

OCTOBER 2021

News from Gresham United Methodist Church

Reopening News!

We are hoping to reopen
for in-person service

October 10 @ 10 am

Face masks will be required.

No congregational singing or speaking.

We will have the pews marked for social distancing.



FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

Pastor Linda Quanstrom

Life Line

Not so very long ago, a woman who had grown up in the church said to me, "I never got much from it." (referring to church). It wasn't that she wasn't a spiritual person. She went on to explain that her most meaningful spiritual experiences--her most memorable encounters with God--had come to her as she witnessed some spectacular display of nature.

Nature, certainly, is one of the most potent witnesses to the existence of the Divine Other, to be sure. The apostle Paul acknowledged this in his letter to the Christians living in Rome. "...since the creation of the world God's invisible attributes, God's eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made..." (Romans 1:20)

One of my most awe-filled experiences of God opened up before me at the end of my dock at Lake Wilson one late winter night when the Aurora Borealis, the cracking of the ice, the brilliance of a crescent moon and the drama of the Hail Bob Comet all converged in one orchestrated, pulsing display. Oh, yes, there is a God.

Nature certainly opens a door to God. It shines a light on the ground outside the door of our heart, a light that points to a path. But that is all it does. Nature does not instruct us on how to walk that path. It does not tell us what to expect on the journey and it does not give us opportunity for that singular intimacy with God that God seeks. It only invites us to venture forth.

So it always troubles me when someone says to me, "I go to nature to meet God." This troubles me for two reasons. First, because I wonder how many times one must be introduced to God before he or she is willing to cultivate a meaningful relationship with God--a relationship that calls for attention, conversation, personal investment, fidelity, trust, sacrifice. Second, I am troubled because I wonder why it is that people like my friend do not experience the shock of the Holy in church, in worship.

Nature has the capacity to shock us into awe and we need a dose of that now and again. But we also need something else. Perhaps church is meant to provide us with that something else. Perhaps it isn't suppose to do the same thing nature does. Could it be that church is meant to unveil the Holy in more mundane but equally authentic ways? As in forging relationships that ask something of us; as in pondering together the depths of the Word; as in giving and receiving comfort; as in sharing laughter in hard times; and shedding tears because of an unexpected kindness.

And maybe, when we "don't get much from it" it's because we haven't brought much to it.

Nature is a flare, meant to get our attention.

Church is a rope, meant to give us something to hang onto so God can pull us to safety.

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Terrie Ham

October 17, 2021, is Laity Sunday in the United Methodist Church. When Tina and I were creating an information packet for our interim pastor Linda Quanstrom we listed all the ministries and activities that occur at GUMC. We came up with sixteen and then added a couple more. That's a lot going on! We are a church involved in many ministries to our local community and the world at large. These can only happen because of your faithful participation. We were proud (in a good way) to highlight these ongoing programs that you devote yourselves to.

There is another wonderful work that you, the laity of GUMC perform, which is your caring for each other. As I talk with many of you, I'm impressed by the deep network of relationships, some longstanding, and some newer, criss-crossing the congregation offering concern, prayers, help, and support to one another. This became especially evident during this Covid time when we could not gather. The strength of the laity at GUMC is truly something to celebrate not only on October 17 but every day.

"By this, all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another." *John 13:35*



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.

Terrie: 503-351-6579 or terrieh123@gmail.com

Tina: 541-840-6306 or tmheal@gmail.com

Women's Shelter Meal

Our monthly Women's Shelter Potluck Dinner is

**Tuesday,
October 26th**

(always the 4th Tuesday of the month)

Please contact Kathy Kari to donate a dish to the meal. The women have been enjoying your donations and appreciate our consistency through this pandemic.

Thank you!

Call or email **Kathy Kari** (630-632-2879 or tklady@aol.com)



TEACHER APPRECIATION PROJECT REPORT

Before the children returned to school Thank You Notes of Appreciation were delivered to the three elementary schools GUMC partnered with during the COVID pandemic: Davis, Hartley, and Hollydale schools. Our notes thanked the teachers and support staffers for all the extra hard work they did during 2020-2021 along with small bags of candy and our Best Wishes for an enjoyable and successful 2021-2022 year.

Our efforts to recognize the teachers and support staffers were gratefully received. Their appreciation, expressed both verbally and written, was proof that our Teacher Project was a total success!

Here's a sample of the notes we received...

Hollydale Elementary School

I just wanted to say Thank You! again for the thoughtful notes and gifts to our school staff/teachers! I really appreciate everything that GUMC has supported us in. Take care and stay safe.

