



The Fowler Flashes

Volume 63
Issue 5
April 2021

Let us be good neighbors!

One of the biggest ways our church can serve the surrounding community is by being a good neighbor. People who live around our church will notice our actions much more than what is on our sign outside. Here at Fowler UMC, we have an incredible opportunity. We are nestled in the middle of a neighborhood. So, we already are neighbors; all we must do now is add the good part. How do we do that? Glad you asked. There is a shortlist below...so as we begin gathering again as a church in worship and small groups, let us be thankful and remember why we are a church, and what a church is commissioned to do...to be disciples and make disciples. One way to do both is by being a good neighbor...please look at the list below and decide on how you, personally, and we as a church can accomplish that task.

1. **Trash Pickup** - Hold service days to pick up trash on the street. This may sound menial, but small acts of service show your neighbors that you care and view yourself as part of the community. This can make a big difference.
2. **Parking** - Be considerate with your parking during weekend services. Don't park on the street if possible, and if you have to park on the street, talk to neighbors to see if they have any concerns, especially if they are residential neighbors.
3. **Seasonal Festival for Kids** - Families are always looking for free, kid-friendly activities. Host a seasonal festival that is open to the community and feels like a genuine way to connect with the people on your street and in the community, versus a sales pitch to come to the church. People are more likely to visit your church when they see you are interested in genuine relationships. These outreach events can be fun and casual such as a fall festival, an Easter egg hunt, or even a Christmas pageant.
4. **Book Drive** - Hold an annual book drive for a local school. Talk to the school leadership to find out their needs. With budget cuts, most schools can benefit from donations of required reading books as well as other children's literature.
5. **Tutoring** - Offer tutoring for local school children or a school in need. You can work with the administration to set it up for after the school day is over or host a tutoring session at your church one night a week — with pizza.
6. **Lunch Buddy** - Work with your local school or a school in need to set

The Pastor's Pen	1
Birthdays, Prayers	4
Calendar Trustees and thanks	5
UMW	6
Music News Youth Group News	7
Back Cover	8

up a lunch buddy program. The school will identify kids who need extra attention and care, and a church member can meet them for lunch at school once a week or once a month. A lot of kids can benefit from a caring adult who just wants to be their friend and read to them and potentially tutor.

7. **Baby Supplies** - Provide an infant and new mother pantry at church where you keep essential baby supplies such as diapers, formula, bottles, blankets, and baby clothes to help struggling moms. Also, stock supplies for the moms such as maternity clothes, feminine products, and other items they may need.

Career Help

8. **Resume Assistance** - Help people create or edit their resume and provide computers and printers. Print different formats and examples that they can reference. People may need help thinking through their skills and abilities.

9. **Career Counseling** - Prior to the session, talk to church members and local business owners to see what jobs are available or where new opportunities could exist. Then when you meet with people, help them think through what they are good at and what skills and experiences they have.

10. **Clothing Closet** - Provide a clothing closet with gently used business attire that people can buy at a minimal price or receive for free. If possible, have people buy clothes, even if for a quarter apiece. It creates personal investment and retains dignity. Open the closet for donations from the church community and have church members scout out thrift shops for career pieces that are in good repair.

11. **Interview Coaching** - A key part of getting a job is knowing how to interview and being prepared for different questions. Coach people on interview skills and how to present themselves in an interview. Also you prepare them for the different types of questions that might be asked.

12. **Financial Counseling** - Many people lack the knowledge or discipline to manage their money well. In *When Helping Hurts*, the authors suggest that there is a tremendous opportunity for churches to provide basic financial education, such as Christian stewardship, budgeting, goal setting, saving, debt reductions, record keeping, tithing, taxes, banking, managing credit, and more.

13. **Job Fair** - Host a quarterly or annual job fair that encompasses all aspects of job searching to help the people in your community.

Support Groups and Serving Community Helpers

Grief Support - Consider hosting a grief support group that is open to the public. Many people who are hurting benefit from having a group to turn to for practical help and emotional support.

14. **Mental Health** - With a rise in mental health awareness, consider hosting a support group for those who struggle with depression, bipolar, or anxiety. Offer connections to licensed counselors and consider hosting a group for family members of those who struggle. They carry a larger burden than most realize and can benefit from a support group also.

