

Weekly Newsletter



"OUR HOUSE IS ON FIRE"

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A Message from Our Pastor

"OUR HOUSE IS ON FIRE"

So said TIME Person of the Year Greta Thunberg, the then sixteen-year-old climate activist who has sparked a worldwide student movement and is demanding action from world leaders who refuse to address climate change.

Thunberg asserts that humanity is facing an existential crisis because of global warming and holds the current generation of adults (that would be us) responsible for creating the problem and perpetuating it. She uses graphic analogies, such as "our house is on fire," to highlight her concerns and has often spoken bluntly to business and political leaders about their failure to take immediate and bold action. Speaking at international forums, like the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference, she has berated world leaders that too little action is being taken to reduce global emissions.

While Greta's voice and passion have been eclipsed to some extent since COVID-19 has taken center stage in the global conversation these last two years, the evidence for the truth of her words has continued to multiply. We have read about it, seen it on tv/video, and have even felt it.

As Earth's climate has continued to warm because of our dependence on carbon-emitting fuels, a new pattern of more frequent and more intense weather events has unfolded around the world.

Global warming contributes to the intensity of heat waves by increasing the chances of very hot days and nights. Warming air boosts evaporation, which can worsen drought. More droughts create dry fields and forests that are prone to catching fire, and increasing temperatures mean a longer wildfire season and the loss of critical trees that act as natural air filters in our environment. Global warming increases water vapor in the atmosphere, which can lead to more frequent heavy rain and snowstorms.

A warmer and moister atmosphere over the oceans has produced more and stronger hurricanes, producing greater rainfall, and resulting in more destructive flooding.

In short, Greta has a pretty valid point, friends, and every right to be outraged. It is her generation that will inherit all of this. We need to get on board right now if we want to help change this current alarming trajectory.

As Christians, we have a clear call to concern ourselves with the preservation and nurturing of our planet. According to Genesis 2, God created this marvelous garden and then commissioned humanity as the gardening staff. I am sorry to say, we have not done a very good job. On balance, we are failing, and we must do better. Earth is our only home, and it is in terrible disrepair as the result of decades of disregard for its wellness and fragile balance.

It is time we follow the clarion call of our youth to get involved. As part of a series of events planned by the Creation Care team over the next few weeks, I urge you to attend the movie showing of *Youth V. Gov: A Film of Hope in the Climate Crisis*. It is being shown this Friday, Earth Day, at 6:00 pm, and will be hosted by our youth.

The prophet Isaiah declared that it will be our youth who will lead us (verse 11:6). Boy, he got that right. We need to follow. I hope to see you there.



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 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!

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. Sign up [here](#) or email directorchildren@websterum.org to sign up!

Shae Parsons



YOUTH MINISTRY

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**

EASTER WAS A SUCCESS!

Thank you to all who helped create such a delightful Hot Easter Breakfast this past Sunday! We are grateful to the United Methodist Women who were our gracious hosts, for all who brought delicious casseroles, fruits, and juices to share, and to the efficient and faithful clean-up crew. It sure felt great to break bread together once again!

Pastor Sharon



THANK YOU, GENE!

The chairs in our Zoom Conference Room, located on the second floor next to the elevator, recently got a new fashion-forward makeover. We are grateful to Rev. Gene Morse for lending his upholstery skills to this project.

To schedule the room, which has the benefit of bringing together those online with those in-person, contact Hannah at admin.communications@websterum.org.



THERE IS STILL TIME TO DONATE TO THE EASTER OFFERING!

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.

YOUTH V. GOV MOVIE SHOWING REMINDER

TOMORROW @ 6 PM

There's still time to participate in the showing of the movie *Youth v. Gov*, which will be hosted by our youth group. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm to watch the movie while eating pizza, then engage in a discussion led by the youth.

Contact either Pastor Paige or Debbie Lund if you haven't yet RSVP'd and plan to attend: directoryouth@websterum.org or lundgerman@gmail.com



EARTH DAY IS AROUND THE CORNER: ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT CREATION CARE

Metropolitan Congregations United is holding a petition drive to fight against illegal dumping, a crime perpetrated for the most part in majority Black neighborhoods. As my husband and I traveled to a north county neighborhood to make a donation to a social service agency ([BeyondHousing](#)), we could see for ourselves how dumping obstructed residential streets for residents. Besides yard waste and plumbing debris-- clearly visible to our eyes-- who knew what else was in the piles we saw? This waste harms neighborhood morale, lowers property values, and harms the health of the residents.

