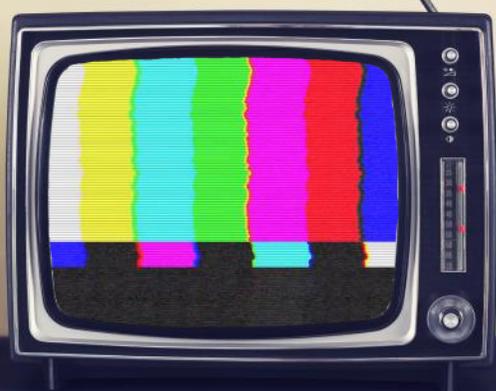


JANUARY 2021

THE EVANGEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF  AUDUBON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



DISRUPTED

LESSONS ON LIVING FAITHFULLY IN EXILE

Have you ever made plans for your life? Have your plans ever been interrupted?

Chances are you answered yes to both of those questions. We've all made plans. Maybe it was for an hour, a day, a weekend, a vacation, our work, our finances, our family. And we've all experienced the interruption of those plans by circumstances that changed or the unexpected that happened.

Life never quite goes how we plan for it to go. Life gets disrupted. Disruptions don't just come in the form of a worldwide pandemic. Unexpected disruptions happen at work, in our marriages, with kids, in relationships, and we are left to figure out how to move forward.

In this series, we will study the Old Testament story of exile, a major 70 year disruption in the life of God's chosen people, Israel. We will learn from their experience of living through disruption and coming out on the other side as new and stronger people.

A 6-week sermon series beginning January 10, 2021.



Rev. Geoff Helton

Lead Pastor

geoff@audubonparkumc.org
[fb.com/geoffhelton](https://www.facebook.com/geoffhelton)



One of the main ways that we're communicating as a church during the Coronavirus pandemic is Pastor Geoff's weekly email.

You'll get a short message from Pastor Geoff each week and hear more about church what's happening at the church.

To sign-up email pastor Geoff at geoff@audubonparkumc.org

or go to our website:
www.audubonparkumc.org/connect/pastors-e-note

If you've signed up and still aren't receiving our emails, we recommend that you check your spam folder.

FROM THE LEAD PASTOR

In many United Methodist churches, the first worship service of a new year is often a Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Service, a special worship service introduced by Wesley in 1775. In this service we reaffirm the Covenant between ourselves and God, and names the ways that we affirm and deny that relationship.

In the earliest years of Methodism, John Wesley and others found great meaning in Covenant Services, where they used a prayer from Richard Alleine, a 17th Century English Puritan. After one such service, Wesley celebrated God's work there in his Journal:

"I do not know that ever we had a greater blessing. Afterwards many desired to return thanks, either for a sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for a fresh manifestation of His graces, healing all their backslidings."

In the early years of Covenant Services, they would be conducted whenever John Wesley visited; later, Methodists joined this Covenant Prayer tradition to the New Year's tradition of Watch Night services; on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day, faithful Methodists have been asked to affirm their covenant with God, keeping ready and watching for the coming of Christ.

The Covenant Prayer (found below) that Methodists have used since 1755 demands a lot of us. This is no simple act of praise, and no simple request for aid. In this prayer, we are all invited to commit our selves to the work of God, fully.

I'd encourage you take the time, as we begin the new year, to practice a particularly Methodist prayer tradition: renewing your covenant with God in prayer.

This year, I hope you might prepare yourself to pray this prayer, and then pray it in covenant with God as 2021 begins. I can only imagine what it might mean for our church community if we were all able to live these words fully and boldly, with the help of God.

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

*I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
Exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.*

*Grace & Peace
-Pastor Geoff*

JANUARY 2021



UMW NEWS

READ, READ, READ!!

Our "at home time" provides us with the perfect opportunity to read books from our 2020 UMW Reading List. Let me tell you about two of these books that are available for just a phone call.

What Comes with the Dust

The story of a young Yazidi woman sold into a forced marriage that uses her wits and daring to save herself from further abuse or death, yet each escape leads to some new horror. (Social Action)

How the Woman at the Well Became the Well Woman

The story of an extraordinary ordinary life, of a woman's desperate journey to find love is for those who think their lives will never change and are afraid to hope again. (Nurturing for Community)

These two books and others are being kept at Melva Lohstroh's home. You can call her and pick one up or have one delivered to you. Melva's phone is 869-6416.

