

**SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:**

- 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

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APRIL 2020

Easter Inside

This year we have to forgo gathering on Easter, our most sacred holy day. Easter celebrations haven't been interrupted to this extent globally, perhaps ever. Ever since Jesus arose on that first Easter, Christians have gathered in the spring to remember the foundation of our faith, indeed every Sunday gathering is essentially a reflection of Easter, a mini-remembrance of resurrection. Though we know that the Holy Spirit is in no way confined to church buildings or official liturgies it is still disorienting to consider how odd it is not to be in the company of saints on Easter Sunday.

And yet, the Resurrection has always had a private aspect. There is a hiddenness to the resurrection itself which might be interesting to contemplate this year during our Easter of isolation. Consider: no one saw the resurrection. It occurred sometime before dawn, in a sealed

tomb. The soldiers on guard never knew precisely what happened. The women coming to anoint the body only arrived after the fact. The angels themselves rolled away the stone only after the miracle was accomplished.

I often focus on the ways that God moves in public. I consider the primary vocation of the church to be justice, which is the work of loving our neighbors in public. God, to me, is most immediately apprehensible in the poor, the refugee, the imprisoned, the hungry, the houseless, the sick and so forth. I encourage us to seek God by diving deeper into the mystery of our neighbors.

But it is also true that God moves in private, hidden ways. God stirs remorse in our hearts at night when we are alone contemplating how we have acted. God stirs compassion in us sometimes imperceptibly moment by

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Easter Inside (continued)

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moment so we cannot say precisely when it is we started caring about someone or something, but we know that we cannot help from caring now. God works quietly like water drops over stone to soften our hearts for forgiveness. God is not only the fruit, tangible and nourishing, but also the seed beneath the soil, invisibly sending out tendrils both down into the earth to become roots, and up toward the light to become leaves.

Inside that tomb there were no disciples. No pharisees. No centurions. No prophets. No angels. No demons. There was only a father whose love refused to be defeated by death, a Spirit embodying that love and calling out to the son, and a son returning as from a far country to the embrace of his father. This work God did within God's self, requiring no witnesses. It is because of this miracle that we know that God is love.

Happy Easter,
Rev. Aric Clark

Willowbrook Is Opened!

We have received many of phone calls asking "are your opened?" Yes we are!

However, we are not the same procedure because of Corona virus. Willowbrook Food Pantry is a "grocery store" with clients selecting a variety of foods they want and need. Now, the clients sign-in on a form outside and then wait in their cars. Volunteers, working inside, will gather food, put in several boxes and bring it to a waiting area. All volunteers wears gloves, no contact with the clients.

We haven't changed the days we are open.

OFB had to institute a delivery program since they closed their doors to their partners. It sounds like a good thing, and it is, but we are in a basement of a house and the pallets don't fit into the basement! :)

We are flexible and find our way as well as families, friends, co-workers and children.

Thank-you God for the courage and hope for our world.

We are served 29 families on Saturday; Tuesday 27 families.

Usually, we serve 18 - 20 families per week.

Submission by Cherry Trotter

The following question was posed this week to Bishop Stanovsky by a pastor serving in the Greater Northwest Area. It has been edited lightly for clarity.

QUESTION

Bishop, I heard Governor Cuomo's address this morning and one of the things he noted is that the blanket action to close everything needs to be made with the added information they have gained. He said now strategic decision making needs to be brought to bear so that portions of the population that need to stay home should and others could be allowed to go to work and start the economy slowly and thoughtfully. There are populations that need to stay home and some don't if they follow the strict CDC protocols.

I hope in making your decision about church closures, you will consider these differences in the populations and areas most affected and those which are not. For instance, before the church closures, we had urged people in high-risk populations to stay home and use precautions. Those who were not, if they felt they were safe, could come to worship where we practiced strict sanitary protocols and spatial distancing.

One of our members recently offered to use his outdoor stage and field for an open-air Easter Celebration and place chairs safely apart if we want to use it instead of the sanctuary. His offer is gracious and he is thinking of how to have an Easter Celebration safely.

This is the time of strategic decision making I think Governor Cuomo was referring to. Just my thoughts as you make your decision. I am praying for you as always.

– Pastor

ANSWER

A week ago, I was imagining the faithful scattered sparsely on hillsides shouting Alleluia on Easter Sunday. The person who has offered an outdoor space is thinking creatively and generously. However, this is not the year.

The states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho have all issued *Stay at Home* orders that do not permit gatherings of any size, even if social distances are kept. An outdoor gathering for Easter worship in any of these three states is not allowed under orders in effect and put public health at risk. As I prayerfully gather and weigh all the evidence and listen to the orders of our public officials, I am moved by conscience and obedience to the law of the states and the law of love to insist that United Methodists postpone from gathering until the danger is past and restrictions lifted.

