



# The Fowler Flashes

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Hello, my friends, my hopes and my prayers are that you, your families and friends are well. Because it feels like we are being pulled further and further away from each other (physically anyway), we need to be more aware of how God is calling us to use our individual gifts to stay deeper connection with each other.

First, an update on Howard B. He is still in a medically induced coma; he is holding steady. I talked to Shelley (their daughter) this morning. She said the report she received last night said he is doing a little better in some areas and holding in others, please keep them in your prayers.

I talked to Mel (Lorraine's sister) yesterday, Lorraine is still in the hospital, they are keeping her for a while longer to make sure everything is working after her surgery last week.

Second, I received news last evening from the Conference office...

Suspension of In-person Worship and Other Gatherings through April  
As your bishop, I am charged to lead and oversee the spiritual and temporal affairs of The United Methodist Church. For the love of God and of our neighbors in every place, today I am directing continued suspension of in-person worship through April 30, 2020. This directive is in effect for United Methodist Churches across the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington and anywhere in the Greater Northwest Area served by United Methodist clergy under my supervision. This suspension of worship includes Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. It applies to both indoor and outdoor worship, weddings and funerals and to all days of the week. Please continue to conduct worship, bible study, prayer groups, and fellowship groups if you can do so remotely. The virus is spreading in every state in the country in an invisible, vicious cycle. When a person becomes infected, symptoms don't appear for up to two weeks. If they don't follow hygiene and social distancing guidelines, they will expose others, who won't show symptoms for two weeks, while they, in turn, expose others. In order to slow the spread of the virus, and to protect health care systems from being overwhelmed, each of us must take precautions to protect ourselves and others as if we are carrying the virus ourselves and as if the people around us are infected. This is what loving ourselves and our neighbors look like for the foreseeable future, no matter where you live or whether you know anyone who has been diagnosed with the Coronavirus.

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So that would be another 6 Sundays...I know that this e-mail will not be able to be seen by all of our congregation (no computer, e-mail, etc.). So, if you are a leader of one of our Call Trees, please share this info with anyone you know falls in that category, thank you so much...

### **Worship:**

Last Sunday at 10:30 a.m. you were all invited to either follow along and read through our weekly bulletin and link to a few songs on YouTube so that we could share a time of worship together though apart. You were also invited to join Audubon UMC and to link in with their Sunday morning worship. I wonder if any of you did one or both and would love some feedback from you. Did it help? Did you feel connected? Are there other ways we can connect with each other in a meaningful way until we are back at Fowler UMC for worship? I really need to know how you are feeling about Sunday morning, so that we come up with the best solution on how we will be creating worship over those next 6 weeks.

### **Staying Connected:**

I also e-mailed out The Rest of the Story, from what would have been my message last Sunday. We have created a Call Tree, and I hope that all of you received a call, text or e-mail... please let me know if you haven't. We want to stay connected with each other, but this is new for all of us, so please be patient and kind and treat each other with grace and respect...even if we are nervous or afraid. Diane is sending out e-mails 3 times a week, sharing prayers, scriptures and good thoughts with each of you.

I know times are hard, different, and painful in so many ways. But this is not a time to throw in the towel and give up. This is a time to stand strong in our faith...As Christians, we have an opportunity now to be bearers of hope and authentic witnesses to the ways God continues to work in the midst of uncertainty, in the midst of a community under stress. We are in a stressful transition period of time at the moment. The uncertainty of "transition periods" in the church's life can be regarded as a kind of "wilderness" journey. It's appropriate that it overlaps with the Lenten season. This is a time for spiritual discernment, a time of prayer and fasting. Remember it is God who is "our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble." (Psalm 46).

### **Our Gifts:**

We all have been graced with different kinds of gifts. In Ephesians 4, we see the entire church coming together in a five-fold ministry "to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ." What does it look like for each of us as the body of Christ here at Fowler UMC, and how are is God calling us to use our individual gifts at this time and this place with the unique challenges we are facing today?

#### *Ephesians 4 - Unity in the Body of Christ*

*4I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.*

*7 But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.'*

9(When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens so that he might fill all things.) 11The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. 14We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. 15But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

**How does that break down for us today? Q5 put it this way ...if you are an...you should...**

- Apostles innovate ideas for how this can bring about positive change and creative solutions to make this work for people in new ways.
- Prophets help us to pray, to be reminded of faithfulness to God's word and also to care for the marginalized, poor, and those oppressed that this will hit hardest.
- Evangelists think about how we can be a peacemaking presence, good news, connectors, and encouragers in the midst of bad news.
- Teachers work on how we make sure people have up-to-date information, data, know how to respond, and help to make good decisions.
- Shepherds concentrate on how we can love, care, serve, connect and unite the community at this time.

