

Florence United Methodist Church

Tide-ings 2022



January Newsletter

Florence United Methodist Church
333 Kingwood, Florence, OR 97439

Office: (541) 997-6025

Sunday Worship:
Sunday Services: 10:30 am



florenceumc@florenceunitedmethodist.org

Visit us at www.florenceunitedmethodist.org

Serving the People of God:

District Superintendent: Rev. John Tucker

Pastors: Reverend Logan McLean Strike and
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,



As you probably have heard by now, I am moving from 1/2 to 1/4 time in my appointment as your pastor, effective January 1, 2022. You will have a new pastor, Rev. Logan McLean Strike, coming in on January 5, 2022 to serve 1/4 time as well. Then at the end of March, she will become your sole pastor, appointed 1/2 time and I will re-enter retirement. After that, Alan and I will be focused on packing and moving, vacating the parsonage no later than June 30.

What years of change, disruption, and unpredictability we have just weathered together! We have been through almost two years of a global pandemic together as well as multiple national crises. These have been times to “try our souls,” to say the very least.

Yet, in the midst of slogging through “pandemic-time,” I have been amazed time and time again at your resilience, your flexibility and your faith. I am deeply grateful for your discipleship and your commitment to join our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Greater NW Area of our denomination in living into our founder, John Wesley’s teaching: “Do No Harm!”

As we sit here on the cusp of a new year, in looking back at 2021, I am

filled with thankfulness and appreciation for how well we have done, even as we survey the losses from this pandemic and all the societal

upheaval we’ve been going through. We have miraculously been able to stay afloat financially. Our church attendance, now that we are returned to in-person worship for the most part, has been better than many, many other churches are experiencing. We are better than half what we used to have in attendance. One major factor affecting our attendance is the understandable reluctance of many of us still to be in larger gatherings, especially in light of the variants that have surfaced. First, Delta and now Omicron continue to mutate the corona virus, making it exponentially more contagious. Hopefully, over time, this pandemic will settle down into more of an endemic annual process, like the flu or a bad cold, rather than the pandemic surges we’ve experienced over the past several years.

As I continue to discern that this is a season of “letting go” in my own life and ministry, as I celebrate my 74th birthday this month, I am grieving as we move closer to a time when I will be leaving here as your pastor. Yet at the same time, I am so grateful that we have come through this much, this far, this relatively unscathed. I am deeply appreciative of you as a wonderfully giving, faithful, and committed congregation. You are a delight to serve!

From Our Shared heart, continued...

I am confident that a creative, Spirit-filled new day is on the horizon for our church. We have a gifted, warm and out-going, well-educated new, young pastor coming as we prepare to receive Rev. Logan McLean Strike. We are blessed to have her! I look forward to supporting her in her integration into our life and ministry here, offering what help I can so that she can more easily make the adjustment to our Wesleyan/United Methodist charism and character, structure and organization, as she serves us as a clergywoman from our sibling denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Our Staff Parish Relations team Chair, Patti Johnson, will be sharing more specifically about Pastor Logan's background.

We are blessed. I know Alan and myself as blessed. Now . . . let's get about the business of our Father, as Jesus said when only 12 . . . BEing a blessing to others!

Love and blessings,

Pastor Karen



*Keeping in Our
Prayers*

Donna Embree and her daughter, Barbara; Teresa Roscoe and her son's wife and daughter; Carolyn Munson and family; Ray Feay; Sandy Woodward; Tim & Carol Salisbury; Laura Merz; Hazel Vacura; Jasmin Crump; Pat Balzell; Jonathan Yoder; Reverend Karen; Peggy Simington; Kathleen Wenzel; John & Lila Hyder; Georgia Garrett; Betty Cline; Ursula Sears; Jean Parr; Janice Bell; Gerry & Nancy Cedarleaf-Grey; The McCalmont family: Patrick, Diane, & April.

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 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

On Wednesday January 5, Florence United Methodist Women will gather at 1:00 p.m. in the Tedd Powell Hall.

