

Florence United Methodist Church

***Tide-ings* 2019**



September Newsletter

Florence United Methodist Church

333 Kingwood, Florence, OR 97439

Office: (541) 997-6025

Sunday Worship

Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m.

Children's Sunday School 10:00 am

Adult Sunday School: 8:30 a.m.

florenceumc@florenceunitedmethodist.org

Visit us at www.florenceunitedmethodist.org

Serving the People of God:

Bishop: Elaine Stanovsky

800-593-7539

DS: Rev. John Tucker

Pastor: Reverend Dr. Karen Love Baisinger

Finance Chair: Terry Woodward

Lay Leader: Hazel Vacura 541-999-6609

SPRC Chair: Erin Leonard

Music Director: Rhianna Haines

Newsletter Editor: Diane McCalmont

Ministers: All Members



FROM OUR SHARED HEART...

I woke up this morning happy. All is well in the 'hood! Yes, we had our Administrative Council meeting yesterday and it was at times contentious, at least compared to what I would assume is our usual practice of “being nice” as United Methodists. But I feel hope. I feel joy!

How could that be . . . that in the midst of being a “messy church,” I could feel joy? I have been here a couple of months now. Our committees have fallen into somewhat of a state of disarray and dysfunction. You have been without pastoral leadership almost two years of the past five. It shows.

But that is not irreparable. It is life. It is seasons and change and loss and grief and pushing the re-start button again and again.

I feel signs of new life stirring in the ashes of grief and loss we have been sitting in for awhile now. We had over 70 in worship yesterday when we have been averaging in the 50s for a year now. I could feel the momentum, the buzz humming around in the room as the Spirit was in our midst last week when we worshipped at the lake in our annual service at Woahink. I see the new faces, especially the LGBTQIA+ who are hearing the word spread that there is a church in town where not only are they welcomed, they are treasured, valued and included, where they have allies and advocates.

Although a vote was taken on the motion to withhold the global part of our apportionments to our denomination, and passed by a narrow margin, we are going to have to conduct a re-vote. An Administrative Council member who is not an official member of our church voted; this was later challenged, which nullified the vote. According to our Book of Discipline, non-members have a voice but not a vote at Ad council meetings.



The amazing thing to me is that WE ARE ALMOST UNANIMOUS in our resistance and opposition to the outcomes that will continue to “do harm” and even deepen the hurt and harm to our LGBTQIA+ brothers and sisters. We did pass the motion to write a strong letter expressing our distress over these outcomes to our District Superintendent and our Bishop. (And I get to be your pastor . . . I am so-beyond-blessed!) You are an amazing church, FUMC!

My discernment is that we are within the Will of God. Not necessarily because we are getting it “right,” certainly not because we are perfect . . . but as I learned in my training to be a Spiritual Director in the Ignation tradition with the Jesuits . . . “Seeking God's will IS God's will.” We can never fully know God's will this side of Heaven. All we can do is hunger to know God's will and be willing to seek and follow it, as best we can discern it.

So don't get discouraged . . . I am not! We are in disagreement at this point on our discernment. But OMG(oodness)! We are in disagreement on HOW to resist! Not on the almost unanimous discernment that we are in complete un-alignment, we are in opposition, we are resisting and will continue to resist what we consider a clear violation of our sense of what it means to be a Christ-follower as well as a United Methodist in the grand stream of the Wesleyan tradition of Christianity.

Even though I am just sipping my first (and hopefully last) cup of coffee this morning, I am elated! You see, I don't flinch (much) at disagreement, at the expression of deep feelings, at the process of going through the throes of what it takes to be authentic community. I spent a decade pastoring churches where we were in the “good fight,” seeking to shift from maintenance to mission . . . and I have the scars, deep emotional scars, to show for it. I spent decades

in private practice running as many as 7 on-going psycho-spiritual process groups weekly, doing a very deep level of debriefing childhood trauma, mostly with people in recovery, and facilitating weekend-long Intensives monthly to provide a deeper level of emotional healing work. I've been through trainings in mediation and dispute resolution, I have trained in community building. I LOVE these processes! I see and experience God in them. In the therapy groups I used to run, for example, I only had one group "blow up" in all those years, and that was one focused on healing our relationship with money! Evidently money is "the" hardest thing to deal with! Or probably it was just that I was not yet clear enough about it to be able to be that clear channel, that "hollow bone" that could receive all my group's anxiety, distress, guilt, shame, and poverty/scarcity consciousness. But other than that one group, all the groups I ran were LOVE . . . pure love. All there is . . . is the awareness of love . . . once you go through the process of community formation, once you build enough trust, once you have a safe environment or container to be real, to be honest. But most importantly, once you are in a situation where you can have the "missing experiences" from childhood, if you missed out on them, which most of us did, in one way or another. We need to feel safe, we need to feel that there is respectful structure. We need to feel that the power is shared and there is order. And we need to feel heard, loved and valued.

