

Twin Flames

June 19, 2019 Volume 19 Edition 21

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

Mt. Baker Sunrise photo courtesy of Pamela Davis Headridge

WORK CREW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to come in to the church weekly to perform tasks that are over and above what our custodian, Daisy Groebli, has time to accomplish. Such things as changing lightbulbs, performing minor plumbing tasks, or other “honey-do” type jobs, could use your special skills. We are looking for anyone with at least one weekday morning available who wants to help with the upkeep of our church home. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 350-675-2441.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

This month’s Stephen Ministry meeting is on **Sunday, June 23 at 1:00 (time change)** in the library. We will be reviewing *Christian Caregiving, A Way of Life*. All Stephen Ministers past and present are invited.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Rider (knlrider@whidbey.net or 360-675-8475).

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

We would like to thank you for your very generous response to our plea for donations to our Good Sam fund.

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

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

R.E.A.L. MEN’S MINISTRY

Renewing & Energizing Authentic Life

Saturday, June 29th, 9:30 am

Mount Erie Hike & Lunch in Anacortes

FUMC SUMMER WEDNESDAY PICNICS

Our kick-off to summer all-church potluck will be held at Smith Park on **Wednesday, July 10th at 5:45 pm**. Jim and Candy Slowik will host this event.

Our end of summer rally will be held on August 28th, at 5:45 pm, at a location to be named later. If you would like to host this event, please contact the church office.

CHURCH FIRE DRILL

This Sunday, June 23rd, we will be holding a fire drill at the end of worship, weather permitting. The fire alarm will be activated, and we will evacuate to the area behind the parsonage. Please help the elderly or handicapped out of the pews. The ushers will provide walkers in the Narthex. Nursery staff and two ushers will assist in getting the children outside to safety and to meet up with their parents. Do not go downstairs to get your kids, they will be on their way outside. Thank you in advance for your help in assessing our readiness for an emergency.

IN NEED OF PRAYER

MILLY McWILLIAMS - at Home Place. Please call Larry McWilliams prior to visiting, 360-969-0239.

DJ RANSELL – now living in Bothell.

PHIL WENDLING – at Ashley Gardens in Mt. Vernon.

BETTY ANN ROBBINS – at Harbor Care.

DONNA APPERSON – at Harbor Care.

CASSIE HICKEY - at Welcome Home Care Center



“Bringing Generations Together!”

I am truly grateful for all the people in this church who participated in our small group study of Lee Kricher’s book, *For A New Generation*. All of the feedback has been compiled from the small groups and our Monday night All-church debrief and has been placed on our website under the Info Center tab. Please familiarize yourself with all the church feedback. A hard copy has been placed on the bulletin board outside the Pastor’s office door in Centennial Hall.

There is energy and excitement on the Next Generation Team, which will now meet every Thursday night at 7 pm in God’s Hall. The team will continue to reflect, evaluate, and plan a path for implementation, through the Church Council. You are always invited to attend and participate. The team has recently added two younger faces (a youth and a young adult) to help guide us in our work.

The Next Generation Team thanks everyone for joining together on a journey to discover our church of the future as we seek new ways to worship God and to bring God to more generations. In the book, *For A New Generation*, we read the story of Amplify Church in Pittsburgh, PA. Oak Harbor FUMC has its own unique story to share. We want to stay in our story but find ways to bring new generations into that story too. Generations seeking to know the great reassurance of God’s powerful and everlasting love for all of us.

What did we learn from reading the book and from the Sunday visits to four local churches? What are the next steps? How do we make our church more appealing to younger generations while honoring and respecting our treasury of older generations? Those and many other questions came up during the team meeting last Thursday night. Team members Joyce Atkinson, Ben Harrison, Amy Conner, Nicole Ritter, Nicole Rogers, Hannah Rogers, Marti Russell, Gloria Hartley, Jan Hayes, Bob Wallin, Jill Jackson, Linda Jury, Marie Jackson, and Pastor David are intensively engaged in discussing many worship ideas, hopes and concerns with Team Co-Leaders Erin Tombaugh and Susan Schopf.

