



March 16, 2023

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UMCOR Sunday, March 19, 2023

It's What We Do

When the bottom falls out of people's lives through political turmoil, natural, ecological, and civil disaster, The United Methodist Church shows up. We call it **UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)**, and it is *our global emergency relief arm*. UMCOR's work reaches people in more than 80 countries, including our own. UMCOR provides survivors not only temporary relief but long-term education, training, and support.

It's what we do.

In the last 10 years, UMCOR has helped address wide-spread famine in several countries in Africa. As countries such as Bosnia, Syria, and Afghanistan experienced civil strife, UMCOR was there to help affected communities rebuild homes and lives. UMCOR has provided relief to survivors of earthquakes and tropical storms in Haiti and Chile; floods in Pakistan, the tsunami in Japan, and long-term recovery aid to communities in the US South devastated by hurricanes and western states plagued by wildfires. We have been on the ground for the fleeing immigrants of Ukraine and will continue to provide support through the local ministries of the surrounding nations.

UMCOR shows up early and stays late.

It's what we do.

Here is the really cool thing about it: UMCOR sends 100% of donations to the designated cause. When you give a dollar to UMCOR to help someone who has just suffered a disaster, every single penny goes to the emergency where you want to send help. That is not so with the majority of charities, who use a portion (ranging from 5-65%) of donations to fund the business of the organization.

"How can we do that?" you wonder. We do it by taking an annual offering in our churches that covers the administrative costs of operations. For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special UMCOR Sunday, once each year, laying the foundation for UMCOR's ministry of relief and hope. UMCOR does not receive United

Methodist World Service or apportionment funds. With this offering, we are able to send 100% when the call for funds is made so we are able to send more healing and hope to some of the most pain-filled places on earth.

We will celebrate UMCOR Sunday this Sunday, March 19th. Plan to bring your gift that day (make your check out to Webster United Methodist, and write UMCOR on the memo line), or give through our website, websterunitedmethodist.org. Help us underwrite the costs of this extraordinary ministry and join UMCOR as the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

It's what we do.

In ministry with you,

Pastor Sharon

Brown Bag Food Drive for LifeWise StL



March is Webster United Methodist's month to collect food for the City Market at [LifeWise StL](#). Please pick up a brown bag in the Sanctuary Lobby or First Floor Lobby (aka Elevator Entrance) any Sunday in March and return it with food items (from the list) the following Sunday. The Missions

Team has set a goal of 400 food items for this year's Brown Bag Food

Drive. ***Let's work to exceed our goal! We are off to a great start! As of March 13th, we've collected 116 cans and 97 other packages of food!*** Additionally, from March 14th—26th, a storage bin to collect food from the community will be placed in the parking lot. It will go out in the morning until around 8 pm each day.

Foods requested for this drive:

Canned vegetables	Canned fruit	Soup	Canned tuna
Canned chicken	Dried beans	Rice	Pasta
Cereal	Oatmeal	Cream of Wheat	
Toilet Paper	Tissue (Kleenex, Puffs, etc)		

Please check labels and avoid foods high in salt and sugar content.

Volunteer at Bethesda Dilworth March 19th

Every other month, volunteers from WUM assist Pastor Sharon to provide a thirty-minute worship service for the residents at the skilled nursing facility [Bethesda Dilworth](#) (9645 Big Bend Road in Kirkwood). At 2:00, volunteers gather in the chapel on the second floor to receive assignments and disperse to escort residents who use wheelchairs to the chapel. Residents particularly enjoy the WUM Sundays because we sing many old hymns before and at the conclusion of the service. If you have questions, would like to volunteer, or wish to be added to the e-list of volunteers for future dates, please contact Beth Anderson, 314-781-9923 or treblecross1980@gmail.com.