Brothers and sisters, I assure you . . . from my perspective, everything is going very well for us. Yes, there is some pretty serious dysfunction. Yes, I see plenty of work ahead for all of us. But we are ALIVE! We are NOT a "dying church"!

As I shared at the Ad Council yesterday in my Pastor's Report, I can go through almost any process, I believe, if I can understand that there is meaning in what I am going through, that there is indeed a process. The example I shared was from when I was pregnant with my children. It helped

to know the stages, the trimesters, what I could expect. Yes, it was one of the most fraught-with-anxiety experiences of my life on one level, dealing with the level of vulnerability to love that having a child throws becoming a parent into. In fact, it was that kind of deepest love ever and the vulnerability that it brings that drove me into my spiritual path. But how horrible it would have been had I not known what pregnancy was all about . . . that there were stages . . . that certain things were to be expected . . . that I would get bigger, bigger, huge . . . that there could be complications . . . that there was the risk, however slight, but still real . . . of complications, of disability or even death to myself and/or my baby.

As I assess the condition of the church, as I reported in my Pastor's Report, I think we are beginning to dip our toes into the waters of CHAOS. I did some training with best-selling author and psychiatrist Scott Peck's community-building foundation. In his teachings, to the best of my memory as I paraphrase what Dr. Peck said, that there are 4 stages of community formation:

PSEUDO-COMMUNITY: the stage of being "nice," and on the surface, such a "loving church." We are "friendly." But we are not "real" . . . really. We repress and suppress our true feelings out of wanting to "keep the peace" and not "rock the boat." We are even unconsciously (usually) trying to manipulate "persons, places, and things," as they say in the 12 Step Fellowships, so that we get our own way, amass personal power and influence. We know how things ought to be done (our way, of course!) and we will do everything we can to see that that happens.

CHAOS: when there is enough safety, emotionally and structurally, like when there is facilitation present and possible so that we know it is safe to begin to voice our

disagreements, our differences, our more authentic feelings about how our shared life in community is going . . . watch out! The mask of fake-community, or a more shallow level of community, despite our love for each other, begins to slip. Tensions seem to erupt from nowhere. Disagreements may escalate. We fight, we fume, we get scared. Are we falling apart as that loving (on the surface) community we so value? Are we going to split apart at the seams?

SILENCE: we start at some point, if we stay with the process, to “give up.” We give up our quest to control others, to have it our own way. We shut up and in the silence, a new Spirit can enter our midst. We yield to a Higher Power. “Let go and let God,” again the wisdom from the 12 Step Fellowships.

AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY: If we stay with the process, if we remain committed, if there is structure where we can safely share our authentic selves . . . then there is a certain peace, an ability to work together to come to solutions, agreements, outcomes as a community. The power is shared. No one faction or individual is dominating. We can be real and be safe in expressing ourselves authentically.

So back to being happy, elated, hope-full. . . we are in a process, dear Church, and we need to accept it and allow it and most of all . . . stick with it. You may feel tempted to run, to bolt because of the CHAOS we are beginning to enter. I pray that you will buckle your seatbelts for the ride. It could turn out to be the ride of your life as a Christ-follower!

Scott Peck says that he was very surprised to find that 90% of churches are unwilling to risk being in the process of forming authentic Christian community. He had initially thought that churches would naturally be the biggest users of his pro-

cess. Aren't they supposedly about being Christian community, the “for real” Body of Christ? No. Too scary. Too messy. Too risky. So he says, basically, that he saw most churches instead choosing to stay at the surface level of community . . . “pseudo-community.”

My deepest prayer right now is that you will stay the course. Like pregnancy, there are no guarantees of a happy outcome. We will (most likely) be okay. We might not, it's true. For there are forces at work, crises looming, such as the probability, almost certainty, of our denominational split or “divorce,” there is the rise of fascism, the re-emergence of white supremacy and other threats to democracy in our nation, there is the threat of species extinction with climate collapse that is careening rapidly towards “the point of no return.”

