

Pastoral News

Hello, my friends, it is my prayer and my hope that this note finds you all well. As we are making our way into 2023, I for one am trying to leave behind the dark years of Covid and a church split which left Fowler in a place of real gloominess. But 2023 has brought us new hope, new light, and a new plan. It is my prayer that we might not dwell on the past but move forward, looking ahead to the plans God has for Fowler.

Jeremiah 29:11 - 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

As we are now moving forward with God's plan into that New Day and that new hope, we also must realize that changes need to be made. The good old days aren't with us anymore and the things that may have worked then...well, many of those things are not working anymore today. We used to say build it and they will come, open the doors stand back and watch God's house fill up. Those days are gone as today we must compete with hundreds of other churches, TV evangelists, online services, and sports. Not to mention the general decline of people wanting to be associated with a church.

As we are preparing to make some of those big changes here at Fowler, I think we need to remember that these plans are God's plans. We need to simply walk in faith and be obedient, and listen to God to what our next steps will be.

What's In This Month's Issue:

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

FEBRUARY Calendar

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

Worship @ 10:30

19th Taco Bar

2nd UWF @ noon

7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th

Tops @ 9

Prayer Group @ 10:30

Bible Study @ 11

9th

Disabilities Meeting @ 6

9th & 23rd

Crafting Group 9 till noon

12th

Ad Council meeting at noon

23rd

Flashes Articles Due

Although we all want to hear God, actually doing it, for most of us, is sort of a mysterious process. We often don't know how to hear God consistently, if at all. Yet hearing and understanding what God is saying is critical for our light unto our path. As we look at people in the Bible who heard from God, Samuel was one of the best. The story of Samuel is found in 1 Samuel 3:1-10.

Samuel, who was just a boy, was living and serving the priest in the temple. We are told that "the word of the LORD was rare in those days" (v.1 ESV). Not many people were hearing the voice of God, yet this young man was about to experience something many people in the land of Israel had not seen or heard for quite some time; Samuel was about to hear from the LORD.

As we look at this story about Samuel, there are six steps that can take some of the mystery out of hearing the voice of God:

1. Stay close to God

Samuel set his bed up in the temple, "**where the ark of God was**" (v.3 ESV). Samuel had never heard God speak before, he did not know what to expect, but what he did know was that if he hung around the temple, God would eventually show up.

2. Find a place of regular service to God

In v.1 it says, "**Samuel was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli**" (ESV). If you want to hear the voice of God, you must be doing the things of God. If you're not serving, don't wonder why you're not hearing the voice of God. JellyRoll has a new song talking exactly about that...here is the chorus.

*I only talk to God when I need a favor
And I only pray when I ain't got a prayer
So, who the hell am I, who the hell am I
To expect a Savior, oh
If I only talk to God when I need a favor
But God, I need a favor*

3. Listen for God's voice

Eli was "**lying down in his usual place**" (v.2 NIV), too preoccupied with his own interests to hear God. When God began speaking, he was not listening. Often to hear what God is saying we must slow down and take time to get close to God.

4. When God calls, respond eagerly

When Samuel heard the voice of the Lord he was immediately up and moving (v.4). If you want to hear the voice of God, you need to be ready to put into action what He tells you!

5. When God speaks, obey Him

Starting in this passage and throughout the rest of his life, Samuel consistently obeyed the Lord. No matter what God told him, Samuel did it. From that point

on, ***“the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground”*** (1 Samuel 3:19 ESV).

6. Read and study the Word of God

After God spoke to him in this passage, the Bible tells us, ***“The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there He revealed Himself to Samuel through His Word”*** (1 Samuel 3:21 NIV). If you want to hear from God, you must spend time in the pages of the Bible.

God is speaking all the time, yes, even today and yes, even to us. He wants to give us wisdom and direction to lead Fowler on the right path. The question we must ask ourselves is not is God speaking, but whether are we listening.

As we are making our way forward into God’s New Day, we face challenges that might seem overwhelming at times, as we get tired and worried and scared, feeling alone and lost. I want us to remember that when we need encouragement, we can turn to the pages of the scriptures. Everyone needs to be reminded from time to time of the hope that God, Jesus, and the Bible offer to us in our daily lives.

Isaiah 40:31 ~ But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Pray with me...Lord, I maintain my hope in You and I hold onto the assurance that what I am praying for is already accomplished in the name of Jesus. Your Word promises “no good thing does He withhold from those that walk uprightly” (Psalm 84:11). I wait upon You for Your definition of the “good thing” You will not withhold from me. As David prayed in Psalm 18:1: “I love you, Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” Bring Fowler Your word and Your plans...in Jesus’ name...Amen

