

April 2025 Newsletter

Gresham United Methodist Church



From the Pastor's Desk...

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a monumental event in human history, forming the very foundation of Christianity. By fully embracing human nature and enduring a painful and humiliating public death, Jesus was raised from the dead in a glorified physical body, triumphantly free from decay and death. This miraculous resurrection affirms Jesus' divine identity as the Son of God, showcases Jesus' ultimate victory over death and the grave, and guarantees present salvation and future resurrection for believers.



In Christian theology, the resurrection holds a central and transformative role, serving as the cornerstone of our faith. Without the profound reality of Christ's victory over death, our salvation would crumble, leaving the gospel's proclamation hollow and Christians in despair (1 Corinthians 15:14-19). Yet, as the Apostle Paul joyfully affirms, Christ has indeed conquered the grave and emerged from the tomb, offering a powerful testament to hope (1 Corinthians 15:20). This extraordinary event creates an unbreakable bond with believers, assuring us of our own resurrection into eternal life (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

The early church passionately affirmed this vital connection, beautifully captured in the final lines of the Apostles' Creed: "I believe in the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting." This declaration continues to resonate through the ages, inspiring faith and igniting hope in the hearts of countless generations.

As we approach Resurrection Sunday, often referred to as Easter, we have a wonderful opportunity for deep reflection on the theme of renewal. Let us draw inspiration from the Body Prayer that Diane shared with us during our Taizé service on March 30, 2025: "Await, Allow, Accept, and Attend to the quiet, still voice of God"; By doing so, we invite both physical and spiritual rejuvenation, embracing the holistic transformation that the resurrection brings.

Wishing you a joyful Easter!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Troy!

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Terrie Ham

April 2025

The Grace of Forgiveness: Receiving and Giving

When this newsletter comes out a group of us will be in the middle of a four-week study on forgiveness and forgiving. I want to share some of what we are learning and discussing in the class.

One of the most beautiful things about God is that forgiveness is just who God is. Over and over in scripture, we see God extending grace—whether it's the father running to embrace the prodigal son, Jesus telling Peter to forgive “seventy times seven,” or those powerful words from the cross: “Father, forgive them.” God's forgiveness isn't grudging or hesitant. It's poured out freely, over and over again.

But let's be honest—while receiving God's forgiveness is a gift, forgiving others can be hard. Really hard. It's one thing to believe in grace, but another thing entirely when we're face to face with someone who has hurt us. In our study of Adam Hamilton's book *Forgiveness* and Desmond Tutu's *The Book of Forgiving*, we wrestled with some tough but important questions: *What if the person who hurt me never says they're sorry? What if they don't deserve forgiveness? What if I'm just not ready?*

Both Hamilton and Tutu remind us that forgiveness isn't about pretending something didn't happen or saying it was okay. It's about choosing not to let the hurt define us. It's a process, a journey. Sometimes it comes quickly, and sometimes it takes time. But here's the thing—when we hold on to bitterness, it doesn't just affect the other person. It weighs *us* down. And God wants better for us than that.

So maybe today, the next step is just being open to the idea of forgiveness. Or maybe it's reminding yourself that you are fully and freely forgiven by God. Wherever you are in this journey, know this: forgiveness isn't about our strength—it's about God's grace working in us. And that grace never runs out.

Blessings of Peace and Hope, *Terrie*

A New Way to Donate to the Church

Feel free to use this QR code to donate electronically to our church.

You will be asked to download and install the Paypal App if you do not already have it on your phone.



Holy Week at Gresham UMC

Palm Sunday is April 13.

Journey Through Holy Week April 16-18

Join us for Journey Through Holy Week, a time of reflection and meditation on the final days of Jesus' life on earth. This self-guided experience will be available in the Fireside area on Wednesday and Thursday, April 16 & 17, from 11 AM to 2 PM, and on Good Friday, April 18, from 11 AM to 2 PM and again from 6 PM to 7 PM, leading into Good Friday Cantata. Take time to pause, pray, and walk with Christ through this sacred journey. All are welcome.

Good Friday Cantata April 18

"It Is Finished" a moving Tenebrae Service by Mary McDonald will be performed in the sanctuary on Good Friday at 7 pm. Good Friday is a sacred time of reflection, a moment to stand in the shadow of the cross before the dawn of Easter morning. Invite your friends.