This first meeting of the year includes the annual pledge service where members are invited to indicate their financial support. Sharon Gallagher and Renee' Hansen are overseeing. The proposed budget for 2022 should be available along with the yearbook of events containing a few blank spots.

Devotions are expected from Yola Hesser who will also have an update on books. Following the protocols, hostess Linda Schniepp will provide refreshments to be taken home. Yes, wear a mask.

Excellent bakers and generous buyers combined to increase the unit treasury in the pre-holiday baking sprees during Nov and Dec. Thank you all!

Jean Hefty

United Methodist Men



Our United Methodist Men's fellowship group continues to meet each Thursday morning at 8:00 am at Fresh Harvest Restaurant on Hwy 101.

All men of the church are welcome to join us to praise God and enjoy fellowship together.

Bert Schniepp



Adult Sunday School

“Ask” Brings Questions to Adult Class



Have you ever wondered why Christians seem to disagree about so many things? Have you ever wondered why there is suffering and evil in the world? Or have you thought that there must be some way to reconcile the conflicts that Christians say is there between acceptance of science and belief in creation?

These and more questions frequently asked by many Christians will be the focus of the next series of videos in the Amplify collection of studies we will be looking at in the Adult Sunday School class beginning on January 9, 2022. All adults are welcome to view the video each week of several young pastors discussing the “question of the day” and then join in our own discussion of the video and the question.

The time and place is yet to be determined, as a resurgence of the COVID-19 virus seems to be in the offing. We will either be meeting at the church in person prior to the Sunday worship, or via a ZOOM link if the service is to be on-line. An email with the computer link to Amplify (for the weekly video discussion), identification of the time and location of our gathering, and, if needed, a link to the ZOOM gathering for our own discussion.

If you do not have an email address on file in the church office to receive this email, or are not connected through the Internet, please let the church office know of your interest in this class and we will make sure you are notified.

Bert Schniepp

PFLAG

Watch the PFLAG Facebook page for information about the January meeting.



PFLAG-Florence may or may not meet virtually on Tuesday, January 11, at 6:30 p.m. Check us out on Facebook or www.pflagflorenceoregon.org for information. We're also accepting new membership applications. Just email pflagflo@gmail.com.

Linda Yoder

UM Staff Parish Relations Committee

From SPRC...

Happy holidays, everyone!

I felt it would make sense to share the comments made in the December 19th service, after Pastor Logan was introduced by Superintendent, Rev. John Tucker. Many were not in attendance and for some who were there, there was a lot to "take in".

"Speaking with both my SPRC hat on, and as member of this church, I want to share how fortunate I am feeling that we have such an exceptional individual to step into the pulpit when Pastor Karen leaves. We have been lucky to have Pastor Karen the past couple of years. She has done a wonderful job navigating the roadblocks of Covid to keep our church viable. And before she leaves, she will help Pastor Logan understand some of the intricacies of the Methodists that are slightly different from the Lutherans. But not to worry, the Lutherans like to eat good food and drink wine, too!

Here are a few of the highlights from Pastor Logan McLean's resume.

- She received her Bachelor of Arts, Psychology with a minor in Sociology in 2014 from Carrol College in Helena Montana*
- In May of 2020, she received her Master of Divinity from the Yale Divinity School in New Haven Connecticut.*
- She was a pastoral intern at First Lutheran Church in Duluth MN from October 2020 through July 2021.*

Some activities leading to this:

- A Chapel Minister for Yale Divinity School*
- Attended Seminary at "Spirit of Grace" in Beaverton Oregon.*
- Worked alongside Roman Catholic priests and other faith leaders and created an anti-racism book study and helped start an anti-racism ministry team.*
- Worked as a "New student Specialist" at Montana State University in Billings, helping new students with enrollment, financial aid, and student life on campus.*
- An AmeriCorps Crisis Advocate*
- Worked with unhoused individuals through Amistad, Catholic Worker House in New Haven CT.*

SPRC continued...