Sandra Jones
SUN Site Manager

Davis Elementary School

Dear Carol and GUMC Women,

Thank you so much for the teacher appreciation gifts for our teachers at the start of the school year. We all greatly appreciated your kindness!

Ashley Furlong, Principal

Hartley Elementary School

Dear United Methodist Women,

Thank you so much for the thoughtful notes and treats. What a wonderful surprise for our staff when they returned to school this year.

Your kindness is greatly appreciated!
Hartley Staff & Jeff Pond, principal

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

by Fred Kaan

*Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.*

*Refrain: Jesus lives again,
earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!*

*Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. Refrain*

*Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! Refrain*

(words by Fred Kaan)



We celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 3rd and “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” is a hymn that, although not included in our Methodist Hymnals, embodies the joy of the day. It is set to a Jamaican folk tune which, with its catchy melody and jaunty rhythms, is fun to sing.

The author, Fred Kaan is well represented in the United Methodist Hymnal, with several hymn translations in addition to his original texts. He was born in Haarlem, Holland, on July 27, 1929, and endured as a youth the Nazi occupation of his native country. His father was a member of the Dutch Resistance; his family hid a Jew and a political prisoner in their home; and three of his grandparents starved to death during this time. After receiving a call to ministry, he served as Pastor to a large congregation in Wales and then in Plymouth where he became a part of the hymn explosion, writing hymns for his own hymnal supplement. Fred’s hymn writing was born of necessity, out of the frustration of not finding what he wanted in the established hymnbook for next Sunday’s worship, and out of eagerness to put into words those things which were close to his heart and conscience.

Fred received the call to office of the Minister-Secretary of the International Congregational Council in Geneva in 1968, a post he held until 1970 when he became an executive secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. His period in Geneva involved many other roles including staff member of the World Council of Churches working on Cantate Domino - the international and ecumenical hymnal.

For a time, Jamaican composer Doreen Potter lived in Geneva, Switzerland, on the same street as Kaan. This happy coincidence resulted in several musical collaborations, including this “Communion Calypso,” as Kaan calls it. The combination was first sung together at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi, Africa, in 1975. Since its composition, “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” has been sung at several assemblies of the World Council of Churches and is now being sung at communion services throughout the world.

October

BIRTHDAYS

Ruth Hofmann
Kurt Engelstad
Clark Hofmann
Barbara Rohlen
Martha Hug
Mark Snyder
Jean Kronholm
Claire Ross
Walt McCoy
Paul Ricker
Judy Hoppe
Brett Wall
Autumn Bullock
Julie Aalbers

Kaddie Ross
Leta Anderson
Linda Bush

ANNIVERSARIES

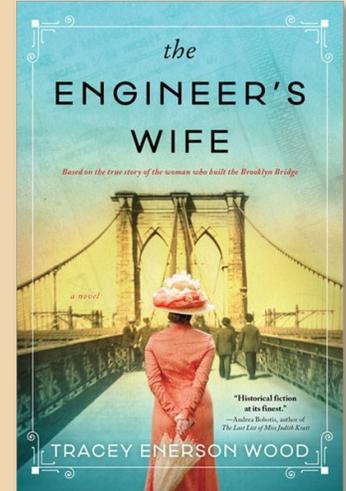
Lynn
& Kathy
Stafford

Pat &
Terri
Kessell

Retell

Book Club

title for
October
is



*The Engineer's
Wife*
by Tracy Enerson Wood

SOLVE-IT-SATURDAY

EVERY 1st Saturday

- Breakfast at 8am
- Fellowship
- Scripture Conversation
- Tasks Around the Church



TRUNK OR TREAT 2021

**Keeping in mind safety
in the time of Covid we are planning to do a
drive-thru Trunk or Treat
this year on Sunday,
October 31. 1pm-3pm**

We plan on having at least 12 decorated cars that families can view while driving through the parking lot and at the end the children will be handed a bag of treats.

**Let's have some
fun and bless
our community
safely at a time
it really needs
an uplift.**

**We will be notifying the
three Gresham
grade schools we
partner with.
Please let us know
how would like
to participate.
Call or email the
church office
as soon as
you decide.**



Here's what we need:

- 1. Large bags of individually wrapped good quality candy or a donation for candy.**
- 2. At least twelve cars, vans, or trucks either decorated by you or with help from other decorators.**
- 3. This will be rain or shine so we would like to borrow some canopies.**
- 4. People willing to decorate.**
- 5. Fall/Halloween decorations.**
- 6. Many costumed, happy greeters to make the event fun for the families driving through.**



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

WOMEN'S NEWS

October 2021



FALL IS IN THE AIR!