Fundraiser for Youth Group Summer Mission Trip

WUM Youth are fundraising for their upcoming mission trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin in July. They will be selling TJ's Pizza and



Heritage Candles. Members of the youth group will be in Fellowship Hall **March 19th from 10:00—10:30 AM**. Please stop by to make a purchase to support our youth!



WUM Youth Ministry

March 19th—No Meeting! Enjoy your Spring Break!

Living Stones Children's Ministry



Living Stones program is for **children aged 4 years old to 6th grade** and is held during worship (10:30AM-11:30AM). We have games, stories, snacks, and prayer. If you have any questions, please contact Shae Parsons at directorchildren@websterum.org.

The BIG Supper Club

Welcome Neighbor StL's Biggest Fundraiser of the Year



The BIG Supper Club is the annual **Welcome Neighbor STL** fundraiser where we promise to feed your soul and fill your heart with stories of rebuilding lives and restoring hope. Refugee cooks will share their culinary skills with dinner and dessert from Afghanistan, Syria, India, and Africa. Our new friends will discuss their journey to St. Louis and the joys & struggles of settling in a new world. You can be a part of this special celebration by joining as a sponsor, making a donation, or purchasing tickets to the event. Follow this link for more information and to purchase tickets: [The BIG Supper Club](#). **Deadline for tickets is March 20th!**

Maundy Thursday Celebration April 6th



Our sisters and brothers from Unity United Methodist Church will join us for a potluck dinner and worship on April 6th to celebrate Maundy Thursday during Holy Week. Porter's chicken will be provided, and everyone is invited to bring a dish or dessert to share. We will break bread at 6:00pm and worship at 7:00pm.

Easter Breakfast on April 9th



This year, the United Women in Faith will be hosting our **traditional Easter morning breakfast on Sunday, April 9th from 9:00am-10:15am.** This is a great time for guests to meet our church family. They will need our donations of breakfast casseroles, fruit, juice, and muffins. Sign up on the blue Connection Card at worship or call the church office at 314/961-4133 to participate.



Donations Needed--Easter Egg Hunt Candy



Our youth will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for the children of the church and neighborhood **after worship Easter morning, April 9th**. For this event, they will need lots of individually wrapped candy, stickers, and little toys for the egg stuffing. We hope our church family will help. A donation basket will be in the First Floor Lobby (aka Elevator Entrance) beginning Sunday, March 19, 2023. Thank you!

Young Adult Easter Egg Hunt Coming Soon!

All Young Adults are invited to join the **night hunt for Easter eggs** after the Mountain Service worship on **Thursday, March 30th**. Friends and buddies are welcome. Worship begins at 7:30pm. See you there!

Pastor Sharon and Joel



United Women in Faith in Action—Restoring Hope!



A Dallas nonprofit in Texas offers hope to imprisoned mothers and their daughters. One of the programs of [Girls Embracing Mothers](http://www.girlembicingmothers.org) gives girls a four-hour weekly visit with their moms, including a meal, art therapy, and an empowering curriculum. At first a girl may be too angry or hurt to talk to her mom, but they soon open up and begin a relationship guiding them toward happier, healthier lives.

Girls Embracing Mothers (GEM) also helps train and prepare incarcerated mothers for re-entry after they're released. Because United Women in Faith's priority has long been to end Mass

Incarceration/Interrupt the School-to- Prison Pipeline, the women's organization has made a \$250,000 grant to GEM.

Not only has the number of incarcerated women increased greatly, but there are 1.7 times more Black women incarcerated as White women. 80% of the women in Texas prisons are mothers. Currently, at least 5 million children in the US have had an incarcerated parent. Studies show children of incarcerated parents are more likely to become incarcerated themselves -- it becomes a cycle because that's what they see and the behaviors they learn. GEM gives the girls a chance to see there are others like them and they are not alone. GEM also provides a re-entry stipend, job training, and other support. There is even a program paying the moms to go to school full time to give them skills and a career. Mothers who lose their children lose hope. GEM gives back hope and enables them to put their family back together.