Peace

René



Mother's Day

Craft Show

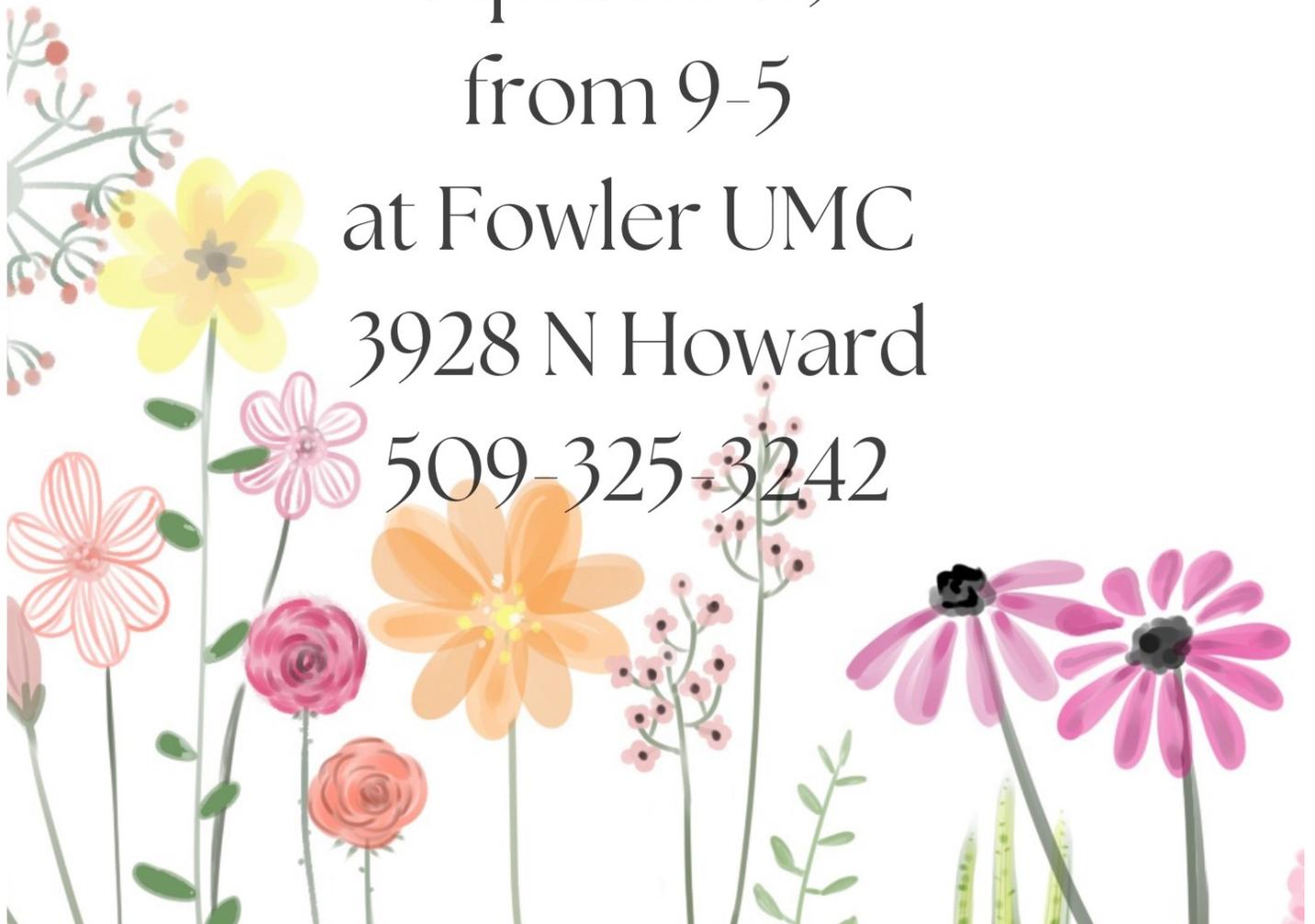
April 28-29

from 9-5

at Fowler UMC

3928 N Howard

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POT LUCK TACO BAR

FEBRUARY 19TH

BRING TACO MEAT, SHELLS, SALSA, TOMATOES, ONIONS, OLIVES, GUACAMOLE , SOUR CREAM, TORTILLAS, CHIPS . . .

SIGN UP SHEETS WILL BE PASSED AROUND.

COME AND JOIN US FOR SOME CONVERSATION AND FOOD.



Here are the winners from the Chili Cook-Off!

First place

Jen Willis

Second Place

Bill Strobeck

Third Place

Jill Ide

Congrats! You all did great.



3rd - Jennifer Willis
15th - Vern Arneson
16th Jayden Grater
20th - Bob Newell
22nd Dolores Hagen
23rd - Wanda Haggerty

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

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

Ephesians 6:18 NIV

Prayer Requests

Hand of God to Touch

René’s interview coming up Feb 3rdnd

Larry

Son with CPAP issues

Jean, had to put a dog down

Niece with guilt issues

All those who have lost their pets

Our Craft Show development

Health and Healing

All those dealing with the Flu and RSV

Continued Prayers

Brittnas Grandmother

Israel – 9 year old boy in Children’s hospital with possible Kawasaki Syndrome

Jakes mom, valve replacement

Oma fighting dementia

Rachel

Prayers of Gratitude

For family



United
Women
in Faith

Our next meeting is February 2nd at noon. Bring a sack lunch Dessert will be provided. Sharon Stovall will be the hostess and Phyllis Dunlap will lead us in our study of the Lord's Prayer.

We will make a gift bags for the women at Anna Ogden Hall.

Caritas Challenge

PEANUT BUTTER



CARITAS CHALLENGE
FOR FEBRUARY

This month's challenge

is Peanut Butter

Let's get at least 50

jars

We can do this!

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COME AND CRAFT WITH US!



The 2nd and fourth Thursday
at 9am