And we can now think about cooler temperatures... especially at night. So let's begin to think about **Blankets** again! All the blankets we make will be given to the Family Shelter and SnowCap.

Blankets can be pieced or tied,
made of flannel or percale or fleece,
and can be any of these sizes:

45x45, 45x60, twin size: 56x84

Call Sue Andersen or Roz Collins if you have questions or if you have made a blanket!



Please join us for an evening with Dr. LaVerne Lewis as she shares her recent missional journey to Amman, Jordan, her immersion with a local Palestinian Women's Collective, daily living with a hosting Muslim

faith family, and other cultural experiences.

Dr. Lewis has traveled to over 10 countries in the past 12 years to work and support the work of women collectives and teaching English. Those countries include Peru, Greece, Cuba, China, Thailand, Tanzania, Morocco, Brazil, Costa Rica and Jordan.

This learning opportunity is open to all women of Gresham UMC. You will be sent a Link to this Zoom presentation on the church's Constant Contact.

COMING SOON!

New Program! New Time!

You are invited to join a ZOOM meeting on Monday, October 18th at 7:00pm to hear a report from **Dr. Laverne Lewis**

About her volunteer work in Jordan

Journey to Jordan

Traveling to the Middle East during Covid-19

ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1 -CHURCH WOMEN UNITED will meet via Zoom at 9:45. There will NOT be any in-person meetings until after the first of the year. The National Assembly of CWU will be meeting via Zoom in October and CWU will celebrate its 80th anniversary in December. Contact Roz Collins for the Link if you are interested in participating in these Zoom meetings. (rcol2000@aol.com)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4 - KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO will meet at 10:00 to 11:00 to gather in the shawls, hats and scarves that have been made at home. Groups meeting at the church are encouraged to meet for one hour or less. Masks are mandatory.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16 - OR/ID UMW ANNUAL MEETING via Zoom. Anyone interested in participating should contact Sue Andersen to receive the Link.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18 - RETELL reading group will meet via Zoom at 10:00 to discuss "The Engineer's Wife" by Tracey Enerson Wood. You can participate in the discussion even if you have not read the book. Come learn what the book is all about.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18 - DR. LAVERNE LEWIS will report on her recent visit to Jordan via Zoom at 7:00 pm. **ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS INFORMATIVE PROGRAM!** (See information left)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19 - LEADERSHIP TEAM will meet via Zoom at 10:00 to plan opportunities and activities for women in the months ahead.

OCTOBER 26 - WOMEN'S SHELTER MEAL - Call Kathy Kari if you can provide a dish for this meal - tklady@aol.com or 630-632-2879. Kathy needs our help! Food can be picked up at the church (5:00-5:15) or delivered to the shelter: Let Kathy know.

****Due to cooler temperatures, uncertain October weather, and COVID restrictions, "LET'S DO LUNCH" will be suspended until further notice.**

PLEDGE TO MISSION

Thanks to everyone who made a Pledge to Mission for 2021...We have been able to pay our Pledge of \$2000 to the District UMW! This money becomes part of the money Oregon/Idaho Conference sends to the National Division of United Methodist Women to support the mission work with women, children and youth in over 100 agencies in the US and around the world!

Our Pledge to Mission for 2022 will again to be \$2000. This will require the continued support of your **Pledge to Mission**...and perhaps a money-raising event or two during the year. Let's hope we can begin to meet together again soon to help us meet our goal!



Gresham Women Are Thankful Women!

Before you get out of bed in the morning or before you go to sleep at night, reflect on the day and find those things you are thankful for: clean air to breathe, a roof over your head, clean water to drink...and enough to bathe or shower, more food than is necessary to give strength to our bodies, and many more! Most of these blessings come because of our position of privilege.

**But let us also be thankful that we are created by God
Thankful that we are loved by God
Thankful that we have a place in the grand plan of God
Thankful that we have opportunities to
share God's love.**

Donate now to your
Thank Offering jar for
blessings **seen** and
unseen!

THANK YOU!



SUNDAY WORSHIP—10:00 AM
Virtual worship services are posted
each Sunday on the church's
website: Greshamumc.com.

Senior Pastor: Dr. Steven Lewis
503-515-5468
steve@greshamumc.com

Treasurer: Laverne Lewis
treasurer@greshamumc.com

Office Admin: office@greshamumc.com

Organist: Bonnie Meeder
bonnie@greshamumc.com

Choir & Bell Director: Solveig Nyberg
solveig@greshamumc.com

Lay Leader: Terrie Ham

**Gresham United
Methodist Church**

620 NW 8th Street
Gresham, OR 97030

