

AUGUST 2018

THE EVANGEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF  AUDUBON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH





Rev. Geoff Helton
Lead Pastor

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FROM THE LEAD PASTOR

I recently acquired a book titled *Every Moment Holy*. It's a book of prayers and liturgies which in itself isn't unusual. I have a number of books filled with prayers and liturgies. But these prayers are for every day life. There's a liturgy for doing laundry, a prayer for the loss of a beloved pet, for those experiencing road rage and for the enjoyment of bonfires. Some of my favorites include a liturgy for feasting with friends, for the ritual of morning coffee, and for those who weep without knowing why.

These liturgies have recently served as a reminder to me that every moment is holy because every moment is a gift from God. Author Wendell Berry once wrote, "There are no unsacred places; there are only sacred places and desecrated places." In that spirit this book reminds me that there are no unsacred moments; there are only sacred moments and moments we have forgotten are sacred. If that's true, and I think it is, then it is our duty to reclaim the sacredness of our lives and life itself.

The first step is to remember—to remember, in the words of the book's introduction, "the dream of Eden that shimmers at the edge of things, to remember that the madman on the corner was made in God's image, to remember that work and play and suffering and celebration are all sentences in a good story being told by God, a story arcing its way to a new creation."

So when you're eating a meal with friends, when you're sitting at our desk writing that report for work, when you sit on the beach on vacation, when your family dog has died, when you plant flowers in your garden, when you sit and watch Netflix with your grandkids, when you stop for just a moment to wonder at the beauty of the sun setting, remember that it is a holy moment. It is a holy moment, not something to be rushed through, but to be savored, enjoyed and treasured.

Try an experiment with me this week. Begin each day this week with this simple prayer (adapted from the "Liturgy of the Hours: Daybreak" from the book) and remind yourself as you start each day that every moment is holy and just see what it does for you.

O living God, I am your child and you desire for your children to love you, our eternal King, with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our minds, with all our strength.

***Help me to show you this love by remembering you at all times
by cultivating thankfulness for your many blessings and trusting you to provide for our needs,
by loving all those whose lives intersect my own,
by choosing to serve rather than be served, to be wounded rather than to wound,
and by bearing patiently with the failings of others,
extending the same kindness, mercy, and compassion that God in Christ has so graciously offered us.***

***Help me to love you by serving with faithfulness and due passion in the various tasks of today,
by delighting in everything you have created for my benefit and pleasure,
and by caring well for all you have given me to steward.
May my words, my choices, and my actions be offered as true expressions of worship.
Lead us this day, Lord Jesus Christ, that we might walk its paths
in the light of the hope of our coming redemption.
Amen.***

Grace & Peace
-Pastor Geoff

Audubon Park Church Youth Ministry

Our youth group usually meets at the church on Sundays from 6-7:30pm. Contact Drew Homchick for more info: drew@audubonparkumc.org

Mission Trip

Sunday, August 5th - Saturday, August 11th

Our youth group will be traveling to Wellpinit, WA on a mission trip through the Sierra Service Project. We will be working closely with the Spokane Indian Tribe to restore ramps, stairways, doors, and some painting around the local community. Please pray for our youth and our mission. Thank you!

Ball Games

Sunday, August 26th | 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Come join us as we go outside to the park and play a variety of ball games from bump to 4 square.



Ka-la Baty, Drew Homchick and several members of the youth enjoy lunch after a work day at the home of the Velonza Family. The Velonzas' won the work day at the Youth Auction this Spring.



AUDUBON PARK CHURCH CORE LEADERSHIP TEAM

The CORE Leadership Team Meeting will be held on August 20th in the Parlor. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

Please note that the open meeting starts at 7:15 pm.

Thank You Notes

Thank you for the thoughtful commissioning gift. I am grateful for the love, support, and encouragement of this congregation as I continue my journey into ordained ministry. I am blessed to have such faithful followers of Jesus Christ at my back.

Grace & Peace,

— Amanda Nicol



Our Family would like to thank all those who have sent cards and who have been praying for us since the passing of our dear wife and mother, Dorothy.

We appreciate your thoughts and concern.

— Jerry Hood and Family



Mark your calendars! Kick-Off Sunday will be on Sunday, Sept. 9! Join us as we begin the program year with a BBQ and ministry fair!



Rev. Dale Cockrum

Associate Pastor of
Congregational Care

dale@audubonparkumc.org

The Highs and Lows of Life...

Perhaps some lives are marked by steadiness and calm. More likely, it's a calm before a storm. I find that my life is marked by highs and lows, by tough challenges followed by wondrous blessing. In my experience the life of faith is never boring!

