

**SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:**

- Sunday Service suspended until further notice
- Every Thursday, Shared Table Sherwood UMC suspended until further notice
- Saturday, May 2 Men's Breakfast Zoom Meeting 9 AM
- Sunday, May 3 Trustees Meeting Zoom Meeting 2 PM
- 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

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

Dear Church Family	3
Afternoon Tea	3
Willowbrook Food Pantry	4
Bishop COVID-19	5
UMVIM	8
Calendar	12
Contact Info	13



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MAY 2020

The Abnormality of Easter

The crucifixion of Jesus was devastating to the disciples, but it wasn't unusual. Crucifixion was the normal way that Rome operated. That was the expected and predicted end of people who challenged the power of Caesar. The fear, the pain, the sorrow, these things were awful, but they were also tragically ordinary. That was part of the purpose of Jesus' mission and ministry - to point out the violent destructive nature of some of the normal structures of our world and to inaugurate a radically different way of being.

What happened on Easter was a permanent and total break with normality. After the crucifixion some of the disciples contemplated or even started to return to their previous lives. But after Easter any thought of a return to fishing or carpentry or tax collecting went right out the window. Easter made it clear that nothing could or would be normal for them again.

We are in a period where

normality seems like a distant dream. Due to the need to slow the spread of the Coronavirus the ordinary structures and habits of our lives have been wiped away basically overnight. New temporary patterns have been put in their place, but those also seem to change rapidly and there is palpable anxiety and near constant reporting on the question of how or whether things will "return to normal". At varying rates we are coming to the realization that things will never truly go back to normal.

Indeed, one aspect of our present crisis is how effectively it reveals the cruelty that was inherent in our previous "normal". The sinful inequities of our society have become glaringly obvious under conditions where the houseless can't shelter at home, the imprisoned can't practice social distancing, and the unemployed don't have access to healthcare. The vast majority of

(Continued on page 2)

The Abnormality of Easter (continued)

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essential workers who are on the front lines of this crisis work at undervalued jobs. The people taking the most risks in this crisis are often the ones we treat with the least dignity and respect. COVID-19 has pulled back a curtain and shown us a society with utterly disordered priorities.

We should not want to return to normal. This is a moment for us to contemplate how the world can and must be different. We need a robust social safety net. We need abundant affordable housing. We need healthcare for all. We need to spend less on bombs and warfare, and more on programs of social uplift.

Perhaps most importantly, we need to think less as individuals and more as communities. One of the most important lessons of the isolation we're experiencing is that we need one another. By building a society structured upon individualism and the nuclear family we've created conditions where domestic violence and child abuse are abundant; where depression, anxiety, and eating disorders proliferate;

where parents now have to figure out how to be full-time homeschoolers while also working from home; and where countless suffer from deep loneliness. When the need to socially distance arrived, for many the single-family dwelling became a trap. All of these things were true prior to COVID-19, but being forced to spend all our time confined has helped to really clarify the damage that our individualized ways of life cause.

The disciples recognized that living forever in a state of suspended-normality isn't tenable. The Good News they proclaimed on Easter, and for the rest of their lives, is that the old normal has been abolished, yes, but God is replacing it with wholeness, with a beloved community, with Shalom. There is a way of being human together where none go hungry, none are deprived of healing, none are persecuted or killed. There is a kingdom on the horizon, a kingdom of resurrection. It is arriving in our midst. Can you imagine it?

Submission by Reverend Aric Clark

Dear Church Family

In this COVID-19 pandemic, we aren't able to see and/or hug our friends and family like we used to do. We won't be mingling about in large crowds like we used to do. Even though we've practiced all the safety rules when going into the grocery store, we still worry about having been exposed and potentially become the carrier for those around us.

I've noticed that these new restrictions have caused the public to be more creative in their approach to daily and weekly tasks. I'm listing a few hoping to share ideas you may be able to use. I encourage you to share your ideas as well.

***Schedule an electronic meeting using one of two different softwares: ZOOM or Face Time. This is a good way to celebrate birthdays, conduct weekly family meetings, read a book to a child, attend a virtual cocktail hour, attend a church service, etc.**



The annual Afternoon Tea on the Mountain scheduled in May has been canceled.

Submission by Linda Woodbury



***Share baked goods with friends, family and neighbors. Aric spoke about this occurring in his family's neighborhood. It sounds parallel to May Day activities we use to do. Deliver the gift by placing it near the front door, ring the doorbell, and turn around as you are leaving to wave as they are opening the door.**

***Send "snail mail". One group of friends has chosen to send mail to each other with a little gift inside each individual's envelope. Gifts sent so far have included: a set of little papers, a personalized set of note cards, flower seeds from two different participants (pansies, sunflowers, and black eyed Susan vines) and a pet rock. Getting "snail mail" in the mailbox is always a thrill. And it is as much fun to prepare and send the "snail mail" too.**

I'm anxious to hear other ideas. If we continue to keep connected in whatever way we choose, we will get through this TOGETHER.