This is a time for the whole church to come together. A time for the church to innovate, collaborate, and support one another. A time for us to boldly proclaim, "But I trust in you, Lord; I say, "You are my God." (Ps 31:14).

Take a look at your own gifts and graces. Ask yourself, where do I fit in that list, what could I be doing to keep the body connected during these uncertain times we are sharing with each other. Please pray with me...

Holly One  
Be with us this day, cover us with Your grace  
Help us to stay strong and to overcome  
Our trust and our faith is in You  
Amen

That is all for today...

Thank you all...may the peace of Jesus Christ be in your hearts...I look forward to hearing back from many of you with ideas, questions, and prayers...peace, René

## **April Birthdays & Anniversaries**

2nd - Maureen Lickteig

6th - Lindsay Ainsley

8th - Dick Mabbott

Melanie Fode

9th - Dan Knutson

11th - RJ Ewing

14th - Laurie Newell

15th - Marcelline Mwange

Lewis Mwange

16th - McKenah Claire Ainsley

17th - Stephanie Smith

18th - Shannon Hendrickson

Emma Koehler

Mike & Shannon Payson

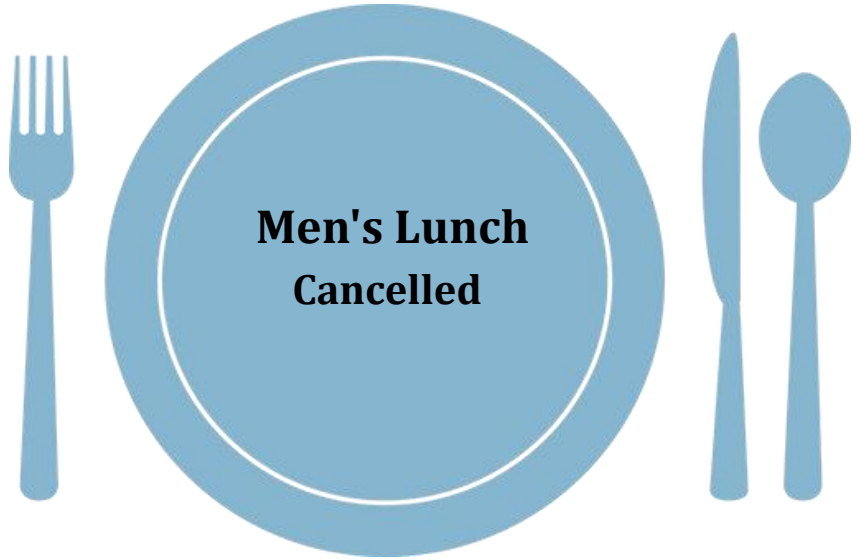
20th - Noah Kennedy-Gibbens

27th - Barbara Walker

28th - Helen Gummer

29th - Elijah Kennedy-Gibbens

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



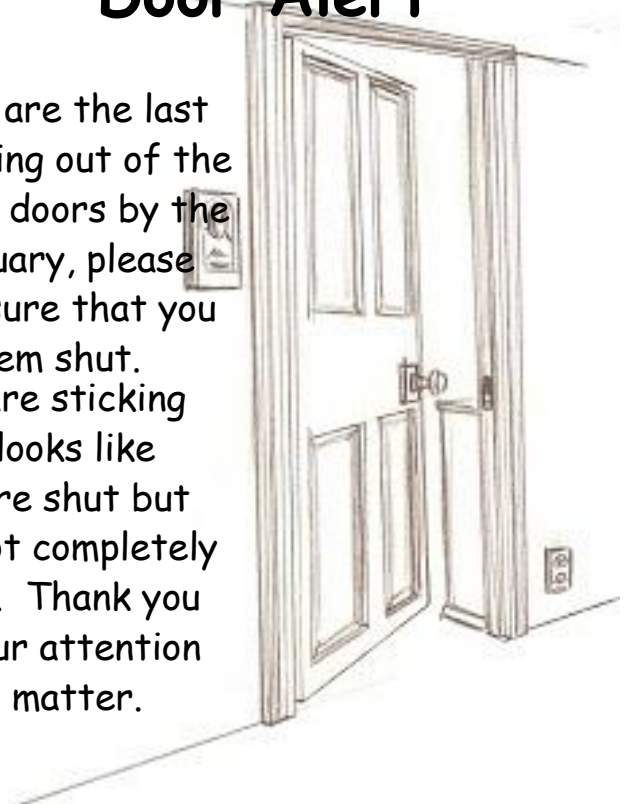
## **Coffee Hour Update:**

The new sign up sheets are posted. Please sign up !



## **Door Alert**

If you are the last one going out of the double doors by the sanctuary, please make sure that you pull them shut. They are sticking and it looks like they are shut but are not completely closed. Thank you for your attention to this matter.





# Fowler UM Women

Our April Meeting has been canceled due to Covid 19.  
The Spaghetti Feed is cancelled also.  
Please take care of yourselves and stay healthy.