• *Youth and Family Director for First English Lutheran in Billings*

As I said, these are a few of the highlights, but also want to mention that Pastor Logan is married to Pastor Paul Strike of the Lutheran Church, here in Florence. Yes, the church located next to Florence Food Share.

Pastor Karen will leave our church in good hands. And, PK, though you will be here awhile longer, thank you again, for leading us through a pandemic, one which will surely go down in history."

And on another note, a thank you to all who donated to the Staff Appreciation fund. Pastor Karen, Linda Yoder and Sharon Bellvill have done a superb job in less than optimal conditions, to ensure we have continuously had a church service and to keep the missions of our church intact.

May 2022 be happy, healthy and inspire all of us to be our best selves.

Patti Johnson



I'm sorry to inform all of you that we have decided to put off the opening of youth Sunday School until at least Feb. due to the expected surge in Covid-19. The adult class will continue to meet via zoom or in person to be announced by Bert Schniepp. We still need more teachers for the youth class, so please let me know if you would like to help. Thanks.

Peggy Hughes, Chairman Christian Education
541-902-0197

Choir Rehearsal ???!

The choir does not expect to get together in January in anticipation that a surge may make it unwise. If the situation changes, we will announce it by calling and email.



JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
2 Church Service 10:30am	3	4	5 1:00pm UMW Meets	6 8:00am UMMen
9 Adult Sun School 9:15am (watch for updates re SS) Church Service 10:30am	10	11 6:30pm PFLAG	12	13 8:00am UMMen
16 Adult Sun School 9:15am (watch for updates re SS) Church Service 10:30am	17	18	19	20 8:00am UMMen
23 Adult Sun School 9:15am (watch for updates re SS) Church Service 10:30am	24	25	26 5:00pm-Newsletter Deadline	27 8:00am UMMen
30 Adult Sun School 9:15am (watch for updates re SS) Church Service 10:30am	31			

Fri	Sat
	1
7	8
14	15
21	22
28	29



**& Birthdays
Anniversaries**

Birthdays

- 1 Rev Karen Baisinger
- 4 Tom Oshel
- 9 Bill Craig
- 12 Brooke Shafer
- 21 Joan Skarda
- 22 Katla Vincent
- 22 Caroline Mesman
- 26 Betty Livingston
- 27 May Hadley
- 29 Connie Riebhoff

Anniversaries

None

If I've missed your birthday or anniversary, please send an email to Diane at quiltgma5@yahoo.com, to let me know.



Pandemic Planning

Have you noticed how last minute changes are happening in planned events or gatherings? Has it bothered you when what you've been looking forward to is canceled or postponed? Well, fasten your seatbelts because experts predict this life of uncertainty isn't over quite yet!

As the risks from new virus variants, the availability of health care, the development of vaccines and treatments evolve, we must be ready for changes in our schedules and plans.

I've often said that nursing is a lot like riding a bicycle! If the bike leans left, you must lean right and visa versa! As a patient's condition changes we must be ready to change our treatments accordingly.

Such is this pandemic for all of us. Listen for the latest advice from the experts and continue following the practices we've learned for safety from the past year.....get your vaccinations and boosters when recommended, wear a mask (KN95 if possible) in public indoor settings, avoid crowds, social distance, wash your hands and stay tuned for changes!

Submitted by Peggy Hughes, at the request of Pastor Karen



Opportunities for you to sign up to serve in the areas of providing church flowers, cleaning the sanctuary, ushering, and liturgist are available again. The sign-up clipboards will not be passed around but will be available by the front-door entry.

Caroling at Free Lunch



On Dec. 21, 2021, a joint effort was made to provide caroling and gifts for those who came to Free Lunch.

Carolers were: Pastor Karen, Sharon Belvill, Larry and Sharon Gallagher, and Susie Stevens-Briody.

Gifts were provided by St. Andrew's Episcopal Church; snacks provided by the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; and goodie bags prepared by Free Lunch volunteers!

A Word From Your Lay Leader...



December 27, 2021

As I look out the window on this early morning, I am greeted by beautiful skiffs of snow. As many of us who live on the central Oregon coast know, snow doesn't usually last very long, but it is such a delightful sight, especially as it falls on the beach and is met by the rolling ocean tide.

