

Dear East Woods Family and Friends,

I have missed you! As I write this letter, I'm getting back to the office after about four weeks of travel, and I'm gearing up (quite literally!) for another two weeks away from the middle of June to the end of the month. Our Marine Corps battalion will be conducting annual training in the Sierra Nevada mountains this year. So, like the Jeffersons, I'm movin' on up, though in this case I'm only moving for a couple of weeks to higher elevations to serve and support our troops.

While the pastor was away, the church continued to play and pray well. I can't express strongly enough how grateful I am to serve a congregation with so many gifted and generous fellow leaders and servants. Christ is the head of the church, and under the Lordship and leadership of our Good Shepherd stand many East Woods workers who have preached, led worship services, maintained our campus, supported memorial services, and continued the quality ministries and mission programs this congregation offers so consistently. Thank you!

During the next few weeks, there are some exciting things happening. At our Congregational Meeting, we'll be electing six officers to our leadership team. Two of our Deacons – **Conni Pfeifer** and **Sheldon Tyler** – are graduating from their terms, as are three of our Elders – **Keith Bloss**, **Tess Castro**, and **Chris Luck**. Each of those officers has done an outstanding job and will be missed. The Session has also created a new Elder position for the ministry of Growth and Integration, and an Elder will be elected to lead that effort.

On Sunday, June 3, we'll be welcoming eleven new members to the congregation and also enjoying our monthly Gathering Sunday meal following worship. Then, on June 10, we'll celebrate our Annual Graduate Sunday and recognize graduates from high school, college, and graduate programs. Yes, of course, there will be cake! It may not look exactly like Prince Harry's and Meghan Markle's wedding cake, but I have no doubt it will be tasty and beautiful.

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Inside the newsletter, you'll find information about many of the other exciting opportunities coming up during the summer months. My hope is that, as summer arrives, you'll continue to stay active and engaged with worship and service to our Lord. As you travel, find places to fellowship and worship while you're away. While you're here in town, prayerfully consider trying something new with East Woods this summer, whether it's helping with VBS, adopting a garden bed, joining a small group or book study, or adding a spiritual discipline to your journey of faith. Summer is a great time to rest and to refresh your discipleship. If I can be of any help, I hope you'll let me know.

May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing as you abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In partnership for God's glory ~ Bill

SOME RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FOR FOLKS IMPACTED BY CANCER:

In our Sunday Morning prayer sharing, prayers for cancer patients and their loved ones are almost always requested. Every one of us has been affected by cancer in some way or another. For those of you looking for helpful resources to navigate cancer's presence and impact, these two books have proven to be really valuable. Both are available for online orders from Amazon.com, or feel free to request copies from Pastor Bill if finances or technology present limitations in ordering.

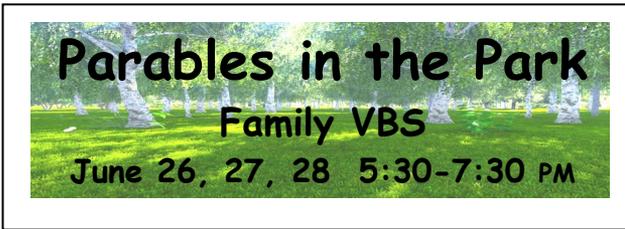
- *Help Me Live*, by Lori Hope
20 Things People with Cancer Want You to Know
- *Cancer: Now What?*, by Kenneth C. Haugk, PhD
Taking Action, Finding Hope and Navigating the Journey Ahead

FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE

First Presbyterian Church in Vancouver is the latest church to sign on as a host congregation. That makes six host congregations and five support congregations. Did you know that Mill Plain United Methodist Church is our support congregation? Also, thanks to the hard work of "old" friends Susan & Kris Carlson, we are close to finalizing plans for our day center. We are still hoping to be operational later this Fall. On May 2nd of this year, the Columbian reported that the average price for a one bedroom apartment is \$1,380 and a 2 bedroom is \$1,630...which is a 3.9% increase over last year and well above the national average. It stated that rental rates in Vancouver are rising faster than rents in other cities around Portland. This is the number one reason homelessness continues to increase here in Clark County. If you are interested in learning more about Family Promise and/or want to get involved, please see either **Peggy Konzek** or **Lynne Helmke**.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Children & Family



VBS is almost here! Registration is open online; check out the EW website and “Happenings” page. There are still lots of ways to help prepare. Also, we are beginning to collect some items:

- Branch slices for name tags
- Colored sand
- Small rocks for art projects

For more information, see **CarrieAnn**, Director of Family Ministry.

