

Twin Flames

October 23, 2019 Volume 19 Edition 29

Act Justly, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with God (Micah 6:8, NIV)

Mt. Baker Sunrise photo courtesy of Pamela Davis Headridge

FROM THE KITCHEN MANAGERS

Your Kitchen Managers would like to thank you for your food donations to the kitchen and the Coffee Hour each Sunday. You all have been very generous with your gifts and assistance working in the kitchen on Sundays.

We would like to remind you to please check expiration dates on all food items. We cannot accept items after their pull date. And please keep in mind that we are unable to serve any colored juices. If spilled, these stain the carpet, and our policy has been in place for a long time to serve only light-colored beverages, such as lemonade.

If you are working in the kitchen and doing the dishes, please ensure that the dishwasher's heating element is turned off before you leave and lock up the kitchen for the day. We have found that the dishwasher's heating element has been left on numerous times (overnight or even longer). We don't want to have to replace that heating element, which costs around a thousand dollars! The same goes for the stoves, ovens and exhaust fans. Before leaving the kitchen, do a quick double check to ensure that everything has been turned off.

Thankful for your service and donations.

Blessings,

Judy Norton and Linda Jury, Kitchen Managers

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This year's shoebox-filling party is coming up quickly on **November 10th at 2:15**, in Centennial Hall. It will be the last of the BIG ones. Unless someone else wants to take over this project, future years will return the focus to boxes put together by individuals, families, and small groups of adults and children. Your prayers are especially invited, during this season of change! Since I try to buy bulk, when I can find a good sale, I have a lot of extra box contents/stuff to share with people who are willing to make boxes on their own. I especially have underwear, soap, toothbrushes, school scissors, and Beanie Babies, as well as a limited variety of other toys, and of course, empty shoe boxes! What I can contribute will need to be added to by you, to make complete boxes, using the brochures as guides.

I will be bringing items for older kids on October 27th and November 3rd. Stop by the table in Centennial Hall, give me a call at 360-675-1936, or email me at w6ksp@aol.com, if you are interested. I don't want to store a lot of items for next year, so most of what we don't use this year will be boxed and sent along to another local church or Samaritan's Purse, to add to their bulk supplies.

Thank you!

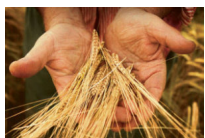
Karen Pasewark

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

With the return of the cold, blustery weather, requests for financial assistance for utilities have increased, which means our funds are decreasing.

If you feel drawn to donate to this ongoing mission, you may do so in a pew envelope or by mail.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.



CELEBRATING EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY!

Beloved Friends,

It's that time of year again when we begin to prepare budgets and count resources for the coming year of ministry in 2020. Our All-Church Conference is right around the corner (November 24th, 11:30 am) and with it the many opportunities to bless, give and serve the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in our church and broader community.

At FUMC, one of our five chosen Core values is *Extravagant Generosity*! Perhaps more than any other character attribute, the practice of Extravagant Generosity showcases the heart of the Father, who is all about giving His highest and best for us. To be generous is to be selfless. To be generous is to be moved and motivated to enjoy adding value to other people's lives. Generosity, in a Christian stewardship context, is all about the desire (and deep satisfaction) that comes from investing our lives in the things of God. Deploying our time, talents, treasures and testimonies for the Lord's purposes is the will of the Father. Doing those things with a great sense of excited joy, partnership, and fulfilling adventure is the personally excited, extravagant generosity part of giving.

As it turns out, extravagant generosity is much more about the size of the heart than the size of the gift. It's all about the privilege of sharing in the Master's ministry. Paul spoke of the Macedonian Christians as a deeply *joyful* people who loved to be extravagant! *"Their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity"* (2 Corinthians 8:2). What's more, their commitment was neither casual nor circumstantial. They didn't wait for a need (or a campaign) to give to arise. Paul reminds us, *"Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people"* (2 Corinthians 8:4). This is extravagant generosity in its purest form.

Congregations who practice extravagant generosity become the beneficiaries of their own good will. Bishop Robert Schnase says, "Fruitful congregations thrive because of extraordinary sharing, willing sacrifice, and joyous giving out of love for God and neighbor. This cultural norm of sacrificial giving is the heartbeat of a vibrant and alive congregation." This is who we want to be! The extravagant generosity spirit was articulated so well through the words of John Wesley. *"If the totality of my life is intended to be a blessing from heaven to all*

*Do all the good you can. By all the means you can.
In all the ways you can. In all the places you can.
At all the times you can. To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can."*

~ John Wesley

On Sunday, November 10th, we will celebrate a commitment of our pledges for the 2020 operating budget at the end of the service. You will be receiving tithing forms in the worship bulletin on Sunday, November 3rd. Please pray about your commitment in the coming year and bring them back filled out on the 10th. Extras will be on hand for those who forgot or were not in attendance.

Making the Lordship of Jesus Christ central in our lives and faith means taking seriously God's call to *"Bring the best of the first fruits of your soil to the house of the Lord your God"* (Exodus 23:19). Bringing our *First* and our *Best* to God in every area of life is what stewardship and Christian maturity is all about. Taking seriously God's call upon my life as Pastor and Leader means that God calls me to lead you in this great and joyful endeavor.

