

THE WORD

Experiencing, Growing In & Sharing God's Love

Goldendale United Methodist Church

March 2021



It's Time to Get Back Together Worshiping in Person - starting March 7th

Given that the COVID curve is coming down and our county has gone into phase two we will be asking our superintendent for permission to start in sanctuary worship again!

It has been close to a year since the virus closed us down. Our intention is to continue to record the service as we have been doing each week. If you feel more comfortable listening at home, or can't make it on Sunday, we encourage you to continue to join us in this way. We will then have the opportunity for one service at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday School after worship - when our leaders are ready for that. Our aim is to have 25 in service every week.

Even though many of us have gotten our vaccinations we still need to meet with masks and social distancing. The leaders of our church will continue to monitor conditions if we need to suspend inside worship again.

Changes in Conference Leadership

It was announced this week that we will welcome the Rev. Daniel Miranda as the new District Superintendent of the Seven Rivers and the Inland Districts. Current DS, Rev. Joanne Coleman Campbell, will be retiring with her husband, Rev. John Coleman Campbell (Wenatchee FUMC) in July. Daniel's wife, the Rev. Sheila Miranda, will also be accepting a new position in July as Assistant for Connectional Ministries in the Inland and Seven Rivers Missional Districts. Geographically this means they will serve the whole eastern side of our Annual Conference - from east of the Cascades, north to the Canadian border, south to Oregon and the panhandle of Idaho. The two have served together in many assignments including churches and mission and overseas posts.

It was also announced last month that Bishop Elaine Stanovsky will be retiring at the end of December 2021. Before she was a bishop Elaine served in our Annual Conference. Her home church was Bellevue First UMC. We are grateful for the leadership of these women and wish them well in retirement.

March Calendar

2nd & 4th Mondays

Community Meal

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

Sundays

Zoom Coffee Hour 9:30 am

Council Zoom Meeting March 3 5:30 p.m.

Worship on Line

Pastor Joyce's message

www.goldendaleumc.org

To share prayer concerns
call the church 773-4461

Or email
gumc12@centurylink.net

Irish Quote

Like the warmth of the sun

And the light of the day

May the luck of the Irish

Shine bright on your way.



Chasing the Wild Goose

Pastor Joyce O'Connor-Magee

This morning I was able to touch base with my friend Linda, retired Episcopal priest living in Texas. She and her two delightful dogs are doing okay. Only one outside pipe broke - they made it through 4 degree temperatures and she was only stuck in snow once. Others have friends and family who were hit hard by the odd temperature drop. There is a lot of clean up to do - even with the weather back in the normal 70s. Linda, having grown up in Colorado, knew what to do when the temperature dropped - charge the phone and iPad whenever electricity was on, layer, wrap up warm, have food and water on hand. Folks in Texas will be very grateful for their normal temperatures.

Patti McKern (Pastor Patti) said it well as we had lunch - in a restaurant today - we just can't take things for granted anymore. We having been learning to be grateful. We don't take the basics for granted anymore, like toilet paper and hand sanitizer. We don't assume we can worship together. We need to be grateful for what we used to not even think about - being able to visit elderly friends or parents, hugging our grandkids, taking walks or grabbing a coffee with a friend. I'm not ready yet, but the day will come when I will get on an airplane again. Oh, oh, and go to a movie at a theater with a bucket of popcorn.

I mentioned to Linda that the deep freeze in her backyard in Texas will help with bugs come summer. Things I never took time to appreciate - like the ability to smile at another person - will be a treat, hopefully soon. Another thing I will not take for granted is the power of the community of Christians. It has been hard to be isolated from family - including our church family. Getting to a new normal will take some time. The new normal will hopefully include deep gratitude for all God gives us - and the connection and strength we get from each other.



Saint Patrick's Day, feast day (March 17) of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned about 432 to convert the Irish to Christianity. By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established monasteries, churches, and schools. Many legends grew up around him—for example, that he drove the snakes out of Ireland and used the shamrock to explain the Trinity. Ireland came to celebrate his day with religious services and feasts. Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated on Wednesday, March 17, 2021.

Irish immigrants began arriving in great numbers in 1846 due to the potato famine. They were often greeted as other immigrants have been treated - with disdain and distrust. Many lived in enclaves with other Irish folks looking for work and a new life. Many of us can trace our roots back to Ireland - as there are more Irish Americans than there are Irish in Ireland. With a name like O'Connor-Magee you know your pastor has strong roots in Ireland. Her great grandfather and family migrated first to Canada in the first years of the 20th century. The family moved then to Spokane in the 1920s. If you have noticed, she has a rosary framed on her wall in the office. It was from that same great grandfather, William Joseph Patrick Aloysius O'Connor who received it from a nun in the orphanage which was his home in Donegal City. Let us celebrate the Irish in our families and what the Irish have given our country!



2021 United Methodist Women's Spiritual Retreat

FREE!

March 19 & 20th via Zoom
6:30 - 9 p.m. Friday
8:45 - 11 a.m. Saturday

What We Need is Here

Practicing the Heart of Christian Spirituality

Especially this year we need to have an ever-deepening relationship with God. One of those ways is to spend time together for prayer, fellowship and learning. We will gather on Zoom - or join with others at the church to be together sharing computer screens. The text will be "What We Need is Here", by L. Roger Owens. The book is only \$10 on Kindle, \$8.49 on Nook or \$14 paperback.

Our retreat leader is the Rev. Brenda Tudor of Spokane who knows first hand the love and power of UMW. Brenda is bright and sparkly (Pastor Joyce describes her friend this way!). A retired pastor and brand new grandmother - Brenda will be an outstanding leader!

During our time together we will also have some time with Harriet Jane Olsen, the CEO of national United Methodist Women. Lynn has the registration forms if you need one or she can email you one. Just let her know. Also let us know if you will join us at church!

Faithfulness During the Pandemic

The General Conference UMC's General Council on Finance and Administration announced at its meeting that only 18 Annual Conferences were able to pay their apportionments in full. Our area - the PNW, Oregon Idaho and Alaska Missionary Conferences paid 100%. Funds for the ministry of the national and global churches come from apportionments - the portion of the budget paid by Annual Conferences. The annual conference's budget is funded by local churches paying apportionments. The formula for payment in the Annual Conference budget includes a calculation of each church's annual costs. The membership and attendance numbers do not impact our portion of the budget. Because we as a local church were faithful for the whole amount of our apportionments (well done!) we have helped with the ministry of the United Methodist Church in Washington and Northern Idaho and also in our nation and our world. It is good to be connected as we do more together than we ever could do on our own!



Birthdays

Pat Benjamin	3/6
Candy Hack	3/24



Anniversaries

March 13
Bruce & Vicki Wollam
March 16
Jeff & Laura Thayer
March 24
Mike & Linda Hay

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



Don't forget to set your clock ahead one hour on March 14th!

Five Ways to a Meaningful Lent

1. Apologize to someone

Lent is a season of repentance. Lent is a great time to seek forgiveness from those we have harmed.

2. Delve into a book of the Bible

Enhance your devotions by getting to know a book of the Bible well. Read it repeatedly, at least once in a single sitting. Pray through it. Some are using Mark and others Philipians.

3. Serve people in need

Identify an organization with which you would like to participate. Sign up and get trained. Then volunteer to serve throughout the season of Lent.

4. Tell others you love them

Some of us struggle to say those three little words. Fight the fear and say "I love you" to friends, family members, and everyone else you love at least once during the season.

5. Say "thank you"

Parents, family members, mentors, coaches, teachers, authors, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and others have shaped you into the person you are. Each week during Lent, send a note of gratitude to one of them.



The Word
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