If we have ever needed each other, if we have ever needed safe and authentic community, it is now. If the Church has ever been needed, it is now. NOW. I urge you to stay, to commit, to double-down on your involvement, your service, your contribution. It may truly be NOW or NEVERmore to be.

We can do this! I trust the process. I trust “us.”

As we prayed and blessed each other yesterday in our spoken Benediction:

When the reign of God finally and fully comes, there will be no disease, no violence, no despair, no want, no sorrow. Until that day arrives, we will be the bearers of God's kingdom, offering healing and hope, a compassionate shoulder, a willingness to listen, a hand to hold. This is our calling as Christ's disciples. But, we do not do it alone. God is our strength. Christ is our life. The Spirit is our power. We bless each other now and go and live and love in the name of the Triune God. Amen.

Dipping my toes into CHAOS, I love you!

Reverend Karen



Keeping in Our Prayers

John & Lila Hyder; Roger Johnson; Kathy Yelle; Reverend Carol; Kim Holden & family; Carolyn Boyce; Jude Craddock; Ray Feay; Georgia Garrett; Laureli; Betty Cline; Ursula Sears; Jean Parr; Janice Bell; Donna Embree; Elinor Roth; Gerry & Nancy Cedarleaf-Grey; and Bonnie Kelly.

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.

Pastor Karen:
revdrkarenlove@gmail.com
(541) 915-0335 cell (ok to text)



Adult Class Resumes

Our Adult Sunday School class will resume at **8:30 am** on Sunday, September 8 following our summer recess. We will begin a video study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and some of the exciting discoveries scholars have made in their study of these ancient documents. Discovered in the late 1940s, some of these scrolls are the most ancient copies of parts of the Bible we use frequently in our own devotional times. Come join us for some inspirational and lively discussion.

Bert Schniepp

Sunday
Worship
continues at
10:00 am
beginning
Sept. 1



and continuing for 6 months
while under review



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

UMWomen News

United Methodist Women are scheduled to meet in the Tedd Powell Hall on Thursday, September 5 at 1:30 p.m. with Brooke Shafer and Donna Embree serving as hostesses. Devotions will be led by Brooke

and a book review from Yola Hesser is expected. All women of our church family are invited to attend and hear our guest Bob Orr as he speaks about his work with Siuslaw High School students in the Aspire program. He has started a non-profit “Students for a Better World” which assists young people in what to do after high school.

The Crater Lake District annual meeting of United Methodist Women takes place at Eugene Wesley UMC on Saturday September 28. Registration can be made at the unit meeting on September 5.

COMING SOON: Country Store and Luncheon on November 2.

Jean Hefty

PFLAG Fall Meetings



Things are shaping up for PFLAG this Fall. Join us for our September 10 regular meeting in the Bromley Room of the Siuslaw Public Library. We expect to have a guest speaker from NAMI-Florence.

Then join us October 8, when we meet at Lane Community College-Florence. We are hoping our great friend, presenter, and trans-activist from California, Zoyer Zyndel, will be able to join us.

For our November 12 meeting at LCC, we’ll be showing some short films.

Our December 10 meeting is the annual “White Elephant” exchange, which is always fun, and also be held at LCC-Florence.

Bring a friend. Win a prize if you bring the most guests. It’s always free and there are always refreshments. All our meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8 p.m.

Our membership drive begins in October and ends in December. Dues have held steady and are \$30 per year. Membership is not required to be active in the group. It’s simply PFLAG’s way of continuing to provide support and education in the community. We are not a lobbying group, but a 501(c)3 charitable organization. All donations, including dues, are tax-deductible.

Linda Yoder



Habitat Happenings

The annual Florence Habitat for Humanity Beach Walk is scheduled for Saturday, September 14, beginning from the North Jetty at 10:00am. Enjoy a stroll on Heceta Beach from the North Jetty to Driftwood Shores, where you will enjoy:

Free refreshments for all walkers, live entertainment, dog costume contest, professional kite flyers, and huge bubbles. A new activity planned this year is “human foosball”, and teams can be formed to participate in that. Every walker that raises \$100 or more receives a free Habitat t-shirt. Anyone interested in joining a United Methodist Beach Walk team should contact Vicki Philben at 530-355-7771 or email at wsh2bfishn@hotmail.com.

Did you know that Habitat has a program called Ramps and Rails that will help people modify their home if they have safety or mobility issues? For more information, call Habitat at 541-902-9227 or contact them by email: info@florencehabitat.org.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying for a Habitat House, more information can be found on their website florencehabitat.org or by calling 541-902-9227.

