

Twin Flames

June 5, 2019 Volume 19 Edition 20

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 or as needed, 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 men and/or women who have at least one weekday morning available and want to help with the upkeep of our church home. You will be following in the footsteps of our former “Tuesday Crew”, some of whom are willing to mentor you and share the wisdom they have learned over the many years they served as faithful stewards.

If you are interested, please contact the church office at 350-675-2441.

CHILDREN'S STORY TIME

Starting Sunday, June 9th, children 7 and under will be excused from worship in the Sanctuary to enjoy story time and other fun activities in the nursery. They must be picked up from the nursery following worship. For more information, contact Erin Tombaugh at 785-447-0682.

HELP HOUSE

Our church family continues to be extremely generous in donating to the Help House, and we thank you.

During the month of June, they are in need of the following items:

Pork & Beans, dry pasta, oatmeal (any kind from individual servings to larger sizes) and tuna fish.

You can drop your items off in the bin outside the church office or directly to the Help House.

R.E.A.L. MEN'S MINISTRY

Renewing & Energizing Authentic Life

Thursday, June 20th
Skagit Speedway Dirt Cup

Saturday, June 22nd, 5:00 pm
Ft. Nugent Park Cookout

Saturday, June 29th, 9:30 am
Mount Erie Hike & Lunch in Anacortes

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

This has always been a very generous, giving church family and through your donations, we have been able to assist 17 individuals (4 of which were church members) so far this year with rent, utilities, vehicle repairs, groceries, etc. Total amount disbursed so far this year is \$3,053.73.

Unfortunately, our funds have been depleted and we are unable to provide any further assistance until the funds are replenished.

If you feel drawn to donate to the Good Sam Funds, you may do so in a pew envelop or by mail.

We thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Wednesday, June 12th, 6:00

Our final Wednesday night family small groups gathering is being extended to include the entire church family. We would love for you to join us for an outdoor BBQ, lawn games, and casual conversation. Please bring your own lawn chair and a side dish or dessert to share.

Please note the upper parking lot will be partially blocked off for the event.



*"Bring the homeless poor
into your house"*
Isaiah 58:7

This past Monday, June 3rd, early in the morning, our Haven friends packed up and moved the temporary overnight shelter to First Reformed Church on SW 3rd Avenue, just north of the Oak Harbor Intermediate School. For the past four months, we have played host to a calm, compliant and grateful crew of guests who are stuck in a hard passage in their life.

There is nothing easy or convenient about housing people experiencing homelessness. Schedule and room adjustments were made, and our social space was utilized as a giant bedroom for many grateful men, women and even children (occasionally). This is partly why I am so proud of my church family. Doing hard and inconvenient things to bless and help those less fortunate than ourselves sounds a lot like Jesus work to me! The FUMC Vision is that we will continue to become – *"A loving, life-giving family, a healing community, and a Christ-centered congregation."*

The Whidbey Homeless Coalition (501c3) continues to seek out a permanent home for this currently nomadic ministry. They do indeed look forward to the day when "couch-surfing at churches" will no longer be necessary. Our FUMC family has just completed our second round of sharing our space. We began hosting on February 1st and closed on June 2nd. During The Haven's stay with us, 82 individuals were served. Seven of The Haven's "guests" were transitioned into steady housing and several others procured employment.

The Haven has collaborated with Island County to bring in a Behavioral Health Manager once a week to help the guests in life struggles. One guest has transitioned into addiction recovery and treatment while several others are on the path to becoming enrolled in the same recovery course. Krystal Hamlin, The Haven Manager, says, *"We have greatly appreciated you guys opening your home to our guests, and for this opportunity to build this relationship with your wonderful congregation."*

During Holy Week, there was a body louse (differentiated from hair lice) found on a bed sheet. The Haven Manager and FUMC leaders took immediate and decisive action. The Haven Shelter was closed at our church for seven days while a very deep scrub, including bug bombing with a fog treatment of the entire Centennial Hall, occurred. We also had a professional carpet cleaning with all our chairs being treated as well. Many of us thought these were heroic measures that were beyond the reach of the potential problem, but The Haven insisted on shutting down and re-grouping. They took all their people to be checked and cleared by a public health nurse. All clothing was laundered and

all had to take showers. This is why Centennial Hall was closed on Easter morning after our worship service. Things were still drying out. The Haven paid for all the professional cleaning and will do so again on June 11th for closing cleaning procedures.

The FUMC Family had a leadership team that met several times each month with Krystal Hamlin. We tracked any potential concerns or roadblocks along the way and tried to make sure we had a fantastic working relationship. We just recently had another one of the Haven's guests attend our church service and remarked to many how friendly, alive and energized this congregation is.

This does not surprise me. Followers of Jesus who live for mission, outreach and radical hospitality are always transferring the energy of love, hope and joy to everyone around them. It is contagious. I am so grateful to be a part of a church family that wants to be more than a closed, private chapel for insiders only. Letting the world come and stay in your house means letting in all of the world's problems too. That is not fun or easy. But our resolve to be like Jesus is, for me, the most important dream we could ever chase!