**Take care, be safe, stay healthy,
Blessings,
Lynelle Eck
Mountain Home UMC Council Chair**



Willowbrook Is Opened!

We are opened; we have many volunteers; we have grateful financial donations; we have appreciative food donations.

We were talking the other day about the wealth of Willowbrook, friendships, comraderies, the donations, like Ponzi (!) and toilet paper,

and a senior lady brought breads. Mt. Home Church with unselfish, generous congregation supported pantry in April with \$860.00.

So much love!

We served 136 families with 612 people in March.

Submission by Cherry Trotter



\$500 Grant from the Oregon-Idaho Conference:

After discussing our options at Mountain Home Church we choose to give the grant to our local food bank (Willowbrook). Cherry Trotter our volunteer that works at the food bank stated that in the first 3 weeks of the Covid-19 epidemic they are serving double the number of families. They are serving 29 families twice a week.

We will as a church continue make donations to the food bank during these tough times.

Brian McKennett
Church Treasurer

Easter on the Mountain



New Letter Board Out Front



Bishop's COVID-19 Notice #5, April 24, 2020



United Methodist Clergy and Laity of the Greater Northwest Area,

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:78-79

How did I come to this decision, and what does it mean?

EXTENSION OF WORSHIP SUSPENSION AND BUILDING CLOSURES

As bishop of the Greater Northwest Area of The United Methodist Church, I am extending the suspension of in-person worship in United Methodist Churches and other ministries and the closure of church facilities to all but essential services throughout the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho and Pacific Northwest Conferences through May 30, 2020, until and unless state government and health officials lift restrictions based upon their published criteria for re-opening. This date may be

MARCH 24: Suspension of In-Person Worship and Closure of Buildings.

On March 24 I directed that in-person worship and other gatherings be postponed in United Methodist Churches and other ministries through April 30, 2020. At the same time, I directed that all Church facilities were to be closed except for essential services. These actions were taken to protect the health of vulnerable people, to slow the spread of the disease, and to prevent health care systems from becoming overwhelmed by a sudden surge of cases needing hospital beds and equipment.

You helped keep people HEALTHY! You did it! You made adjustments and found ways to be church without gathering for worship. Your actions, and the general populations' compliance with the orders of the governors appear to have slowed the spread, flattened the curve of the crisis, and averted a crisis in our health care systems. I thank God for the incredible ways you have contributed to these outcomes. At the same time, we grieve over people who have contracted COVID-19, some of whom have been hospitalized and even died. And we continue to hold in our hearts and prayers all who are at risk for this disease because they render essential services, or have compromising health conditions, or who, because of systemic inequities in our society live with little or no social safety net.

EASTER: You celebrated Resurrection in the Shadow of Death. Alleluia!

(Continued on page 6)

Bishop's COVID-19 Notice #5, April 24, 2020 (continued)

(Continued from page 5)

You found ways to overcome all kinds of obstacles to celebrating Easter. Your clergy and lay leaders have demonstrated an adventuresome spirit, as you learned how to care for one another, conduct worship and support vulnerable people in your neighborhoods, while maintaining physical distancing and suspending all gatherings. Christ the Lord was Risen again this Easter, with shouts of Hosannah!, prayers for strength and healing, and acts of generosity. Well done, good and faithful servants.

MAY I

We are now approaching the end of the directives I gave on March 24 and many of you are eager to know whether the restrictions will be lifted or extended. I am closely monitoring the guidance and criteria for loosening restrictions in each of our four Greater Northwest states, as well as the daily reports of new cases, deaths and health system capacity. As you know, the disease has unfolded at different rates across the area. And the cultural and political climates across our region are varied, leading to different assessments of the risks involved. I find myself leading in the midst of continued uncertainty and significant controversy about the best course of action. Three value-based priorities inform my leadership as your bishop.

Do No Harm: Protect the public health

Do Good: Share the financial burden with

persons most vulnerable to economic impacts

Stay in Love with God: Promote the life-giving ministries of the Church

DO GOOD. Protect Public Health

Following the leadership of four very different governors, our four states are all weathering the pandemic better than expected. I am pre-disposed to trust the governors of each state to listen to their health care advisors, to know their region and its people and to give prudent guidance. While all four governors have laid out their criteria for incremental loosening restrictions within their states, at present none of these governors has taken specific action to lift restrictions that would affect our Churches. When they do, Churches will need to be especially cautious about re-opening and gathering, taking into account that among our members and friends are many participants who are at risk for severe illness from COVID-19, due to age or compromising health conditions.