Our unit will not be meeting together for a while yet – so keep in touch with each other! Call a friend once a week and let them know you are thinking of them. We can still be a community, if not face-to-face.

Be strong! Stay safe! Read, read, read!
Look forward to 2021 being a better year!

Youth Ministry Upcoming Events

Youth Sunday School Schedule: Youth Sunday School (6th - 12th grade) will meet every Sunday online on Zoom from 9am - 10am. Contact Drew Homchick for more information and for the zoom links: drew@audubonparkumc.org

SNOWTUBING AT BEAR CREEK LODGE

Sunday, January 24th | Time: TBD

Come join us at the Bear Creek Lodge located near Mt. Spokane for a high intensity afternoon of snowtubing. Youth will need to arrange for transportation for this event and bring warm clothes, snow pants, boots, and a protective face covering due to COVID-19 restrictions.

ALL UMC ZOOM EVENT #3!!!

Sunday, January 31st | 2:00pm - 3:30pm

The youth at Audubon Park UMC will be joining up with other churches, pastors, and youth leaders in the Spokane area for an All Youth Zoom Event! This will be a great time to reconnect with new friends, play some fun games, and enjoy fellowship all in the comfort of your own home.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Youth Sunday School (6th - 12th grade) will meet every Sunday online on Zoom from 9am - 10am.

Just a Reminder

For the safety of our youth and young adult helpers, all participants will be required to wear a face mask for youth group events. Thank you in advance for your understanding during these uncertain times.



FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL CARE PASTOR



“A Christmas Memory”

Dear Friends,

We all have them, those very particular childhood Christmas memories, some wonderful, some not so much. I have one that began in the “not so much” category, but over the years has grown into something kind of “wonderful.”

It was the Christmas leading into my sixth birthday so that would have made it 1951. We had lost our Dad three years before; mom had taken a teaching job in an eight grade, one room country school at Daisy WA. Money was not in large supply, so Christmas was extra special...a chance to receive something that was not absolutely necessary. Being the youngest of four, typical childhood myths did not stand a chance at survival. By the age of almost six I'd been clearly schooled about the Easter Bunny, Santa Claus and the like... I'd even had a lesson or two about the true nature of the “stork” – but more about that another day! The point is that I knew that Mom was Santa, with a little help from Sears and Roebuck.

Rev. Glenn Kennedy
Associate Pastor of
Congregational Care

glenn@audubonparkumc.org

I had memorized the Sears and Roebuck Christmas catalog and knew exactly what I wanted that year...a glorious farm set, with animals of all sorts...plastic fences that were so much better than the ones I spent hours fashioning out of sticks and string. The topper was the big, red, metal barn and the farm family which came complete with a dad.

Christmas finally came! My excitement was deeper than the snow outside. Christmas morning my closest in age brother (he was nine and still well into the spirit of it all) and I bounded out of bed, went immediately for our Christmas Stockings...Mom wasn't big on frills, candy and such...but on Christmas morning we would count on an orange and a fair helping of hard candy in our stockings. (the closest grocery store of any size was about thirty miles away, so even a fresh orange was a real treat!) It was Mom's custom to give each of us one special gift- a toy or something else we really wanted...and then fill in with practical things like new underwear, socks, maybe for me a new pair of bib overalls- jeans for my brother. Sometimes even a new flannel shirt...but those were just the preliminaries as we waited for our one big special gift. I don't remember what my brother got that year, but I remember my gift real clearly...it was an envelope with a picture inside- the picture was of that Sears and Roebuck Farm Set...torn out of the Christmas Catalog. When Mom had ordered the set, she'd gotten a yellow slip back saying “sorry, temporarily out of stock!” Mom reassured me that it would be coming along one day soon...in the meantime I had my new underwear to enjoy! What more could an almost six-year-old want? Right!

As the years have passed, I have come to see a lovely parable in that story. You've no doubt guessed it by now.

On that first Christmas, so long ago, that is what the world was given...a picture! All that we need to know about the great God of the universe was wrapped first in human skin...then in a common blanket...was placed in an envelope, a manger pressed into use as a cradle. Then that picture grew into a full-blown portrait that tells us all we need to know about the One whose idea we are.

Every Christmas season I look forward to my first hearing on the radio of that beautiful song “Mary Did You Know.” My favorite line is this question; “*Mary did you know that when you kissed your baby, you kissed the face of God!*” We were given a picture...and that picture tells us all we need to know about “the great I am.”

Christmas Blessings, Pastor Glenn

January

For more information on church meetings or events,
please see the church website:
audubonparkumc.org.

