



The Fowler Flashes

Volume 60

Issue 1

January 2020

Hello everyone, I hope and pray this note finds you well. It is time to take off your shoes...and to prepare your heart and mind, we are about to journey to a Holy Place, needing to step on Holy Ground...so, what exactly makes a place holy? Good question: I, personally think about sacred and or holy things, places, or even moments in time as being set aside for God. These places or times are set apart from the everyday, conventional, or typical. If I set an hour every morning to be my time with God, I might call it my holy time, even my holy place if I use the same space every day.

Someone might ask if...if God is within us, why do we need holy places? Another good question: There are many holy places out there...most religions have holy places. As Christians, when we talk about holy places, we often think of a place as holy/sacred because something that has happened at that place, or there is a religious story that has meaning for us. I know a few Methodists who have visited different sites in England where John Wesley lived or preached, would I call those places holy? Someone might? But people sure loved seeing where John and Charles grew up. As a Christian, we might be very interested in visiting holy places. I have never been, but I hear amazing stories about visiting the Holy Land. Often devout people take yearly pilgrimages to different places all over the world because they have been known to stir up profound moments of prayer or contemplation. Holy spaces can help us to find solitude, connect us to the past, gives us time for introspection, and an opportunity for deep meditation where we can listen for God's voice speaking to us. Removed from our loud, domineering and stress filled everyday lives, we might even be touched in some unexplainable way, knowing that a saint, or a martyr, or even Jesus or John may have walked that exact path I am walking on right now. My very own footsteps covering up their footsteps. This gives a whole new meaning to walking in Jesus' dust.

I once read the story of a man who when he visited the well Jesus spoke with the Samaritan women, (Jacob's Well), he sat on the edge and slowly scooted himself completely around the well as he sat. When asked why he had done this (a fairly odd behavior, involving awkward movements in a public setting), he simply said that it was because he wanted to be sure that he had sat in the exact spot where Jesus had sat. I get that...

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This January, Gary and I will take you on a 7- week journey back to the Holy Land where it all began. The Holy Land is an amazing place. It is filled with an incredibly rich history, not only because of the land itself but also for the people that lived there. The stories of the Garden of Eden, the Exodus, Jerusalem, and Damascus fill the pages of the Bible. We want us to reconnect our spirit to our common Christian past, by seeing the places, and by hearing the stories which have been told from the beginning of time.

Jan 05 - The Garden of Eden - Genesis 2:8-18

Jan 12 - The Red Sea - Exodus 14:13-18 & 24-29

Jan 19 - The Wilderness - Exodus 16:1-5

Jan 26 - Israel/Judah & the Sinai - Deuteronomy 7:6-8

Feb 2 - Nazareth - Matthew 13:54-58

Feb 9 - Jerusalem - Revelation 21:10-14 & 22-27

Feb 16 - Damascus - Acts 9:1-19

So pack your bags and get ready to explore, come and join us, come and meet Moses, Pharaoh, and maybe even Jesus. Come and see . . .

Peace, Pastor René

HEALTH/HEALING:

Lance Abernathy

Dan Montgomery

Young neighborhood Mom diagnosed with Cancer.

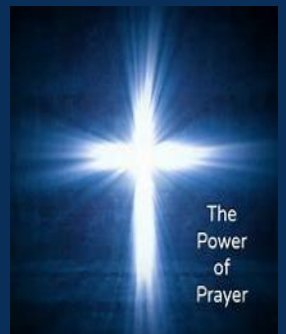
Sylvia - Dotie Godley's Mother

Dean Robison

Sue Robinson

Dan Montgomery diagnosed with Bladder Cancer

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



SPECIAL UPLIFTING PRAYERS FOR:

Traveling mercies for all travelers during the Christmas Season.

The family of Grace Barnes (Su's Aunt Grace). She passed away Tuesday morning.

PRAISES AND THANKSGIVINGS:

Anniversary Congratulations and Blessings for:

Carol and Ron Ring on their 60th

Bev and John Parrott on their 65th

Dotie and John Godley

January 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|--|--|---|-----|-----|
| | | | 1 | 2 12:15 Men's Lunch at Golden Corral 3 -4 pm Advent Choir | 3 | 4 |
| 5 9 - 10:15 Children & Youth Breakfast and Sunday School 9:15 am - Adult S. S. 10:30 - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour 5:00 - Marafikki | 6 | 7 9:00 - Tops 10:00 - Prayer Group 11:00 - Koinonia 1:00 - Koinonia Bible Study | 8 12 pm Sophia Circle 3:30- 4:26 - Advent Choir Practice 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 UMW Book Club @ Denny's | 9 12:00 UMW Meeting 10-12 pm Craft Group 10-12 pm Sewing Group 1-3 pm My AG Group 1pm Staff Meeting 2:30 p, Worship Committee Meeting | 10 | 11 |
| 12 9 - 10:15 Children & Youth Breakfast and Sunday School 9:15 am - Adult S. S. 10:30 - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour | 13 | 14 9:9:00 - Tops 10:00 - Prayer Group 11:00 - Koinonia 1:00 - Koinonia Bible Study | 15 12 pm - Sophia Circle 6:00 pm Bible Study | 16 2:30pm - Worship Meeting Flashes Articles Due | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9 - 10:15 Children & Youth Breakfast and Sunday School 9:15 am - Adult S. S. 10:30 - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour 5:00 - Marafikki | 20 | 21 9:00 - Tops 10:00 - Prayer Group 11:00 - Koinonia 1:00 - Koinonia Bible Study | 22 12 pm - Sophia Circle 6:00 pm Bible Study | 23 10-12 pm Sewing Group 1pm Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Prep & Mail Flashes | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9 - 10:15 Children & Youth Breakfast and Sunday School 9:15 am - Adult S. S. 10:30 - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour 5:00 - Marafikki | 27 | 28 9:00 - Tops 10:00 - Prayer Group 11:00 - Koinonia 1:00 - Koinonia Bible Study | 29 12 pm - Sophia Circle 6:00 pm Bible Study | 30 | 31 | |

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

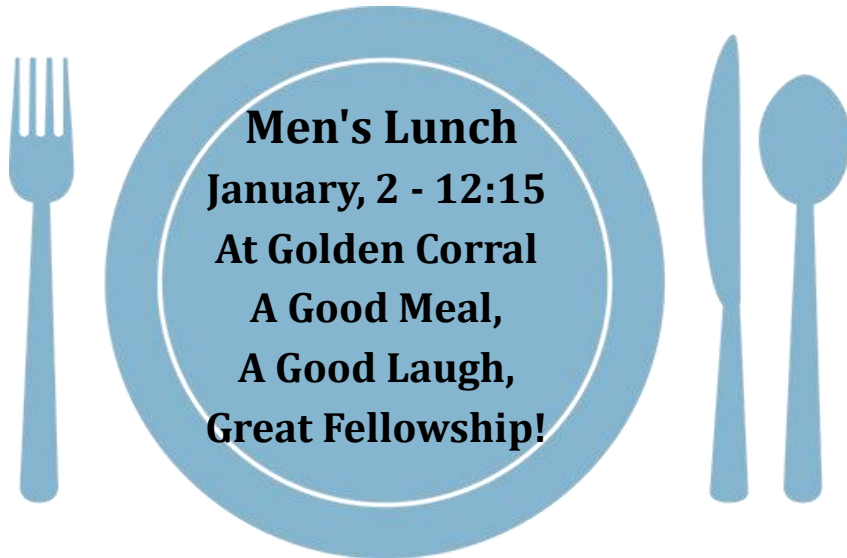
1 - Jill Berg
 1 - Seenam Mohamad
 1 - Roujan Mohamad
 1 - Mayani Mugugombela
 1 - Cory Sherman
 1 - Dick Thompson
 2 - Phyllis Dunlap
 6 - Marguerite Wilson
 7 - Ellen Kelly
 9 - Bud Griffiths
 10 - Eugene Field
 11 - Courtney Comstock
 13 - JoAnn Glass
 15 - Glenn Kennedy
 15 - Therese Niyirero
 19 - Judy Fowler
 20 - Jamml Mohamad
 21 - Jason LaFrance
 24 - Anna Koehler
 25 - Melanie Nilles
 25 - Ashlynn Rima

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



HELP!!!!

Our Blessings Box is running low. Can you help? Please bring food items for our box. Examples are cereal, oatmeal, can vegetables, soup, pasta, dry beans, rice, etc. . . . Goodies work too!



Coffee Hour Update:

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



Pastor René is available to talk with any who need a helpful ear. Just call him at the office or on his cell phone to schedule a time.





The Fowler United Methodist Women will meet on **Thursday, January 9, 2020** in Corinthian Hall at noon. Please note it will be the **second** Thursday. Joan Schuman and Mable Pangl will be providing lunch. The program will be a pledge service and we will set the budget for the year 2020.

The First Charter for Racial Justice

Bold: "On the evening of January 9, 1952, at Buck Hill Falls, the report of the committee on Racial Practices was brought to the Women's Division by Mrs. James Oldshue, chairman. An artist had written the new Charter of Racial Policies on a large wallboard visible to the entire group. After discussion, the charter was adopted unanimously by a standing vote. ..."