DO GOOD. Share the Burdens of Most Vulnerable Persons

During this season of closed buildings and postponed in-person worship, I hope that every congregation will re-engage its neighbors, by partnering with community organizations that are directly involved with people who are most vulnerable to the economic impacts of the pandemic.

(Continued on page 7)

Bishop's COVID-19 Notice #5, April 24, 2020 (continued)

(Continued from page 6)


How this neighborhood engagement looks will be specific to your congregation, its context, and the partnerships you are able to form to serve people most at risk during this crisis. I heard the other day of a church in a small town that set up a “tab” with the local grocer so that people who needed food could “shop” for what they needed and charge it to a tab that the Church paid. In this win-win-win arrangement, people get food, the church serves people in need, whom they may not even know, and the grocer’s business is supported in the process. There is no recipe for this kind of innovative response. It’s all based on local relationships that can become networks of care.

STAY IN LOVE WITH GOD. Promote the Life-Giving Ministries of the Church. While I know that the effectiveness of ministry and health of congregational life suffer when people are not able to gather for worship, this hardship does not justify taking the risk of spreading the disease through church gatherings, or exposing older and health-compromised people to infection and possible death by re-opening our church gatherings too soon. I trust and know that the leaders and people in each church are finding creative ways to continue to serve God’s promise of abundant life for all people and the whole of creation despite these extreme circumstances. When the time is right, we will gather again and re-build and renew our ministries.

MAY 31 – PENTECOST

As we enter another month of some level of physical separation, let’s hope that we will be able to gather in our churches on Pentecost, May 31. Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church, when people from many nations gathered in Jerusalem to hear Peter preach. The book of Acts describes how the people understood what he said, even though they spoke many different languages. I hope that we will be able to gather in worship that day – maybe sooner. Let’s hold it as a date to hope for, to pray for, to work for. And if it can’t be May 31 – if it comes sooner, or later – then, we’ll adjust, just as we have been adjusting for these many weeks.

I don’t need to remind you that God is with us and at work. I don’t need to remind you that miracles happen every day, even in the midst of disease and death, as people of generous hearts pour their life out in love and service where there is



need. We are blessed to be a blessing. Thanks be to God, who opens the way of life before us.

May God bless you and keep you today and through the days ahead.

Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky

[View in browser](#)

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission - Western Jurisdiction

Equipping Volunteers, Empowering Partnerships

April 20, 2020



In This Issue:

- New Ways to be in Mission
- Where Have you Seen God Today?
- Ideas for Serving in Mission
- Support UMCOR and The Advance Virtual Mission

New Ways To Be In



Where Have You Seen God Today?

During UMVIM Mission Journeys, we often find ourselves out of our comfort zone, the work is not always easy, and we are not not sure what the next thing will be. Each day as reflect on the day, the team leader asks us *'where have you seen God today?'*. That is such an important and uplifting part of the mission; seeing that God is always with us during our mission journey.

The journey that the Covid virus has been difficult and the path of what is next is very unsure. Some of us are looking at this is a time of where is my next dollar coming or what am I going feed my family for dinner tonight. If maybe difficult to see God's presence through these struggles. I challenge you to *'Watch for God'* and see how God is with us and taking care of us.

We as the church are called to be in mission with our communities locally and globally and each day answer the question "Where Have I Seen God Today".



Ideas How We Can Help

You CAN:

- Volunteer at the local Food Bank
- Donate Blood
- Make Masks
- Contribute to an Online Fundraisers for Missions or set up for your favorite mission. (Facebook has ways to set these up.)
- Publicize Abuse/Domestic Violence Hotlines (more abuse tends to happen in these times of stress).
- Publicize Alcoholic Anonymous Resources

Serve on a Virtual Mission (see below)



Ideas for Congregations

- Set up a Pop Up donation Center for Food Banks, Salvation Army or other community outreach group.
- Get a Wish List and fulfill a wish for your favorite shelter
- Help with Grocery Deliveries
- Hold a Virtual Fellowship Time after Zoom meetings or worship.

Hold a Virtual Coffee Hour with a missionary. Contact the Western Jurisdiction Mission Advocates [Terry and Evelyn Erberle](#) or your Conference Secretary Global Ministries listed on your Conference Website.

