

Dear Friends of Sherwood and Mt. Home United Method-



MARCH 15 2020

From the east I'll bring your children;
from the west I'll gather you.
6 I'll say to the north, "Give them back!"
and to the south, "Don't detain them."
Bring my sons from far away,
and my daughters from the end of the earth,
7 everyone who is called by my name
and whom I created for my glory,
whom I have formed and made.

Dear Friends of Sherwood and Mt.
Home United Methodist Churches,

As we follow the instructions of our
Bishop and the advice of the public
health experts to avoid public gath-
erings while COVID-19 makes its
way through our population, I want
to reach out regularly to share
words of comfort and reflections on
scripture in place of our usual wor-
ship. We will send these emails out
each Sunday and our leadership
team will use this means to share

links and other information as neces-
sary.

In particular, we want to be sure to
continue to pray for one another so
please send any prayer concerns or
joys to Cheryl Barry
(officesherwoodumc@gmail.com) who
will compile them and include them in
each week's dispatch.

This week I encourage you to reflect
on these words from the prophet Isai-
ah 43:1-7

43 But now, says the LORD—
the one who created you, Jacob,
the one who formed you, Israel:
Don't fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
when through the rivers, they won't sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched

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and flame won't burn you.
³I am the LORD your God,
 the holy one of Israel, your savior.⁵ Don't fear,
 I have given Egypt as your ransom,
 Cush and Seba in your place.
⁴Because you are precious in my eyes,
 you are honored, and I love you.
 I give people in your place,
 and nations in exchange for your life.
 I am with you.

Hymn - [You Are Mine - David Haas](#)

The injunction not to fear is one of the most oft repeated in scripture. The stories of our old and new testament come from people who endured a lot of oppression and hardship and continually their prophets offered words of comfort from God, promising not only redemption from their suffering, but a compassionate and steadfast presence throughout their affliction. God gave us the final evidence of God's commitment to be present to us in suffering when Jesus endured crucifixion at Calvary. We do not worship a God who is indifferent and distant. We worship a God who knows us intimately and shares our every breath with us. That God promises to accompany us wherever we go and whatever we encounter.

Consider using this time of relative solitude to reconnect with God through prayer or meditation. Reconnect with your immediate family. Enjoy the quiet and the gifts it brings and turn off the minute by minute news updates which won't do anything but needlessly raise your blood pressure.

Outside my window right now my plum tree is in bloom and bees are busily going about their work pollenating the blossoms. Just a couple days ago it was covered in snow. Nature continues to show us her wonders, and do her steady work of bringing new life, even as many other things seem in turmoil.

The Peace of Jesus Christ Be With
 You,

Rev. Aric Clark



Contact Info

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 Email address: mthomeumc@gmail.com
<http://mthomeumc.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/Mtn.Home.Church>

Reverend Aric Clark contact information
 Phone: (503)810-2395
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 Office hours by appointment
 Check out the updated website:



Lay Leader: Laura Hartley
 Administrative Council Chair: Lynelle Eck
 Pastor Parish Relations Committer Chair: Georga Dorsey
 Deacon: Ben Hartley
 Trustees Chair: Thomas Ettelson
 Worship Committee Chair: Diane Peters
 Do you know someone who is unable to come to church or a shut-in?
 Contact our congregational care team:
 Chair Cheryl Barry

Newsletter Editor: Tom Ettelson t.ettelson@comcast.net

Event Calendar

Sunday Service suspended until further notice
Every Thursday, Shared Table Sherwood UMC suspended until further notice
UM Men's Breakfast suspended until further notice
Trustees Meeting online
Choir Practice suspended until further notice
UMW Elizabeth Circle meets suspended until further notice
UMW Lydia Circle meets suspended until further notice
Church Council suspended until further notice

Additional messages and information from the Bishop, Conference and District:

The Greater Northwest Area of The United Methodist Church
<https://greaternw.org/>

Oregon-Idaho Conference of The United Methodist Church
<https://www.umi.org/>

Cascadia District
[https:// www.umi.org/cascadia](https://www.umi.org/cascadia)

Here is a piece worth linking to on what "flattening the curve" means and why social distancing is important: https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/corona-simulator/?utm_source=pocket-newtab