The petition asks local elected officials to take the following actions:

- Hold public hearings on the illegal dumping so that residents can describe the scope of the problem;
- Pass legislation that establishes a restorative justice program so that those charged and/or convicted of illegal dumping can clean up the problem they created and make meaningful restitution to the community that was harmed; and
- Establish higher fees for those convicted of repeat offenses

Sign the petition [here](#) and contact MCU's Beth Gutzler at beth@mcustl.com if you have questions or if you want to do more to help.

WANT TO HELP SAVE THE PLANET BY KEEPING YOUR FOOD SCRAPS OUT OF THE LANDFILL?



*Join us on April 30th to discover
small actions you can take right now
that make a big difference!*

Terri Riutcel, Local Environmentalist

presenter at UMW Spring Brunch April 30th
Come for the Craft Sale (9:45) and Brunch (10:15)
OR join us at 11:00 to hear Terri's program

Sign up on the Connection Card or
contact Joan Ballam for more information.

United Methodist Women are committed to climate justice!



LENTEN BAG CHALLENGE

Thank you to all who participated! Remember to deliver your donations to an organization of your choice. Jan and Roger sent their clothing donations to the Salvation Army!



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!



SPECIAL OFFERING FOR NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

Third Sunday of Easter, May 1

Since 1989, an offering has been taken on this Special Sunday and is used to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the annual conferences and rural, urban Native American reservation ministries and communities. It also provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology.

Donations support vital ministries and churches in the Native American communities and allow the UMC to partner with existing native ministries to develop new programs on behalf of Native Americans. Half of the donations collected remain within the Annual Conference to provide hope to children and youth, hope for a brighter future in impoverished communities, and a voice to those who have felt voiceless for years. The remaining half goes towards scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist theology schools and towards the expansion of target cities in the Native American Urban Initiative. This fund is administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

When you give generously on Native American Ministries Sunday, you support seminary students who honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. You empower congregations to find fresh and culturally appropriate ways to minister to their communities with Christ's love.

Helen Fuller & Joel Kichline (Risk-Taking Missions Co-Chairs)

EPWORTH DUCK DERBY

WHAT IS EPWORTH?

Epworth is a multiservice agency founded in 1864 that seeks to empower youth who have experienced trauma to realize their unique potential by meeting essential needs, cultivating resiliency, and building community. In 2021, we served over 13,000 individuals in the St. Louis area. You can learn more at epworth.org.

WHAT IS A DUCK DERBY?

A duck derby is a fundraiser where participants pay to adopt a rubber duck. We race it down a course, and the first three ducks to cross the finish line win a prize! This year, the Duck Derby will be held during a community event at our Webster Groves campus on Saturday, May 7th. Epworth's Duck Derby is the only one in STL!

PRIZES

First Place:

\$1,500

Second Place:

\$1,000

Third Place:

\$500

Lone Duck

Number of Ducks

1



Price: \$5.00

Six Quack

Number of Ducks

6



Price: \$25.00

Quack Pack

Number of Ducks

12



Price: \$50.00

Flock of Ducks

Number of Ducks

25



Price: \$100.00

Check out epworth.org/duckderby to purchase your ducks or contact Linda Guth Stangl (United Methodist Women) for more information & to purchase ducks!



YOGA FOR UKRAINE - SUNDAY, MAY 1

Monday Club

37 South Maple Avenue

Webster Groves, MO 63119

Monday Club is offering yoga sessions to raise funds for Ukrainian refugees. Freewill donations by cash or check accepted on behalf of UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Ukraine Project.

2:00 - 2:45 pm Chair Yoga, Level 1

3:30 - 4:30 pm Slow Flow, Level 1-2

(Bring your own mat for Slow Flow.)

Current Covid precautions apply.

These sessions will also be available on Zoom. To register for Zoom, contact Pam Todd (ptmcfundyoga@gmail.com) by Friday, April 29.

Those unable to attend may donate by sending checks payable to: Monday Club of Webster Groves with "Ukraine" in the memo line.

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Linda Redmore; Margo Petracek; Traci Stuart; the Reesor/Stuart Family; Margaret Christensen; Mark Kremer; Pelch family (Paula Murphy); Lynda Morrison (Debbie Lund); Angela Behnke (Kris Maly); the family of Randy Schinert who died in the 4/15 motorcycle accident (Melodie Wong); Tina and Kent (Clay & Theresa Grumke); Kathy Linss (Beth Gewinner); Marilyn Cline (Cindy Andrews); continued reduction in COVID cases; continued growth in the church; for environmental concerns; for the people of Ukraine; for all to be vaccinated; and for world leaders

CONDOLENCES

Sympathy to Paula Brookshier and family on the loss of her nephew.



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)