

Pastoral News

Hello Friends...someone asked the other day...

What is the vision of this work?

At NewDay we are envisioning a community of people with and without disabilities where all can find meaning, purpose, and opportunities to contribute as well as receive. A community that provides all people with a space to worship, learn and live out our faith in Jesus. A community that says, "I am not alone on my journey." Where everyone is valued, has a voice, and belongs.

It is our vision to create a space where all people are received equally, regardless of their particular gifts or special needs. Where all people can partake in worship...feel included...feel wanted and accepted.

It is our vision to fulfill what Jesus talked about in Matthew.

"For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'"

What's In This Month's Issue:

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

October Calendar

3rd, 10th, 17th, & 24th

Worship @ 10:30

5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th

Tops @ 9

Bible Study @ 10:30 (not on 5th)

Prayer Group @ 11:30

7th

UMW Meeting Noon

14th, 21st, & 28th

Crafting Group 9 till noon

14th

Disabilities Meeting @ 6

26th

Flashes Articles Due

Included in that scripture should of course be **“invited those with special needs into my house”**.

It is our vision to share the Kingdom of God with all of the world.

It is our vision to help create A NewDay in other cities and states.

I love the way Daniel Miranda worded it in his letter of recommendation and support of NewDay. He said, “... a vision of a church that is intentionally inclusive of persons with disabilities and other differences who may not always be welcomed into other church settings”.

Spokane County is home to approximately 7,000 people who have an intellectual or developmental disability. There is not a church in Spokane, WA, or in the UM Church that is actively creating a place for this community in the way NewDay is.

What is the faith community you want to build, and how do you know you can do it?

On September 24th we got to celebrate our NewDay open house, it was the first official day after more than 9 months of visioning, praying, talking, planning, and working tirelessly toward the faith community we are building.

Over the last 9 months, I used Noah and the Ark as a recurring metaphor, God is asking us to build something, something outlandish, something ridiculous, and something outrageous. Something that will make us step out by faith and not sight. There was no water...no need to have a boat...but Noah was faithful and carried on building this boat, regardless of the odds, regardless of what the naysayers said, regardless of what it looked like to the world. Today of course we know the rest of the story...

NewDay is our Ark, plenty of people have told us that the idea is a good one, that there is definitely a need, and that somewhere, somehow, someone should do it. But it wouldn't be possible here at Fowler UMC if it was possible at all.

You ask what kind of faith community we want to build. We want to build the faith community that will help Noah build that Ark, a faith community that will roll up their sleeves and say here I am, what can I do? What can I bring? A faith community that is willing to take risks, willing to sacrifice, willing to put the needs of others before their own, willing to love their neighbors as themselves. A faith community willing to open their hearts, their minds and their doors to people who have not been included enough in the life of the church as we know it. I believe that here at NewDay we are halfway there...and I am so proud of all of those who weathered the storm, who stuck around to see what is possible with God that, to me is a miracle. And yet, we are looking for another miracle.

Halfway there...

I believe that we are halfway there...because as a church, as people of God we have struggled mightily for the past 9 month for many different reasons. 2 of which included Covid19 and a church split, both hitting us very hard here at Fowler. However, despite taking a couple of blows and taking a 9 count in the ring, we rose from the ashes. For the past 9 months we have taken risks, were willing to sacrifice, willing to put the needs of others

before our own, willing to love our neighbors as ourselves, willing to walk by faith and not by sight.

I say we are halfway there...because after the ark was build the real work began. It seems that building the Ark was the easy part. The harder part was bringing everything/everyone in and taking care of them till the waters resided.

On September the 24th we began phase 2. We opened our doors and began the real journey...living together, spending time together, lifting each other up, and worshipping together. We have seen glimpses of our second miracle. Because the community came together, and people showed up. You ask what kind of faith community we want to build.

The kind of community that doesn't flinch, doesn't stare when one of our members who isn't able to talk begins to sing in his own way, and doesn't stop when the song is over. Not one person stared at him, there were no evil eyes...I was so proud.

The kind of community who is willing to put their own way of worshipping aside to do goofy dances and movements because that is the way another member gets to experience community and the love of God.

The kind of community that gives up their grand prize to another who is more in need of that prize than they are.

A community where a pastor from another church (where many of our people left to go after our split) can sit in the back of the church and be amazed and think...that the people who are building this Ark are people who really want to be here and are exactly the people who need to be here.

A community that can sit and eat together like a family.

A community where people who have given so much, walked by faith, and are now saying, ok, I get it now, I see...

A community that reflects The Kingdom of God

Who is this work for?

Who is impacted?

Who is disciplined for the transformation of the world?

For those who have not had an opportunity to be a part of the body of Christ, because it takes too much work to make that happen. For people with disabilities, their caregivers, and their families. For all of those getting to serve others with unconditional love.

Yesterday it was the people of Fowler UMC. Today it is all the people who showed up on the 24th. Tomorrow the entire disability community in Spokane, their caregivers, and their families.

Next week, next month, next year the world.

Who is disciplined for the transformation of the world?

All of us.

I am so proud of all of you, I know this wasn't and isn't easy...but, doing God's work never is.