Dear Ladies of the UMW, we are entering an unprecedented era for Americans with this Corona virus. We are just a tiny faction of what we and the world are facing. With God's love and support we will come through this time stronger and more loving of our fellow Americans as well as our sisters suffering around the world.

With God's Help,  
Connie

An excerpt from a prayer and responsive reading written for United Methodist Women.

**ONE:** Holy One, we come to you in this moment of uncertainly and uncharted territory – facing this unprecedented global pandemic. Amid universal fear, panic, confusion and anxiety, please remind us that you are the God that calmed the storm and made the winds to cease. We cry out to you!

**MANY:** Hear us O God of peace.

**ONE:** Benevolent Savior, you have called us to be your hands and feet in this world. As we face this crisis together, help us remember to be mindful of how we speak to, live with and treat one another. May we truly seek to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

**MANY:** Hear us O God of compassion.

**ONE:** Master Physician, there are millions now in desperate need of your healing touch. Look now upon those who are at highest risk – the immunocompromised, the elderly, those who have existing chronic health conditions, cancer patients, transplant recipients, dialysis patients, those who have been exposed to COVID-19 and are seeking testing or immediate medical attention.

**MANY:** Hear us O God our healer.

Written by Rev. Dionne P Boissiere, chaplain at the Church Center for the United Nations.  
*For the remainder of the prayer, go to [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org).*

# Church Information/News

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources

The Greater Northwest Area of the United Methodist Church- shares information on the Coronavirus. Click here for the latest information

<https://greaternw.org/coronavirus/>

With many unable or fearful to go out and churches closed for the next two weeks. The District compiled a list of churches who are offering on-line worship. [Click here for the list.](#)

Here's a <https://greaternw.org/event-cancellations-due-to-covid-19/> due to the virus.

A link to the WA. Department of Health Coronavirus Outbreak (Covid-19) Information. <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>. This information is updated regularly and has information on symptoms, testing and resources for the community.

A Link to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website with facts about Coronavirus

### HEALTH/HEALING

Howard and Sandy Ballou

Lorraine Chase

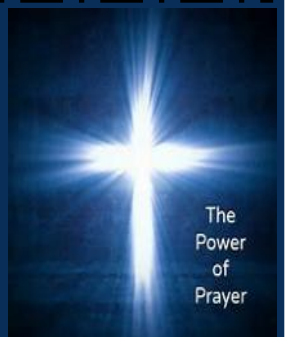
### UPLIFTING PRAYERS FOR:

Our Church and the neighborhood.

The Homebound

All those with Covid-19 and their families

If you or your loved ones are in need of prayer, please contact the office to be added to the prayer list.







# March Music Notes from Nathan

## Music Notes from Nathan

Spring greetings friends here at Fowler. to state the obvious, we are all adjusting to many current international, national, and local changes right now as we combine our efforts to minimize social activity in the hopes of slowing down the spread of the coronavirus. What that means for us in the days and weeks to come as a faith community is a bit uncertain...but for the time being we are taking a pause from rehearsals for the following groups:

**-The Worship Band    -The Handbell Ensemble    -The Fowler Choir**

Our church is working with our conference and bishop to gain direction as to when and how we can safely gather back together. We hope change is soon and swift so that we can continue in some form of normality as we journey towards Easter Sunday, April 12. In our coming days of limited activity and socialization my hope for each of you is that this time might gift you with the opportunity to see beauty in places you would typically not and perhaps, this time might encourage you to pick up a new skill or finish some project around home that keeps being put off.

God's peace be with each one of you until we meet again in song, melody, rhythm, and praise here at Fowler UMC.

Nathan KG

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## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

### Hi Youth!



This is a very unusual time in our world. I will be sending messages, cards, and surprises to lift your spirits. If you need food, personal items, or loving support, please call me at 509-703-3893. If you need educational support remember I taught high school and middle school for many years. We planned to go to the Garlan Theater this month, but we can reschedule when we are safe together. Looking ahead, we have Convo to attend at the end of May. Hopefully we can take a group over. We have many fun outings planned for spring/summer. We will also plan for the Twinlow Mission Trip in August!

When we are safe together, I am teaching a worship dance class. If you are interested, please email me at [shelleybarton2019@yahoo.com](mailto:shelleybarton2019@yahoo.com). I am also looking to pair up youth and adults to mentor our kids here or outside the church. We will be celebrating all of the Graduates here. Please let me know what your High School plans to do!

In the Bible God says "Fear Not" 365 times@ Take a moment each day to thank God for everything you have, take note of what He said, "Fear Not..."

"So, do not fear, for I am with you: do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will up hold you with my righteous right hand" Isaiah 41:10.

Our awesome God will protect us and will make ashes into something beautiful.

Many prayers and hugs

Shelley

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