

**SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:**

- Sunday Worship will be via Zoom during the cold weather months, with a few possible special events to be determined. We will have communion during each zoom service. 10 AM
- Friday, December 25 is the birthday of your Lord, Jesus Christ

**INSIDE
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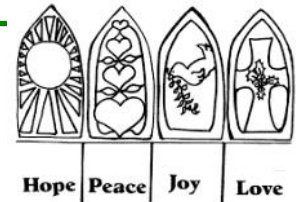


VOLUME VI, ISSUE XII

DECEMBER 2020

Advent Sonnet

By Rev. Aric Clark



Before you rise, when to a new day's quest you turn,
We pray that HOPE become your partner on the way,
Who steadfastly denies despair its final say,
And knows bone deep that light, to pierce the dark, must burn.

When you consult within your heart to choose a course,
Let courage lead you out to seek that recluse PEACE,
Who doesn't live in desert lands where conflict's ceased,
But from the well of justice draws his endless source.

Along that road may you be frequently surprised,
To meet the brigand JOY where sorrow seems to reign;
Who steals relief from stress and laughter out of pain,
And smiling shouts pre-emptive victory from the skies.

Throughout your pilgrimage we pray that you be seen,
Yours scars, and words, and deeds: a soul where LOVE has been.

My Christmas Wish for You

May you act with **Love** for your family and friends, for your country, & for baby Jesus who was born this season.

May you have **Hope** for a vaccine which will end the pandemic, thus having the ability to return to a "normal" Christmas next year.

May you find **Joy** in recognizing all the blessings you have and expressing gratitude for the same.

Christmas is a time to reflect on this holiest of seasons and to thank God.

I hope, in this year of unique events, you will stay safe and view your world with an optimistic eye.

"God bless us, everyone!"

Blessings,
Lynelle Eck,
Church Council
Chair



Willowbrook Food Pantry

Willowbrook Food Pantry received a donation from Friends Community Church food drive.

They had a 'drive through' at their church parking lot and collected 1788 food items! The committee emailed us to determine which food items we needed, disbursed the list to their congregation, detailed the time and place, all from fliers mailed and/or emailed to congregation. We were astonished by the collection of food. We are grateful to Friends church, to the lovely people and the organization that made the event successful.

We are thankful for Countryside Church congregation and especially teens for the Thanksgiving boxes. 60+ families received turkey, potatoes, stuffing, green beans and French onions, cranberries, rolls and pie. God is Good.

We served 112 families with 515 people in October.

Deadline for turkeys to be taken to Willowbrook for Christmas December 22

November 2020

Submission by Cherry Trotter



Christmas Outreach



Good afternoon,

I know many of us are getting ready for a pared down Thanksgiving dinner, and looking ahead to Christmas preparations. Our Outreach this year will look a little different but we still can do the Lord's work. Normally we draw a child or family to help supply Christmas gifts for. Because we aren't doing in-person services, it will be a little more challenging. Some of the various charities are asking for gift cards instead of people doing the shopping-keeping us all safer. (I've been doing a lot of shopping online this year.) I got in contact with the young woman in Newberg to see how we could help out there. She has some single parent families that could really use some help.

Family of 4, children ages 7-17, single mom, minimum wage working to provide for her 3 children. 17 yr Male, L shirts, pants, socks. 9 yr male, 9 shirts, pants socks, toy. 7 yr girl, 7 or 8 size shirts, pants, socks, toy. for the family: shampoo, dish soap, laundry detergent soap, body wash, toothpaste tooth .

Second family- children ages 15 - 20 year old special needs, highly impacted, Mom was ill with covid and unable to work, single mom, dad is not involved, providing for 3 children. 15 yr male, Small in shirts, socks, Pants. 20 yr SPED-many visits to hospital- male, XL in shirts, socks, pants. for the family

There are several other families if we meet the needs of these two. After discussions at the Church Council, it was decided that we could give gift cards to the families. If you would like to participate, please send a check, gift card, cash to Brian McKennett at Mtn Home UMC with a note or on Memo line Xmas outreach.

Second opportunity for OutReach via

Valerie Sampson

If we as a church want to help the victims of the Detroit, OR fire, here is a list of what they need per JoAnn Vinyard from the Scholls Grange. She went out there this week.

Here is what they need.

6 gas cans 2.5 gal
 2 and 5 gal of gas filled cans/ containers
 Oil for generators 30 weight
 10 large propane tanks for BBQs
 50 Christmas stocking stuffers(JoAnn is finding out ages and boys/girls)
 5 heaters to use in trailers and RVs; Costco has heaters for \$39 per JoAnn.
 Moisture bags; to keep their belongings dry

They are planning a trip over for delivery the first week of Dec. I am sure we could also give a money donation for the items as well. Please put Fire victims on that Memo line of any checks you send.

The need will be ongoing.