As we approach the coming year, the David Parker family commits our support to a *First Fruits* lifestyle of giving our gifts and resources to God. We believe that our full tithe belongs in our local church, just as the Bible says, *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse* (the treasury room of the sanctuary), *that there may be food in my house"* (Malachi 3:10). When everyone does that, it ensures that our operating budget will be strong and uncompromised by designated giving. May God challenge us and stretch us all in our faith and discipleship as together we seek to become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ! Excelling in this grace together!

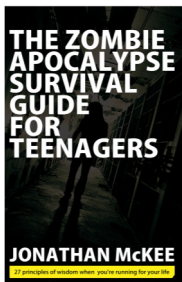
FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

Every year at this time we ask our church family to reflect on their stewardship and determine their tithe pledge for the coming year.

We are closing out a very successful 2019. Now we must set our sights on 2020. We need everyone to bring their Commitment Cards on Sunday, November 10th. Your Finance Team would appreciate this timely submission of your Commitment Cards to facilitate approving the 2020 budget on schedule.

Thank you.

Jerry Grunwald, Team Chair



Have you ever found yourself running from zombies, trying to survive in the wilderness? Oh, you haven't? I guess I haven't either. But Chris, Cody, Chelle, and their dog, Slippery, have.

These are the characters in a book called *The Zombie Apocalypse Survival Guide for Teenagers*, by Jonathan McKee, which we're going through with our youth group. It follows the life of these three teens who endured The Havoc (arrival of zombies) more than four years ago and continue to learn, adapt, and survive against the odds.

Each chapter is like a journal entry, relaying some story that has shaped their reality since The Havoc occurred. It could be about an encounter with strays (zombies), meeting other survivors (both good and bad), having to hunt for their food, missing their family and friends who didn't survive, and more. Following each story are discussion questions, related Biblical wisdom, and an action that our youth can do during the week to help them live into the lesson they've learned.

Although our youth can't relate to a real-life zombie apocalypse, this book has been great for our group because it's written in the voice of teens, offers some entertaining stories, and provides strategies for facing our everyday obstacles. We've all had times where we needed encouragement during hardship, struggled to figure out who and how to trust, and experienced moments of loneliness and isolation. This book helps the youth navigate those situations and many others.

What's even more exciting to me than the content of this book is the fact that our youth are getting together to study it. It's exciting because we don't study this book at our Wednesday night Youth Group time. We study it on Thursday mornings, before they go to school.

Every Thursday, many of our youth wake up an hour earlier than usual in order to get together at Whidbey Coffee for breakfast, conversation, and fellowship. We meet at 6:30, they buy their own coffee or breakfast, we have our book study, and at 7:20 we load up in the church van to take them all to school, complete with drop-off songs (with the windows rolled down and volume turned up, of course).

If you ever find yourself out and about at 6:30 on a Thursday, feel free to stop by Whidbey Coffee (the one by Wendy's) and say hello! You can even join

us for a bit and see what Chris, Cody, Chelle, and Slippery are up to that week. And if you ever find yourself running from zombies... well, I guess you'd have to stop by our study to find out how to survive.

Erin

GET ACQUAINTED WITH SEBASTIAN

Would you like to get to know our newest staff member better? Sebastian would be happy to come to dinner! His preference is Vegetarian, however, upon further questioning he states he sometimes eats chicken or salmon. (I looked it up—that makes him a pesco pollo vegetarian—one who avoids red meat. Also known as a semi-vegetarian. There, we learned something new!)

Give Sebastian a call (269-815-6018) or email him at sebastian@oakharborfumc.org.
They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, Acts 2:46

IN NEED OF PRAYER

PRAYER CHAIN: Rose Vance, 360-929-2211

JOHANN von WALDOW - learning new ways to cope with his body's limitations

CAROLINE WILLIAMS - at Fidalgo Rehab Center in Anacortes recovering from a fall

ALENE BERTRAN - Undergoing chemo in Arizona

JACQUI LANDRY - Health Concerns

MILLY McWILLIAMS - at Home Place

PHIL WENDLING - at Ashley Gardens in Mt. Vernon

MARLENE JONES - at Harbor Care

BETTY ANN ROBBINS - at Harbor Care

DONNA APPERSON - at Harbor Care

CASSIE HICKEY - at Welcome Home Care Center





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**SHOEBOX PACKING
PARTY
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER
10TH
2:15 P.M.
CENTENNIAL HALL
Everyone Welcome**

Sunday, October 27th—MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY

10:00 Worship
10:30 Children's Sunday School
2:00 Cub Scouts
5:00 Community Chorus Rehearsal

Monday, October 28th

7:00 Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 29th

6:15 Young Adult Group

Wednesday, October 30th

6:00 Family Small Groups
6:30 Children's Chimes
7:30 Youth Band

Thursday, October 31st

5:00 Handbell Practice
6:00 Chancel Choir Practice
7:30 Praise Band Practice

Sunday, November 3rd—COMMUNION

10:00 Worship
10:30 Children's Sunday School
2:00 Cub Scouts
5:00 Community Chorus Rehearsal

Monday, November 4th

3:30 "We Make the Road" Small Group

Tuesday, November 5th

6:15 Young Adult Group

Wednesday, November 6th

10:00 Folding Team
6:00 Family Small Groups
6:30 Children's Chimes Practice
7:30 Youth Band Practice

Thursday, November 7th

9:00 BLOOD DRIVE
5:00 Handbell Practice
6:00 Chancel Choir Practice
7:30 Praise Band Practice