SUMMER AND SUNDAY SCHOOL – **A special thanks** to all those adults who have stepped up to worship with the children in Sunday School this past year. During July and August, Bake and CarrieAnn will continue to worship with the children most Sundays and give you fabulous volunteers a chance to enjoy “Big Church” each week. The 4th Sunday of June, July and August – consider it Family Worship time! No Sunday School class will be offered those weeks, giving your family a chance to sit and participate together in worship.

Happy Summer!

Youth

HERITAGE FARM SERVICE PROJECT FOR THE YOUTH GROUP
Saturday, June 23rd; 9 AM-12 Noon. More details coming!



FALL YOUTH RETREAT IS ON! - The Youth Commission is excited to confirm that there will be a **Fall Youth Retreat September 21-23, 2018!** It will be held at Black Diamond Camps in Auburn, WA. All 6th graders thru 12th graders are welcome (so graduating 5th graders – that means you too!). The Youth Commission will be covering half of the cost for each participant and help support the youth in fundraising the "cost per family" portion. (around \$70 per participant) The youth group will begin deciding some fundraising ideas now - so, over the next several months, a variety of youth fundraisers will be in process! More info to come, however in the meantime, if you have questions about Retreat, chat with **Jeff** or **CarrieAnn**.

Reflections on Prayer

by Arla Olsen

How Does God Speak to Us?

When we pray, we speak to God, but how does He speak to us?

When we listen to Him, and can “be still and know that He is God”, know that He speaks to us in many ways...

Through His Word – the Scriptures, His teachings, His Love for us.

Through Others – those who can give you Godly guidance, Spiritual counsel based on Scripture, wisdom in line with God’s Word.

Through Circumstances – God uses “happenings” to speak to His people. Sometimes to guide and teach us. He has a plan for our lives, and our times are in His hands, and in His time, and our steps are ordered by the Lord.

Through Silence – Isaiah 30:15 says “in quietness and confidence shall be your strength”. Sometimes our world is full of noise, that can be loud, harsh, unsettling, distracting which can subject us to stress, dissatisfaction, and even depression and fear. We need to be still enough to hear, and quiet enough to enjoy His presence.

So let us think about and practice letting God speak to us, from Psalm 46:10: “Be Still and Know that I am God, I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”



TO PUT ON YOUR SUMMER CALENDAR:

Coming on June 24 after Worship

School's Out Social

Sandwiches – Chips – Ice Cream & Toppings
Please sign up to bring food – Evergreen Hall (Narthex)



ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

July 27 & 28

Donations will be accepted beginning July 22

Help is needed to organize and price. Please sign up in Evergreen Hall (narthex).

Questions? Call or text **Peggy Konzek** 360-903-2168



Family Promise[®]
of Clark County

Calling All East Woods Artists & Musicians!

- *Are you an artist who paints, makes fine jewelry, glass or other handmade art? (Applications due June 18)*
- *Do you sing or play music?*

*We'd love to hear from you! Share your talents at the **upcoming East Woods Food/Art/Music Festival on August 18.***

*This year FAM is a fundraiser for **Family Promise** – a new non-profit. Your talent can help end homelessness one family at a time.*

Interested? Learn more by contacting:

Artists: Peggy McNeas at peggymcnees@comcast.net

Musicians: Gwen Wagner at gwendolynwagner@gmail.com



MISSION

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY TO HELP GRADE SCHOOL CHILDREN

