

Florence United Methodist Church

Tide-ings 2020



August Newsletter

Florence United Methodist Church
333 Kingwood, Florence, OR 97439

Office: (541) 997-6025

Sunday Worship

Sunday Services: Virtual at this time



florenceumc@florenceunitedmethodist.org
Visit us at www.florenceunitedmethodist.org

Serving the People of God:

District Superintendent: Rev. John Tucker

Pastor: Reverend Dr. Karen Love Baisinger

Lay Leader: Patt Rollins

SPRC Chair: Patti Johnson

Finance Chair: Terry Woodward

Ministers: All Members

Newsletter Editor: Diane McCalmont

Pastor Karen:

revdrkarenlove@gmail.com

(541) 915-0335 cell (ok to text)

From Our Shared Heart...



*What Just Happened, What Is So, Now ...
and Where Do We Want to Go?
August 2020*

Beloved Church,

We are now moving into our fifth month of suspension of in-person worship and the closure of our church's facilities due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. We grieve not being able to hug, talk with each other face-to-face or in groups and gatherings, or join our hearts and hands serving through in-person outreaches and ministries. But we are also seeking to be in integrity and faithfulness to our mandate from John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, to "do no harm." We love ourselves and our neighbors by following the recommendations of scientists, healthcare experts, and our governing bodies at the federal, state and county level – much less our Bishop Elaine Stanovsky's episcopal area -- to wear masks, practice "social distancing" of 6 feet, avoid gathering in groups larger than 10, washing our hands often, etc. For many of us who are in the high-risk for severe complications due to our age and/or underlying medical conditions, we have to take even more cautions and "stay home, stay safe." But you know all this already because

this is the life we have been living, right?

Our church is doing an amazing job of holding it together, from my perspective as a pastor. Our leaders have stepped up in amazing ways and many of us are reaching out to each other by phone, email, and cards, to connect, check on each other, make sure we are and stay ok. Our love shines clearly through the darkness of this isolating time.

Instead of the summer being a relief, as we had hoped, we have instead seen the contagion spreading in our state, even in Florence. So we are having to come to terms with being "long haulers" probably for the next year at least, or until there is an effective vaccine and our population is immunized.

It's good to pause, look back at what has worked and what still needs attention, and what we probably should prioritize going forward. As we look to a fall and winter that may be even more challenging than what we have experienced so far, how can we strengthen ourselves as a resilient community? What can we do to meet the needs for Christian formation and community that have been put on hold to a large degree as we got through the initial crisis stages?

Please reach out to me and to your Church Council and be in communica-

tion with us about what is working, what is missing the mark, and what is missing for you. We would deeply appreciate any ideas and suggestions in this time of loss of the familiar and known. We have an opening available to us, a window of opportunity, for “reimagining our lives together,” as our Bishop so aptly put it when she asked her pastors a few months ago to form teams in our churches to work on our response to the challenges we face.

Coming up is an election that will have profound impact, most likely, on our nation and our people. I will be preaching from time to time over the months ahead leading up to the election on how to be Christians in the midst of all the extremism, polarization, disinformation, and separation. Who are we called to **BE** in the midst of what will most likely be an extremely stressful time for our nation?

This fall, we will again focus on eco-spirituality, using resources for our services from our “Mother Church,” the Church of England. **Creationtide** or the Season of Creation is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.

Stay in communication, stay safe, and BE well!

Love and blessings in Christ,

Pastor Karen



Keeping in Our Prayers

Trisha Holden; Peggy Simington; Shirley Ross; Kathleen Wenzel; Jesse Holden; Becky Williams and friends of Elinor Roth; Annie Van Horn; Ralph & Teresa Jackson; Katharine Schneider; Jim Waterman; John & Lila Hyder; Roger Johnson; Kim Holden & family; Jude Craddock; Georgia Garrett; Laureli; Betty Cline; Ursula Sears; Jean Parr; Janice Bell; Gerry & Nancy Cedarleaf-Grey; Bonnie Kelly; Patrick McCalmont; April McCalmont.

We ask God's blessing on these people and those in need, but not named.

Soldiers everywhere in the world and those who wait for them to come home.

Note: On the last page of the UMW yearbook, as well as the inside back cover of the Church Directory, the Prayer Chain is listed. To receive the electronic prayer chain, contact rayfeay@hotmail.com.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

UMWomen News

CHANGE, we're getting used to it! In previous years, August was the time to ramp up for fall activities with UMW executive team meetings plus the opportunity to help put together goodie bags for the Siuslaw/Mapleton school teachers and staff. Not so, this year. The priority remains to keep everyone safe and healthy.