Easter Sunday April 20

He is Risen! Join us on Sunday, April 20, at 10 AM for a joyous Easter service as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ and the triumph of hope and new life. Through uplifting music, powerful scripture, and a message of resurrection joy, we will proclaim the good news that Christ is alive!

Come and be part of this glorious morning of worship as we rejoice together in God's amazing love. All are welcome!

Solve-it-Saturday Men's Monthly Breakfast

April 19th 8:00 a.m.

Join the men of GUMC
for light work, fellowship
and breakfast.



Bob Hurley Memorial Service

**Service at GUMC on Saturday
4/5/25 at 11 am**

**Buster's BBQ meal will
follow the Service in the
Fellowship Hall**



IT IS FINISHED

GRESHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Tenebrae Service
for Good Friday

by Mary McDonald

**Published by
Jubilate Music**

7:00 pm

Friday, April 18th

620 NW 8th St
Gresham, OR



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 prayers@greshamumc.com

Finance Committee News

Finance has been very busy during the last month. While the Finance Team has been improving efficiency by adopting new software and bill payment processes, as well as also purchasing a computer that functions more efficiently, they have also been finalizing a move into the "Prayer Room" (not a comment on our finances, just the previous occupant) which will be completed soon.

An open discussion with congregation members about the budget took place after church in the Fireside Room on March 16th and over 30 people participated resulting in a useful question and answer session.

Working with the Endowment Committee and the Co-Treasurers, the Committee is reviewing various possible uses of investments as a source of funds for church activities.

A spirited discussion of how Restricted Funds might be more efficiently managed and utilized to fund church activities and reduce stress on the Endowment Fund occurred at our most recent Committee meeting. The members continue to work towards finalizing our most efficacious approach in order that the Church Council can consider the best option.

Submitted by John Andersen

UNDERSTANDING ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA

THURSDAY APRIL 3RD 1:00pm -2:30pm

Gresham United Methodist Church

Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging. Join us to learn about the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, stages and risk factors, available treatment options and Alzheimer's Association resources.

This workshop is open to the community. Please invite family and friends.

For any questions about this event, please contact Terrie Ham or the church office.



Terrie Ham Appointed Columbia District's Director of Lay Servant Ministries

Pastor Troy is delighted to announce that District Superintendent Rev. Karen Hernandez has named our very own Terrie Ham as Columbia District's Director of Lay Servant Ministries. Terrie is a Certified Lay Speaker.

Terrie will be the coordinator and point of contact for Laity in Columbia District who are interested in learning more and engaging in LSM courses and the certification and recertification each year of those who seek certification as Lay Servants or Lay Speakers. Because of Terrie's gifted-ness, she will be teaching LSM courses as well.

Terrie is committed to continue her service to Gresham UMC and her priority is to remain the GUMC Lay Leader in addition to her new position.

What is Lay Servant Ministries?

Lay Servant Ministries (LSM) continues to be one of the most significant lay leadership development programs available within the United Methodist connection. Programmatically located within Discipleship Ministries and defined in the Book of Discipline, paragraphs 266-269, LSM provides laity opportunity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ and step into leadership roles in their local churches and beyond.

A Blessing Shared — Our Church in Action

In February, our church family came together to provide a wonderful meal for ninety women at the Women's Shelter. The meal included casseroles, salad, fruit, and dessert — all prepared with love.



A heartfelt thank you to Linda Bridges and everyone who contributed by cooking, donating food, collecting the meal at the church, and delivering it to the shelter. Your generosity and hard work made this possible.

The meal for March 25 is already covered, but you'll have an opportunity to participate in April. This ministry is a meaningful way we fulfill our mission to help feed the hungry, and we are grateful for the privilege to serve in this way.

If you'd like to help with the April meal, there will be a sign-up sheet located by the kitchen door or contact Linda Bridges.

Thank you for being the hands and heart of Christ in our community!

Announcements

Bob Hurley Memorial

Bob Hurley's Memorial Service will be held at the church on Saturday, 4/5 at 11:00. Buster's BBQ lunch will follow the service in the Fellowship Room.

~~~~~

I would like to thank everyone for the rides they gave me to therapy, helped me with getting my coat on and giving me rides home from church. Also to everyone who offered me help me with what I needed during the time I wasn't allowed to drive from having rotator cuff surgery on my right shoulder.

Blessings to all, *Patty Strathern*

~~~~~

IN YOUR EASTER BONNET...

