

Florence United Methodist Church

Tide-ings 2021



February Newsletter

Florence United Methodist Church

333 Kingwood, Florence, OR 97439

Office: (541) 997-6025

Sunday Worship

Sunday Services: Video taped services 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...

Beloved Church,

In a few weeks, we begin our annual observance of the ancient Christian season of Lent. Lent begins the liturgical cycle of Lent/Easter/Pentecost. It is a period of fasting, repentance, and self-denial. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday. The length of the Lenten fast was established in the 4th century as 46 days (40 days, not counting Sundays).

Obviously, due to the pandemic restrictions and our commitment as Methodist Christians in the Wesleyan tradition of "Do No Harm," we will not be observing Ash Wednesday on February 17 as we usually do with an in-person service. Each year, we enter Lent with the liturgy for Ash Wednesday which includes the imposition of ashes. The ashes are gathered from the burning of the palms of the previous year's Palm Sunday service.

This year, in light of all the crises in which we are immersed, I invite you to double down on your spiritual practices during Lent. For Ash Wednesday, we will shift our focus from the mark usually placed by the pastor with the sign of the Cross on the congregant's forehead during the liturgy, to the spiritual discipline of confession. Instead of focusing on the physical presence of ashes, we will focus on the greater good that is being pointed to with this symbol . . . the act of repentance. I will send you a common prayer beforehand for us to share in your different places, to the whole scattered church. We will focus on the prayer and not, this time, on the ritual act.



This is a momentous time to be a Christ-follower. Especially now we must cling to the healthy essence of our Tradition as the Christian church overall is declining rapidly,

in no small part because of the rampant heresies and distortions of the Good News of Jesus Christ, abounding in outrageous conspiracy theories like Qanon and outright reversals of the gospel message such as Christian Nationalism, white supremacy, and abandonment if not outright persecution of the "least and the lost."

My intention as your pastor during the 2021 Lenten season is to focus in my preaching on going back to the basics of the Christian spiritual disciplines and practices in my preaching. I encourage you to consider, as I mentioned earlier, doubling down on your practices. If you've never fasted, please consider it this Lent. For sure, pray and reflect on how you can practice self-denial. We will be doing our best liturgically to create the Lenten mood of repentance.

This is an exciting time to be engaging in deeper self-reflection and what in the ancient Christian tradition has been called the "examen" or the "examination of conscience," in more contemporary terms, the "examination of consciousness." We all have a part in the extreme challenges that beset us during this time. Lent can help us find our way Home.

Love and blessings,
Pastor Karen



Keeping in Our Prayers

Kathleen Yelle and family; Jasmin Crump; Vicki Hough (Peggy Wilson's daughter); Larry Gallagher; Pat Balzell; Kollette and Al Longworth; Jonathan Yoder; Reverend Karen; Peggy Simington; Shirley Ross; Kathleen & Jacob Wenzel; Jim Waterman; John & Lila Hyder; Kim Holden & family; 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.

Pray for our planet in this global pandemic and economic crisis for so many.

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

Note: On the last page of the UMW year-book, 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.



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 us a message. We'll be happy to put you on the list and send you a link.

If you don't use the Internet, we can 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



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

UMWomen News

Another month, another year with Florence United Methodist Women still intact! No one is tossing in the towel to disband and that's significant!

At the start of the year each member is invited to make a financial commitment to support local, national and global mission outreach and you may continue to do this. If you are able to make a pledge for 2021, and can even pay it now, please make it known to the unit treasurer Kathleen Wenzel. Raising funds remains a challenge and new approaches are being considered. There are examples from other units who had successful online sales.

The Crater Lake District Every Member Enrichment Event will be a virtual gathering on March 6, following the theme of immigration justice. It is necessary to register by March 4 with jboeseumw@charter.net to receive the link to the Zoom meeting. Include your phone number and whether you'll join by computer/tablet/smart phone or audio only by phone. No fees.

United Methodist Women are LIVING THE VISION, turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

Jean Hefty

PFLAG Update

Without a place to meet, we're still trying to hang in there by posting occasional articles on our Facebook page. There is an on-line giving icon on our web page www.pflagflorenceoregon.org now, but it hasn't been used yet. PFLAG National has circulated information for a "chatroom" that we're still working on to install.

Linda Yoder





Adult Sunday School During Lent

Advent begins this month with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 17. In our Friday "Sunday School", beginning Feb. 19, for the first six Fridays of Lent, we will be using a short study by New Testament scholar Jill-Amy Levine called "Entering the Passion of Jesus". She will lead us in looking at the people surrounding Jesus during his last days.

To join us, just watch the week's session before we meet on the Zoom portal on Fridays at 2:00 pm. If you have not been with us before, notify the church office to receive an email with the links to the series and the ZOOM meeting.