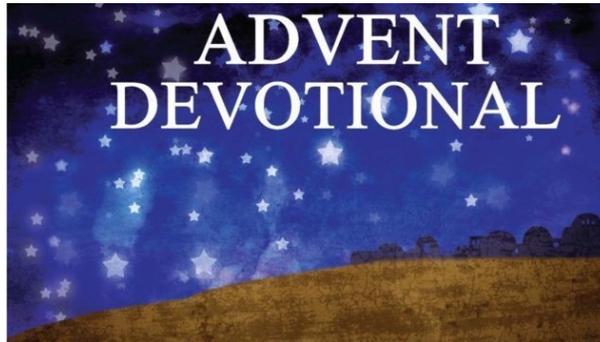
The Clear Lake district annual meeting of **United Methodist Women**, scheduled for Sept 26, will not be an in-person gathering but a virtual event. The challenges of condensing the program to fit Zoom time constraints are in the planning stage with information to be shared as known.

Jean Hefty

Church Council

The Church Council will meet via Zoom on Sunday, August 16, at 11:30, following the Zoom Coffee Hour. Reports (send them to lindayoder@hotmail.com) would be appreciated by Thursday,, so they can be distributed in a packet by Saturday before the meeting. Church Council meetings are open to all.





Devotional During a Pandemic

It is still some months before we enter into the season of Advent for 2020. But it is now, as most of us have some additional quiet time waiting and praying for the clearing of the COVID – 19 pandemic, when we might use some of that time to reflect and write meditations to use during that coming Advent season.

Your Nurture committee would like to produce our own Advent meditation booklet this year. The goal is to have this book compiled and ready for your use by the Sunday after Thanksgiving, so you may use it for the Advent devotions you have this year. To be able to do this, we would like as many of you as would like to, produce an Advent Meditation for one or more days of Advent. It may be a prayer, a poem, a drawing, your thoughts on an Advent Scripture passage, or some other meditation you produce.

To take part, please submit your inspirational meditation, poem, story or drawing, either original or with attribution from another source, which you find special for the Advent season. Remember the theme of preparing for Christ's coming to us and to our world. To help, the Advent Gospel lessons for this year are from the beginning of Mark (13:24 –27; 1:1-8), Luke (1:26-38), and John's (1:6-8; 19-28) Gospels.

These can be emailed to florenceumc@florenceunitedmethodist.org or "snail mailed" to the church sometime before the end of October. This will give us time to produce the booklet for us all to use, and give you plenty of time to find inspiration! If you have any questions or would like more scripture references, please feel free to contact Bert Schniepp (alberts568@aol.com).

AUGUST

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

In-person services may continue to be on hold through August. Watch other communications about services, meetings, etc.

Dear Church,

As most of you probably already know, one of our beloved matriarchs of the church, Elinor Roth, died peacefully at home several weeks ago. ...

Please keep Becky and her family in your prayers during this time of continued grieving and "letting go." Pray that she have the focus, endurance, and energy to handle all that she has to handle, through God's grace and mercy. ...

Love and blessings,

Pastor Karen



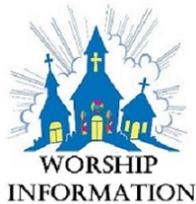
Remembering Elinor...

The church is in the process of assembling an on-line worship service to honor the memory of Elinor Roth. We'd very much like to have recorded reminiscences from family and friends, and can make this available if you have a smart phone. It can be a simple matter of linking up your phone to video/audio recording software, which means no matter where you are, we can record your greeting right from your home. Please contact Linda Yoder 541-590-0944 or lindayoder@hotmail.com for more information.

Fri

Sat

n for emails and



**Remote Worship Continues
for the Time Being**

We've been posting worship videos on YouTube and making the link available on our Facebook page and via email to our interest list. If you haven't received an email message, let the church know by emailing florenceumc@florenceunitedmethodist.org. We'll be happy to put you on the list and send you a link.

If you don't use the Internet, we can physically mail you a DVD of the service. Call Linda Yoder 541-590-0944 for copies. We're holding "virtual coffee hour" on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. via Zoom. If you're on our email list, you will get a link to the meeting.