My directive applies to all four states in the Greater Northwest out of an abundance of caution and concern for public health.

– **Bishop Elaine**

Oregon – [Order to Stay Homes, Save Lives](#)

(Reprint) THE LITTLE GRAVEYARD

Did you know that there was once a little graveyard just to the west of where the parsonage now sits?

There is no known recorded history of this cemetery and no one could remember many particulars, but I began asking around in 1983 and here is what I found out from past members and constituents:

Myrtle Peters, Burl's mother, was the first to tell me about it. She said, "In the mid to late 1890s there was an epidemic of some sort, possible diphtheria. At least one (a child of Anna Kruger Vincent) and possibly as many as four small children were buried under fir trees just to the west of the parsonage. At that time, this area was probably along the east fence line of the Krugers who lived where Kirkpatrick's live now. John Q. Schmeltzer told me that the weather was bad and people were unable to travel far. There were little mounds of earth there and perhaps some wooden pegs to mark the area and some flowers planted there."

Elva Ego Rogers and Emily Thorpe confirmed the fact that there was a cemetery there, but neither of them remembered just how many graves there may have been.

Mary Taylor remembered the little gravesite with three or four graves, and she thought that one grave was of Jesse Emmel.

Mary Schmeltzer Wilkes remembered counting four graves in the little cemetery although she wasn't sure just who was buried there. She remembered hearing church people talk about moving the graves prior to building the parsonage, but she didn't know for sure if this was ever done.

Richard Joyce remembered the cemetery but he did not remember how many graves.

Daphne Lekas Atkinson said, "I did hear about the little graveyard to the west of the church but I don't remember much about it. One of the Vincent children was buried there and I remember grandmother giving Mr. Vincent a hug."

My husband John and his cousin Mary Schmeltzer McNeil both remembered that the children of the church were told they were never, ever to play in the area, but they were never told why. (They would have been in the 1940s.) It wasn't until they were adults that they knew about the little graveyard.

Perhaps that area looked a bit like this little sketch by Kevin Schmeltzer.

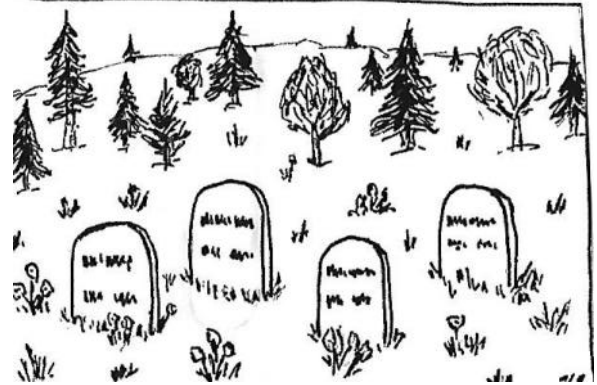
Might there be any graves remaining in the little old cemetery plot? I think we'll never know the answer to that.

Jeannine Schmeltzer
Church Historian

(Reprint) THE LITTLE GRAVEYARD

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Jeannine Schmeltzer
Church Historian



Continue to support our churches through your donations. You can contact your bank to set-up an automatic electronic transfer each month, or you can mail your checks to the church:

Sherwood UMC
22280 SW Washington St,
Sherwood, OR 97140

Mountain Home UMC
23905 SW Wunderli Canyon Rd,
Sherwood, OR 97140

Worship online with one of our neighbor churches! This list has links to online worship services all around the Pacific Northwest area: <https://greaternw.org/opportunities-to-worship-online-in-the-greater-nw/>

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

Cascadia District Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CascadiaDistrict/>

Cascadia District Newsletters: <https://umi-email.brtapp.com/archivearea/94>

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

Oregon-Idaho Conference Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UMOrId>

Oregon-Idaho Conference Newsletters: <http://umi-email.brtapp.com/archive>

April 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	

5 6 7 8 9 10 11
Palm Sunday Good Friday

12 13 14 15 16 17 18
Easter Sunday

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30
Newsletter Deadline



Contact Info

Church's location and mailing address:
 23905 SW Wunderli Canyon Drive
 Sherwood, OR 97140
 Church phone number: (503)628-2064
 Email address: mthomeumc@gmail.com
<http://mthomeumc.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/Mtn.Home.Church>



Reverend Aric Clark contact information
 Phone: (503)810-2395
 E-mail: aricclark22@gmail.com
 Office hours by appointment
 Check out the updated website:



Organist/Music Director: Linda Walker
 Lay Leader: Laura Hartley
 Administrative Council Chair: Lynelle Eck
 Pastor Parish Relations Committer Chair: Georga Dorsey
 Deacon: Ben Hartley
 Trustees Chair: Thomas Ettelson
 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

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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

Send prayer requests to Cheryl for inclusion in our weekly dispatch:

officesherwoodumc@gmail.com

