

Twin Flames

April 24, 2019 Volume 19 Edition 17

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

Mt. Baker Sunrise photo courtesy of Pamela Davis Headridge

AT&T "MOBILIZING YOUR WORLD"

AT&T has selected our church property to house a wireless communication cell tower. The next step is an all-church conference to consider their proposal. This project will also require the approval of the PNW Conference of the United Methodist Church, to make sure we are in accordance with the Book of Discipline, state and county laws and regulations. At the recommendation of the PNWC we have contacted Steeplecom to assist us with this process.

Please plan to join us after worship on **Sunday, April 28th in Centennial Hall**. A by-donation lunch will start around 11:30, and the business meeting will begin at 12:00.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!

This year's church outing to a Mariners game is scheduled for Saturday, July 27th when we take on the Detroit Tigers.

It is now time to pay for those tickets. Dave Russell will be in Centennial Hall after worship all Sundays in May as necessary or you can call him at 360-675-1910. Cost per ticket will be announced within the next week.



CAUGHT IN ACTION!

A special servant, Rob Sebo, has been secretly working to clean up and beautify the back lot behind the parsonage and tool shed, now that the Garden Club has moved their sheds. He has removed much waste debris and has re-seeded it for green grass. It is looking fabulous! Thanks so much Rob!

Two more secret servants (Shirley LeBlanc and Barb Veitch) have been at work beautifying our refurbished room 11 downstairs. It looks amazing! A big thanks to these servants who are helping our church to put its best foot forward!

HOSPITALITY HOSTS

Hospitality Hosts are needed monthly to make coffee, set-up and clean-up, etc. Refreshments are also needed following worship: Cookies, brownies, fruit, small sandwiches, etc. are especially welcome and appreciated!

Members whose last names begin with **P - R** are encouraged to sign-up for **May**. Guidance will be provided and your help is greatly appreciated by our congregation.

STEPHEN MINISTRY MEETING CANCELLED

The Stephen Ministry meeting originally scheduled for Sunday, April 28 has been cancelled so you can attend the all church lunch and meeting following worship.



*"Live self-controlled,
upright, and godly
lives in the present
age"*
Titus 2:12 ESV

I recently organized and attend a district-wide clergy boundaries training course. It was very fun, deeply meaningful and a sobering reminder of the frail, and sacred gift of human life and dignity. We all took turns sharing case studies from our ministries and engaged in corporate reflection and clinical learning about the delicate balance of affirming unique personalities and approaches to life while maintaining high thresholds for edification standards that preserve the dignity and welfare of all. Harassment, touch, innuendo, power imbalance, suggestion, jokes and perception can all play a role in blurring or crossing sacred boundaries.

Boundaries Make Us Beautiful! That's one of the brief teachings in our FUMC membership curriculum that I put together when I first came here almost three years ago. Boundaries (in a theological framework) are meant to describe approaches to relationships that foster safety, dignity, respect, mutuality, empowerment and freedom from every form of personal violation.

We believe that every church is to be a safe congregation for all attendees. That's why every UMC has a mandatory "Safe Sanctuary [Church] Policy" to protect all participants. A copy of our policy is on the bulletin board in Centennial Hall and on the Nursery bulletin board downstairs. The Bible says, *"Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity"* (1 Timothy 5:1-2).

Every person is a sacred gift from God to be loved, valued, cherished, protected and dignified into life! Within the larger framework of the FUMC family, we have adopted an all-church commitment to creating and sustaining ministries and environments that are conducive to trust, safety, dignity and healing. Our vision statement reinforces this ideal: *"We want to become a loving, life-giving family, a healing congregation, and a Christ-centered community."*

This commitment is to be seen and taken as a sacred trust for each of us as we attend to our own weaknesses, vulnerabilities and broken-

ness. Purity of love and holiness of conduct become the hallmark attributes of a safe community that is determined to offer its very best for one another in respect of healthy spiritual formation and healing. While a Safe Church Policy focuses more specifically on children, youth and vulnerable adults, the spirit and intent is for all participants of every ministry program.

As ambassadors of Jesus Christ, we must strive to be worthy of a very high standard of trust. For this reason, every participant at church must avoid even the appearance of inappropriate behavior (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Each participant in our church family is responsible to join together in creating a family environment and experience for all that is filled with hospitality, graciousness, deference, respect, mutual partnership, appropriate relational conduct and communication that is best for the benefit and edification of all people! *"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification"* (Romans 14:19).

I left my training that day with a renewed sense of the priority of excellence in relational commitments. Please join me in making our family life at FUMC the most positive, life-giving, dignity-affirming experience a person could possibly have on any Sunday morning (and throughout the week)!