- Help with Job Seekers Support Groups
 - Volunteer with Red Cross or Host a Blood Drive
 - Support local Soup Kitchens / Homelessness Programs
- Support your First Responders and Front-line Health Workers



For Children and Youth

UM Camp & Retreat Ministry is hosting Virtual Day Camp go to:

[Virtual Day Camp](#)

Other Ways to Give to Global Ministries

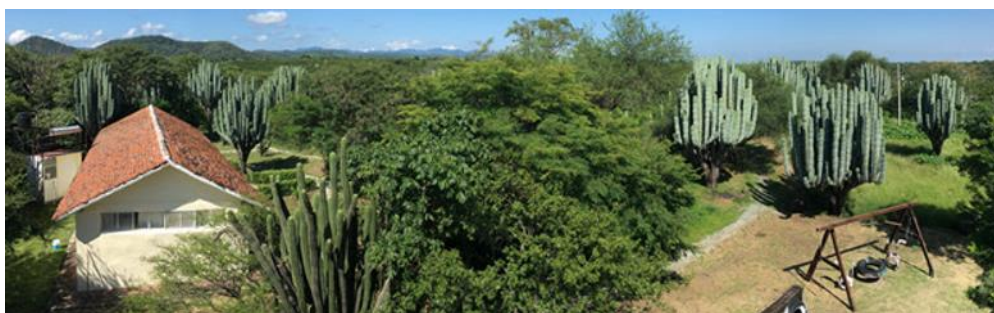
Support The Advance for your favorite mission project [click here](#) for a list of projects.



If you did not give to UMCOR Sunday - it's not too late! You can give online by going to: umcgiving.org/giveUMCOR or mail checks to: UMCOR Sunday GCFA, P.O. Box 340029, Nashville, TN 37203.



UMCOR is making capacity-building grants internationally for public health training and preventative measures and solidarity grants were given to Mississippi, Louisiana, South Carolina, and North Georgia, after their the devastating tornadoes that occurred Easter Sunday. To learn more about their work go to UMCOR or to donate to the [UMCOR Project click here](#).



Going On a Virtual Mission

How do mission teams do mission when they cannot travel? How do we continue to serve our neighbors without risking everyone's health through close contact? The Jurisdictional UMVIM directors will be hosting a Virtual Mission Workshop on April 22 where UMVIM team leaders and their team members can hear new ways to continue to answer God's call to service during the pandemic. We will:

- Remember our "why" for serving
- Examine the Virtual Mission model
- Review a sample plan for the mission site, "Give Ye Them to Eat" in Puebla, Mexico
- Learn steps on how to implement the plan with your team
- Expand your UMVIM site work into local mission

Join us for the online workshop on Wednesday, April 22, at 1:00 p.m. [Register for this free event](#) to receive the login information. In the meantime, download the Virtual Mission [template](#) and [sample plan](#) so you can

Contacts:

Western Jurisdictional Coordinator

Ronda Cordill

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[Debbie Irby](#)

[Stephanie Moffitt](#)

Desert Southwest:

[Mike & Lorraine Eyer](#)

Oregon/Idaho:

[Louise Kienzle](#)

Pacific Northwest:

[Cheryl Reagan](#)



Your UMVIM WJ Conference Coordinators are there to assist and support you as you answer your call to serve as a short-term mission volunteer. If you are already scheduled to serve on a mission journey, let us know about it, so that we can share your story. Please feel free to contact them for information or connection to other VIM Resources.

[View this email in your browser](#)

UMVIM

May 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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1 2

Christian Home Month

Men's Breakfast Zoom Meeting 9 AM

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Trustees Meeting Zoom at 2 PM



10 11 12 13 14 15 16



17 18 19 20 21 22 23



24 25 26 27 28 29 30

24 Ascension Newsletter Deadline

31 Day of Pentecost



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

Sunday Service suspended until further notice

Every Thursday, Shared Table Sherwood UMC suspended until further notice

Saturday, May 2 UM Men's Breakfast via Zoom Meeting at 9 AM

Sunday, May 3 Trustees Meeting via Zoom 2 PM

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

May is Christian Home Month

Thursday May 7 National Day of Prayer

Sunday May 10 Festival of the Christian Home

Sunday May 10 Mother's Day

Thursday May 21 Ascension of the Lord

Sunday May 24 Ascension Sunday

Sunday May 24 Aldersgate Day / Heritage Sunday

Sunday May 31 Day of Pentecost

Download free clipart from <https://www.clipart.email/clipart/ascension-of-jesus-clipart-244935.html>

<https://www.cleanpng.com/png-national-day-of-prayer-world-day-of-prayer-god-pra-4147807/download->

DID YOU KNOW THAT SAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER TAKES EXACTLY AS LONG AS THE CDC RECOMMENDS YOU WASH YOUR HANDS?



*Love your neighbor. Love your God.
Wash and Pray.*

[png.html](#)
<http://www.clipartpanda.com/>