Mill Plain United Methodist Church is looking for volunteers this summer and they have a big need: they will be hosting a program called **Project Transformation**. Its mission is to engage young adults in meaningful discernment and to help elementary age children to maintain their reading and social and emotional skills throughout the summer while helping churches better connect with their community. In practical terms, we will have about 5 college student interns helping to run a 7 week day camp for children who will be referred to us from Mill Plain, Hearthwood, Columbia Valley, and Crestline Elementary Schools. We hope to register 50 children who have completed K-5th grades. The program starts **June 25 and runs Monday through Thursday until August 9, 9-3 each day**. It is understood that volunteers can go the entire 7 weeks, just a few days or hours. They will accept however many or few people want to volunteer.

There are three primary needs for volunteers:

- Listen to children read, mornings between 9:30 and 12:00. An adult or older youth will be paired with one (maybe two) children for about 20 minutes at a time. Project Transformation hopes to recruit churches to take a week at a time and provide the 15 volunteers needed each day.
- People to help lead a walking school bus mornings and afternoons. We are guessing that many of our children will live at Fisher's Mill Apartment complex across Mill Plain Blvd. from our church.
- Share will provide breakfast and lunch each day both to children enrolled in the program and also as a summer meal site. We need to have at least one person with a food handler's card at every meal. Cards can be obtained through an on-line training at www.foodworkercard.wa.gov It costs \$10. Then Share will provide an additional training on site closer to summer.

The links for volunteering are below:

- To sign up as a Volunteer Reader (someone who listens to the children read) for dates from July 9-31 go to <https://projecttransformation.org/pacific-northwest/get-involved/volunteer/>
- To sign up for July 2, 3, or 5, go to: http://ptpnw.force.com/GW_Volunteers_VolunteersJobListingFS?jobid=a0T41000008gJew

It is preferable for individuals to sign up online. However, they may also contact the church secretary, Melody, at 360-892-2421, in the Mill Plain United Methodist Church Office. She works 9AM to 2 PM Monday -Thursday. Feel free to contact Pastor Sue or Melody at 360-892-2421 if you have any additional questions.

All volunteers will need current Ministry Safe national background checks run. Project Transformation will do that once their personal information has been submitted.

The address for Mill Plain UMC is 15804 SE Mill Plain Blvd.

East Woods Activities - Save the Date

June 3	Thriving in Babylon class, 9 AM, Maple Room
June 9	Men's Breakfast, 7:30-9 AM, Evergreen Hall
June 14	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1 PM, Redwood Room
June 23	Youth Heritage Farm Service Project, 9-Noon
June 24	School's Out Sandwich & Ice Cream Social
June 26-28	"Parables in the Park", Family VBS 2018
June 28	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1 PM, Redwood Room
July 27-28	Annual East Woods Rummage Sale
August 18	Food, Art and Music Festival (FAM)
August 26	All Church Picnic, after Worship
Aug. 31-Sept. 2	Family Camp, Ft. Stevens, OR

For more information on these events, please visit our "Happenings" web page at www.eastwoodspres.org/happenings.

At the CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on Sunday, May 27, Elders and Deacons were elected for the coming term.

Elders are: *Ron Prestwood, *Kirk Pickering, *Jackie Tyler, Carol Domench

Graduating Elders are: **Keith Bloss, Tess Castro, Chris Luck**

Deacons are: *Susan Gustafson, *Bill Reeburgh

Graduating Deacons are: **Conni Pfeifer, Sheldon Tyler**

***Elders and Deacons Elect**

For any Deacon needs:

*Please call **Lynne Helmke** at 360-883-5661*

For Prayer Requests:

*Please contact **Judy England**, 360-601-7567 Email: englandj44@comcast.net*



July Newsletter deadline—Tuesday, June 19

Office hours: Tuesday 1-3 PM, Wednesday & Thursday 9 AM - 3 PM

Church Phone: 944-5841

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Bake Baker

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Cathy Roeper

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Please visit our website at www.eastwoodspres.org



EAST WOODS
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