Love one another deeply, from the heart!
(1 Peter 1:22)

IN NEED OF PRAYER

...Kevin Davis (back pain)
...Sandy Willmetts (recovering from knee replacement surgery)
...Candy Slowik (health concerns)
...Julia Adams (at home recovering)
...Matthew Ferguson (grandson of Helen Mosbrooker, missing in SC since 3-1-19)
...Louise Lind (home recovering from a stroke)
...Norma Edens (health concerns)
...DJ Ransdell (preparing to move to Bothell)
...Phil Wendling (Ashley Gardens in Mt. Vernon)
...Donna Apperson (Harbor Care)
...Betty Ann Robbins (Harbor Care)



In my private worship time, there are songs which have carried me through specific seasons of life. Eventually, they no longer speak to my spirit in quite the same way and

I seek out new music until I find a song that strikes the chords of my heart with a fresh reminder of God's goodness and the wisdom behind Psalm 96:1, which says to "Sing unto the Lord a new song."

I came across this quote recently and found it relevant as we are being challenged to read *For a New Generation* by Lee Kricher:

"To improve is to change;
to be perfect is to change often."

Winston S. Churchill

To be clear, **our God is unchanging!** Our foundation of faith – Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior – is unchanging, and the church's mission – to make disciples – is also unchanging. We, however have the opportunity to be perpetually learning, creating and changing into more perfect reflections of our creator as we yield to God's Spirit.

A few weeks ago, Gloria Hartley asked everyone at church under the age of 40 to stand up. At the risk of repeating what has been said already in other articles: in his book, Lee Kricher explains that every church is perfectly designed to attract and retain the people who are already in attendance. If attendance has stagnated and age demographics don't match the community you are in, this reflects how well your church is accomplishing the primary mission of the church.

There are many things which can be altered to make us more effective missionaries in the community we are in. We are missionaries! Here in our own backyard, there are many who have not accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. As a worship leader, I have a deep love for the vast creativity within the realm of musical worship and expression. Our God has created us to be creative beings in a world where all creation sings his praises (Psalm 66:4) While the songs of birds remain the same, we are continually creating new songs, new art, and new literature as we respond to our Creator's love.

I love the musical ingenuity passed down through the generations for me to learn from as I fill the sanctuary with majestic organ music.

Request any hymn and I will gladly play it because "then sings my soul!" Give me a guitar and I can play the same hymn and suddenly the song feels new as I segue between an old standard and Chris Tomlin's "How Great is our God".

I have always hungered to learn new music. My heart bursts with joy when my children sing along with the radio: "You're a good, good father" by Anthony Brown and Pat Barrett. Ancient truths set to music my children embrace and sing.

As you read your copy of *For a New Generation* please consider this: The worship music you love most probably resembles music that was popular when you became a Christian. The music that will resonate and connect with our youth today is the music that they enjoy now.

Our God is unchanging. His love never ceases. There is beauty in the timeless lyrics "Amazing Grace, how sweet..." but there are perpetually new generations of young "Davids" waiting in the wings for permission to bring their **new hallelujah's** before our Almighty God's throne in sincere worship. Will we embrace them? Will we make space for their music? Will we let go of our preferences and trust that they will respect us enough to incorporate our favorite hymns into their worship with a fresh perspective?

Hold fast to the Gospel of Christ, but change often when it comes to how you present the gospel. For the sake of the church's mission, hit the refresh button. Embrace the new. More importantly, embrace WHO comes when you accept change for the sake of bringing Christ to

John A.





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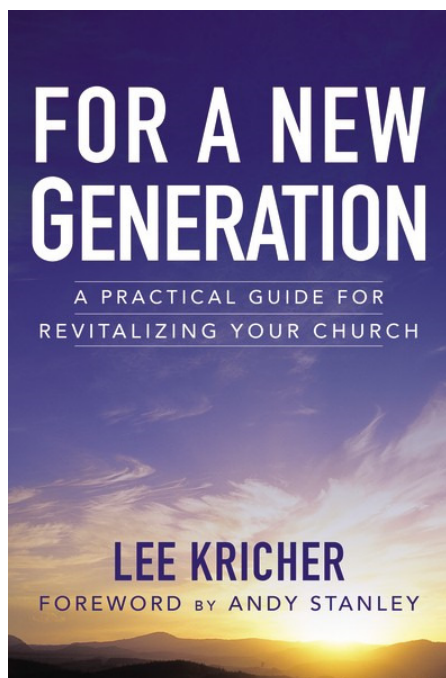
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Spring All-Church Small Group Study

April 28th to June 1st, 2019

**All-Church Gathering
Monday, June 3rd
6:30 to 8:00 pm**

Sunday, Apr 28th

- 10:00 Worship
- 10:30 Children's Sunday School
- 11:30 Lunch & Cell Tower Info Meeting

Monday, April 29th

- 10:00 We Care Team
- 6:00 Moving Words Small Group

Tuesday, April 30th

- 10:00 Sisters of Scripture
- 12:30 Spin Café Cooking Team
- 6:00 Young Adult Group
- 6:00 DP Power & Sail Squadron

Wednesday, May 1st

- 10:00 Folding Team
- 10:00 Agape Small Group
- 11:00 OHPD Promotional Testing
- 6:00 Family Small Groups
- 7:00 Choir Practice

Thursday, May 2nd

- 12:30 Spin Café Cooking Team
- 6:00 DP Power & Sail Squadron

Saturday, May 4th

- 8:30 Men's Small Group