

**April 2024
Newsletter**

**Gresham United
Methodist
Church**



From the Pastor's Desk...



Blossoms of Renewal

Morning light, soft and clear,
Spring's beauty now draws near.
Blossoms bloom, in a radiant spree,
Nature's canvas, wild and free.

Gentle rains caress the earth,
Giving life, to new birth.
Birds aloft in skies so blue,
Sing of days, bright and new.

In this time of gentle rebirth,
Beauty unfolds across the earth.
Spring's embrace, so tender, so mild,
Nature's gift to every child.

Emily Verse



BEING WELL

2024

 OREGON-IDAHO
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Annual Conference Update No. 1

Welcome to our first AC Update for 2024. As your Annual Conference Lay Delegate, I plan to keep you updated with all information as it is released and provide important links as well. The dates for our AC are June 20 – 23, 2024, at Tigard UMC in Oregon, and will be in-person and online. The link for the AC is www.umi.org/ac

Registration: Registration will open in early May for AC members and guests after the General Conference ends. If you have questions regarding AC, please let me know; I will be most happy to research your questions and provide answers.

LaVerne Lewis

Gresham UMC 2024 AC Lay Delegate



If you would like someone to pray with you, or pray about a situation, but don't want to put it on the prayer chain, please contact Tina Heal or Terrie Ham. They meet together every week to pray for the needs of the church and for many other concerns.

Please contact the church office to be connected with Terrie Ham, Tina Heal or Sandy Brooks.

Church Office: 503-665-1192 or office@greshamumc.com

**Communion is available
for our homebound
audience the first
Sunday of the month**

Please contact the
office to schedule.
office@greshamumc.com
503-665-1192



Food, Fun & Fellowship

Join us for Fellowship and hospitality after each Sunday service. Light snacks and refreshments are available to enjoy. We are in need of volunteers to provide snacks and help with Sunday hospitality. Please contact Kathy Kari directly to sign up and host a Sunday.

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Terrie Ham

“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants too.” Psalm 24:1

Happy Spring! While we had the wonderful weather in March, I spent every available minute in my backyard trying to redeem it from the piles of fir branches and other debris after our wild winter. I was able to fill up an entire yard debris can with what I cleared off the patio. During my work I was accompanied much of the time by a queen bumblebee lured out of her winter’s sleep by the warm days. She was looking for a place to start a new home. Did you know that in England bumblebees used to be called humblebees? Wherever I went, she seemed to follow me. Maybe she was just lonesome after her solitary winter. She was never aggressive and just buzzed around in the area I was raking or pruning. I’ve had many good encounters with bumblebees over the years.

The house we owned prior to the one I live in now had a swimming pool. The pool shed that held the pump and other equipment was lined with insulation. On our first spring in the house my husband opened the door to the shed to find that about eight bumble queens had spent the winter very cozily in the insulation. We decided to leave the doors open so the sun could warm them and after a day or two they had all taken off.

Folks have long wondered how bumblebees can fly with their large bodies and small wings. They flap their wings back and forth rather than up and down, more like a helicopter than an airplane. They are highly social insects and important pollinators. Their longer tongue and wing vibrations make them more efficient pollinators for tomatoes, sweet peppers, and strawberries.

But the sad news is that the bumblebee population has declined by 90% since the year 2000. Other bee pollinators are also drastically reduced. This decline is due to habitat loss, climate change, and the use of bee-killing pesticides. This decline is just one part of the ravages we have inflicted on our beautiful earth.

April 22, 2024, is Earth Day. Please consider planting bee friendly flowers and shrubs to encourage the pollination not only of flowers, but the fruits, and vegetables we need to live. Do your best to limit the use of pesticides that kill our pollinators.

Job 12:7-10 states, “But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky and they will tell you; or speak to the earth and it will teach you....Which of them does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.”

Have a wonderful spring.