These days tragedy is never far from mind. The losses are both global in scale and deeply personal. Whether it's communities ripped apart by tornadoes or homes burned to the ground by wildfires or families drowned by thunderstorms on a river, I can scarcely imagine the horrific losses borne by those near and far. Day-by-day we hear rending tales of school shootings or soldiers killed in places like Iraq and Afghanistan where life in someone's eyes no longer has meaning.

Closer to home, people we love are robbed of life by terrible diseases over which we have no more control than we have of earth's quakes and ocean's waves.

Such disasters can shake our faith to the core, or paradoxically for others can deepen and enrich faith. We seek meaning in tragedy. We seek to reconcile our faith with such terrible loss of life. Why do some survive—say, boys trapped deep underground—often in circumstances that seem nothing short of miraculous, and yet others who surely share the same faith do not? How is God working in these events?

I see how certainly such tragedies call us into prayer, with prayers matched by our actions. Prayer connects us with the power of God so that we are moving with God and acting with God to make a difference in a world that is often rocked by tragedy and marked by suffering. There are no easy answers to these challenging questions; we do believe that God is in the hard places with us. God calls us to respond with love, every time and in every way possible.

I invite you to join Geoff and me in worship when you can this summer; we explore those amazing "one another" commands in the New Testament that expand what it means to love one another. When we choose to live in the ways described in these passages, we have the support and strength to endure the worst life can throw at us, as well as thrive on the greatest joys life has to offer.

Coming this Sunday: "Bear one another's burdens!" In the weeks ahead, we will be invited to consider serving one another, encouraging one another, and comforting one another—all vital ways we can help one another through the highs and lows of life. We are all God's children, blessed to be a blessing. Our prayers for one another and for the entire world do make a difference, especially when our prayers are matched by caring and generous actions. The two together have the power to turn any low into a great high.

***Shalom,
- Pastor Dale***



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

“SHOW ME THE \$\$\$\$!”

This quote from the movie “Jerry Maguire” has become a pop culture phrase with many ages. People want to know about the money. UMW is no different. Many have asked, where does the money go after we give our pledges? How does it work? Who decides where my pledge goes? Does it all go overseas to mission work? What about locally? If you use a computer, detailed information can be found on the UMW website, (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org) but I will try to give you a condensed answer.

For example, if I make my pledge once a year to my local unit, a portion goes for helping clients at the Women’s Hearth, Vanessa Behan, Shalom Zone, and many other agencies in Spokane. It further goes to the District level to aid women’s agencies all over the Inland district, and then to the Conference level to assist the mission agencies in the state of Washington such as Atlantic Street Center, and Mary Elizabeth Center.

We empower women through leadership education and training, mission education, (Mission u), the Reading Program, tools for advocacy, and programs that combat abuse of all varieties. We are committed to seeing that 70% of our Mission Giving goes to all the projects and programs that we support. About 20-30% stays with the local, district, and conference organizations. Only 9% covers administrative costs!

What our money does not fund:

- Projects and programs that don’t benefit women, children or youth.
- Projects and programs that do not comply with the Social Principles and Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church.
- Programs administrated by organizations that discriminate based on faith, ethnicity, race, or gender.

So, remember, when you pledge to UMW, it covers a broad spectrum of good things for women, children, and youth, both locally and globally.

Ann Fritz – Inland District Team

What’s going on Downstairs?



Some changes are coming to the church basement this summer! The basement of our church houses some of the most vital and life-giving programs of our church: food ministry programs, youth ministry programs, and music ministry programs. That’s in addition to the many community groups that use it throughout the week like various 12-step groups and the Boy Scouts.

We’re making some adjustments to the way we use this space this summer to help accommodate our growing food ministry programs. Here’s an overview of what we have planned:

1. We’ll be converting the current choir room into a space for our food ministry programs to store and disburse food. This will expand the amount of space available for food ministry and allow us to house all of the refrigerators and freezers (except those in the kitchens) in one place. We are also hoping to rethink the space to streamline the way we receive and process food before we disburse it.

Long-term we’re hoping to create a way to more easily move food directly into the food bank (without using the hallway) and directly in-between the food bank room and this new storage room. This may involve creating a door and ramp in-between the two rooms or a window with a roller conveyor system.
2. The current food bank storage room will become music ministry space and we will also designate one of the classrooms at the end of the hallway as music ministry space. One room will become a rehearsal space for the choir and the other a space for the bell choir.

We look forward to showing you these new spaces once we’ve completed the changes and minor renovations needed to accommodate the exciting ministry that happens in our basement. Question? Contact the church office.