Vicki Philben



CHOIR NOTES

Choir practice will start up again on Thursday, Sept. 12, at 5:15pm, with the 1st anthem being on the 22nd.

Special music until then will be:

Sept. 1 - David Miller

Sept. 8 - Butch Goodwin

- Rhianna



**Any and all men
are invited each
Thursday morning
at 8:00 a.m.
to a no-host breakfast at
Kathleen & Nina's**

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
1 Worship/Communion 10:00 am	2 S.B.I.P. mtg 6:30-8:3	3 Office Hours 10 am-1 pm Free Lunch 11:30-12:30 A.A. Meeting 5:00-6:00	4	5 UMMen 8 am Women's Covenant 9:00 Free Lunch 11:30-12:30 UMW 1:30-3 Meditation Group 5:30-7
8 Worship 10:00 am Music Class 4:30	9 S.B.I.P. mtg 6:30-8:3	10 Office Hours 10 am-1 pm Free Lunch 11:30-12:30 A.A. Meeting 5:00-6:00 PFLAG 6:30	11 Prayer Shawl Ministry 10-Noon Church Potluck 5:30	12 UMMen 8 am Women's Covenant 9:00 Free Lunch 11:30-12:30 Trustee's meeting 3:00 Finance Comm mtg 3:30 Meditation Group 5:30-7
15 Worship 10:00 am Birthday celebration during coffee time SPRC mtg 2:00 Ad Council mtg 3:05 Music Class 4:30	16 S.B.I.P. mtg 6:30-8:30	17 Office Hours 10 am-1 pm Free Lunch 11:30-12:30 A.A. Meeting 5:00-6:00	18	19 UMMen 8 am Women's Covenant 9:00 Free Lunch 11:30-12:30 Meditation Group 5:30-7
22 Worship 10:00 am Music Class 4:30	23 S.B.I.P. mtg 6:30-8:30	24 Office Hours 10 am-1 pm Free Lunch 11:30-12:30 A.A. Meeting 5:00-6:00	25 Prayer Shawl Ministry 10-Noon	26 UMMen 8 am Women's Covenant 9:00 Free Lunch 11:30-12:30 Meditation Group 5:30-7
29 Worship 10:00 am Music Class 4:30	30 S.B.I.P. mtg 6:30-8:30			

	Fri	Sat
0-11) 7	6	7 A.A. Meeting 11:30-12:30
0-11) 30 7	13	14 A.A. Meeting 11:30-12:30
0-11) 7	20 Nurture/Outreach Committees mtg 11:30	21 A.A. Meeting 11:30-12:30
0-11) 7	27	28 A.A. Meeting 11:30-12:30
	The September birthday cake is sponsored by Caroline Mesman	



Birthdays

- 1 Teresa Jackson
- 2 Ramona Spencer
- 5 Rev. Carol Thompson
- 6 Susan Patrick
- 7 Linda Yoder
- 12 Aaron Gallegos
- 12 Bob Orr
- 12 Joanne Caddell
- 15 Cindy Glover
- 17 Ursula Sears
- 19 Dean Spencer
- 20 Kathy Bones
- 22 Barbara Baker
- 22 Ken Wright
- 26 Debbie Jones
- 28 Nancy Cedarleaf-Grey
- 29 Barbara Walker
- 29 Jim Waterman

Anniversaries

- 10 Chuck & Sylvia Selden
- 10 Tim & Carol Salisbury
- 29 Peggy & Cindy Hughes



Scenes from Woahink...



HYGIENE KITS for IMMIGRANTS

During August I was collecting and putting together hygiene kits for immigrants living in government facilities, distributed through UMCOR.

The kit costs about \$12.00. I will have the list of items and packing information with me on Sundays, and will continue to put together and collect items during September.

If you wish to contribute to this project, I will give you the information.

Yola Hesser



Go Camping

*Camp & Retreat Ministries
Of Oregon and Idaho*

Summer may soon be coming to a close, but camps are ongoing into the Fall. You may be interested in forming a group of friends to attend one of the following camps...

Camps coming up in September and October...

- Fall Quilts, Craft & More (adult) - Sept. 16-22 - Suttle Lake
- Transformations Prayer Retreat (adult) - Sept. 22-27 - Suttle Lake
- Great Hymns of Faith 3 (adult) - Oct. 17 - Alton Collins Retreat Center
- Needlework Camp (adult) - Sept. 20-22 & 22-25 - Camp Magruder

If you need assistance in registering or have any questions, please contact Holly Dolan, camp registrar, at (503) 802-9214 or e-mail her at registrar@gocamping.org. You can also register online at gocamping.org.