We are currently in a study of the apostle Paul, led by Prof. N. T. Wright. Even if you have not been in our Zoom class, you will be able to enjoy the presentations and discussion if you would like to begin any Friday at 2:00 p.m.

A link will be sent via email before Friday each week. If you would like to receive this communication, please notify the Church office to be sure you are on that email list.

Bert Schniepp

Free Lunch News



Free Lunch will have served 2,000 Covid Subway meals by the first week in February. We continue to serve in the range of 8-22 people per meal. Free Lunch has recently received nearly one thousand dollars in generous and private donations. In addition to helping with transportation for the FECWS, FUMC Compassionate Care has funded Safeway gift cards to be distributed by Free Lunch for an emergency need of gas or propane for heat.

Paula Z



January 15, 2021

A Call to Action for The United Methodist Church in Times of Challenge

Grace and Peace to you, Sisters and Brothers in Christ. These are challenging times that we live in. The continued rise of COVID-19 infections and deaths around the world, the attack on the US Capitol last week, and the undeniable expressions of racism, white supremacy and systemic inequity in our communities have provided a sobering start to the new year. And yet, I find that the upcoming commemoration of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Inauguration Day in the US provide us, in the midst of turmoil, with much needed opportunities for reflection and rededication.

The images of insurrectionists storming the hallowed halls of the Capitol cannot be unseen. For the first time in history the President of the United States has been impeached for the second time. The deployment of thousands of National Guard troops to Washington, DC for the inauguration appear as scenes from a movie. As one who sits in a state capitol preparing for further disruption, I grieve for America, for democracy and for our Christian witness.

I ask myself, “what would Dr. King say? What would he do?”

Dr. King lived during challenging times as well. In his sermon, *Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution*, he says, “One of the great liabilities of life is that all too many people find themselves living amid a great period of social change, and yet they fail to develop the new attitudes, the new mental responses, that the new situation demands. They end up sleeping through a revolution.”

Dr. King proclaimed and demonstrated a picture of peace for our world that has been so deeply violated. Those who participated in the act of sedition last week wanted the world to believe that it was a revolution, but it was not. It was insurrection rooted in racism.

Continued on next page...

The majority of persons on the capitol grounds were white.
The slurs shouted were not Christian.
The signs invoking the name of Jesus in the midst of these violations offensive.
The destruction of property is inexcusable.
The Confederate flag waving in the Rotunda was abhorrent.

All were signs of white supremacy that runs rampant in America today.

Despite this disheartening event and the history of violence and harm that has been fueling it for generations, I believe that we are in the midst of the revolution that Dr. King references. Social change is happening. Peaceful protests for racial justice which declare that Black Lives Matter are helping to make our voices heard and are changing the way we live together.

The lectionary gospel lesson for this Sunday (John 1:43-51) finds Jesus issuing a call to one of the disciples, Philip, to “follow me” and another, Nathaniel, deciding whether or not to say yes. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” Nathaniel asked. There are many who look upon the blemished history of our denomination and wonder if we will sleep through this revolution. They wonder if anything good can come from The United Methodist Church in the movement to dismantle racism. As members of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, we have rededicated ourselves to this work and are responding to this query as Phillip did saying, “Come and see.” We invite you to join us as we take seriously the call to follow Jesus during these challenging times by renouncing the spiritual forces of wickedness, rejecting the evil powers of this world and repenting of our sin. In the coming weeks we will be offering and highlighting opportunities for spiritual formation, dialogue, and action so that we might, like Dr. King, serve as the ambassadors of love, grace, peace and justice that once and for all tear down the strongholds of hatred, oppression, and division among us.

My prayer is that the people of The United Methodist Church will not sleep through this revolution. We must be willing to adopt the new hearts, minds and skills necessary to build a church and world where all belong and are embraced as beloved of God.

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey
President-Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu

UM Staff Parish Relations COMMITTEE

SPRC Update:

I want to take a moment to introduce the 2021 SPRC team. I would much rather be doing this in the sanctuary where each individual could be introduced in person, but like most things now, due to Covid-19, we will have to wait. Still, it is important that you are reminded of who the team members are, which include: myself, Patti Johnson SPRC Chair, Jim Waterman, Karen Baylis, Peggy Hughes, and our newest member, Amanda Sarles.

We are blessed to have such a diverse and talented group who are willing to listen, to speak the truth, and who truly care about both the staff and the congregants of our church. We are tasked with providing support, honest feedback, and confidentiality to the staff and the same to our congregants, when they come to any one of us with a concern.

The team will be (virtually) meeting in the near future, to welcome our newest member, catch up with one another, review our role, and talk a bit about our changing denomination and how it might affect us.