Linda Jury has asked for input from our team as the Staff-Pastor/Parish Relations Team (SPPR) will soon begin their search for someone to serve as Music and Worship Arts Director after Stina Queeno leaves in August. Our June 24th Church Council meeting will hopefully hear the first filter of feedback and some general (if not specific) ideas about where we believe God is calling us to embrace some new expressions in our worship service. Some needed audio-visual (AV) updates for the sanctuary are already planned and being funded by a generous donor, according to Bob Wallin. This is all good news. Positive energy and momentum are gaining ground.

One thing is very clear from our past Youth Sunday on February 3rd and the most recent preaching Sunday with Erin and the youth down front during my PNW Annual Conference absence: This church LOVES it when youth are participating, leading and enthusiastically engaged in the service! It feels like a home run every time. This also is good news! Thanks for being an open and willing church that will take a serious look at how we can connect with and reach the coming generations, along with preserving and upholding our deeply important and valuable elder generation. Please keep in mind our team’s mission statement. Our task ahead is not about “*Replacing Generations*” but about “*Bringing Generations Together!*”

“One generation [old or young] commends your works to another [old or young]; they tell of your mighty acts” Psalm 145:4 NIV

Stay in the story with me!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL August 5th—9th

It’s that time of year: time to start gathering volunteers and supplies for Vacation Bible School!

We will need several volunteers in each of these roles:

- Crew Leader* – lead a group of 5-6 children to their stations and activities throughout the week
- Shopkeeper* – host a Marketplace station, leading children in an assigned craft or activity (each Shopkeeper will have one craft or activity that they do the whole week)
- Kitchen Crew* – help prepare and serve snacks each day
- Preschool* – lead or help in one of the preschool rooms
- Decorating* – help decorate for VBS ahead of time
- Miscellaneous* – other roles as needed

We will also need donations of supplies. A full list with signups will be available in July, but you can think about these few things now:

- Terra cotta pots (small-medium) – we will need over 100 pots, so if you have any around your house that you no longer need, we welcome those donations
- Rugs & towels – you can loan or donate rugs or towels that the crews can sit around during snack time
- Canopy tent (10’x10’ or similar) – do you have a canopy tent? If so, we would love to borrow it! We’ll need several, but will definitely return them after VBS is over.

Check after church the next few Sundays to sign up to volunteer. And if you have one of the above items to loan or donate, those can be brought in anytime.



At the all-church conversation on June 3, I realized that the words I and some other church leaders use to define our groups of young people were not necessarily clear to the rest of the congregation. Sometimes people generally use the word “youth” to mean anyone 30 and under, but that’s not how we’re using that word today. So that we can better communicate as a congregation, here’s a breakdown of the different divisions of young people in our church, as well as how we’re engaging them in ministry.

Children, on a broad scale, are those who are not yet adults (18 years old and/or graduated from high school). Specifically related to our church’s ministry, we define children as being 6th grade (around 11-12 years old) and under, as that aligns with our school system. The ways we’re currently ministering to children include:

Sunday programming – We offer Sunday School throughout the school year. The past few years our age-based classes have been Nursery (Kindergarten and under), Elementary (1st-4th grade), and Intermediate (5th & 6th grade). During the summer we take a break from Sunday School and invite children 7 and under to join the Nursery crew for Storytime.

Wednesday programming – Our Wednesday Night Groups include dinner and age-based small groups for the whole family, including children. The children’s classes are the same divisions as Sunday School.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) – We welcome around 100 children for our VBS each summer for a week-long Bible exploration through Bible stories, crafts, music, games, and more. Our VBS is for ages 4 through entering 5th grade, but older children and youth can volunteer as helpers.