As we continue to cheer for, support, and advocate for The Haven from afar, may we not lose sight of those precious people in our community who need authentic relationships of love, dignity and embodied hope. We are the hands, the feet and the voice of Jesus! May he look good in us!

IN NEED OF PRAYER

McWILLIAMS FAMILY – Don passed away the week of May 20th.

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

TRACY BRANDT - health concerns.

NORMA EDENS – health concerns.

DJ RANSEDELL – Moving to Bothell soon.

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



Please Drive Carefully



BY OUR LOVE

Go into the world to make disciples-introduce people to Christ where they are.

A few months ago, Pastor David used a video at the Simply Jesus service about being on mission. The video showed a man packing his bags as if heading out on a mission trip, then getting in his car and driving down his own street to his next-door neighbor, where he got out and helped his neighbor with some yard work.

Last Sunday, a large group from our church went out to observe Christian churches in our community who are successfully ministering in the mission field of Oak Harbor. In Oak Harbor, out of a population of 21,900, the median age is 29 years old. 37% of that total population falls between the age of 20-39 years old. 30% of Oak Harbor is under the age of 20 and only 27% of Oak Harbor is over the age of 40.

The 2018 Gallup poll revealed that in Washington state, 47% of adults say that they are not religious and that they seldom or never attend services. Here in Oak Harbor, that means that out of 8,000 young adults between the ages of 20-40, only half of them and their 6,700 children ages 0-19 belong to a church.

Our church is predominantly attended by people over the age of 60. We had the opportunity to go out and see what other churches are doing. The future of our church rests on our ability to connect the generations.

I've read a few books and several articles in the last few years about how to minister to the next generation: How do we close the gap and reach out to minister to Millennials? My birth year places me at the older end of Millennials. In some studies, I have been categorized as a Xennial, those people born in the transition years between Gen-X and the Millennials. By the simplest definition of a Millennial however, I am a Millennial.

As I did some research last week, I came across an article that made a lot of sense. What are Millennials looking for? What is keeping them out of the pews? What matters most to Millennials when they come to church? The Gallup poll that surveyed Millennials who do attend church found that the most important thing to millennials is that the leadership teaches and demonstrates a genuine faith. We are looking for sermons that teach about scripture and relevant, real life application. We are looking for relationship and connection with people who are open and honest about life's trials and temptations and how God works into that equation. When it comes to worship, we are looking for a participatory experience. Are the songs familiar? Are we able to be ourselves?

Millennials come because they receive the invitation. We stay because of a sense of belonging and feeling we are genuinely cared for. We stay because we find relationships in a community that

models God's genuine love. We are not looking for a commercial big box church, but for honest, genuine people who model a bigger God through the way they love and immerse themselves in the community for the glory of God.

As I see it, the bottom line is this: They – the next generation – truly will know we are Christians by our love.

FUMC SUMMER WEDNESDAY PICNICS

With summer fast approaching, it's time to think about ways in which we will intentionally gather as a church family during this season of comings and goings. Historically, we have always met every Wednesday night throughout July and August for consecutive, weekly potlucks. Over the years participation has dwindled, and now we have no ministry team to oversee and promote these events as we have in the past.

In light of our recent book study and the invitation to (1) appeal to younger generations in order to become a more balanced inter-generational church and (2) to simplify the sometimes-burdensome task of "ministry production," the staff is suggesting that we host two big potluck events this summer, an opening and closing the summer, as bookend events for us to share at together.

Our first all-church potluck will occur at Smith Park on Wednesday, July 10th at 5:45 pm. Jim and Candy Slowik have agreed to spearhead this gathering. Our end of summer rally will be held on Wednesday, August 28th, at 5:45 pm, at a location to be named later. No person or group has yet been identified as a sponsor for this gathering.

Meeting in public spaces is easier and more comfortable for any first-time guests we may wish to invite. They are also easier to find, and parking can be facilitated more readily. Meeting fewer times might make our gatherings more special and opportunities for outreach instead of weekly insider potlucks. If anyone feels passion to lead and manage this summer ministry, please contact the church office.

Bon Appétit!

BIRTHDAYS

Jun 17	Margaret Mordhorst
Jun 22	Milly McWilliams
Jun 23	Patty Encinas
Jun 30	Norma Edens
	Hannah Gluth





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HONORING OUR GRADS AND DADS

SUNDAY, JUNE 16



Sunday, Jun 9th

- 10:00 Worship
- 10:30 Children's Story Time
- 2:00 Cub Scouts

Monday, Jun 10th

- 10:00 We Care Team
- 7:00 Church Team Meetings

Tuesday, June 11th

- 12:30 Spin Café Cooking Team

Wednesday, Jun 12th

- 6:00 Family Small Groups All-Church BBQ
- 7:00 Choir Practice

Thursday, June 13th

- 12:30 Spin Café Cooking Team

Sunday, June 16th—Dads & Grads Sunday

- 10:00 Worship
- 10:30 Children's Story Time

Tuesday, June 18th

- 12:30 Spin Café Cooking Team

Wednesday, June 19th

- 10:00 Folding Team
- 7:00 Choir Practice

Thursday, June 20th

- 12:30 Spin Café Cooking Team

Small Groups Continue as Scheduled