

THE WORD

Experiencing, Growing In & Sharing God's Love

Goldendale United Methodist Church

January 2022



Epiphany is the day Christians remember the coming of the Magi to visit Jesus, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

It occurs on January 6 every year, the 13th day of the Christmas season. The word "epiphany," from the Greek word *epiphania*, means appearance or manifestation.

The arrival of these visitors was a sign that the incarnation of God in Christ had been made known and was recognized by the heavens to the whole world, so that even Gentile wise men from the East came to pay him homage. This is an observance of great majesty, solemnity and awe.

An even more ancient Christian celebration than Christmas, Epiphany originally focused on the nativity, God's incarnation (God made flesh) in the birth of Jesus Christ, and Christ's baptism. After the late fourth century, as Advent developed as a season of baptismal preparation in addition to Lent, Epiphany became associated with baptism. This is why we see images of the three Magi on many older baptismal fonts.

In many Hispanic cultures, Epiphany is a day of great rejoicing and celebration, often kicked off by a parade the night before in which people dressed as the three kings or carrying statues of the three kings pass through the towns and villages throwing out candy and small gifts to all around. Families and children alike look forward to Día de Los Tres Reyes (Three Kings Day) as a time for presents, feasting and celebration.

In England January 5 is known as Twelfth Night, the culmination of the 12 days of Christmas feasting and partying. On Twelfth Night, many families gather in homes to celebrate with friends, food, singing and gifts. It is at these Twelfth Night celebrations that "Chalking the Door," asking God's blessing on those dwellings and upon all who live there, is most often observed.

We will celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 9th.

January Calendar

2nd & 4th Mondays

Community Meals

T/W/Th Community Meals

5:30 p.m.

Sundays

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Thursdays

Book Group 9:00 a.m.

**Council Zoom Meeting
January 5 5:30 p.m.**



Worship on Line
Pastor Joyce's message

www.goldendaleumc.org

To share prayer concerns
call the church 773-4461



Chasing the Wild Goose

Pastor Joyce O'Connor-Magee

Whenever you are asked trivia questions about Christmas remember that there were three gifts of the magi but the Gospels never give us a number of the wise men. This week we celebrate Epiphany - a holiday that is older than Christmas. The church celebrates that the good news of the coming of the Christ Child is not for Israel alone, but for the whole world. Much is made of the gifts the magi bring Jesus. Not practical gifts but symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold was a gift for a king, frankincense is used in worship and myrrh was used in burial rituals. Very appropriate gifts when you realize Christ will be known as King and God and Sacrifice.

I always wondered what happened to those three or more wise men. Matthew tells us they go home another way. They are warned to not return to Herod. But what happened to them. What did they talk about on the way home, wherever home was?

Hopefully those magi and we return home with a new perspective. We can imagine that what they had seen and heard grew in their lives. The word epiphany often is used in the context of a surprise. Does God still surprise us this time of year? As we start to take down the decorations of the celebration of the Christ Child how do we allow him to grow in our lives? As we are packing up ornaments for next Christmas there is much to unpack in our lives.

Babies change everything and Jesus certainly does. Hopefully we are surprised by the ways he will, if we let him, change our lives. We look at the world differently through the eyes of a child. Children and grandchildren change how we see our priorities.

How often those magi must have thought about those gifts and that child. How surprised they were to find such a child - humble in birth but mighty in justice and love. May the Christmas gift lead us into the wonder and surprises of this season of Epiphany!



Thank you to the women of our UMW. Your gift was used for a wonderful purse from Brighton's - with the word Love on it. When I use it I will think of you all. You really put love into action. As you know the United Methodist Women has been an organization that has taught me what it means to be Christian. I have said many times that this group makes casseroles, quilts baby blankets and brings down multinational corporations! (Like when we boycotted Nestles and made them change some of their practices around baby formula) Our unit educates, invites us into a deeper walk with Christ and mobilizes us to reach out to those in need, here at home and around the world. Thank you for all you do for me and others. I am proud to be a United Methodist Woman!

