

THE WORD

Experiencing, Growing In & Sharing God's Love
Goldendale United Methodist Church
August 2020



Sunday August 9th Parking Lot Gathering 9:30 a.m.

Join with others from the congregation for a time of gathering including coffee hour, communion and prayer. Please bring your own lawn chair - goodies, coffee, iced tea and lemonade available. We will be masked and safely 6 feet apart. Stay for a minute or the hour. Let's stay in touch during this pandemic. We will stay safe because we are in this together!! Also, join us on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. for a zoom coffee hour...or maybe it is happy hour!? Look for the link in the Monday and/or Wednesday emails.

Church Rummage Sale August 15 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.



It's a great time to donate things that you no longer need - to raise funds for mission. There is still time to clear out your closets and sign up to help with set up and selling.

We will be socially distancing, requiring masks and limiting folks into the sale.

Please let friends and family know to put the sale on the calendar!!!

August Calendar

T/W/Th Community Meals
5:30 p.m.

Wednesday
Zoom Coffee Hour 4 p.m.

**No Council Meeting
this Month**



THANK YOU!!!!

The response towards the parsonage remodel project has been incredible. We are almost at the donations we need to fix our parsonage's old and out of date kitchen. Our contractors will be coming in early in September to bring the kitchen, the heart of the home, up to date.

Thanks to all, especially Lynn Wanless and Connie Pond who have taken leadership on this project!



Chasing the Wild Goose

Pastor Joyce O'Connor-Magee

I knew I had been to church! The pastor had called for an AMEN and the masked congregation quietly responded with a timid "Amen". Now, the preacher said, we are in a Baptist Church - I want an AMEN! To which the group responded with a resounding **AMEN!** Those at Rep. John Lewis' service and those at home knew we were ready for church.

John Lewis was one of those amazing people. Not just because he was in the Civil Rights movement back in the day of Dr. Martin Luther King. Not just that he lived through a severe beating on Bloody Sunday at the Edmund Pettis bridge in Selma. He was an amazing man not because he had been arrested 45 times and served in the House of Representatives for over 30 years.

Rep. John Lewis was an amazing man because he never gave in, he never gave up. For one so literally beaten and bloodied, he was a man of hope, of deep belief. He believed in our country, the best of our country. He made friends on both sides of the aisle - the tributes from Presidents Bush, Clinton and Obama proved that truth.

John Lewis was a man of faith - a faith in the message of Jesus and the power of non-violence. He lived his life to the very end with the gospel of Christ as his guide. He was one of the few witnesses to that incredible Civil Rights movement still with us in 2020.

We all learned some things if we watched his service. As a child he would preach to the chickens! Even as a small boy, his life was centered on spreading the good news...even if the only ones listening were the family's chickens being fed every morning by the "boy from Troy". We are called to share good news even if it is to folks who don't get it - because it is important as Christians to share that news. We continue to plant the seeds of love even when we don't know if they will take root.

From Lewis we learned again how to practice and stay prepared. Here was a young man who really embraced the non-violent protest. He was a realist. You can still pick him out of the old pictures of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. He was the young man

wearing a trench coat and carrying a backpack. This was long before backpacks were daily wear. In it he would carry an apple or an orange, something to read and a toothbrush. He understood standing up for truth sometimes got you jailed. He was always ready if that was the case. He put his life on the line and stood up for truth wherever that might land him.

One of the other things I delighted in while watching the service was learning John's favorite song was **Happy**, from the movie *Despicable Me*. This serious hero of our lifetime was carried out to this jazzy upbeat song. Others might become bitter, hardened, discouraged. John Lewis, servant leader, life long Christian disciple, continued to have hope, joy, and laughter through it all.

My prayer for myself and each of us is that we stay true to the path of Christ, following Jesus wherever he might lead us. Facing adversity with hope and joy. To know in the end it was things we did in Jesus' name that will change our world.

What I try to tell young people is that if you come together with a mission, and its grounded with love and a sense of community, you can make the impossible possible.

John Lewis



Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

From our baptismal vows.



Hello!

As we meld (or is it melt?) into August I am hoping that everyone is staying safe, healthy, and calm. Even though we are not meeting in the summer, there is activity in the United Methodist Women's room in the basement of the church. It is a bee hive of activity with several of the ladies organizing, cleaning, and preparing for the UMW yard sale. If you are interested in helping to set up or work during the sale on August 15th, please give Pat Hamilton a call. Her phone number is: 509-261-0162.

And you can continue to read UMW books as well as keep on making baby blankets or prayer shawls. Hopefully by next year groups will again be able to meet in person and those blankets can be distributed to hospitals and shelters.

Lynn Wanless, UMW President

As We Think Towards Reopening - from UMC.org

Entering the building

When our congregation can worship indoors, we may not be able to enter as we did previously. Certain doors may be designated as entrances and others as exits. Church leadership may also limit how long before the service we can enter the building.

Health screenings may be performed at building entrances. Using a no-contact thermometer, a greeter may take our temperature on the way in, as a means of keeping us well during and after worship.

Masks will be required when entering the building and strongly encouraged for worship on the lawn. We may also notice hand sanitizer stations at entrances to the building, sanctuary or worship area.

Worship

To help maintain safe social distancing, seating will likely be modified. Pews may be roped off. Chairs might be rearranged. In some churches, an usher may escort our family to specific seats. *We may not be able to sit in our regular spot—unthinkable!*

Following plans like these help the congregation use the worship space most effectively until social distancing and occupancy restrictions are lifted.

It will be good to see our fellow worshipers in person again, but we'll need to refrain from greeting them with hugs or handshakes for now. A nod of the head or a simple gesture like praying hands works *almost* as well, both before the service and during the passing of the peace.

We may not have the hymnals, Bibles, attendance pads and the other high-touch items we're used to seeing near our seats. They may be removed. (continued on back)



Birthdays

- Aug 8 Sharon Williams
- Aug 13 Mel Johnson
- Aug 26 Vicki Wollam
- Aug 28 Arlene Larison



Anniversary

- Aug 21
Terry & Nancy Nickels

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Thursday
9am - noon
M/W Lynn Wanless
T/Th Elsie David
M-Th Pastor Joyce
509-773-4461

As We Think Towards Reopening - from UMC.org *continued from page 3*

Speaking of high-touch items, we probably won't pass a collection plate for the offering. Instead, we'll be invited to drop our offerings in a designated location on our way into or out of worship.

We can also continue to give online or via automatic withdrawal. Your congregation needs your continued financial support. We also are receiving offerings by dropping by the office or mailing in your pledges.

Also, and this is a hard one for us United Methodists, congregational singing will likely be discouraged. So may responsive readings, congregational prayers and other worship elements that encourage us to join our voices. Maybe we'll get to hum along to a hymn or praise song as we read the lyrics, which sometimes offers a new appreciation for words we've sung many times before.

Communion is another important part of our worship that congregations may suspend during this time. Others will choose to modify the practice. A common chalice, for example, will likely not be used. When the sacrament is offered, it's okay not to participate if we're uncomfortable.

From your church leaders: We will let you know as soon as we can reopen for indoor worship. Until then we will keep in touch the best we can—and listen to pastor's sermons on our website: www.goldendaleumc.org We are doing all we can to keep the congregation healthy!



The Word
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