15. **Community Helpers** - Host an annual breakfast for your local fire station and/or police department or bring coffee and bagels to their place of work as a way to say thank you for their service.

Classes

16. **ESL and Literacy** - Gather multilingual volunteers to teach English as a Second Language (ESL). It is a tangible way to serve, and the positive impact will benefit entire families.

17. **Exercise Classes** - Many people can't afford a gym membership, but they would benefit from exercise classes. Consider hosting an exercise class or multiple classes that are open to the public.

18. **Cooking Classes** - Offer periodic cooking classes that teach people how to make heart-healthy food that nourishes the body and soul. Also let people know where to find affordable groceries, especially fresh produce.

19. **Community Garden or Produce Stand** - For neighborhoods that are considered "food deserts," consider offering fresh fruit and vegetables at cost or for a minimal cost, depending on your budget. If you have land, host a community garden where people can come grow their own food. If you don't have land, you can work with a local farmer or have someone go to a discount store to buy fruits and vegetables.

20. **Parenting Classes** - Offer parenting classes at your church or partner with a local community center to offer these classes. You can speak on a range of topics from child development to teen anxiety and media use. Gauge what topics your audience is interested to learn and go from there.

21. **Music Lessons**

22. **Quilting Classes**

Best Practices for Action

23. **Pray** - Gather groups of church members together to pray and ask God to show you how and where to serve.

24. **Research** - Do your research beforehand and see what others have done in the past and what has worked and what hasn't. Do your research on the history of the area/neighborhood where your church is located. Talk to local leaders and social workers.

25. **Partner with other Churches** - One of the best ways you can set an example in the community is by partnering with your larger church community to serve together. This shows that you care more about the act of service than any one church or person getting credit. Before you get started, talk to other churches to see if anyone is doing something similar or has done something similar in the past. You can either partner with them or learn from them.

26. **Don't Duplicate** - If another church or group is already doing something similar to what we want to do, let us not duplicate their work. We could find a way to partner with them or if that's not an option, find another way for our church to serve. There are plenty of needs, so don't overrun one sector with volunteers leaving other areas lacking.

There is a lot to think about. Let us be in prayer over these next few days and weeks on how God is calling us to be a good neighbor to the Garland district.

Also, FYI, just wanted to let you know we are working on a plan on how and when to resume in person worship. All kinds of things are in motion, all kinds of ideas are floating, there will be more news in the next couple of weeks. Please be in prayer for our church so that we can fill the need we have to come back to as a community, but also do it in a safe and respectful way.

Peace, pastor René

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

2nd - Mugisho Raphael

4th - Carol Kennedy

9th Robert & Linda Hammer

12th - Matthew Cannata

13th - Josmin Niyukuri

16th - Katie Laurier

 Zoey Kopelman

17th - Amiri Mohamad

20th - Lance & Lisa Laurier

22nd - Mary Mwange

23rd - Ryan Reeves

 Susan Walker

25th - Beni Mwange

26th - Tom & Judy Knutson

27th - Marie Mwange

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

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



HEALTH/HEALING

All that are recovering

All that are lost or lonely

All dealing with health issues and their Recovery

For those that are dealing with problems,

loss of loved ones, and loss of jobs

Prayers for sister who needs uplifting

Prayers for Evan, Shelley's brother, who is

suffering from cancer

Dan & Wendy - health

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Thanks for a Good Week

For Visit with family!

For the chance to get the vaccine

For the cleaning of the Church property

Help from friends and family

Son recognized for his service @ Lewis-Clark
College in Lewiston.

Note From the Trustees

The trustees held a work party that cleaned up the outside of the church. Leaves and maple tree seeds we're blown off of the roof, the shrubs were pruned including the roses, and the leaves were raked up. Many thanks goes to Bob and Laurie Newell, Dave Olsen, and Landon Abernathy for all their hard work and effort. The irrigation is now turned on and the grass should be greening up soon. Again, many thanks to the volunteers that helped beautify the outside of our church.

Lance Abernathy

Thank You!

