

Florence United Methodist Church

Tide-ings 2021



March 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,

It's somewhat overwhelming to me to realize that it has been almost a full year since we last met for in-person worship and our Bishop had to close our churches due to COVID-19. Many are feeling "pandemic fatigue," even as we are cautiously optimistic that there is an end in sight to the pandemic as the vaccine roll-out continues.

There have been many aspects to grieve and mourn from this experience of a global pandemic, not the least of which is the loss of over 500,000 people at this point in the US. We have been fortunate and blessed indeed that we have not to this point lost anyone in our church from the virus. While it has been extremely challenging to forgo being together in-person, the end result that we wanted was the health and well-being of our congregation, with the suspension of in-person worship and closure of our buildings as the means to support that goal.

Certainly a toll has still been taken in terms of isolation, loneliness, and not being able to gather together for support, connection, and community. For those of you without internet access, this is particularly true, as well as for those of you who although you have internet connectivity, are not comfortable with technologies and platforms such as Zoom.

Two things happened today. First, we received word from the Greater NW Area of our denomination that we are still under the guidelines of the Reimagining Our Lives Together document that our Bishop issued to us many months ago. While we are optimistic about



the vaccine roll-out, we are still living in much uncertainty and will continue to do so for some months ahead. We don't have enough information yet to know just how safe it would be to move

toward in-person worship. What about the variants of the virus? What about the asymptomatic vaccinated persons who might possibly spread the virus unknowingly? To what extent are the vaccines working?

Secondly, we had a Zoom meeting of our own Reimagining Our Lives Together (RLT) team (Patt Rollins, Scott Philben, Terry Woodward, Linda Yoder, and Peggy Hughes, with Amanda Sarles and Jim Waterman unable to attend today). The consensus was that we are not ready to seriously and immediately work on a plan for re-entering in-person worship and opening our buildings back up. We too felt there is still too much unknown about how things will unfold with this pandemic. The team is, however, very committed to doing our best to make our decisions based on the best information we have. We want to do the right things for our congregation for the right reasons. We also recognize that the more time that passes with this pandemic, there is a negative impact of varying severity on our members who might be feeling isolated, depressed, and anxious. Our feeling is that 45-60 days from now, we will know a lot more about how safe it is to get back together in person for worship and small groups like the Covenant Group as well as the UMW and our Free Lunch outreach. So we hope to be able to submit a plan to our District Superintendent for re-opening as we are required to do by the Bishop's RLT process.

As your pastor, I am doing everything I can to continue our life together as a church, espe-

cially with worship. I am deeply appreciative of the hard work, dedication and commitment from our staff, Linda Yoder and Sharon Belvill. There is so much to be grateful for in how we've been able to pull together and stay afloat. Thank you for all your prayers and efforts, your financial support and your encouragement. Don't stop now! This has become a marathon or maybe a triathlon, not a sprint or a stroll on the beach!

One last thing, Peggy Hughes, a member of the RLT team and a retired nurse, has taken on providing assistance to any of you who need help with using your internet or your phone to get pre-registered for scheduling your vaccines. Please feel free to reach out to her at auntpeg0929@gmail.com, or call her at (541) 902-0197. She's happy to help.

Stay safe. Trust the process. Know that your leadership is working on this and is committed to getting us all back together as soon as it's safe to do so. Keep the faith and keep on keepin' on!

Love and blessings,
Pastor Karen



The next regular Church Council meeting will be via Zoom, right after the social hour at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 21



Keeping in Our Prayers

Charles & Barbara Walker; Kathleen Yelle and family; Jasmin Crump; Vicki Hough (Peggy Wilson's daughter); Larry Gallagher; Pat Balzell; Jonathan Yoder; Reverend Karen; Peggy Simington; 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; 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 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

Updated information for the Crater Lake District Every Member Enrichment Event on March 6 indicates the guest speaker will be Justine Carpenter who is Director of Multicultural and Identity-Based Student Services at the University of Oregon in Eugene. Her topic for the Zoom event is "DACA and Undocumented Students". To register, contact jboeseumw@charter.net, who will connect you with the link to participate. There are no fees and the deadline is March 4.

The annual United Methodist Women survey/census for 2021 has been completed and the Florence unit has 29 members. Not being able to meet in person is the situation for all units and working to stay connected is up to everyone. How about sending an email, text, or note to let someone know you're thinking of them. A phone call works too and prayers for one another are always in order.

Jean Hefty



Trustees Report

The electrical repairs to the Fellowship Hall are nearly complete. A new electrical panel has been installed and final drywall work will be completed in the next week or so.

Scott Philben

Adult Sunday School Study in March

"Entering the Passion of Jesus"



During Lent, which continues through March, the Adult "Sunday School" on Fridays will continue our study by New Testament scholar Jill-Amy Levine called "Entering the Passion of Jesus". She will lead us in looking at the people and events of Jesus final days between the Palm Sunday entry to Jerusalem and his crucifixion a week later.

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.

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 has served 1,997 Subway Voucher meals through 2/18/21. There is a light at the end of the tunnel and Free Lunch will likely have funds leftover to restock and prepare the kitchen for re-opening. There is not a projected date to reopen.

The FECWS opened on 2/22 and 2/23 as a "dry run" and also in consideration of wet weather. Free Lunch provided a dozen Subway meal tickets for their guests' lunch mid-day on 2/23. FUMC is continuing to support Rhody Express riders by funding the rides to and from the Shelter.