Sunday, 1/3

Audubon Park Online Worship 10:30 am

Wednesday, 1/6

Midweek Vespers & Communion 7:00 pm

Sunday, 1/10

Audubon Park Online Worship 10:30 am

Tuesday, 1/12

Audubon Park Food Bank 8:30 -11:30 pm

Wednesday, 1/13

Midweek Vespers & Communion 7:00 pm

Sunday, 1/17

Audubon Park Online Worship 10:30 am

Wednesday, 1/20

Midweek Vespers & Communion 7:00 pm

Sunday, 1/24

Audubon Park Online Worship 10:30 am

Tuesday, 1/26

Audubon Park Food Bank 8:30 -11:30 pm

Wednesday, 1/27

Midweek Vespers & Communion 7:00 pm

Sunday, 1/31

Audubon Park Online Worship 10:30 am

Anniversaries

- 1 - Joseph & Brenda Vasquez
- 5 - Gene & Kate Raynaud

Birthdays

- 2 - Claudia Boswell
- 6 - Fyrne BeMiller
- 7 - Vi Nagley
- 8 - Cole Stolberg
- 9 - Aeryn Ostrander, Brent Smith
- 10 - Bob Kem
- 12 - Chris Moreau
- 16 - Kathy Cottrell
- 17 - Justin Burns, Marge Mero
- 21 - Retta Nickell
- 24 - David Payne
- 25 - Rebecca Stolberg, Amy Payne,
Ross Geiswhite
- 26 - Cary Andres
- 28 - George Hartman



MIDWEEK VESPERS & COMMUNION WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM

Join us on YouTube and Facebook for a simple 20-30 minute meditative service to help you connect with God and be renewed during the week. This service will include scripture, prayer and music and the Sacrament of Communion. Please provide your own communion elements (grape juice & bread).

 **Audubon Park**
United Methodist Church
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(509) 325-4541

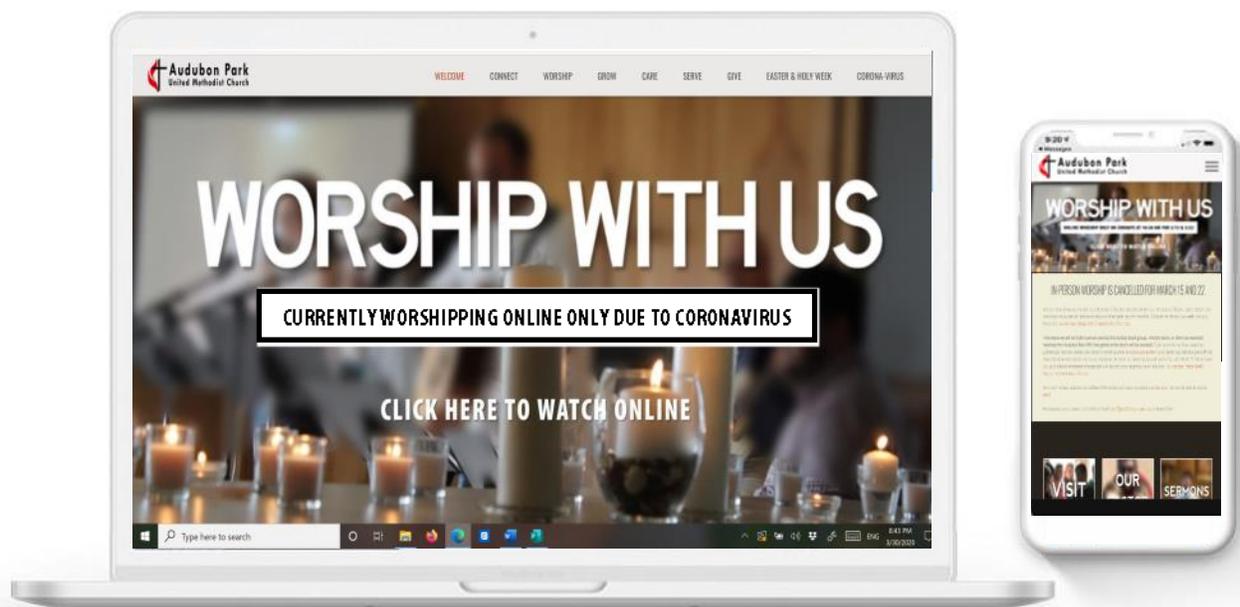
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