I am so sorry that we will be unable to meet in person for our Christmas services this year. I will especially miss our candlelight service. Pastor Aric is preparing some wonderful Christmas music with many helpers. I am grateful for having a warm, safe home to shelter in. Enjoy your Thanksgiving and it won't be long until we can be together again.

Take care and God bless,

Submission by Diane Peters



December Birthdays & Anniversaries



*Unclouded may your birthday be, and round you day by day.
May God enfold His wings of love and bless you on your way.*

Date	Name
6	Carol McComis
12	Stacia Clark
15	Ben Hartley

Kudos

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>For</u>
Georgia	Marcia Loney	Stepping up and writing a 2020 Church Profile in my absence.
Georgia	Alice Hendricks	For volunteering to complete specific SPRC tasks in my absence.
Lynelle	Marcia Loney	For her focus and attention to detail in church documents going to the district and on the internet.
Lynelle	Diane Peters	Spearheading outreach activities from Mountain Home UMC to families in need in Newberg.
Lynelle	Val Sampson	Communicating possible outreach activities to victims of Detroit, OR fire
Lynelle	Brian McKennett	Being the person to contact and to complete request for almost anything at the church.
Lynelle	Tom Ettelson	Managing Trustee projects
Lynelle	Carol McComis	Always maintaining upkeep of flower beds and plants on church grounds.
Tom	Brian McKennett Bob Youngman Diane Peters	Thanks to Brian for mowing the lawn by manual mower, since the driving mower's battery die. Also thank to Brian and Bob for helping me clear branches and debris before the Sunday Outdoor Services and Diane for marking the social spacing for the service
Lynelle	Aric	Proposing, organizing and producing a virtual Christmas Eve service, as close to the ones we've had in years past.

Prayers Request



Georga to recuperate quickly , to become stronger and be able to use her injured arm and shoulder.

Anne and Leonard Grubowski, keep them healthy and let us look to them as role models of a good life. Len is doing o.k. Anne is having a hard time. She isn't eating much and does not want to move around since she broke her arm. She does not have any energy and lung capacity is poor. Barbara has not seen them in several days at the Ackerly. Their son has been visiting them in their apartment.

" Please continue to pray for Anne and Leonard Grubowski. Anne is now on hospice. Both are still living at the Ackerly and can not have visitors in the room. Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to His love, and the future to His providence.

Augustine " Barbie

Larry (and Maggie) as they journey on their mission to conquer Larry's illness. God please give the Dr's the wisdom to provide the best and right choices for complete healing.

Aric as he ministers to those going through frightening changes in a world which is not like it used to be. Give him strength, courage

and compassion as he shepherds his flock through these storms.

Prayers for Alma Cox that she will stay safe and healthy as she cares for those with COVID-19. Please also let her get the respect from her Managers and co-workers she deserves.

Prayers for Pat Weber, Jenny Reiser, and Martha Collison, all suffering from painful conditions and possible surgery. Prayers for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris and that God will speak to his "servant", Donald Trump to soften his heart. Unfortunately our White House is a hot bed of Covid-19 virus with more people arriving every day and no protection.

Prayers for Alice Hendricks brother Byron. He recently had knee replacement surgery. Prayers God will touch him with healing. May Byron be guided to follow the Dr's. orders.

We received word that Rev. John Tindell has suffered a massive stroke. He is currently at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. They are working to stabilize him and to assess the extent of the impairment.

Rev. Tindell served as pastor at Seaside UMC for the past 11 years, until this past July, as a retired elder from the Florida Annual Conference.

Please keep in prayer:

John as his body seeks to recover and he must let others make decisions on his behalf.

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Prayers Request (continued)

(Continued from page 5)

John's adult children: a son who lives in Gresham and is worried he may not be allowed to visit although he can get to the hospital, and a daughter who lives in Florida and has to worry from afar.

The doctors and nurses who are caring for John in the Intensive Care Unit, that they may be open to God's guidance, using all their skill and

discernment.

The Seaside congregation, where John's ministry was long and fruitful, and he is well-loved.

Thank you for your prayers.

Grace and peace in Christ,

Linda Grund-Clampit

If you have any prayer requests this week please let me know.
Wishing you all the best. Stay healthy and well!
Blessings,

Cheryl Barry
Administrative Assistant
Sherwood United Methodist Church
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How To Be An Antiracist

Join Pastor Aric for a book study this fall over Zoom. Every other Monday evening at 6pm we will gather and discuss Ibram X. Kendi's "How To Be An Antiracist". This is a New York Times Bestseller and an excellent guide through one of the most important issues of our era.

Please register for the book study by sending an email to officesherwood-umc@gmail.com so that Aric can send you the details.

[umc@gmail.com](mailto:officesherwood-umc@gmail.com) so that Aric can send you the details.

Order the book here: <https://www.ibramxkendi.com/how-to-be-an-antiracist-1>

Read the introduction and chapters 1 & 2 to be ready for the first session.