Thank you to all who made the Easter Baskets and filled them with candy. A special thanks to Tom who delivered the basket to me.

I miss my church and my church family. We, the residents of Fairwinds Retirement Community, can now have visitors. No more than 3 at a time though. I am doing well too.

God Bless you all!

Carolyn Tobeck

May Calendar

Worship Online Sunday at 8am

4th - 10am Prayer Group
11am- Koinonia
1pm - Koinonia Bible Study
2pn - Life's Lessons

6th - 10 am Small Group
Noon UMW Meeting

11th - 10am Prayer Group
11am- Koinonia
1pm - Koinonia Bible Study
2pn - Life's Lessons

13th - 10 am Small Group

18th - 10am Prayer Group
11am- Koinonia
1pm - Koinonia Bible Study
2pn - Life's Lessons

20th - 10 am Small Group

25th- 10am Prayer Group
11am- Koinonia
1pm - Koinonia Bible Study
2pn - Life's Lessons

27th - 10 am Small Group



Fowler United Methodist Women

THE FOWLER UNIT IS MEETING IN MAY!

JOIN US IN CORINTHIAN HALL ON MAY 6

Bring your sack lunch and join us for lunch, a program and fellowship at noon. The program will be our annual Call to Prayer and Self-Denial based on the story of the daughters of Zelophehad from Numbers 27:1-8. The sisters petition Moses to be given part of their father's inheritance.

United Methodist Women support national and international institutions that promote leadership and well-being of underserved women, children and families. Projects include GED, ESL, job readiness, life skills and livelihood training, scholarships and microenterprise programs.

Training for Transformation is one of the programs in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and Sierra Leone supported by mission giving. Women trained for transformation have improved standards of living for themselves, their families and communities. Like the daughters of Zelophehad, they receive increased confidence and knowledge to address current issues and enable them to stand for justice.



Music Notes from Nathan

Spring greetings, friends from the Kennedy-Gibbens family. I hope this note finds each of you well as we anticipate the long awaited process of coming back together again in community after a very long time of being physically apart. Tamara and the boys are all staying busy with the many details of school and with big changes with their schedules as they move into the final quarter of the school year. As I pause to reflect on where we are and where we are going I want to leave you with three overarching changes that have or will be taking place:

1. The boys are beginning **full time school in person** starting tomorrow. They have been home due to covid the entire year learning online but the Mead School District has now made the change to get students back in person. This will be a BIG routine change for us to readapt to and we are certainly grateful for the safety measures the district has adapted in conjunction with vaccinations that are allowing schools to reopen.
2. Tamara and myself are now almost **fully vaccinated**...I have my second shot to go and this is going to allow us more freely enter back into community. Our country is so fortunate to have vaccines available to not only all adults but also to anyone 16 and over.
3. My energies at the church will begin to shift to help us find ways to **reopen safely** as we begin discussion on how to make in person worship and music available to each of you. I miss you all and look forward to welcoming you back into Christian worship and fellowship.

May the all surrounding mystery of God's loving presence be with each one of you and hope to see you all soon,

Nathan Kennedy-Gibbens

YOUTH & CHILDREN NEWS



Hi to our youth and loved ones from church!

We are finally gathering together! Here are the "Tentative" Dates:

May 16th in the afternoon Visit Erike & Rebecca's home for "donation drop off".

May 21st and 28th in late afternoon helping with the sign at the Prices'.

June 6th in the afternoon Dwight Merkel Park get together/walk.

June 11th - 13th or later June ...Graduation 2021 celebrating/recognition!!!

I have missed you all!

Finally we can see each other, Masks required!

Dates may Change.

The church leaders are working a plan to gather for Worship too!!

Shelley

Fowler United Methodist Church

3928 N. Howard Street
Spokane, WA 99205
Fowlerumc@yahoo.com
509-325-3242



Fowler Flashes

is published monthly by
**Fowler United
Methodist Church**
3928 N. Howard St.
Spokane, WA 99205
(509) 325-3242

Facebook: [FowlerUnited
MethodistChurch](#)
fowlerumc@yahoo.com

Pastor:
Rev. René Devantier
Editor: Diane Strobeck
©2021 Fowler
United Methodist
Church