Blessings to each of you. Stay healthy, and hopefully 2021 will be a much better year for everyone.

Patti Johnson

Fri

Sat



Church Council voted to meet if necessary, but there is no scheduled meeting for February. Its next regular meeting will be Sunday, March 21.

Go Camping

The new camp schedule hasn't yet come out for the upcoming year. Watch here next month for camps to come...

Diane



Birthdays

3	Tim Salisbury
7	Hazel Vacura
13	Terry Woodward
16	Mike Ross
17	Sylvia Selden
22	Marge Temple
26	Kim Holden
28	Lainey Goss

Anniversaries

23	Robert & Judith Lowe
----	----------------------

If I've missed your birthday or anniversary, please let me know; send an email to Diane at quiltinggma5@yahoo.com.



A Word From Your Lay Leader...

January 2021 has been an amazing month. We are still in the middle of a pandemic, and many thanks to God, we have a vaccine on its way...slowly but surely. Grateful, we are. Never thought I would see history in the making as we have seen this month. We witnessed our democracy being challenged from within our Capitol walls. Some of us watched as the Capitol of our United States was stormed by insurrectionists encouraged by the President of the Free World. A sickening moment in our history. Yes, I did say, **stormed by insurrectionists** with the sole goal of capturing and killing key leaders in our Senate. Well folks, they were unsuccessful and our government went back to work several hours later (as American's do) and certified the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States of America. Those of us who watched the inauguration witnessed the first Asian/Black American woman sworn-in as Vice President. On that day as well, we watched her in her new V.P role, swear into Congress the first African American and the first individual of Jewish descendants, elected from the state of Georgia. Yes, I did say the state of Georgia. No matter your political preference, we must all be aware of the changes ahead of us. We must be part of the solution and not the problem. And let us not forget the forward progress being made by our United Methodist Western Jurisdiction in providing a clear path for the inclusion of clergy from the LGBTQ community. More to come! My friends, "the times, they are a'changin'".

Since Jan. 6, 2021, every morning, Patti and I have proudly displayed our American Flag outside our home. Occasionally we recite the Pledge of Allegiance. **"One Nation under God"** always rings loud and clear. Sounds silly? I can honestly say I was shaken to the core of my being as I watched a live stream of the violent chaos in our Capital... our Cradle of Democracy. We pledged to never take Democracy for granted. **Never.**

As we prepare for the New Year, I am ever so encouraged about the future of our "strong but mighty little church" in Florence, Oregon. Sometime soon, we will join together in our sanctuary (adorn with masks and socially distanced) but never the less, we will be together again. Thanks to Scott Philben and our Trustees, the Sanctuary has new exterior repairs and paint job, the Fellowship Hall newly painted, (thanks to Scott and Vicky), and new lighting fixtures. Hopefully, our key learning from this crazy pandemic will be that we continued our mission of being the hands and feet of Christ in our community. It **has** been a challenging time. So, in closing, I want to leave you with hope, joy and blessings. God is still in charge!

I feel blessed to be your Lay Leader.

Thank you.
Patt Rollins

LET YOURSELF REST

If you're exhausted, rest.

If you don't feel like starting a new project, don't.

If you don't feel the urge to make something new,
just rest in the beauty of the old, the familiar, the known.

If you don't feel like talking, stay silent.

If you're fed up with the news, turn it off.

If you want to postpone something until tomorrow, do it.

If you want to do nothing, let yourself do nothing today.

Feel the fullness of the emptiness, the vastness of the
silence, the sheer life in your unproductive moments.

Time does not always need to be filled.

You are enough, simply in your being.

Jeff Foster



Directory Updates...

New address for Maida Lee:
2006 Hwy 101, Box 224
Florence, OR 97439
Phone: 541-590-5251





Trustees Report

Electrical power has been restored to the Fellowship Hall, but additional work remains to be done both inside and outside the building.

Scott Philben

Noteworthy News...

Home Touch

Home Touch materials continue to be available online and in hard copy. If you've received copies by mail in the past, this will continue unless you request to be taken off the list. If you do not receive these resources, but would like to have them, please contact lindayoder@hotmail.com or 541-590-0944.

Amplify Videos

If you've still not tried the free video service from Amplify Media, and have forgotten the directions to do an initial log-in, email Linda Yoder lindayoder@hotmail.com for instructions. We don't want anyone to miss out on a fabulous resource, especially one we use extensively for Adult Sunday School.

Witness: Why am I a Methodist? (Why did I join THIS church?)