On Easter Sunday, April 20th, let's brighten our sanctuary with colorful hats, floral caps and frilly fascina-tors. Let's see how many Easter Bonnets will be in attendance. We understand that not everyone likes to wear a hat or even has a hat these days. You can still participate by making a donation to the ***Easter Bonnet Offering*** box that will be in the Narthex. The money collected will be added to our regular Easter Offering. - Submitted by Roz Collins



SUNDAY FRUIT DONATIONS APRIL 6TH



Let's Do Lunch Third Thursdays at Noon

Let's Do Lunch
Thursday, 4/17 at Noon
Applebee's,
489 NW Burnside Rd.
Gresham





United
Women
in Faith

WOMEN'S NEWS

April 2025

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH GENERAL MEETING IS

MONDAY, APRIL 14th at 1:30 with special guest

Becky Warren...

Our OR/ID Conference Social Action Coordinator, presenting...

"The Unfinished Love Story"

`` Becky is one of our most dedicated District and Conference officers who has served in several positions over the years. She has graciously accepted our invitation to come speak to our United Women in Faith group about her current position as our Conference Social Action Coordinator. She is working with a group of Legislative Responders in many of our district and conference churches to promote active involvement and advocacy in issues presented to our local and state legislators. In these crazy political times, it is most important that we as Women of Faith make our voices heard in places where policies and laws are being passed that effect our citizens, our businesses, and our immigrant/refugee sisters and brothers.

We have been told that there are 11.7 to 14 million people in the United States that are undocumented immigrants, and that 108,000 undocumented immigrants reside in Oregon and 4,600 in the Tri-County area, we become overwhelmed with the magnitude of the situation.

Immigration is the Social Action priority of the Oregon-Idaho Conference Leadership Team of United Women in Faith. In a presentation titled "The Unfinished Love Story," Becky Warren, Social Action Conference Coordinator, will address how we can respond compassionately to this challenge.

Come learn about the issues that are being presented in Salem and in Washington DC... and how we can respond! And learn about this intriguing title she gave us for this occasion!

Calendar of Meetings & Events

Saturday, April 5 - District Spiritual Life Retreat - Collins Retreat Center - 4 GUMC women participating!

Monday, April 7 - KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO-meets at 10:30 in Room 101. This needlework group dedicated 30 Prayer Shawls during the March 2nd worship service so everyone could see the "work of our hands"! 22 Prayer Shawls were given out in 2024, and so far in 2025, 6 shawls have been given to those in need of special prayers for many reasons: death of a family member, celebrating new births, cancer diagnoses and treatments, friends in care facilities, misc. health issues. If you would like to request a Prayer Shawl, see any member of the Knit One group: Roz Collins, Sharon. Rich, Carol Potter, Frances Volking, Stacy Brown-Bull, Sue DeFranco, Catherine Nicewood.



United
Women
in Faith

WOMEN'S NEWS

April 2025

Sunday, April 13 - PALM SUNDAY

Monday, April 14 - UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH GENERAL MEETING - 1:30pm (see details above)

Tuesday, April 15 - INCOME TAX FILING DEADLINE!

April 14—19 - HOLY WEEK CHURCH ACTIVITIES- (Watch for GUMC announcements)

Sunday, April 20 - EASTER SUNDAY

Monday - April 21 - RETELL Reading Group meets in Room 107 to discuss "Solito" by Javier Zamora. **NOTICE...** This is a change from the book mentioned in the March newsletter. This is a memoir of Zamora's trip as a nine-year-old child from El Salvador to the U.S. to be reunited with his parents. This is the Multnomah County Library *Everybody Reads* book for this year. Pick up a copy at any branch library.

Tuesday, April 22 - EARTH DAY

Tuesday, April 29 - Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon sponsors INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAY- Salem, OR. Cars will be going from Gresham. If you want a ride, contact Robert Potter

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH is all about MISSIONS!

Our purpose's closing statement reads:..."and to expand concepts of MISSION through participation in the global ministries of the church"!

For us, MISSION IS:

~~~ helping marginalized women and children around the world make a better life for their families.