Pastor Joyce

From Bernice Baker

Thank you to all of you who have been so supportive with cards, letters and offers of support during my bout with shingles.

- Bernice continues to recover from shingles and a stroke. We continue to keep her and Guy in prayer. We are so grateful that she never lost her sense of humor and joy through this ordeal.

Chuck Knows Epiphany

Chuck tell us about the good news of Epiphany and the Wise Men on these Youtube videos. Hear his unique spin on this time of year!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pu_KpjX3ExE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRN_2yHUcV4



The UMW won't be meeting in January.

Our Christmas meeting and brunch was truly a success. We enjoyed good food, and mostly, just the joy of being together in person. Following brunch, we heard

Pastor Joyce's Christmas meditation on the nativity. We learned more about the pieces that go in the crèche, including the fact that the three wise men often represent three ethnicities, Asian, European and African - as well as three ages of men. Some crèche scenes also include an elephant!

This meeting is always fun as we decided how to distribute the money we had raised through the year. With a great rummage sale we had a generous amount to give out. We had \$1800 to give to our favorite ministries. We gave gifts to Pastor Joyce, Dr. Ogden, Back Pack for Kids, UMCOR. PNW Disaster Relief, New Hope Farms, McCurdy School and Nome Community Center.

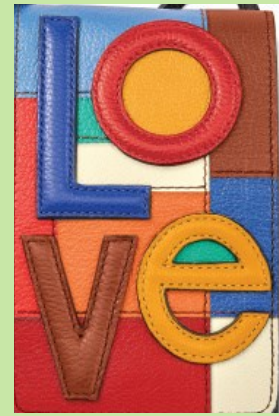
Afterwards we stuffed stockings to the brim and overflowing with gifts for all 39 kids living at Georgeville. I have it on good authority that the stockings were a hit! It was a fun and rewarding mission project. Thanks to all who made stockings and provided items for them - including socks and gloves, toys and goodies!

Many of us are still knitting, crocheting, and sewing baby blankets and prayer shawls. With our winter keeping us at home more, this would be a good time to do some sewing and crafting for others. We will always be able to find people and places to send these blankets and shawls. A recent donation of yarn should provide us with enough to make lots more! This yarn is in a box in the mission room at church. Let us know if you need some of it.

We had a successful year of reading in 2021. Our UMW reading table is smaller but is still in the entry of the church to the right of the chapel door. Take a look for a great book - something inspiring for our snow days! Let's make 2022 another year of learning.

We hope to have another in person meeting soon.

Lynn Wanless

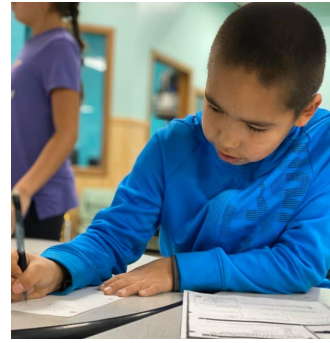


**CHURCH
OFFICE HOURS**
Monday to Thursday
9am - noon
509-773-4461
M/W Lynn Wanless
T/Th Elsie David
M-Th Pastor Joyce
509-389-1406



The Nome Community Center - a mission supported by our United Methodist Women

"To enhance the quality of life of the people of the Bering Straits Region through diverse programming serving elders, families, and youth."



Nome Community Center is proud to be over 100 years old, and this mission still rings true today. In its infancy, the mission was born from the hearts of United Methodist women to address the needs of the community of Nome. Nome Community Center continues to strive to fulfill its mission by transforming itself to meet the needs of the community and its people.

Nome Community Center traces its roots to a reindeer-herding project that began in 1906. Mrs. R. H. Young, Bureau Secretary of Alaska, supplied a generous donation to the Women's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Church to establish a reindeer mission at the Sinuk River. The purpose of the mission was to preserve and protect the tradition of reindeer herding.



The Word
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