August 2018

Wednesday, 8/1

Overeaters Anonymous (Room 103) 10:00 am
Needlework (Parlor) 10:00 am
AA (Parlor) 7:30 pm

Sunday, 8/5

Modern Worship 9:00 am
Traditional Worship 10:30 am

Monday, 8/6

Art Group (C.R.) 9:00 am
Study Group (Parlor) 11:30 am
AA Meeting (C.R.) 7:30 pm

Tuesday, 8/7

Free Breakfast & Produce 8:30-10:00 am
Quilters (Room 303) 9:30 am

Wednesday, 8/8

Overeaters Anonymous (Room 103) 10:00 am
Needlework Group (Parlor) 10:00 am
Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 6:30 pm
AA (Parlor) 7:30 pm

Youth Mission Trip to Wellpinit Aug 5-11th

Saturday, 8/11

Men's Breakfast (Parlor) 9:00 am

Sunday, 8/12

Modern Worship 9:00 am
Traditional worship 10:30 am

Monday, 8/13

Study Group (Parlor) 11:30 am
AA Meeting (C.R.) 7:30 pm

Tuesday, 8/14

Free Breakfast & Produce 8:30 - 10:00 am
Audubon Park Food Bank 9:30 am
Quilters 9:30 am (Room 303)

Wednesday, 8/15

Overeaters Anonymous (Room 103) 10:00 am
Needlework Group (Parlor) 10:00 am
Stephen Ministry (Parlor) 5:00 pm
AA (Parlor) 7:30 pm

Thursday, 8/16

Finance Meeting 7 pm

Sunday, 8/19

Modern Worship 9:00 am
Traditional worship 10:30 am

Monday, 8/20

Art Group (C.R.) 9:00 am
Study Group (Parlor) 11:30 am
CORE Leadership Meeting (Parlor) 7:15 pm
AA Meeting (C.R.) 7:30 pm

Tuesday, 8/21

Free Breakfast & Produce 8:30-10:00 am
Quilters (Room 303) 9:30 am

Wednesday, 8/22

Overeaters Anonymous (Room 103) 10:00 am
Needlework Group (Parlor) 10:00 am
Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 6:30 pm
AA (Parlor) 7:30 pm

Sunday, 8/26

Modern Worship 9:00 am
Traditional worship 10:30 am

Monday, 8/27

Study Group (Parlor) 11:30 am
AA Meeting (C.R.) 7:30 pm

Tuesday, 8/28

Free Breakfast & Produce 8:30-10:00 am
Audubon Park Food Bank 9:30 am
Quilters (Room 303) 9:30 am

Wednesday, 8/29

Overeaters Anonymous (Room 103) 10:00 am
Needlework Group (Parlor) 10:00 am
AA (Parlor) 7:30 pm

August Birthdays

- 4th - Randy Fink
- 7th - Marion Anderson, Abby Staples
- 9th - Darrell Douglas
- 11th - Flo Fiveash
- 15th - Daniel Ritz
- 16th - Ashlyn Dodson
- 17th - Katie Moreau
- 19th - Nancy Wright
- 21st - Ann Fritz, Alannah Dobberstein
- 24th - Val Bruck
- 26th - Mary Campbell
- 27th - Glenda Buterbaugh, Mary Cayer, Wayne Wright
- 28th - Pauline Smith

August Anniversaries

- 2nd - Ben & Claudia Boswell
- 8th - Estel & Joanna Harvey
- 9th - Geoff & Meagan Helton
- 4th - Randy & Cathy Fink
- 20th - Bo & Kathie Cummings
- 21st - John & Phyllis Rissler
- 27th - George & Sherry Detlaff
- 29th - Ken & Marilyn Hallett



At a Court of Honor in July, Nicholas Strobeck receives his Eagle Scout badge from his mother, Diane, as his father, Bill, proudly watches.



Audubon Elementary Tissue Drive

In September, members of our church collect supplies to support the staff and students of Audubon Elementary School.

Last year we collected almost 300 boxes of tissues. The staff were simply amazed at the generous support that lasted well into the school year. This year we will again be collecting and donating tissues. Can you help us reach 300 boxes (or more) and amaze them again this September?

Tissue boxes of all shape and sizes can be brought in on Sunday, September 9th and left in the collection bins in the Church Narthex.

Thank you for your continued support of the students and staff of this wonderful neighborhood school.



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**COMMUNITY
BREAKFAST**

AT AUDUBON PARK CHURCH

Are you free for a free Breakfast?

Join us Tuesday Mornings 8:30-10:00am in the church's fellowship hall.

Free and open to all! Want to help? Contact Lou Dobberstein.