~~~helping local agencies feed, clothe, and provide safe housing.

~~~educating women to be spiritual leaders who inspire and influence others.

**THIS IS WHAT WOMEN UNITED IN FAITH DO..AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD!**

**This is what your MISSION DOLLARS are doing!**

~~~ The National office spent over \$25,500.00 in 2023 to finance the work of Missions. They only had 18 million dollars, so National was short \$7,500,00 to pay the operating expenses in 2023. So they did what they HAD to do...cut staff! (OUCH!)

~~~National Institutions, over 90 in the US, received over \$2,000,000 that was invested in neighborhood centers, halfway houses, and grants that helped schools, hospitals, agricultural projects, micro financing and more.

~~~UNIF gave International Missions almost a million dollar for grants used in the areas of leadership development, skill building, new businesses, and much more.

~~~Our Mission Giving allows our Regional Missionaries to continue empowering women in the areas of gender justice, economic empowerment, and leadership development.



United  
Women  
in Faith

## WOMEN'S NEWS

*April 2025*

**YOUR MISSION DOLLARS GO WHERE WE WOULD PROBABLY NEVER GO...AND DO WHAT MOST OF US COULD NEVER DO. BUT WE ARE DOING GOOD THINGS FOR MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD BY GIVING MISSION DOLLARS. THANK YOU!**

### **ONE "BLAST" OF GOOD NEWS!**

Lory Naser, the OR/ID Legacy Liaison, reports that \$46,026,552 has now been received for the National Legacy Fund of United Women in Faith! We are getting closer to our goal of \$60 million to guarantee the work of United Women in Faith continues into the next century! This fund is a permanently invested endowment that will ensure operating expenses for our national organization, allowing ALL our Pledge Money to Mission to be spent for improving the lives of women, children and youth!

This year's fund-raising theme is **"FOR GENERATIONS TO COME"** which is taken from Psalm 145:4..."One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts"! Isn't that a perfect description of what the Legacy Fund is all about!

### **GRESHAM WOMEN ARE THANKFUL WOMEN!**

This month let us be thankful for the all the women, known and unknown, past and present, who have given money to support a Pledge to Mission **AND** the Legacy Fund to further the work of UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH around the world and in the U.S. Every coin, every dollar we receive in our GUMC treasury we spend for helping others, locally or through the mission of our national organization. We work hard to keep our local expenses as minimal as possible. Your **THANK OFFERING IS COUNTED AS MISSION MONEY!** We **NEVER** spend of that money here at home! Think of all the work UMIF does for women, children and youth...this would not be possible without the generosity of women like YOU! **THANK YOU** for making a Pledge to Mission and/or and donation to the Legacy Fund, (Tell your Thank Offering Jar..."THANK YoU," too!)

*Please join us for*

## **Brews & Bible**

**Thursday 4/10 & 4/24**

**6:00-7:00 p.m.**

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



## **Caregiver Support Group**

**Monday 4/28/25**

**@ 1 pm in Room 107**

***This group is for past,  
present & future caregivers.***

***Contact Terrie Ham for more info.***







# April Anniversaries

|                                  |                                           |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Roz &amp; Richard Collins</b> | <b>Adare Brown &amp; Bob Grane</b>        |
| <b>Susan &amp; Cliff Daron</b>   | <b>John &amp; Marilyn (Shephard) Hill</b> |

# April Birthdays

|                          |                         |                       |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Barbara Barnard</b>   | <b>Cameron Grimsted</b> | <b>Lori Thon</b>      |
| <b>Linda Bridges</b>     | <b>Mark Grimsted</b>    | <b>Terry Unger</b>    |
| <b>Celeste Bullock</b>   | <b>Susan McDowell</b>   | <b>Carolann Unger</b> |
| <b>Patricia Collins</b>  | <b>Cindy Mumford</b>    | <b>Brooke Wills</b>   |
| <b>Charlotte Freeman</b> | <b>JoDell Ricker</b>    |                       |

# Adare Brown & Bob Grane

## John & Marilyn (Shephard) Hill



# April Anniversaries

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

# April Birthdays

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

# Cameron Grimsted

# Terry Unger

# Mark Grimsted

# Carolann Unger

# Susan McDowell

# Cindy Mumford

## Brooke Wills

# JoDell Ricker

[illegible]