- Terrie

Birthdays & Anniversaries in April

Anniversaries

Susan & Cliff Daron Adare Brown & Bob Grane
Roz & Richard Collins John & Marilyn (Shepherd) Hill

Birthdays

JoDell Ricker Lori Thon Celeste Bullock Cameron Grimsted
Brooke Wills Linda Bridges Barbara Barnard Patricia Collins
Mark Grimsted Cindy Mumford Charlotte Freeman Terry Unger
Carolann Unger

Women's Shelter Potluck Tuesday April 23rd

**Picnic Foods to
accompany
fried chicken.**

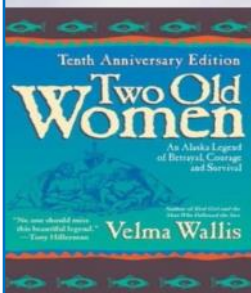


Please contact Kathy Kari for info
at tklady@aol.com or 630-632-2879



**SUNDAY
FRUIT
DONATION
IS APRIL 7TH**

Retell Book Club Monday, April 15th at 10:00 am



*In person in Room 107
and on Zoom*

*We will be discussing
"Two Old Women"
by Velma Wallis*

Grief Support



**Contact Terrie Ham or Sandy Brooks
if you need to talk.**

Knit One, Crochet Too

**First Monday Each Month
at 10:30 in the Fireside Room**



Kids Connection

**The Second Sunday
of Every Month**

**Please contact
Sue DeFranco or Terrie
Ham via the Office,
503-665-1192 or
office@greshamumc.com**





***“Easter Women” Hear the stories of three Easter Women
at the General meeting of United Women in Faith***

Monday, April 8th at 1:30

The Easter Women carried spices when they went to the tomb to prepare the body of Jesus for his burial. We bring hygiene items for the women in the Women's Shelter to make life easier and more pleasant for the women who are currently living in the shelter.

Bring hygiene items to the April meeting of United Women in Faith. Here are some suggestions for your gifts: toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shower gel, shampoo, travel sizes are good; ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW!

The tub for hygiene items will be at the meeting. At other times, it is in the Resource Room. First door down the south hall.

MEETINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Monday - April 1 Knit One, Crochet Two will meet at 10:30 in Rm. 101. (No Joke!)
- Monday - April 8 General Meeting of United Women in Faith. See the announcement above. Bring Hygiene items for Women's Shelter.
- Saturday - April 13 Celebration of Life for Sandy Marsh - 2:00
- Saturday - April 13 Cascadia & Columbia Districts' Spiritual Life Retreat -See info below for this retreat
- Monday - April 15 Reading Group will meet in Room 107 to discuss “*Two Old Women*” by Velma Wallace
- Tuesday - April 16 Leadership Team meets by Zoom for United Women in Faith- 1:30
- Monday - April 22 EARTH DAY

UWIF'S SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT

“Come to the Quiet Center” is the theme of this retreat held at the Woodburn UMC in Woodburn, OR- April 13th - 9:30- 3:00. Rev. Danna Drum, a private counsellor in coaching, leadership, facilitation, and management is the leader. The retreat is in person or by Zoom. Registration deadline is April 5. For further info about attending by Zoom, contact Sue Andersen-503-341-8697.



A LESSON FROM THE LORD'S PRAYER

When the United Women in Faith studied the Lord's Prayer in March, a fairly new idea was discussed. After addressing God in the prayer, we always say "Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." The idea of a Kingdom does not fit this country, so many theologians and church leaders are now referring to kin-dom, as in family or relatives. The "kin" in kin-do puts us in relationship with other people...other Christians...as we work together to do God's will on earth. And what is God's will for us on earth? Peace! The song of the angels was "Peace on Earth" Living together in harmony! Sharing with others! Helping others! Caring for all! So as we pray this part of the Lord's Prayer, let our prayer include:

- P - Please help
- E - Each of us to
- A - Act with
- C - Care & Compassion for
- E - Everyone!

GRESHAM WOMEN ARE THANKFUL WOMEN!

Spring is Here! Spring is all around us! Spring brings us color of flowers and flowering trees to our dormant, drab world! Spring brings us the promise of delicious fruits. Spring brings us promise of warm sunshine and life-giving rains. Spring brings us the promise of new life! New life is the promise of EASTER! How fortunate we are to live in this part of the world so we can experience the change of the seasons! Thank you, O Lord, for the beauty of our world and the New Life we have because of you! Our Thank Offering should be at least 2 digits!

ARE YOU DOING SOME SPRING HOUSE CLEANING?

THINK: REFUGEE STORE!