Paula Z

MARCH

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu



St. Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people.

In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well-known legend of St. Patrick is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17, the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast—on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

Fri

Sat



Church in your jammies?



**Worship virtually . . .
... on your schedule**



Florence

United Methodist Church

www.florenceunitedmethodist.org

or find us on



You Tube

Florence United Methodist Church FINANCES



January 1-31, 2021:

Receipts: \$ 10,421.00

Expenses: \$ 8,055.00

February income through the 25th:
\$ 5,968.00

Provided by Kathy Yelle

Birthdays

2	Yola Hesser
3	Janet Titus
7	Sarah Rodgers
7	Alan Baisinger
7	Bruce Hadley
11	Chuck Selden
13	Patti Johnson
14	Laura Merz
18	John Pohlman
22	Ray Feay
26	Linda Schniepp
26	Patt Rollins
26	Chuck Riebhoff

Anniversaries

12	Mike & Judy Jones
16	Dean & Ramona Spencer
22	Frank & Annie Van Horn
27	Charles & Barbara Walker
29	Ken & Elaine Wright

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



A Word From Your Lay Leader...

Often Patti and I will enjoy a morning cup of coffee while walking thru the garden. We love to bring in the day admiring God's beautiful handiwork. Last week was encouraging as we began seeing spring crocus and daffodils searching for more, warm, bright sunlight. We so love Spring Time. Patti loves planting flower bulbs in the Fall. She tells me how it makes her heart lite in anticipation of Spring's arrival, when the bulbs share their beautiful flowers. All of these moments bring us, as Christians, to embracing the Lenten Season...the anticipation of the risen Christ. Just one big reason we so love spring....**Easter is just around the corner.**

As we journey through the Lenten Season, I encourage you to read Pastor Karen's daily e-mails of Lenten Reflections. Patti and I share it every morning with a cup of hot coffee. It's a wonderful way to welcome the morning. God is good. It is the season of Lent.

As we are taught in the Christian faith, Lent is a time of prayer. Essentially an act of prayer spread out of 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with Him. So, as we pray, please remember all those in need, the folks who are so impacted by harsh winter conditions, those who have lost jobs because of Covid restrictions, those who suffer significant health issues, for our nation, our world, our government, our denomination, our environment, those serving in the military. The list could go on and on, you should be able to fill up 40 days of prayer. Right?

Hopefully most of you are receiving your Covid vaccine this week. Unfortunately crazy winter weather has disrupted some deliveries of the vaccine to many locations. Be persistent. Make all the contacts you can. Try not to get discouraged. Keep that mask on! Wash your hands and social distance.

Happy almost Spring.

Patt Rollins

From the Nurture Chairperson...

Galatians 6:2: Bear One Another's Burdens and So Fulfill the Law of Christ.



Jim and I recently moved to Florence full time this month...Amen!

I bought our lake house, seven years ago and we have enjoyed summers and longer stays in Florence during this time, and our Church Family. Our home in Bakersfield sold in three days and escrow closed on February 10th. Moving is incredibly difficult, especially when you have 46 years together of stuff to go through: photos, children's school pictures, awards, professional work, china, dishes, party supplies, stuff Kathy bought....suits, ties, Kathy's shoes....you get the picture. Jim was on a first name basis at Goodwill, the Homeless Shelter, and the Cancer Thrift Store! Oh and then of course, there's the moving sale. We had people showing up for a 7:00 am sale at 6:30 am with flashlights....really?

Moving sales bring out the worst in me...I had one woman tell me that I didn't give her a discount...'really everything you bought was a discount...!' and then when someone was so gracious...I was happy to give her or him stuff for free. Jim's brother, Larry, flew out from South Carolina to help us in the last days and to drive up with Jim and the U-Haul. Larry was a godsend and worked tirelessly to keep us going... what an amazing act of compassion...to help someone move, especially during a pandemic. My sister, Suzi, also came for two days and helped me tackle the garage... what a gift...Suzi and Larry knew why we finally pulled the trigger to move to Florence and they were there for us...to come along side us and share the burden, as were Jon and Monica who brought a crew to bring down the 11 foot doors from the Middle East to hopefully install here in our new home...

On our trip back to Florence we listened to a podcast about Delights...which encouraged listeners to take time to say out loud, things that you delight in...Well let me tell you when you move, and you get to your destination....and you find something you packed....that's a Delight...we are experiencing Delights daily!

WE are ready for New Challenges, Delights, and New Beginnings in Florence!

Kathryn Waterman
Nurture Chair

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. Oregon Central Coast PFLAG (Newport) has Zoom support meetings the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. Check them out on their Facebook Page, where the link and password are published.

Linda Yoder

Directory Updates...

Charles and Barbara Walker are in a new apartment at their Senior Living complex in McMinnville. Same address, but with a new unit number:

Charles & Barbara Walker
Brookdale Senior Living
775 NE 27th St, Apt. **221**
McMinnville, OR 97128



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.

Linda Yoder

Go Camping

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

Diane

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 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 Adult Sunday School.

Church Service DVDs Available

If you don't use the Internet, we can mail you a DVD of the service. Call Linda Yoder 541-590-0944 for copies.

MARCH NEWSLETTER



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Sunday Worship: virtual
Office Phone: (541) 997-6025
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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.