

April 2023

FOWLER FLASHES

Vol 67 Issue 4

Pastoral News

Hi friends,

I hope that this note finds you all well.

Let me keep you updated on what is happening with NewDay and all of the buzz around that. As far as the conference is concerned, so far so good. They are on board and here is part of the last letter I received from Jess Bielman from the office in Olympia.

The Innovation Vitality Team is excited about the work at Fowler UMC under the leadership of Pastor René Devantier. We have identified René as an Innovator/Pastor who can bring a new contextual focus to local church that is ready for change. We believe he can build on the existing congregation's history, leadership, relationships, and structure as a launching point for new direction and ministry. Lynn Swedberg is a leading voice in the area of ministry to the disabled community, she is UMC, and is local to Spokane.

Three focus areas for viability work for a church a revitalization project at Fowler that centers around the disability community include:

Focus #1

Is the building ready for this work? What are the spaces that are currently in a good shape

What's In This Month's Issue:

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

April Calendar

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

Worship @ 10:30

19th Soup Challenge

6th UWF @ noon

Maundy Thursday 6pm

4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th

Tops @ 9

Prayer Group @ 10:30

Bible Study @ 11

20th

Disabilities Meeting @ 6

Flashes Articles Due

13th

Crafting Group 9 till noon

27th

Craft Show Setup

28th & 29th

Craft Show from 9am to 5pm

for this evolving mission? What are the spaces that will need renovation? What are the minor and major renovations? What are the costs? What ministry can be done right away with little building work? What will need long-term planning?

Focus #2

What financial model is needed for this project to succeed? What grant opportunities exist? What is the expectation upon tithing? What expectation for revenue generation is there within the building? What partnerships are needed? What other creative ideas are there that can be explored? What are the UMC pathways? What might a partnership with the IV Team look like financially?

Focus #3

Partnerships and Community Engagement

A shift of this degree means more than making Sunday morning more accessible. It is a change in focus for the life and mission of the church. It is a ministry to, with, and for a particular context. What are the community partners that engaged the disability community? What does a spiritual community partnership look like to them?

So, this is where we are, we will be doing this work over the next 3 months while documenting our efforts along the way. The Bishop and his Cabinet will have the final say in July of this year. This is super exciting, and I am so very proud of all of you for taking this step...I am sure God is pleased with the faithfulness we are living out here at Fowler.

Remember that we are not wanting to simply create a 'program' that deals with people that have disabilities, but a ministry that comes alongside all people loved and valued by God (p.s. that's everyone). It is opening the doors here at Fowler to include those with disabilities to fully participate in the life of the Body of Christ. As Paul expresses in 1 Corinthians 12:22 (NLT), all the "parts of the body are important and necessary."

All of us are looking for a place to belong, to be valued, to know and be known. We all long to be part of a community that brings meaning, purpose, and opportunities to contribute as well as to receive. Here at NewDay we are seeking to create a place that provides for a corporate expression of our faith in Christ that communicates "I am not alone in my journey."

An inclusive ministry is one which enables, empowers and engages all persons within the worshipping community, regardless of ability. This stems from a belief that God has created us as equally valued people in His image. "Let us create man in OUR Image" (Gen 1:26). The image of God is best reflected *in community*.

"The challenge of learning to know, to be with, and care for [people with disabilities] is nothing less than learning to know, be with, God"

~ Amos Yong [1]

Our Catchphrase should be...

"Ministry *by* and *with* people with disabilities,"

This is where we are, if you are interested and want to know more or get more involved, our next NewDay meeting is scheduled for April 20th 6:00 pm.

Peace, rené

Salad Potluck



It's Potluck time!

Bring your favorite salad dish or part of a salad.

Tomatoes, Lettuce, Cucumbers, Onions, Greek Salad,

Potatoe Salad, Chicken Salad, Jello Salad, etc . . .

Come and enjoy food and fellowship April 16th right after the morning service.

Mother's Day Craft Show



April 28 & 29
from 9 to 5

Lunch available for \$8
at Fowler UMC
3928 N Howard

Craft Vendors!

To reserve a booth please
contact Roxy at 2088097429



Caritas Challenge



This month's challenge is Peanut Butter and Jelly!

Let's get at least 50 jars!

We can do this!



2nd Maureen Lickteig

8th Dick Mabbott

9th Dan Knutson

11th RJ Ewing

14th Laurie Newell

20th Noah Kennedy-Gibbens

28th Helen Gummer

29th Elijah Kennedy-Gibbens

PRAYER

Hand of God to Touch

A New Day

Guidance

Mental health

Family of Lois Tipple who passed on the 15

Immigrants in fire in Mexico

Ken testing

Nashville school shooting victims and
families

Travel Mercies

Mother-in-law's Birthday

Roberta doctors appointment

Health and Healing

Linda Stancil

Harmon Brotnov from Clarkston UM

Jake's mom as she prepares for less invasive
heart surgery on the 29th

June – very sick

Mental Health

Continued Prayers

Sandee with cardiology appointment

R'chelle, Sindie's daughter, getting better

Brandi conditions getting worse

Prayers of Gratitude

Prayers Answered



United
Women
in Faith



The April meeting of United Women in Faith will be on Holy Thursday, April 6 at noon. Bring your lunch and join us.

Joan Grater will lead us in the study of the Lord's Prayer.
Our Hostess will be Phyllis Dunlap.

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

Fowlerumc.org

Pastor:

Rev. René Devantier
Editor: Diane Strobeck
©2023 Fowler United
Methodist Church



COME AND CRAFT WITH US!



The 2nd and fourth Thursday
at 9am