Diane McCalmont

Public is invited...

"Plastic Talk"

Learn how, when, and where
to dispose of plastics

September 12, 6:00-8:00pm

Bromley Rm

Siuslaw Public Library





*Serving in
September*

Date	Time	Liturgist	Usher/Greeter	Kids' Time	Coffee Host
Sept 1	10 am	Linda Yoder			
Sept 8	10 am	Kathleen Yelle	Cindy & Peggy Hughes	Diane McCalmont	
Sept 15	10 am	Bert Schniepp	Diane McCalmont		
Sept 22	10 am				The Schniepps
Sept 29	10 am			Linda Yoder	Aaron Gallegos & Jean Hefty

Florence United Methodist Church
FINANCES



July 1-31, 2019:

Receipts: \$ 6,060.77

Expenses: \$ 7,888.02

August income through the 20th: \$ 4,531.00

Provided by Paula Ziegelasch

Free Lunch News

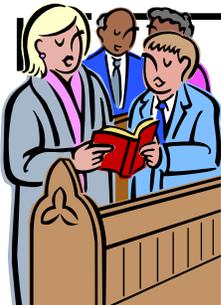
If you have any questions, or would like to become involved with the Free Lunch Program, please contact me (cynorr@gmail.com, 541-991-3398).



Cindy Orr

The schedule for September:

Week	Date	Tues		Thurs
1 st	9/3/19	St. Mary's, Jean	9/5/19	Brenda, Sabrina, Cindy and Hands, Butch
2 nd	9/10/19	St. Andrew's, Bert and Linda	9/12/19	Peggy & Cindy H Sue, Brooke, Butch
3 rd	9/17/19	Unitarians, Paula	9/19/19	Paula. Yola, Joanna, Butch
4 th	9/24/19	Florence Christian, Paula	9/26/19	Bahai and Friends



Church Attendance in August:

4th: 53 11th: 53 18th: NA 25th: 72



RECIPE CORNER

Muffin Pan Frittata (Quick and Easy Breakfast Recipe)

Ingredients:

Cooking spray
1 tbsp olive oil
1 cup chopped fresh asparagus
1/4 cup chopped green pepper
2 tbsp chopped red onion
6 eggs
1/2 cup milk
1/4 tsp salt
1/8 tsp black ground pepper
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 12 muffin cups with cooking spray. Heat olive oil in a skillet over medium heat; cook and stir asparagus, green bell pepper, and onion in the hot oil until softened, 5 to 10 minutes.

Whisk eggs, milk, salt, and black pepper together in a bowl. Mix cooked vegetables and Cheddar cheese into egg mixture. Spoon about 1/4 cup mixture into each muffin cup. Bake in preheated oven until frittatas are set in the middle and lightly browned, about 20 minutes.

Diane

Free Music Class!

Want to learn how to read music?

Wish you had continued those music lessons as a kid?



This is the place for you!

Every Sunday

4:30 to 5:30

Methodist Church

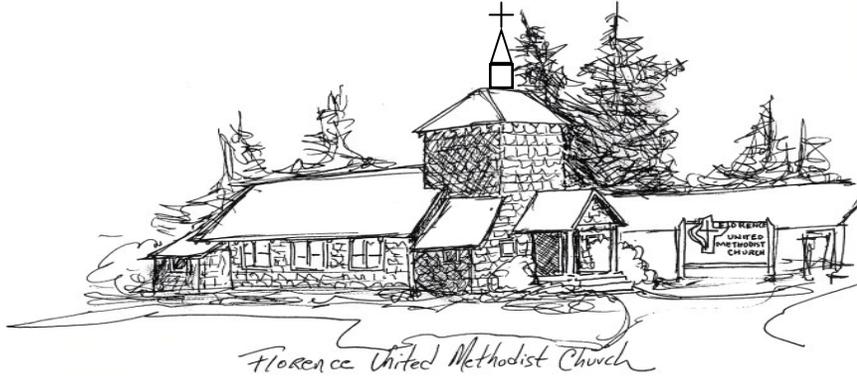
2nd and Kingwood

Starting August 4th

**Bring pen, paper, and a
drive to learn**

Check out the lost and found items lined up on hooks hanging in the hallway in the Fellowship Hall. You may find a long lost item there.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



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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.**