# Weekly Newsletter

**APRIL 17TH**

*EASTER OFFERING TO HEIFER INTERNATIONAL*



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# *A Message from Our Pastor*

## CHICKS, BEES, BUNNIES, & TREES

For many years now, it has been our tradition to share our Easter offering with others as a visible sign of resurrection power. This year, in keeping with our concerns for environmental and climate justice, and in anticipation of several weeks of powerful environmental focus post-Easter, led by our newly formed Creation Care Task Force, we have chosen an environmentally nurturing gift for our offering, Heifer International's Gardener's Gift Basket. A Gardener's Gift Basket features tree seedlings, rabbits, chickens, and a hive of bees as part of an integrated farming approach, along with education in animal care, fertilization, and sustainable growing techniques.

Three important things will happen when a family receives a Gardener's Gift Basket from us: The bunnies will increase garden production by providing compost and fertilizer. The chickens will provide organic pest control as they get rid of bugs and worms, and the bees will pollinate crops for a more abundant harvest.

Malnutrition is a very real problem for families suffering from poverty, one that claims the lives of many children each year. For only \$170 per basket, we can enable families to better support themselves with a healthy, balanced diet. Our plan is to purchase as many Gardener's Gift Baskets as we can to help as many families as we can. Please give generously to our Easter Offering on April 17th.



**Grace and peace,**

*Pastor Sharon*

# WE NEED GOODIES FOR THE EASTER EGG HUNT!

Easter is April 17th, and once again, we will host our traditional Easter Egg Hunt on the grounds around the church building immediately following worship. You can help us host the children in the neighborhood with gifts of wrapped candy, stickers, and other fun things that fit inside an Easter egg!

**Please leave your donations in the marked basket in the elevator foyer by April 10th.** Thank you!

**Pastor Sharon**



## REMINDER: LENTEN BAG CHALLENGE

Up until Easter (April 17th) our challenge is to fill a full-sized yard bag with items from our closet or dresser drawers. It's simple: every day of Lent, one item from your closet goes into the bag. At the end of Lent, take a selfie with your bag and post it on your Facebook page (or send your picture to [secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org) & we'll post it on the Church's Facebook page) with the explanation of the Closet Challenge. Then take your clothing to your favorite ministry for those in need (LifeWise StL & Salvation Army are two examples).



## EASTER BREAKFAST IS BACK! *VOLUNTEERS NEEDED*

For the first time in 3 years, we get to break bread together as we celebrate Easter. We will need lots of help to make it successful! You are invited to bring a breakfast casserole that can feed 8 people and to bring fruit. The breakfast will begin at 9 am until 10:15 am.

Keep an eye out for the Connection Card on Sunday to sign up or email [secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org).

# 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 in worship, the children will be called forward for a blessing and then will go to the Discovery Room. Children will wear masks. There will be games, stories, snacks, and prayer. We look forward to seeing you every Sunday!

## WILD WEDNESDAY! - APRIL 13TH @ 5:30 PM

Our theme will be Easter, of course! 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**



# YOUTH MINISTRY

**April 3** - Minute to Win It Night. We will enjoy friendly competition playing some games!! Bring an attitude to try new things and a smile! Afterward, we will have devotional time and talk about eco-justice and what it means, and what we can do.

**April 10** - We will enjoy a night of bowling! The church will provide dinner at the alley. If you'd like to enjoy the small selection of arcade games, bring your own money.

**April 17** - The Youth will be hosting the annual Easter egg hunt! Breakfast will be available starting at 9 am. If you can, be at the church by 9 am to get some food and be prepared to hide eggs before church begins at 10:30!!

If you are available that evening, we will enjoy a Webster neighborhood bike ride! Bring a helmet and your favorite set of wheels and we will hit the road together for some exercise and a nice ride to get some kind of snack! I'll provide a quick pizza dinner before we hit the streets.



Youth Ministry meets on Sundays from 5:30-7:30 pm!

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



# 41ST ANNUAL WOMEN'S INTERFAITH CONFERENCE

This annual gathering brings together hundreds of St. Louis women each spring to learn about the beliefs, values, customs, and practices of diverse religious traditions.

Join us virtually on Thursday, March 31, 2022, from 1 pm-3 pm to hear women representing the Baha'i Faith, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Sikhism speak on this year's theme: "Women of Faith: Living Our Faith in a Secular World."

All are welcome. This event is free but registration is required. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Register [here](#).

**Carolyn Redmore (Justice Team Coordinator)**



## LIFEWISE StL SPRING BLING BRUNCH & AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2022

Each year, Spring Bling is one of LifeWise StL's most highly anticipated events. Guests can expect an empowering atmosphere, a delicious meal, top-tier entertainment, and a silent auction featuring an array of designer handbags, beautiful accessories, and creative gift sets. The event will be in person this year!

Join LifeWise in their efforts to enrich the lives of women in our area, while increasing their impact in the St. Louis community. Check out their website [here](#) for more information.

**Jan McCurley (UMW Rep for LifeWise)**



## UMW SPRING GATHERING & CRAFT SALE

*SAVE THE DATE! - SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH*

Time: TBD

Program Focus: Climate Justice

Craft Sale will include potholders, microwave bowl cozies, pillows, doll clothes, decorative bags & boxes, tooth fairy pillows, placemats, & more!