Charter of Racial Policies 1952

- We believe that God is the Father of all people of all races and we are His children in one family.
- We believe that the personality of every human being is sacred.
- We believe that opportunities for fellowship and service, for personal growth and for freedom in every aspect of life are inherent rights of every individual.
- We believe that the visible church of Jesus Christ must demonstrate these principles within its own organization and program.
- We believe that the Women's Division as an agency of The Methodist Church must build in every area it may touch, a fellowship and social order without racial barriers.
- We believe that progress may be advanced by declaring emphatically those policies on which the Women's Division is determined to move in order to come nearer the ideal.

CHARGE CONFERENCE 2019

Fowler's 2019 Charge Conference was held November 8, 2019 at Moran Prairie United Methodist Church. Members of our congregation who attended voted to:

- ♦ Approve the 2020 List of Officers
- ♦ Approve Pastoral Salary as defined by Pastoral Worksheet
- ♦ Accept 2018 Audit as reported by Audit Committee
- ♦ Confirm appointment of Dan Montgomery as Lay Speaker for 2020
- ♦ Confirm Sue Robinson as Certified Lay Minister for 2020

Gary King assured us that our non-profit status and insurance coverage were up to date. Lorraine Chase assured us that we adhere to our Safe Sanctuary policy, that background checks are done on anyone working with our children and youth and that leaders are completing an Awareness Training Program provided and administered by the PNW Conference.

LEADERSHIP FOR 2020

TRUSTEES:

Claudia Hart, David Olsen, Susan Walker, Dick Thompson, Tom Bryan,
Bob Nilles, Lance Abernathy (chair)

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS:

Dick Thompson, Claudia Hart, Jill Berg, Howard Ballou, Larry Price,
Lorraine Chase (chair)

FINANCE:

Gary King (chair), Bob Newell (Treasurer), Joan Schuman and Mable Pangle
(Finance Secretaries), Carol Vrolsen and Connie Lanzinger (Recorders),
Susan Walker (Special Funds)

WORSHIP:

Joan Schuman, Judy Knutson, Dan Montgomery, Robert Hammer, Linda Hammer, Vonnie Fergen, Laurie Newell (chair)

OTHERS WHO ANSWER "HERE I AM, LORD":

Communion Stewards Sharon Houston and Tim Lloyd
Youth Coordinator/Children's Ministry Shelley Barton
Music Coordinator Nathan Kennedy-Gibbens
Membership Secretary Linda Stancil

Lay Leader and Lay Member to Annual Conference Dick Thompson
United Methodist Women President Connie Lanzinger

Head Usher and Greeter Robert and Linda Hammer

And so many others who give time and attention to Fowler's mission.

We give thanks to each and every one of those who serve.



January Music Notes from Nathan

Advent greetings, friends here at Fowler...here's a few updates for late December into January in regards to our music ministry:

-Our Advent/Christmas Choir has been a true blessing for me to coordinate with many of you. Thanks to each of our participants in coming together to help lift up the sounds of the season! Our choir will continue to assist with music in worship through January 12 and at that time will take a break until we resume in the early spring...preparations for Easter!

-Our Worship Band will also continue to assist with music until mid-January and at that time we will take a few weeks off of the responsibilities of helping to support the singing for worship. Thanks to each one of you who have been faithful contributors with this ensemble.

-In looking ahead...our next short term music group is our Lenten Hand Bell Ensemble! I plan to get this new group going by early February and our season will last through mid April. More to come on this music opportunity of service...

-And finally, as always, I welcome each of your ideas, suggestions, and music contributions so feel free as the Spirit moves you to reach out and connect by contacting me! Blessings to each one of you as we continue to journey through Advent together here at Fowler UMC.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Greetings and Merry Christmas!

Our youth have been very busy this month cleaning and decorating our youth room. They cleaned out years and years of items that were piled up. Then refreshed the room with lights, decorative items, music, and more recently beautiful murals on the walls. I supplied what they asked for and they took on the task of making the room their own! I am so proud of them! Our service project this month is Project Teddy Bear! We have received many bears that will be distributed to the fire departments and hospitals. They continue to amaze me by their dedication and leadership. We are so thankful for your support and loving hearts. We are looking forward to an amazing year of fun and service!

If you are interested in more information about the Youth Group or any of the upcoming activities, please contact Shelley Barton at 509-703-3893



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May every day of the
new year glow with
good cheer and
happiness for you and
your family.
Happy New Year
2020

Fowler Flashes

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