

**SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:**

- Sunday Service via Zoom at 9 AM
- Every Thursday, Shared Table Sherwood UMC suspended until further notice
- Saturday, June 6 Men's Breakfast Zoom Meeting 9 AM
- Sunday, June 7 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
- Sunday, June 21 Church Council Zoom Meeting after service

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Listening to the Language of the Unheard

Certain conditions continue to exist in our society, which must be condemned as vigorously as we condemn riots. But in the final analysis, a riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it that America has failed to hear? It has failed to hear that the plight of the Negro poor has worsened over the last few years. It has failed to hear that the promises of freedom and justice have not been met. And it has failed to hear that large segments of white society are more concerned about tranquility and the status quo than about justice, equality and humanity. And so in a real sense our nation's summers of riots are caused by our nation's winters of delay. And as long as America postpones justice, we stand in the position of having these recurrences of violence and riots over and over again. Social justice and progress are the absolute guarantors of riot prevention

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I moved to the Portland area in 2014. That year Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Laquan Macdonald, John Crawford III, and Tamir Rice, among others, were murdered by police officers and the Black Lives Matter movement began. From that time I have frequently been in the streets with many thousands of others peacefully demonstrating and demanding changes to our

criminal justice system. Those changes have not been forthcoming. From that year till now the police in the United States continue to kill citizens at a rate far higher than many other nations, and the impacts of this violence falls disproportionately on our black and brown citizens.

[Around 1,100 people are killed by the](#)

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Note: Our mailing address is no longer at P.O. Box,; rather it is directly to the church .

**23905 SW Wunderli Canyon Drive
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[police every year](#). We do not know the exact numbers because the police do not accurately or consistently report this information, and in some cases actively obstruct independent efforts to track these statistics. 24% of these killings are of black people despite black people making up around 13% of the population. Black people are 3x more likely to be killed by police than white people and about twice as likely to be unarmed when they're killed. For young black men the risk of death by police violence is high enough ([around 1 in 1000](#)) that it ranks higher than diabetes, influenza, pneumonia, and many types of cancer. These numbers are *unchanged in the years since protests began drawing attention to this issue.*

This is not inevitable. [In many countries police killing citizens is vanishingly rare](#). The police killed 0 people in the United Kingdom last year. Same in Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Japan, New Zealand, Australia and many other countries. It is not normal. It is not something we should accept. Police should be held to a higher standard for use of force than your average citizen and yet in some of our largest jurisdictions police kill people at a rate higher than the national murder rate.

Finally, when police violence occurs accountability is incredibly unlikely. This is because prosecutors, who are frequently appointed and never see

meaningful election challenges, depend on a close relationship with the police for their cases and are therefore incentivized not to investigate. In many jurisdictions police are responsible for investigating themselves with no civilian oversight and a macho culture which punishes whistleblowing dominates among unions, buttressed by a popular culture of authority worship typified by the Blue Lives Matter slogans or thin blue line flags you see everywhere.

For many of us, none of this is news, and it should not therefore be surprising to us when, after years of organizing and protest, some of those who took to the streets the past few days committed acts of vandalism and property destruction. We have shouted Black Lives Matter till our voices are hoarse continually for years, and the hateful indifference of our culture seems to have barely noticed. I can understand the anger because I share it. The status quo is intolerable.

I am not asking you to join the protests, or approve of the rioting, but I am asking for your compassion. I am asking for you to value property less than you value lives like George Floyd's. I am asking you to value justice and equality more than tranquility by joining me in addressing the white supremacist conditions that incited these riots. It's time to listen to the language of the unheard.

Submission Reverend Aric Clark

The ladies are looking to having a Summer Book Club for 6-8 weeks. Also looking for book suggestions. If you're interested and/ or have book suggestions contact Diane



Willowbrook Food Pantry

We experienced generosity from the heart! Every envelope sent to us, the donations from varied places (Target) and telephone calls have been from new volunteers. There is so much love sent to Willowbrook through loyal donors, financial gifts and volunteers in abundance. Bighearted friends of this community make validation that people are caring and sincere.

Corvid-19 Update:

The three food pantries in Sherwood – Willowbrook, Helping Hands and St. Frances recently discussed the number of families we had served at each pantry.

