

Weekly Newsletter



**"Early on the first day of the week,
while it was still dark,
Mary Magdalene came to the tomb
and saw that the stone had been
removed from the tomb."**

John 20:1

Our Staff

PASTOR, REV. SHARON KICHLINE

pastorsharon@websterum.org

ASSISTANT PASTOR, JOSHUA KRAKOS

assistantpastor@websterum.org

MUSIC MINISTRY, LAMAR FITZGERALD

directormusic@websterum.org

YOUTH MINISTRY, PASTOR PAIGE FOSTER

directoryouth@websterum.org

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, SHAELEIGH PARSONS

directorchildren@websterum.org

COMMUNICATIONS & ADMIN COORDINATOR,
HANNAH DIPPEL

admin.communications@websterum.org

SECRETARY

secretary@websterum.org

<https://websterunitedmethodist.org/>

(314) 961-4133

**600 N Bompert Ave,
Webster Groves, MO 63119**

A Message from Our Pastor

Our flower cross is one of the long-standing traditions of our church. No one remembers exactly when it began, but everyone loves it. The cross is rough-hewn, standing between eight and nine feet tall, covered with chicken wire. Yeah, I know... chicken wire. It's hard to imagine the potential but just wait.

On Good Friday, it will be veiled in black, the color of mourning, standing as a stark reminder of the death of Jesus at Golgatha one exceptionally bad Friday long ago. There, in the center of the nave in the sanctuary, or perhaps outside as a witness to the community, it will be a statement of our faith, a totem of the Gospel story, a sermon about the sin of humanity.

For all the darkness it represents on Good Friday, there is yet an aura of hope that it promises, for we know the rest of the story. We know that on the third day, God brought new life to Jesus. On that Easter morn so long ago, the rock had been rolled away from the tomb where Jesus' body was laid. When Mary peeked inside, it was empty. We know that Jesus was awaiting Mary in the garden, very much alive, having been freed from the shackles of death. We know that God offers that same resurrection power to those who welcome Christ into their hearts and lives. We know.

But not everyone knows. Not everyone has heard the story of the Resurrected Jesus or heard the promise that God can restore our lives, too. Not everyone has experienced the power of the Holy Spirit stirring within their souls, who whispers, entices, and invites our hearts toward God. Not everyone has been invited by someone they trust to join the celebration. And if you don't ask, they may miss it yet another year.

On this Easter Sunday, your guests will be invited to come forward to celebrate at Christ's Open Table of Grace (all are welcome) as we share in the ancient ritual of Holy Communion, bring a flower from your garden or one chosen from the bouquets at the Sanctuary doors. After Communion, show them how to weave their flower onto our flower cross. Children typically cover the bottom 3-feet, while taller folks work above their heads. Finally, those that are "vertically-blessed" will tackle the top, until the entire cross is covered with an explosion of color! This dark ancient instrument of torture will bloom right before us with delicate new life!

Do you know someone who needs to experience some Resurrection Power?
Let this be the year that you bring them to meet Christ!



With expectant joy,
Pastor Sharon



EASTER OFFERING REMINDER

In anticipation of several weeks of powerful environmental focus post-Easter, led by our newly formed Creation Care Task Force, we have chosen to share our Easter offering with an environmentally nurturing gift, 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.

For only \$170 per basket, we can enable families to support themselves better 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.

OUR 2022 EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Maunder Thursday

APRIL 14TH



7:30 pm – Join us for Community-Centered Worship

Led by The Mountain Service Band to remember Christ's Last Supper and His journey to the Cross. We will share in prayer, music, and communion. Join in-person or online.

Easter Sunday

APRIL 17TH



11:45 am – Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Join us in Fellowship Hall to begin our traditional Easter Egg Hunt prepared by our youth.

10:30 am – Traditional Service

Led by the Chancel Choir to celebrate Christ's resurrection with an atmosphere of love, inclusion, and hope.

Bring your friends and family as we create our flower cross together and gather to share Holy Communion at the Table of Grace.

Childcare will be provided for those under 5 years old. *4*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

LIVING STONES

Our children's program will not be held on Easter Sunday but will resume April 24th. There will be a special message for the children during Easter Sunday's worship service.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This year's Vacation Bible School will be June 6-10 and our theme is Food Truck Party. We are looking for people who love children to help. Keep an eye out for the Connection Card to sign up on Easter Sunday or email directorchildren@websterum.org to sign up!

Shae Parsons



YOUTH MINISTRY

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.

Friday, April 22 - The Climate Care Task Force has asked us to host a climate justice movie night. The church will be hosting folks to see a film called *Youth v. Gov.* We will provide some light snacks and smiles as people join us for the movie. We will begin our movie at 6:00 pm.

April 24 - We will enjoy planting flowers and herbs as we have in the past. We will continue our conversations about the Earth and the role we can play! Afterward, we will have a mission trip meeting.

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



Contact directoryouth@websterum.org to connect with Pastor Paige





REMAINING ITEMS NEEDED FOR EASTER BREAKFAST

Many volunteers responded to bake Easter casseroles and signed up for the clean-up crew! Thank you!

If you would like to help, but do not bake, **we still need fresh fruit and bottles of fruit juice.** Please email secretary@websterum.org to sign up.



REMINDER: LENTEN BAG CHALLENGE

Our challenge has been to fill a full-sized yard bag with items from our closet or dresser drawers. As you get ready to donate your bag to your favorite ministry (LifeWiseStL or Salvation Army perhaps), don't forget to take a selfie with your bag and post it on your Facebook page (or send your picture to 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).



FELLOWSHIP TIME STARTS AGAIN SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH

We need folks to take turns picking up the prepaid standing order of donuts from Schnucks in Webster Groves and setting up the hot drinks (making the coffee and heating the hot water for tea) by 8:30 am on Sunday mornings. Keep an eye out for the Connection Card on Easter Sunday to sign up!

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. If you have questions, you may contact any member of the Justice Team or Debbie Lund at lundgerman@gmail.com.

Creation Care Task Force



"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! At Missouri Botanical Garden in-person shopping for pollinator plants will take place on April 23 and 24 from 10 am - 4 pm.

- 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 SPRING BRUNCH & CRAFT SALE

Saturday, April 30th

9:45 am Craft Sale & Fellowship

10:15 am Brunch

(\$10 donation requested to cover expenses)

Business Meeting & Program following Brunch

Program: Terri Riutcel, *Table to Garden*

The presenter will share ways each of us can support the care of our creation.

ALL are Invited!

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



OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Traci Stuart; Margo Petracek; The Stuart Reesor family; Margaret Christensen; Traci's father, Lou; Gerry Carson; Mark Kremer; Tina, Kent (Clay & Theresa Grumke); Shupp family (Paula Murphy); Cindy Foshee's brother; Carol Wright (Bev Mesey); Pam (Traci Stuart); Mary, Linda (Cindy Foshee); Kathy Linss (Beth Gewinner); Ellen Smith (Marcia Kennon); Marilyn Cline (Cindy Andrews); for the people of Ukraine; for all to be vaccinated; and for world leaders.



NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

All articles and submissions must be sent to secretary@websterum.org and 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

to schedule all usage!



COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

- Worshippers are welcome to choose their own seats in the Sanctuary.
- Masks are now optional within our building.

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