It's that time of the year when women look in their closets, cupboards, extra room, etc. and think "How did this get to be such a mess? I've got to do something about this!" Yes...it's a good time to get your space organized for the year ahead, so it is probably time to get rid of some of the clutter. While you are deciding what to keep and what you can get rid of, think about those household items you are not using that you can give to THE REFUGEE STORE! Pots & pans, dishes, silverware, kitchen utensils, workable small appliances, gently used bed linens & bathroom towels are always needed by new



United
Women
in Faith

WOMEN'S NEWS

April 2024

refugees to our area. Larger items such lamps, tables and chairs, living room, dining room, and bedroom furniture, mattresses are welcome, too, if they are clean and in good shape.

Small items can be left in the tub by the barrels in the hall across from the elevator: for large item pick up, contact Robert Potter 503-408-6865. He can tell you if what you have is something refugees can use and will make pick-up arrangements with you. Please note...We do NOT take clothing, toys, or food. Those items can be put in the SnowCap barrels in the hall.

GUMC works with Rev. John Baskaron who screens the refugees and brings them to our store to select the items they can use. We do not sell these items.... they are free to our new neighbors settling our Gresham area.



The Widows Group will meet for lunch on Thursday, April 11 at 11:30 AM. Our plan is to meet on the second Thursday of every month so mark your calendars. Please bring a salad to share and RSVP to Jeanie Kleen 971-219-9428. For the April meeting you are encouraged to bring a picture of you and your husband. We'll share the stores of those pictures that afternoon.

Do join us for some social time. RSVP Jeanie Kleen 971-219-9428.

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

JOIN IN THE STUDY OF THE HEBREW LETTER

Join in an online study of the Letter to the Hebrews from the New Testament beginning Tuesday, March 12th. Posts will be sent out each Wednesday morning for eight weeks.

The Letter to the Hebrews is written in the literary style of a sermon delivered to explain the importance of Christ as high priest of the New Covenant, and to encourage faith in the followers of Jesus. The famous definition of faith is found at Hebrews 11:1.

There is much to ponder, and many instructions for us today in this very old sermon.

Contact Robert Potter at robpot9@msn.com, or the church office. For more info.

Missed a session? We are now recording the Zoom discussions. Contact Robert to receive a link that allows you to download the current weekly discussion.



We had a good discussion of issues raised in "The Bluest Eye" though we found the book very difficult to read.

We decided to on the following books for the next few months.

April: *Two Old Women* by Velma Wallis. An Alaska Legend of Betrayal, Courage and Survival. There are copies at the library and also a reading on YouTube.

May: *Book Lovers* by Emily Henry. This is a lighter novel about a literary agent and editor.

June: *The Secret Wisdom of the Earth* by Christopher Scotton. This is a coming of age novel about a boy and his mother who are grieving his brother's death. They spend the summer in a small Kentucky town where coal mining is destroying the surrounding hills.

- Sue Anderson

April Showers for a June Wildflower!

Please join us for a Baby Shower to honor Rebecca Doty and her unborn daughter on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at Noon, in the Fireside Room. Then, on Sunday, April 21st, please bring your Prayers and Blessings to “shower” upon Rebecca and her baby during Hospitality, right after our church service.

If there are any questions, please contact Cynthia Flynn at crflynn1@msn.com.

Please join us for

Brews & Bible

2nd & 4th Thursdays
6:00-7:00 p.m.

Black Bear Diner
105 NE Burnside Rd.
Gresham, OR 97030



SOLVE-IT-SATURDAY MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST FIRST SATURDAY EVERY MONTH



Join us for Fun and Fellowship
Faith Based Fitness Class
Monday and Thursday
9:30 to 10:15 am
Gresham United Methodist Church



A complete workout for body, mind and spirit
All fitness levels are welcome!

Questions? phone 503-665-1192
Or email office@greshamumc.com



Wellness Education Ministry

SnowCap
Community Charities

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN HANDS
www.snowcap.org

Volunteer at the SnowCap Clothing Closet
1st and 3rd Thursdays at 2 pm

We will be sorting clothing and re-stocking the clothing racks.

Contact Linda Bridges at lindajbridges@comcast.net for more info.

The Clothing Closet is located in Gresham Station at:
1271 NW Civic Dr, Gresham, OR 97030.
On the Southwest Corner of Civic Drive and NW 13th Street

Let's Do Lunch!

Thursday, April 18th at 12:00 pm

Olive Garden
Restaurant,
Burnside in Gresham



Caregiver Support Group 4th Mondays

@ 1 pm Room 107

This group is for past,
present & future caregivers.

Contact Amy Paynter or
Terrie Ham with questions