See you Sunday, peace...René



Every Tuesday 10:30 am Bible Study

11:00 am - Prayer Group

Every Thursday - Craft Day from 9am to noon

8th - Church Council after Service

19th - NewDay at 6pm



PRAYER

Hand of God to Touch

Families

Roxy's Family

Health and Healing

Tom and family dealing with Covid

Mia - little girl diagnosed with Type 1
Diabetes

Joan

Jean

Brandi - Possible heart transplant

Continued Prayers

Siblings dealing with age related
illness

All those dealing with cancer

All those recovering from surgery

Care

Lynn

Linda Stancil right leg

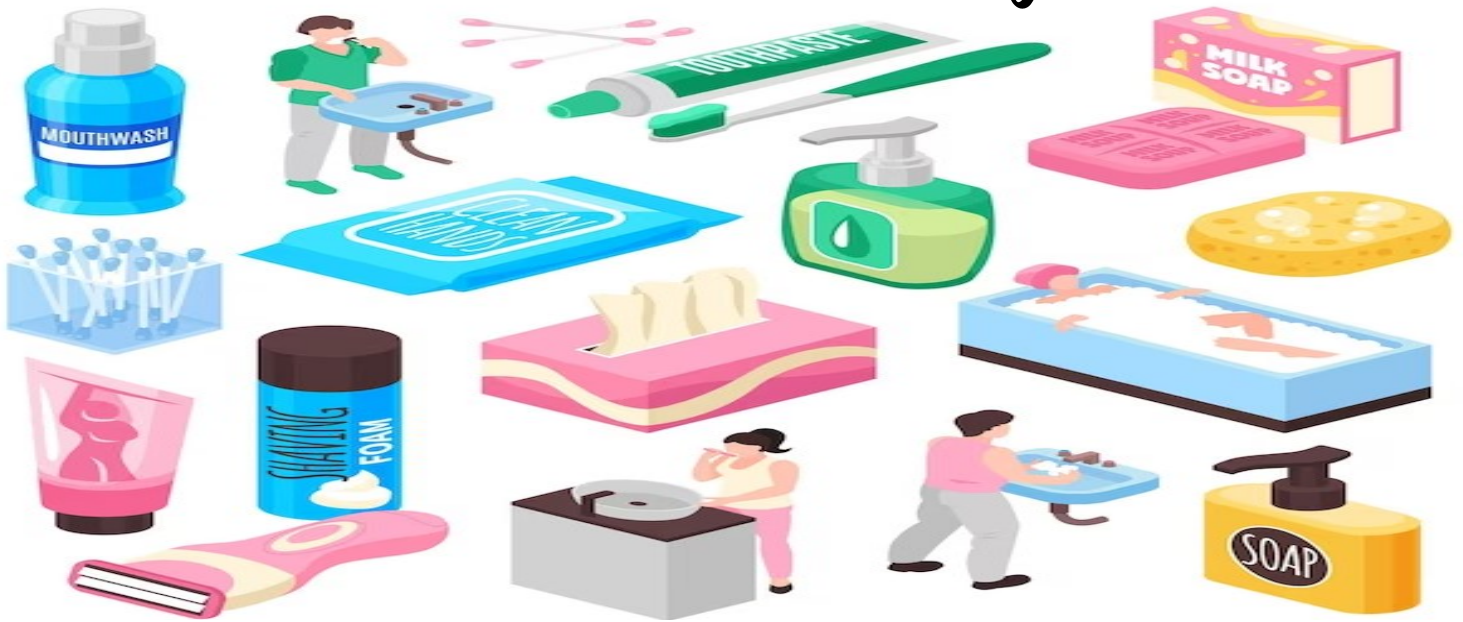
Prayers of Gratitude

Judy sent home after procedure

Daisy Mae surgery went well

Government funded for now

Caritas Challenge



Hygiene Products or Cleaning Products!

Tooth Brush, Tooth Paste, Soap, Razor, Shampoo, Feminine pads, Mouth Wash, Q tips, Tissue, Windex, Clorox, etc. . .



October Birthday

7th - Fern Rigney

14th - Jackie Whipps

24th - Gelene Griffiths

Wishing our friends and family
a "happy. . .",
a "merry. . .",
a "best wishes . . .",
and a "blessings . . ."
for their special day.



United
Women
in Faith

MEETING OCTOBER 5, 2023

Brown Bag Lunch in Corinthian Hall at Noon. Coffee and Dessert will be provided

Program and Meeting at 1 pm. We will be choosing a book to discuss.

Twenty plus women met in Sandpoint on September 16 for the Inland Missional District Annual Meeting. Our theme was "Invite, Inspire, and Influence." We were asked to name three women. The one who invited us to attend our first UWF meeting, the one who inspired us and the one who most influenced us.

Lynn Swedberg was the keynote speaker. In her role as Deaconess, Lynn serves as a disability consultant and co-developed the Annual Accessibility Audit for UM Churches. We did an audit of the Sandpoint UMC to check their accessibility.

Our unit received recognition for being a 5-star unit, we completed the requirements for the Racial Justice club, and for one member participating in the Reading Program.

Sharon

We believe
love in action
can change
the world.

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COME AND CRAFT WITH US!



The 2nd and fourth Thursday
at 9am