Carol Gilker, UWF Secretary of Resources

NOTE: This program is one of hundreds worldwide that are supported by our contributions to United Women in Faith. Over seventy percent of our local UWF budget goes to support missions across the nation and worldwide. Approximately twelve percent of our local budget is used for missions in the St. Louis area.

Call To Action: Stand for Doing No Harm to Transgender Children and Youth

Our church's theology is that our LGBTQ siblings are a holy creation of God. Bills in process in the Missouri legislature intend to limit, if not prevent transgender health care. Medical and mental health organizations support transgender treatment protocols followed with children and youth. Families with their youth have given heart-wrenching testimony on the harm these bills will do. Rep. Ian Mackey stood with them in committee hearings and continues to work against the bills. **We can help.**

Given the super-majority in the House and Senate, Rep. Mackey knows some version of these bills is certain to pass. However, he has reason to believe that **House and Senate leadership of both parties do not favor passage of the bills as voted out of committees. The strategy of**

legislators against the legislation is to amend the bills, so that they say something but do not actually mandate restrictions. This tactic was successfully used with regard to book-banning bills last year. A 3/11/23 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* article (A copy is posted on the Social Justice section of the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.) reports some progress in the Senate. But more change is needed.

Participation in a recent symposium on citizenship at Eden Seminary, reminded me that as Christians we tend to underestimate the power of our voices, especially in relation to justice issues. The result: **I am committed to contacting MO House and Senate leaders this week affirming the harm the bills will do and supporting changes that allow for the continuation of transgender treatment of children and youth. I urge you to join me ASAP. Senate debate resumes Monday, March 20th.**

Carolyn Redmore, Justice Team member

Senate Majority Leader Cindy O'Laughlin	Email the Senator	573-751-7985
Senate Minority Leader John Rizzo	Email the Senator	573-751-3074
House Speaker Dean Plocher	Dean.Plocher@house.mo.gov	573-751-1544
House Minority Leader Crystal Quaid	Crystal.Quade@house.mo.gov	573-751-3795

Thank you!

Thank you so much for all of your support and kindness throughout my time working with Webster United Methodist.

I appreciate all of your well wishes and I wish you all life-long prosperity.

Sincerely, Hannah Dippel

(former WUM Administrative and Communications Coordinator)



LifeWise StL Spring Bling Brunch & Auction

Saturday, April 1, 2023

9:30 AM—1:00 PM

Missouri Athletic Club

All-Church Lenten Study Sunday Mornings

9:00 AM Fellowship Hall

Learning to ask and grant forgiveness is necessary for our lives because of an inescapable fact of human nature: we are bound to hurt each other, sometimes on purpose & sometimes unintentionally. Youth are invited to participate at their own table and the Discovery Room will be available as an option for children. **This study continues through April 2nd.**

Contact Pastor Sharon, pastorsharon@websterum.org for more information.

Good and Evil: Small Group Discussion with Pastor Josh

Join Pastor Josh in a small group discussing the theology of free will, good and evil, and the presence of God among all of these. **This four-week course began Wednesday, March 1st, 5:30—6:30 PM** and meets in Fellowship Hall. Sign up on the Connection Card on Sunday morning or contact Josh, assistantpastor@websterum.org

Sympathy

Sympathy to Patricia Hardin on the passing of her sister Barbara's husband of 60 years, Lonnie Bailey, in Florida.

Prayer Concerns

Louise Sanders' son-in-law Eddie (Sharon Wersching); Connor & Family (Sandy Reesor); Chase Nordlund (Debbie Lund's brother-in-law); Linda Kincaid (Marcia Kennon); Margaret Christensen; Ellen Hendrickson; Leah Richert; Barbara Bailey and sons Ricky and Scott (Patricia Hardin); Jean Major; those traveling; those who have turned away from God; leaders of the world; Missouri legislators; and people of Ukraine