With Stay in Shelter, closing of schools and jobs, we were convinced our numbers would be extreme. Willowbrook served 127 Family with 605 in April and May served 111 families 458 people. Equally low numbers for Helpings Hands and

St. Francis Pantry was their result, too. One reason may be that several organizations, like the schools, have prepared food plus delivery. Another theory is that the government (stimulus) check & unemployment check may be sufficient for the families. Whatever the reasons, we anticipate and are prepared to offer our usual nutritional food to families.

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy.

Cherry

Letter Board Front Right



Letter Board Front Left



Reimagining Life Together

The requirements and recommendations for local churches to reopen buildings and return to ministry activities.

By Larry Johnson

Mt Home Reimagining Ministry Team Member

I miss friends gathering on Sunday mornings. I also miss smiles on members of the congregation as the choir shares an anthem during service. I miss the way Pastor Aric challenges us to walk the Christian walk, not just talk about it. Maybe it is selfish, but I miss opening up the fridge during the week and grabbing a treat not consumed from last Sunday's coffee hour. Sadly, the fridge is now empty. I guess there is a positive side to this, I have lost a few of those pounds gained before COVID-19.

The COVID -19 pandemic has disturbed many of the things we have taken for granted in the past. We must now all look at how we will handle changes to our personal lives. It seems overwhelming to try to keep up with the requirements and recommendations of our health officials, and National, State, County and Local governments officials. It's going to take a long time for this all to get to something we call the "new normal".

It will be the same for us as we return to our church and to the patterns of worship, community service and outreach ministries that were a part of our church lives. On May 20 Bishop Stanovsky released a document to provide guidance for local churches as we reimagine returning to our facilities and ministry practices. The Bishop's document, [Reimagining Life Together](#), states ***"People are eager to return to our buildings and to the patterns of worship, discipleship, and service so familiar to us. This is natural but we need to walk carefully through the weeks and months ahead. Without a cure for COVID-19, and absent the widespread testing and contact tracing public health officials have repeatedly advised, we all share a new responsibility to do no harm. We should also think twice before letting go of all that we are learning these days spent in the wilderness. What new practices and adaptations have we stretched to make? What might God want us to carry forward into this new phase in our lives together?"***

This document also sets the requirements for returning. ***"Reopening and resuming in-***

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person worship for local churches and ministries of the Greater Northwest Area will occur in a four-phase process. Three conditions must be met before advancing from one phase to the next of reopening:

- 1. Bishop Stanovsky ends or relaxes suspension of in-person worship and building closures, allowing movement to the next phase.**
- 2. State and local public health guidance permits intended activities in the next phase.**
- 3. A local church or organization reopening plan has been approved and implemented by the responsible District Superintendent or Director of Connectional Ministries working under the authority of the Bishop.”**

We are currently in Phase 1 of the Bishop’s reopening plan, in effect since March 13 when in-person worship and other gatherings for local churches were suspended and will remain in effect through June 15 at the earliest. We will also be watching what happens in Washington County as officials have yet to meet the requirements for the county to move beyond Governor Brown’s Executive Order to Stay at Home.

The Bishop’s document directs the establishment of a team of people including the pastor to draft a ministry plan for moving the church forward through the next three Phases. At this time, the Mt Home UMC team includes the following Church Council members: Lynelle Eck, Diane Peters, Georga Dorsey, Larry Johnson and Pastor Aric. Their first meeting, May 25, was a joint meeting with representatives from Sherwood UMC. The focus was to review the leadership responsibilities for these teams. The team’s task in the next few weeks will be to assess church and ministry capacity and develop a reimagining plan to move us toward Phase 2. When developed, this plan will be shared with the congregation for review, then submitted to DS Tim Overton-Harris for his approval. Upon approval we move to Phase 2. The team will also continue to communicate the progress and/or updates to the plan to the DS and congregation.

Moving to Phase 2 will involve continuing the suspension of in-person worship.

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“It allows a group of 10 or fewer to gather in the building to record or produce online worship resources, while practicing physical distancing, wearing face masks, and observing other hygiene practices. Each person may remove their face mask while they are speaking during active recording. The production of in-person vocal music remains prohibited in facilities. High-touch surfaces must be sanitized after each use. Access to Church buildings is limited to designated staff, volunteers, meetings, and services.

Ministries are strongly encouraged to continue to meet, serve, and worship together, remotely, striving to include vulnerable persons making healthy choices to participate in virtual ways.”