# YOUTH V. GOV: A FILM OF HOPE IN THE CLIMATE CRISIS

The climate crisis is daunting for many of us, especially as it becomes more visible in natural disasters (tornadoes, wildfires, flooding, unheard-of rain events, etc.). How can we, as individuals, even begin to make a difference? How do I drive less and still get where I need to be? How do I use less plastic when nearly everything I buy to eat is packaged in it? How do I support those whose jobs are endangered as we shift to “green” energy sources to save our planet?

One way to start to get a grip on this problem is to see what other people are doing.

Interfaith Power & Light has made the film *Youth v Gov* available to us as a church community, and we will view it on Friday, April 22nd, starting at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Check out the trailer [here](#).

Mark the date to see what the leaders of tomorrow are doing today to guide us through this maze of difficulties that we all face. Our youth will lead the discussion following the film. If you are interested in attending, RSVP on the connection card or send an email to [secretary@websterum.org](mailto:secretary@websterum.org). If you have questions, you may contact any member of the Justice Team or Debbie Lund at [lundgerman@gmail.com](mailto:lundgerman@gmail.com).

**The Justice Team and Debbie Lund**



## "PLAN(T) AHEAD FOR ECO-JUSTICE"

There are so many things each of us can do to be good stewards of the world God blessed us with. Gear up for springtime and the upcoming Faith Climate Action Week (April 22 – May 1, 2022) by exploring these great resources in our community!

Online orders placed between March 26 – April 10 for the Missouri Botanical Garden [Pollinator Plant Sale](#) will be available for pickup on April 15 – 17. In-person shopping and sales take place during Pollinator Fair Days on April 23 and 24 from 10 am – 4 pm.

[Partners for Native Landscaping](#) (affiliated with the St. Louis chapter of the Audubon Society) with the St. Louis County Library are offering two webinars on April 5 and 6 on our suburban ecosystems and how we can support them. Click on the link to find out more or to register for a webinar. The Metropolitan Congregations United has an ongoing environmental justice effort focused on monitoring the air quality in St. Louis neighborhoods. They always need volunteers. See if this is a place where you can make a difference. [Beth Gutzler](#) is the Environmental Justice Coordinator at MCU. Contact her for more information on how you can help.

**Debbie Lund (Creation Care Task Force)**



**United Methodist Women** invite everyone to join us in donating to our **2022 Lenten Mission** observance. This year we come together around the theme of "**Love, Justice, and Service: Answering the Call.**" This year's offering will support the vital and vibrant ministry of deaconesses and home missionaries, consecrated laity who have dedicated the entirety of their lives to vocations of love, justice, and service. These vocations include social work, education, healthcare, advocacy, immigration reform, anti-poverty initiatives, anti-racism efforts, firefighting, legal justice, and more. There are about 400 deaconesses and home missionaries in the U.S. today. Here's information about a few of them:

**Amanda Mountain** serves as the **Director of Motown Mission, an urban work mission destination in Detroit, Michigan.** "My calling is and always has been to work with young people in some way as they discern how to live their faith in their daily lives and, as they grow, what this may look like in their future vocations."



**Kady Herr-Yang** serves as a certified **Hmong medical interpreter for Advocate Aurora Health**, providing translation and interpretation services to Hmong patients and staff **throughout Wisconsin.** "I help eradicate injustice by making sure that family and providers understand that patients have a voice and an opinion about their own health."

**Annette Winston, a nurse, reviews applications for the Elderly and Disability Waiver of the Alabama Department of Senior Services**, which provides home health services to individuals who would otherwise need long-term care facilities. "I have been a caretaker, advocate, teacher, manager, spiritual advisor and so much more. I believe nursing is a ministry."



We welcome you to pray, learn, and offer your gifts as we come together as one in spirit and in faith, on behalf of women, children, and youth across the globe.

*To contribute to our Lenten Mission project, send your checks, payable to Webster UM Women, to UMW treasurer, Lettie Morse (you can check your directory for her address), OR put them in Lettie's mailbox (Treasurer) in the church office. Please write Lenten Mission on the memo line. Thank you in advance for stepping out in faith to bring the love of Christ into our world through your prayers and selfless giving.*

**Cindy Andrews (Webster UMW)**

# OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Mark Kremer; Marilyn Wolf; Margaret Christensen; Gerry Carson; Callie Pacatte; Bill Haub (Jo Ann Claywell); Kathy Linss (Beth Gewinner); Jason Wright (Bev Mesey); Ellen Smith (Marcia Kennon); Lyle Browning (Janet Iggulden); John Lark (Mary Taylor); Cara Daniels (Julie Parsons); Marilyn (Cindy Andrews); people of Ukraine; for those in war; for a continued downward trend in COVID infections; for world leaders; for peace; for those struggling due to depression and isolation; and for all to be vaccinated.

## CONDOLENCES

Sympathy to Vicki Hoyer and family on the recent passing of her sister, Darlene Hyry.



## 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

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!



## COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

- Worshippers are welcome to choose their own seats in the sanctuary.
- Please maintain appropriate physical distancing.
- Please wear masks when moving about in the building.
- You may remove your mask when seated in the sanctuary.

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