Last week we celebrated the longest day of the year, which always reminds me spring is in the very near future... the changing of the seasons. So it is with our church. Most of you, who have been members of Florence United Methodist Church for many years, have experienced a number of changes. For some, change is exciting, for others it is very, very difficult. Change we must, or we cannot survive. I like to say we are constantly re-inventing ourselves.

Last week Rev. John Tucker, our District Superintendent, announced the appointment of Pastor Logan McLean Strike to our church. Pastor Logan is coming to us from the Lutheran Church, which as John Tucker stated in the appointed announcement, the Evangelical Lutheran church is like a "sibling" to the United Methodist Church. I do believe this to be a very positive appointment. Small rural churches must learn the "art of collaboration". In my view, this is collaboration at its finest. Pastor Logan's husband is the Pastor of New Life Lutheran Church on Spruce Street, here in Florence. She is also filling a role as per-diem Chaplain at Peace Harbor Hospital. **Welcome Pastor Logan!** Plan to join us on Sunday, January 9, 2022 as Pastor Logan will be preaching her first sermon at Florence United Methodist Church.

As we say farewell to Pastor Karen Love Baisinger, we want to thank her for her contribution to our church over the last few years. She guided us through a major pandemic. With her leadership, we formed the Re-imagining Team which addressed the effects of the pandemic and explored new ways of accomplishing our mission while adhering to the Bishop's recommendations. She executed the guidance of our denomination, although unpopular at times. We shall always remember her sharp wit and sense of humor. She will continue to be with us for the next few months as Pastor Logan transitions into her new role.

Lay Leader continued...

We will also miss Alan, Pastor Karen's husband. He was so very instrumental in providing tech support/sound mixing for our Sunday Service YouTube video. He manned the sound booth before the closure of in-person worship and continues to do so, now that we are back to worship in our sanctuary.

Thank You Pastor Karen and Alan. Enjoy your "second" retirement. Good health and God's speed on your next endeavor.

Happy New Year!

Patt Rollins

Florence United Methodist Church
FINANCES



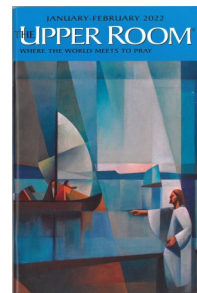
November 1-30, 2021: Receipts: \$ 4,395.32
Expenses: \$ 7,381.44
December income through the 27th: \$ 19,658.73

Provided by Kathy Yelle
Treasurer

Noteworthy News...

Home Touch & Upper Room

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. Similarly, if you receive only an online copy, but would like to have a printed version, please contact lindayoder@hotmail.com or 541-590-0944.



Electronic Giving

We continue to offer on-line giving through our trusted church partner, Vanco, using its secure website. To assure security, the church's website www.florenceunitedmethodist.org is the only portal to online giving. If you have any questions, contact lindayoder@hotmail.com.

Amplify Videos

If you haven't tried Amplify Media, the subscription for which the church has paid, and have forgotten the directions to do an initial log-in, you'll need to use the church access code, which is ZRGHYB. Questions? Contact lindayoder@hotmail.com. We don't want anyone to miss out on a fabulous resource, especially one we use extensively for small groups.

*Thank
you*



Thanks to my church family for the cards, call and visits following Barbara's two surgeries. She is mending well at home. I am rolling around in my wheelchair with a bit of brain left!

A healthful New Year to all in my church of joy and affirmation since 1988!

Donna Embree

***Dear folks,** your kindness to me this Christmas was greatly appreciated. Considering the fact I call on so many of you to help me out throughout the year on numerous projects - without pay - I'm humbled by your generosity. Thank you.*

Linda

Blessings to You in the New Year

May peace fill your world,

May love fill your home

With contentment and happiness, too—

In wonderful ways

May This year of new days

Be filled with sweet blessings for you.

Happy New Year

JANUARY NEWSLETTER



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Sunday Worship: 10:30 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.