There is a high probability that for Mt Home we would continue in Phase 2 through summer and into fall. We can not predict the future, but the likelihood of spikes in the number of COVID-19 cases would cause the return to Phase 1 restrictions.

So for now, we can all continue to support each other. We are able to do this by showing respect, modeling what is being asked of us by governmental authorities and our Bishop. **Remember don't leave home if you're feeling ill, wash your hands often, wear a mask out in public, and maintain a 6 foot physical distance from others.** We can continue to stay connected to one another virtually or when allowed in small groups. We may even find new ways to share our ministry. We are the Church. It's not the building. Mt Home is still in need of your financial support if you are able continue your tithing.

Mt Home UMC has the heritage behind it to get through this COVID-19 pandemic. It has had its place on the mountain for over 130 years. Through the terms of 24 different Presidents, its parishioners have survived other pandemics, two World Wars, and conflicts like Korea, Viet Nam, and Desert Storm. It felt the loss to the nation on 9/11 and has struggled with immigration and LGBTQ+ issues. Through all of this the church has been resilient and continued on. We must follow their lead. I believe Mountain Home still has a mission to serve the community, to be a sanctuary for our spirit and to do good for the world.

The day finally arrives: Forrest Gump dies and goes to heaven. He is met at the Pearly Gates by St. Peter himself. The gates are closed however, as Forrest approaches the gatekeeper.

St. Peter says, "Well Forrest, it's certainly good to see you. We have heard a lot about you. I must inform you that the place is filling up fast, and we've been administering an entrance examination for everyone. The tests are fairly short, but you need to pass before you can get into Heaven."

Forrest responds "It shore is good to be here St. Peter. I was looking forward to this. Nobody ever told me about any entrance exam. Sure hope the test ain't too hard; life was a big enough test as it was." St. Peter goes on, "Yes, I know Forrest, but the test I have for you is only three questions.

1. What days of the week begin with the letter T?
2. How many seconds are there in a year?
3. What is God's first name?"

Forrest goes away to think the questions over. He returns the next day and goes up to St. Peter to try to answer the exam questions. St. Peter waves him up and says, "Now that you have had a chance to think the questions over, tell me your answers."

Forrest says, "Well, the first one - how many days of the week begin with the letter "T"?

Shucks, that one's easy. That'd be Today and Tomorrow."

The Saint's eyes open wide and he exclaims, "Forrest! That's not what I was thinking, but....you do have a point though, and I guess I didn't specify, so I give you credit for that answer. How about the next one?" asks St. Peter. "How many seconds in a year?"

"Now that one's harder," says Forrest, "But I think and think about that and I guess the only answer can be twelve."

Astounded St. Peter says, "Twelve!? Twelve!? Forrest, how in Heaven's name could you come up with twelve seconds in a year?"

Forest says "Shucks, there's gotta be twelve: January second, February second, March second....."

"Hold it," interrupts St. Peter. "I see where you're going with this. And I guess I see your point, though that wasn't quite what I had in mind, but I'll give you credit for that one, too."

"Let's go on with the next and final question. Can you tell me God's first name?"

Forrest replied, "Andy."

"OK, OK," said a frustrated St. Peter, "I guess I can understand how you came up with your answers to my first two questions, but just how in the world did you came up with the name Andy as the first name of God?" "That was the easiest one of all," Forrest replied "I learned it from the song..... "ANDY WALKS WITH ME, ANDY TALKS WITH ME, ANDY TELLS ME I AM HIS OWN"



Contact Info

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 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 via Zoom Meeting 10 AM
 Every Thursday, Shared Table Sherwood UMC suspended until further notice
 Saturday, June 6 UM Men's Breakfast via Zoom Meeting at 9 AM
 Sunday, June 7 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
 Sunday, June 21 Church Council via Zoom Meeting after service
 Send prayer requests to Cheryl for inclusion in our weekly dispatch:
officesherwoodumc@gmail.com

Sunday, June 14 Father's Day
 The ladies are looking to having a Summer Book Club for 6-8 weeks. Also looking for book suggestions. If you're interested and/ or have book suggestions contact Diane
 Download free clipart from <https://www.clipart.email/clipart/religious-fathers-day-clipart-251827.html>
<http://clipart-library.com/mailbox-cliparts.html>

