

Tower Notes

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN ALBANY, OREGON

Worship - Serve - Learn

Dear Friends,

We had four great people join the church on Sunday – Sharon Justham, Loretta Menor, Carol Poppe, and Al Preston. Even though they come from different places and a variety of faith backgrounds – they have this in common – they have servant hearts! Loretta jumped right in almost immediately after she started attending several years ago – helping out at coffee hour and being an essential part of UMW. She brought our precious Shirley Patterson to church, before her passing at 100. Back in May, Sharon and Carol were an integral part of the team from our congregation who served breakfast and lunch at the Heart to HEART fair for the homeless. They had only been coming to our church for a few weeks at the time. Then there is Al – who is a neighbor to young Joey and Shyann and makes sure they get to church most Sundays. And wait – there is more – but, more about that at the end of this –

We have talked a lot in the last five years about being a blessing to the community – and - to quote our “why we exist” statement – to “be an outpouring of love through the energy of Christ” to our neighbors. We will keep working on what that looks like in how we are stewards of our campus and what we do beyond the walls. As I encouraged you in last month’s column – be listening for God’s nudgings for how God wants to use us now.

I just want to say a word about what it looks like to bless one another within the walls. I am always so touched by the ways I see this happening – as you pray for each other, give each other the gift of a smile, a hug, a listening ear, words of encouragement when there are struggles.

I just got through reading a book entitled “The Art of Community” by Charles Vogl. I am sure you are going to hear more from me about this book. Let this be it for now as I share the following quote, which gives the author’s definition of community:

“I define community as *a group of individuals who share a mutual concern for one another’s welfare*. It’s distinct from a group whose members may share ideas, interests, proximity, or any number of things but lack concern for one another.”

What a difference it would make to our sense of community if each of us would choose even one other person from the congregation to get to know better. It can be as simple as seeing someone you do not know well at church and asking if they will join you at coffee hour. You can ask what brought them here; about where they grew up; what bring them joy... You get the picture. It is about deeply listening and being curious – in a good way.:-)

Now – back to Al. ***Al is going to provide a lasagna dinner for us on August 27 after church. He wants us to have an opportunity to get to know each other better – isn’t that awesome!*** So mark your calendars now to enjoy his hospitality and generosity! Yay Al!

In ministry with you, Kate



Fish of Albany Food Collection

On the first Sunday of every month we collect non-perishable food for Fish of Albany. Albany First UMC has a long connection to this great local organization. This is just one way we at Albany First UMC can help the hungry in the Albany area.

Men's Group. If it is the first Sunday of the month and you are a man ... come to McDonald's at 8:00am for breakfast, planning, and fellowship.

This is a great way to get to know "the guys" and become involved in church activities.



UMW Searchers News...

UMW Searchers enjoyed a "No Host" lunch at Elmer's on Wednesday August 2. This was our annual White Elephant event! Dorothy Davis shared devotional thoughts.



Save September 23 for our Crater Lake District UMW Annual meeting in Lebanon.



Kate will be in Illinois with her parents from August 2 – August 11. Teresa Salyer will be the on-call pastor for emergencies. Her email is salyert@comcast.net. She checks email regularly. Jill Gosswiller, our parish nurse, can be contacted for medical issues. Her phone number is on the front of the bulletin.

Please keep these members of the military ...

Family or friends of our own church family ... in your prayers.

- Denise & Walt Hammond's son-in-law, Jeremiah Hanks, Army; he and Lindsey are in Hinesviller, Georgia, he is stationed at Fort Stewart, Georgia.
- Phoebe & Randall Harrison's grandson, Silas Gayner, Army, recruiter in Merced, California.
- Don & Nancy McMorris' grandson, Matthew McMorris, Army, stationed in Osan, Korea.
- Nancy Benedict's grandson, Theron Benedict, Navy, stationed in Bremerton, Washington.



August Birthdays!

8/6—Karen Dahlinger

8/7—Robert Govro

8/7—Nancy Benedict

8/11—Marybeth Eastburn

8/17—Hallam Stewart

8/20—Mary Cady

8/21—John Buchner

8/26—Lucy Hodson

8/27—Ray Harris

8/31—Melinda Sorte



Coffee Time Hosts

Please sign up to host a coffee hour. Sign up sheets are in the narthex.

Anyone can bring cookies any time and put them in the freezer (please put the date on them).



Church office hours...

Tuesday ... 8:30-12:30

Wednesday ... 1:00-5:00

Thursday ... 8:30-12:30

August 2017

July 30	31	August 1	2	3	4	5
10:30 Worship	11:00 Gleaners 5:30 AA	8:00 Gleaners 12:30 Cooking 3:30 God's Heart 6:00 Cub Scouts 7:00 Storybook Land	7:00 Choir	Collaborative Problems Solving 6:30 Praise Band		5:30 AA
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:30 Worship	11:00 Gleaners 5:30 AA	8:00 Gleaners 12:30 Cooking 3:30 God's Heart 6:00 Cub Scouts	7:00 Choir	Collaborative Problems Solving 6:30 Praise Band		5:30 AA
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:30 Worship	11:00 Gleaners 5:30 AA 7:00 Centering Prayer	8:00 Gleaners 12:30 Cooking 3:30 God's Heart 6:00 Cub Scouts	7:00 Choir	Collaborative Problems Solving 6:30 Praise Band		5:30 AA
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:30 Worship	11:00 Gleaners 5:30 AA	8:00 Gleaners 12:30 Cooking 3:30 God's Heart 6:00 Cub Scouts	7:00 Choir	Collaborative Problems Solving 6:30 Praise Band	Community Gleaners Rummage Sale	Community Gleaners Rummage Sale
27	28	29	30	31	September 1	2
10:30 Worship 11:30 potluck	11:00 Gleaners 5:30 AA 7:00 Centering Prayer	8:00 Gleaners 12:30 Cooking 3:30 God's Heart 6:00 Cub Scouts	7:00 Choir	Collaborative Problems Solving 6:30 Praise Band		5:30 AA

Next Tower Notes deadline is Thursday August 24

First United Methodist Church of Albany welcomes all people! Please join us Sundays at 10:30 for our morning worship service; nursery care provided for children age 3 and under. Our pastor is Rev. Kate Conolly. Contact the church office with comments or questions, 541-928-3505. Our buildings and restrooms are fully accessible.

This newsletter is available via email and also is posted on our website at www.albanymetahodist.org. Please recycle this newsletter!



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First United Methodist Church

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