



March 23, 2023

Pastor, Rev. Sharon Kichline

pastorsharon@websterum.org

Assistant Pastor, Joshua Krakos

assistantpastor@websterum.org

Music Ministry, Lamar Fitzgerald

directormusic@websterum.org

Youth Ministry

directoryouth@websterum.org

Children's Ministry, Shaeleigh Parsons

directorchildren@websterum.org

Secretary

secretary@websterum.org

<https://websterunitedmethodist.org/>

(314) 961-4133

Maundy Thursday Celebration April 6th



Maundy Thursday, April 6th

**Unity UMC and WUM together for
*Dinner and Darkness***

6:00pm Potluck in Fellowship Hall

7:00pm Worship with Communion in Sanctuary

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.

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



Brown Bag Food Drive for LifeWise StL



We have one more week in our March collection for food for the City Market at [LifeWise StL](#). Please return your bag with food items (from the list) by Sunday, March 26th. ***As of March 20th, we've collected 235 cans and 125 other packages of food for a total of 360 items. Can we exceed our original goal of 400 and reach 600 by Sunday???*** *There is a collection bin placed in the parking lot every 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.)		

WUM Youth Ministry

March 26th, 5:30—7:30 PM

Supper, Movie Night, Stuff Eggs for Easter

April 2nd, 5:30—7:30 PM

Supper, Scavenger Hunt, Stuff Eggs for Easter

Fundraiser for Youth Group Summer Mission Trip

WUM Youth are selling Heritage Candles and TJ's Pizza to raise money for their summer mission trip to Milwaukee, WI.

Members of the youth group will be taking orders on Sunday in Fellowship Hall from 10:00—10:30 AM and again in the First Floor Lobby (aka Elevator Entrance) following worship. *Please stop by to make a purchase to support our youth!*



Save the Date: Epworth Auxiliary Spring Luncheon

April 28th

10:00 AM

more info next week

Climate Care: How You Can Make a Difference this April

The Webster Groves City Council has passed a resolution in support of a crucial component of a healthy environment: pollinators. Pollinators (bees and other insects, birds) need flowering plants early in spring to provide them with sustenance. *A way to support these pollinators is NOT to mow your grass for the month of April.* The City of Webster Groves is not enforcing the ordinance regarding the height of vegetation



in your yard during the month of April. What easier way to support a healthy, diverse environment for the other inhabitants who support us (food production) with their activity? *No Mow April* is nearly here! Be lazy for the bees! Invite your neighbors to participate! Contact the City of Webster Groves for more information and a yard sign.

<https://www.wgparksandrec.com/685/No-Mow-April>

Order An Easter Plant



For Easter Sunday, 20 hydrangeas *in different colors*, have been ordered to adorn our Chancel Space. If you would like to sponsor a plant in honor or memory of someone, please fill out an envelope found at the doors to the Sanctuary and add your check or cash of \$12.00. Make your check out to Webster United Methodist and write Easter Flower in the memo section. The

envelope can be left on the Secretary's desk in the church office or placed in the Offering Basket during Sunday Worship. Orders are welcome through Sunday, April 2nd. All plants may be taken home after the Easter worship service and make great gifts.

UMCOR Sunday Donations



If you missed donating last Sunday to UMCOR Sunday, it's not too late! Remember, *UMCOR Sunday donations are to cover the administrative costs of operating the United Methodist Committee on Relief.* This enables UMCOR to use 100% of the funds donated to designated causes during the rest of the year. Make your check to Webster United Methodist and

write UMCOR Sunday on the memo line or give through our website

websterunitedmethodist.org.

United Women in Faith Craft Group



UWF Craft Group meets in Fellowship Hall **Tuesday, March 28th at 9:00 AM**. Come join in the fun! There is always something for everyone to do, regardless of your crafting talents. *Call Sharon Wersching (314-961-8265) for more information OR just join us at 9:00 Tuesday!*

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.

Prayer Concerns

Carol & Clyde Gilker; Ellen Hendrickson; Leah Richert; Margo Petracek; Margaret Christensen; Rick Austin (Linda's son); Emery Vanausdoll (Jo Ann Claywell's great-granddaughter); Douglas Wright (Bev Mesey); Linda Kincaid (Marcia Kennon)

Message From Our Pastor...

Racially Restrictive Housing Covenants--Does Your Property Have One?

The fellowship hall was standing room only at the recent Town Hall Meeting hosted at Unity United Methodist Church on Sunday, March 12th. Concerned citizens were joined by a number of clergy, Mayor Laura Arnold, and several members of the Webster Groves City Council to discuss the existence of racially restrictive housing covenants on many property deeds in our city.

Racial covenants were largely introduced in the early 20th century as subdivision building was underway in St. Louis County. Developers built restrictive covenants right into the subdivision contracts. Deeds to properties purchased in those subdivisions referred to those covenants and required purchasers to agree they would not sell their new property to persons of color. These racial covenants had the result of red-lining areas intended to be whites-only neighborhoods, thereby creating racial segregation in our communities.

While a number of pieces of legislation have passed over the years with the intent to address

this issue, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Fair Housing Act of 1968, it wasn't until the Fair Housing Improvement Act of 2022 that the restrictive covenants were specifically made illegal. While unenforceable now, some 30,000 properties across St. Louis, including Webster Groves, still contain racially restrictive covenant language.

One of the presenters, Rev. Meghan McLaughlin from Christ Lutheran Church in Webster Groves, noted, "Not knowing whether we have a racial covenant in our own deeds of trust is a sign of privilege. White people do not have to worry about whether someone might come and tell them they don't belong."

These covenants have led to an imbalance in the accumulation of wealth as property values increased over time and contributed to the racial wealth gap. While these covenants are not enforceable, our Black neighbors find them demeaning and threatening.

There is a way for us to take action. You can check to see if your property has a racially restrictive housing covenant by going to <https://scalar.usc.edu/works/divided-city/the-map>. If you discover that you do have this covenant on your deed, there is a Certificate of Release of Prohibited Covenant form that can be filled out and registered with the Recorder of Deeds in Clayton. There is no fee.

Thank you in advance for making the effort to find out if your deed contains this unjust language and taking steps to have it removed.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Sharon