Linda Yoder

Birthdays

- 2 Terry Van Balligooijen
- 6 Karen Baylis
- 14 Erin Leonard
- 16 Judith Lowe
- 17 Harold Titus
- 28 Paula Ziegelasch
- 31 Cindy Orr

Anniversaries

- 5 Bert & Linda Schniepp
- 5 George & Rosie Goodwin
- 6 George & Yola Hesser
- 14 Bob & Jean Hefty
- 18 Jeremy & Tessa Ramsey
- 20 Patrick & Diane McCalmont
- 24 Terry & Sandy Woodward



Trustees Report

The exteriors of the Church and Social Hall buildings have been completely repainted. If you haven't driven by lately, it's worth a look!

The logo located on the exterior of the east end of the Social Hall has been refurbished.

Mold testing was completed on both buildings. The Sanctuary came back clean, the Social Hall had some issues, but they have hopefully been mitigated.

New covered ceiling light fixtures have been installed in the Social Hall.

The dining areas in the Social Hall have been completely repainted.

The bathrooms in the Social Hall have been repainted.

The exterior lights around both buildings (on motion sensors and timers) were malfunctioning but have been fixed.

Scott Philben

Amplify



If you have Internet access, don't forget to check out Amplify, a video service of Cokesbury, which the Church has purchased to enable all of us to use it for free. It's a little like having a Netflix or Hulu subscription just for faith enhancement. Education Committee chair Peggy Hughes has blast-emailed instructions to use this valuable service and has challenged the congregation to write a review for a prize. If you are not receiving regular emails from the church, or would like a reminder of how to use the service, please let us know by leaving us a note at florenceumc@florenceunitedmethodist.org.



Choir

If you'd like to join the Wire Choir and would like a little encouragement and help, you may contact Linda Yoder at lindayoder@hotmail.com or Kathy Bones at kathybones@comcast.net for a basic introduction to the procedure. You basically need a smart phone, headphones and an Internet device like a computer, Kindle, iPad, or Android device. In a future issue of the newsletter, we'll share with you what it looks like to "produce" a choir where nobody is together physically, but we all come together in the end.

On-line Giving Reminder

Members and friends of Florence UMC are now able to contribute to the church on-line via a secure giving link on the website. The process to set up your own account with the donation site is similar to what you would do with a commercial site.

If you would like an illustrated, step-by-step explanation of the process, email Linda Yoder lindayoder@hotmail.com.

**ONLINE
GIVING**
now available

Directory Updates...

Betty Livingston*

80710 Ben Bunch Road
Florence, OR 97439

H: 541-997-5088 ←



Myrle Riffe-Helkenn

230 Elm Ave.
Reedsport, OR 97497

M: 541-631-0352 ←

me.rifhelk@gmail.com ←



Florence United Methodist Church **FINANCES**



June 1-30, 2020: Receipts: \$12,299.92
 Expenses: \$12,857.83

July income through the 27th: \$4,975.00

*June revenue/expenses include \$5,000 pass-through grant money for Free Lunch Program

Provided by Kathy Yelle

Go Camping

Below is information shared from Camp & Retreat Ministries. To read the article, follow the link at the bottom.

Diane

Five Ways to Make the Outdoors More Inclusive

Last year a multiracial panel of experts met to strategize around increasing diversity in U.S. outdoor recreation (disclaimer: the event was paid for by REI). The six steps (five plus a bonus!) with accompanying actions that were generated by that group are providing food for thought for camp and retreat ministry leaders across the denomination. The report considers the dire consequences of separating human beings from nature--and the ways that racism has often prevented people of color from full access to outdoor recreation, including camp and retreat ministry. But more than a lament, it's a call to action, with concrete steps.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/sponsored/rei-2018/five-ways-to-make-the-outdoors-more-inclusive/3019/>

Today, I had the pleasure of joining a Zoom version of Quilt Camp at Suttle Lake Camp. Jane Petke, Director of the camp, facilitated a group of ladies that normally attend the quilter's camp each July.

How wonderful it was to see everyone's faces. We talked about our feelings during COVID times; shared the quilts and other sewing projects we've been working on; and prayed over our concerns and joys (Pows and Wows).

The experience was bittersweet for me - so good to see most of our group, but wishing we could join together in the beautiful setting of Suttle Lake for fellowship and quilting.

Diane

AUGUST NEWSLETTER



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333 Kingwood St., Florence, OR 97439

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Office Phone: (541) 997-6025

florenceumc@florenceunitedmethodist.org

Online: www.florenceunitedmethodist.org

Directory Update

Do we have your current address,
phone number, and e-mail address?

Please forward them to:

florenceumc@florenceunitedmethodist.org

If you do not wish to receive this
Newsletter please notify the church office.