At our church, we use the term **Youth** to refer to middle and high schoolers. Again, to align with our school system, that means 7th- 12th graders. Regular programming for youth at our church includes:

Wednesday programming – As part of the Wednesday Night Groups, we offer Youth Group with dinner, games, and a bible lesson in the recently remodeled Youth Room downstairs. The Youth Group has many opportunities outside of Wednesday nights, like monthly fun events, retreats, youth conferences, and mission trips.

Thursday Morning Coffee – Throughout the school year, many of the youth meet on Thursday mornings at 6:30am at the Whidbey Coffee by Wendy’s. There we focus more on life conversations than Bible study. We’re currently going through a book called *The Zombie Apocalypse Survival Guide for Teenagers*. We plan to continue meeting

throughout the summer, but we’ll move the start time a bit later.

Young Adults, though a broad term, is defined at our church as 18 (post-high school) to 30ish. That age range itself covers a variety of life experience from college years to entering the workforce and establishing a career, singles or couples and even new parents, and so on.

Young Adult Group – Our Tuesday night dinner and Bible study gathering is the main way we are reaching our Young Adults. We have been meeting at my house for almost three years, but lately we’ve been facing a (good) challenge of too many people for the space. The makeup of that group right now is in the older end of Young Adulthood.

Young Families generally refers to families with kids who are still in school. It’s hard to put an age range to that because people start their families at different ages, so this could potentially include people in their 20s-50s.

Wednesday programming – Also part of our Wednesday Groups, we have a Parents Small Group. With classes for the whole family, parents can bring their kids and know that they’re participating in a group for their age while having a group of adults to connect with and discuss various Bible studies or parenting topics.

Family Ministries – Our Family Ministries team puts on several events for families throughout the year. While they are generally geared toward children, the team works to make it an event that the entire family can enjoy. These include our Halloween event, Easter Egg Hunt, Adventure to Christmas, movie nights, game nights, and more.

While we have several opportunities for young people to be included and involved in our church, the current reality is that we don’t have many young people. As we continue the conversation and start to take action on better appealing to them, I invite you to embrace and use these terms with me.

Erin



BIRTHDAYS

Jul 3	Ann Oldham
Jul 6	Arlene Hoppe Sandy Freeding Myers Bob Woessner
Jul 8	Barb Wright
Jul 9	Lisa Bain
Jul 10	Sue Eloh
Jul 11	Theresa O’Blenes Jim Palmer
Jul 12	David Cohick
Jul 13	Jack Carpenter

**1050 SE Ireland St
Oak Harbor, WA 98277**

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Pastor: David Parker Editor: Peggy Stephens
Phone: 675-2441 e-mail: office@oakharborfumc.org

Patriotic Concert

Presented by OHFUMC Chancel Choir
Directed by Stina Queeno

**Sunday, June 30th
2:00 p.m.**

**1050 SE Ireland St
Oak Harbor, WA**

Sunday, Jun 23rd

- 10:00 Worship & Fire Drill
- 10:30 Children’s Story Time
- 1:00 Stephen Ministers Peer Group
- 6:00 Partners in Mission Dinner

Monday, Jun 24th

- 10:00 We Care Team
- 7:00 Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 25th

- 12:30 Spin Café Cooking Team

Wednesday, Jun 26th

- 7:00 Choir Party & Practice

Thursday, June 27th

- 12:30 Spin Café Cooking Team
- 7:00 Next Generation Team Meeting

Sunday, June 30th

- 10:00 Worship
- 10:30 Children’s Story Time
- 2:00 Patriotic Concert & Sing-a-long

Monday, July 1st

- 10:00 We Care Team

Tuesday, July 2nd

- 12:30 Spin Café Cooking Team

Wednesday, July 3rd

- 10:00 Folding Team

Thursday, July 4th

- 7:30 Rotary Pancake Breakfast

Small Groups Continue as Scheduled by your Leader