

Pastoral News

Dear Friends,

I remember as a 7-year-old, saying goodbye to my brother. He was in an orphanage while I got to move in with my Grandparents...I didn't know it then, but it would be the last time I would ever see him. I remember saying good bye to my friends and family in Germany in 1980 when I moved to be with my mother here in the States. I got to see my sweet grandmother one more time before she passed. But so many of my childhood friends I haven't seen since I moved, chances are pretty good that I never will. Since we cannot foretell the future saying good bye at times is more permanent than we think, you just never know.

Saying good bye is often hard to do, but it seems it is a part of life that we all have to deal with sooner or later. In Numbers 6:24-26 we read.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

And in Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be



What's In This Month's Issue:

- Caritas Challenge
- Prayers Needed
- Birthdays and Anniversaries
- United Women of Faith

August Calendar

7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

Worship @ 10

4th Men's Lunch

@ Golden Corral @ Noon

1st Men's Golf @ 10 Deer Park

2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th

Tops @ 9

10th Garland Business Meeting
@ 8:30

11th & 25th

Crafting Group 9 till noon

23rd

Flashes Articles Due

10th July _ Aug 14th

Class on Ephesians @ 9am

born, and a time to die; a time to plant, a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ...

All thru the Bible, we read the stories of people saying goodbye to each other...at times God calls us to leave everything behind. Like in Genesis 12:1.

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people, and your father's household to the land I will show you.

At times our ministry or our theology will cause us to leave a place.

Acts 20:37-38 "And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship."

These two verses are such heartbreaking passages because the Ephesian elders seem to sense that "they would not see [Paul's] face again" and so "they accompanied him to the ship"

Here at Fowler UMC, we are also experiencing such a loss. As many of you are aware, the UMC has been fighting with itself for over 40 years now. The fight is over the inclusion of LGBTQIA+ which is an inclusive term that includes people of all genders and sexualities, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, queer, intersex, asexual, pansexual, and allies. While each letter in LGBTQIA+ stands for a specific group of people, the term encompasses the entire spectrum of gender fluidity and sexual identities.

Well, this fight, this different interpretation of scripture (which I'm not going into here, but my office is always open for that conversation) has some churches leave the denomination and start their own (GMC = Global Methodist Church), but it has also caused some of our friends and families here at fowler to say that dreaded word... goodbye.

It is always hard to say goodbye for whatever reason...so to those that are leaving Fowler...I would like to say thank you, thank you for bringing us this far, thank you for your friendship, and thank you for always supporting this body with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness for so many years. Thank you to all of you for the faithful and loving congregation that you have been. May...*The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

For those of you who are still trying to decide, you are in my prayers...let God help you to decide. My door is open in case you want my humble opinion. Know that whatever you decide, we will still love you...

For those of you staying...it might be a struggle...but when hasn't the church struggled anyway? I am not just talking about Fowler UMC but the Church in general...so what Fowler UMC will look like after the dust settles is anybody's guess...but what we know for sure is, that God is still in the house filling this place with the Holy Spirit, and Jesus still loves us, asking us to be His hands and feet in the world.

Let us be in prayer...let us think outside the box...let us be open and affirming...let us love each other, and let us love others. And finally let us remember who we are and what we do...taking a lesson from the early church and focus on what makes the church essential: euangelion, ecclesia, koinonia. Those are the three words of hope for our church today.

Euangelion means “good news” and is the word often translated into English as “gospel.” It is the core message of the faith. How do we share that good news of love and grace with the world?

Ecclesia means a community gathering or assembly. It's a word well-known in Greek culture before the Christian church, a term for calling people together for important conversations and events. What conversation do we need to have at this time in the life of Fowler?

Koinonia means fellowship, sharing in common, communion. This word conveys more than a potluck dinner, although a potluck could be an expression of koinonia. It speaks to the shared life, the sense of community found among a group of people who share a common passion. What is that passion that will give us the energy to move on?

This is where Fowler finds itself today, and it's the only conversation that really matters: What is essential to our faith and to the church, what must we cling to, and what must we leave behind? This doesn't have to be doom and gloom, unless we are wed to the traditions of church programming and to the, but we have always done it that way, or to the I remember when it used to be like...more than to the message of the faith itself.

It has always been my belief that we don't grow the church, God does...so, let us be faithful...that is my prayer...and now there is nothing left to say, but goodbye.

Pastor René



Prayer Requests

“Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16 -17 MSG

Hand of God to Touch

Prayers for our church and its members and attendees

Drought and Fire Season

Special blessings for Wayne and birthday prayers

Health and Healing

Ellen Kelley

Steven Coffman, son of Ellen with Covid

Wanda Haggerty

Dan & Wendy Montgomery

Jerry Foster and Chip

Cheryl

Donna Norris

Sylvia

Prayers of Gratitude

Thankful for the people we know and have relationships with.

That we can visit with friends

Church is our home

Continued Prayers.

Lois Tipple

3rd - Debbie Knutson

4th - Lance & Janet Abernathy

11 - Dan Montgomery

13 - Jennifer Devantier

14 - John & Carol Vrolson

18 - Melissa LaFrance

18 - Dave & Cadie Olsen

20 - Larry & Sindee Price

22 - Jeny & Cory Sherman

27 - Lance Abernathy

30 - Clareen Hooper

31 - Dan & Wendy Montgomery

Wishing our friends and family

a “happy. . .”,

a “merry. . .”,

a “best wishes . . .”,

and a “blessings . . .”

for their special day.



Mission u 2022

United
Women
in Faith

This year's Mission u was held in Yakima, Washington at Wesley United Methodist Church instead of at a university. Seventy members of the Pacific Northwest Conference met for three days at the church and stayed in motels rather than in dorm rooms. Rather more comfortable for some of us.

Our study this year was on Luke 13. There was only one study instead of two as in years past. There were eight sessions covering each part of the chapter. Luke 13 depicts a Jesus who often is frustrated, concerned –even snarky. He has a warranted and righteous rage aimed at the institutions of the day. Luke 13 is a chapter full of rich imagery, compelling parables and convicting directives from Jesus the teacher, spiritual leader and organizer.

Participants in the study confronted assumptions about adversity and transformation, considered interpersonal and intrapersonal opportunities for growth, and how to apply them to everyday living. The aim of the study was to inspire individuals and communities to envision ways of living that are sustainable, loving and creative. How can the words of Jesus serve as a guide for us today?

There will be no meeting in August. Our next meeting will be September 1st at noon In Corinthian Hall.

Sharon

Be sure to come to the meeting in September with the Spokane Veterans Forum!

Caritas Challenge

Dear Fowler Family,

The July challenge was a hit. We have given over 130 bottles of laundry soap.

Thank you! So this month the challenge is for Pancake syrup. The price varies by store but I have seen some for just over \$2. Let us try to get at least 100 bottles. I know that we can do this.

Thank you so much for your awesome support!

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IN TROUBLE? Pray.
Happy? SING SONGS
OF PRAISE.

JAMES 5:13