If you'd like to give a "testimony," please contact Patt Rollins patti-andpatt@comcast.net or Linda Yoder lindayoder@hotmail.com. Your witness doesn't have to be a video production. A few sentences will suffice, and they can be written or audio-recorded. We'd like to offer one or two of them during the "Greeting" part of our on-line service. We can run your written statement with your directory photo if you'd rather not do a recording.

Florence United Methodist Church
FINANCES



December 1-31, 2020: Receipts: \$ 12,077.49
(includes \$5,227.09 gain in LPL investment account during 2020)
Expenses: \$ 7,758.61

January income through the 26th: \$ 5,981.44

Provided by Kathy Yelle



Electronic Giving

We continue to offer on-line giving through our trusted church partner, Vanco, using its secure website. Our only portal to Vanco is on the church's website www.florenceunitedmethodist.org.

To use the service, you must set up a "customer profile," much as you do for any on-line shopping site. Giving options include credit/debit card or withdrawals from checking/savings accounts. In addition to "general fund" giving, the site allows you to choose other options, including UMC special Sundays gifts. Free Lunch, Compassionate Care, and the Wesley Center at the U of O are also on the list.

Linda Yoder



Facts About Greenhouse Gases

Lane County recently conducted a greenhouse gas inventory for the entire county. They included all the greenhouse gases produced locally in Lane County from, say, driving your car or heating your house. They also included greenhouse gases produced outside the boundaries of Lane County but for

the benefit of Lane County. This would include such things as the carbon produced to make your car, deliver your mail, grow your food, and so forth.

They found that Lane County produces 7.9 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent greenhouse gas every year.

However, we are very lucky in that we live in an area that is heavily forested and the forest removes CO₂ from the atmosphere. It is estimated, in fact, that Lane County forests remove 3.5 million metric tons of CO₂ per year.

If you subtract the 3.5 million metric tons absorbed by the forest from the 7.9 million metric tons produced, the net greenhouse gas production in Lane County is the equivalent of 4.4 million metric tons of CO₂ per year.

This works out to 11.6 metric tons of CO₂ per Lane County resident per year.

Transportation, mainly diesel and gas combustion, accounted by 66% of the total. The second largest source of CO₂ was energy used to heat and light buildings.

Assuming Florence had 9100 residents in 2019, the net CO₂ produced by Florence that year would be (very) roughly 106,000 metric tons. If not for our forests, it would be quite a bit worse.

The entire report can be found at:

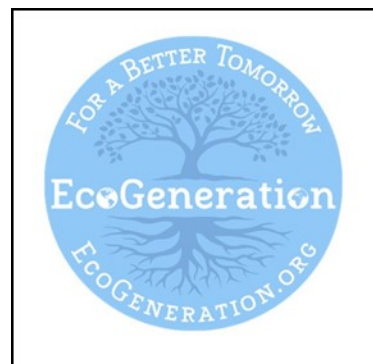
https://lanecounty.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_3585797/File/Government/County%20Departments/County%20Administration/Climate%20Action%20Plan/LaneCo-2019-Comm-GHG-Report-draft.pdf

Submitted by Vicki Philben

Keep EcoGeneration moving forward with our Truck and Haul Fundraiser!

Historically, we have moved the thousands of pounds of recycling collected at our community Recycling Take Backs, primarily plastic, with numerous trips of founder, David Gardiepy's Subaru Legacy. (The recently acquired 1991 Dodge Dakota has since died.)

With our Recycling Take Back poundage increasing each week, an upgrade is needed to help us keep plastics out of the garbage and out of our oceans!



DOUBLE YOUR DONATION to DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

We have an amazing opportunity before us now, with an anonymous donor who has volunteered to match the next \$4000 (after processing fees) we raise towards the purchase of a truck.

Our long-range goal is to raise \$42,500 to cover the cost of the truck and the insurance.

Donate NOW to Double your Donation!

Here's the online link to donate:

[https://www.ecogeneration.org/double-your-impact?
fbclid=IwAR3KwsP24TNqeQlbN-OOFL3YFinzY-WXnDFxbYKYOR_CJft9vpeeh9jRLrg](https://www.ecogeneration.org/double-your-impact?fbclid=IwAR3KwsP24TNqeQlbN-OOFL3YFinzY-WXnDFxbYKYOR_CJft9vpeeh9jRLrg)

Good morning, God! Thanks for protecting me through another night.

Thanks for giving me life and breath and energy for this new day.

*Your words say that your mercies are new every morning,
so I can anticipate your mercies this day.*

You promised me that if I were open to the idea - you would do this day with me.

We've got a day we're going to do together.

God, I invite you, I ask you, let's do this day together.

Prayer submitted by Nancy Rhodes

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



Florence United Methodist Church
333 Kingwood St., Florence, OR 97439
Sunday Worship: virtual
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.