The dates of the study will be:

- Dec 14th
- Dec 28th

Submission by Reverend Aric Clark

Grace



When my Mom was young her maternal grandfather, Parke Dudley, told her that if she had not been born her mother would still be alive. Some years after my Dad pass away my Mom told me that she had come to the place in her life that she could say she did not hate herself, but not quit to the place where she could say she liked herself. This was after I told her that I thought I could say I liked myself and I was okay. I was luck; I had a mother and father who loved me and were there for me.

I never knew my maternal grandmother. She had polio and was paralyzed from the waist down. It was thought in her day that being pregnant would regress some of the symptoms. Alas it was not true for Wessie Elizabeth Gates. She died several weeks after my Mom was born.

My Mom grew up on her father's farm in Grant County, Wisconsin. Sydney Edwin Gates took over the farm from his parents. Mom's paternal grandparents were John and Emma Gates. They had bought the farm originally back in the mid 1800's. Papa John and Grandma Emma still lived on the farm as my Mom grew up.

Mom tells of swiping Papa John's cane while he sat on the porch at night, so that he would have to stay there while she went to the outhouse. I guess her older brother would jump out and scare her. Older brother's do that sort of thing. I know, because I am an older brother.

Mom was close to her Papa John. He passed away when she was 5 years old and just starting school. She loved him very much. Mom's paternal grandmother, Emma, took care of the household with help from the older kids. She told my Mom that her Mom, Wessie, loved her very much. And there you have it, the nature of grace.

Grace is one of those topics I have had trouble with most of my life. It seemed so vague and used for nothing specific. I had problems understanding what it really meant. And I really had problems accepting it from God. As a young man it seemed a sign of weakness.

As a child you are told God forgives your sins. That is not too difficult to accept, if you have good parents, like I had and have. You may be punished for some indiscretion, or bad decision, or callous act, but when you are forgiven afterwards all seems right with the world. Good parents love you no matter what, no matter if they do not like what you have done. It is different as an adult. God may forgive your sins, but how do you forgive yourself. You discover life has consequences, repercussion, cause & effect and responsibilities. You may injure someone even without intention. I suppose some do not feel remorse, but as for me, I do.

When I moved out of the house I moved from a small town, Clovis, California, to the big city of Los Angeles. The number of people and the size of the city were somewhat overwhelming. That did not hit me as much as some of the people themselves. I came across many people

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Grace (continued)

(Continued from page 7)

who did not know what it was to be loved. And therefore did not know how to love.

Their parents had abused them or worse ignored them or abandon them. I dated some women who ask me, "Why do you love me?" That question completely baffled me the first time I heard it. I could tell someone why I liked them or cared about them, or why I thought they were attractive or cute. I could tell them why I liked their sense of humor and why I thought they were smart. But how do you explain why you love someone? Do you love your brow, your gut, your feet; they are just a part of you. You do not normally think about it, it is just a part of what you are.

There are those who think love is measurable, quantifiable. "I will give you my love if you give me, or act a certain way, or be a certain way." There are those parents who give their love if their offspring are a certain image of what they expect. This is strange to someone who has been given unconditional love by their parents.

Unconditional love has its own issues. I went to a church once on Veteran's Day. The minister had two stools on the stage. He brought up folks who were veterans and ask them about their service in the military and their faith. One person was an ex-Air Force and had serviced in Viet Nam. All he seems to talk about was how he was not afraid of dying, because Jesus Christ was his Savior

and if he died, he would go straight to heaven. All I could think about is this person drop ordnance from over 30,000 feet causing great destruction; killing men, women and children with no remorse. If he was going to heaven, I wanted to be someplace else.

I would like to tell you three things about my Mom. First, she worked 19 years as a surgical nurse for Sierra Hospital in Fresno, California. The hospital surgical staff emphasis was heart and plastic surgery. And I do not mean the nip and tuck kind. One surgery she told me about was on a woman who crashed a Volkswagen bug having the gas tank blow up in her face. She was burned over 80% to 90% of her body. No one had every survived that much damage. Mom told me it was one of the bloodiest surgeries with pint after pint of blood. Dr. George was a pioneer surgery and saved her life and with many other surgeries re-stored some of that former life.

My Mom only sees this as being someone who did their job, nothing special. If she was not there someone else would have done it. Yet, she was the one; she left the family dinners and family picnics to go and do her job. She did her job with empathy; empathy others did not necessarily have. Hospital policy is that when you go into surgery you are not supposed to have any clothing on, because of germs. Many are embarrassed having nothing on under a paper sheet with so many people walking around. This is particularly true for kids. Mom would just let them keep their underwear on until after they were put to sleep, then slide it off and put it in a bag under the gur-

(Continued on page 9)



Grace (continued)

(Continued from page 8)

ney. Something she got flack for.

Secondly, my Mom and Dad raised 4 kids. None of us are President of the United States or have found the cure for cancer or brought about world peace. But none of us smoke, or drink too much, or where into drugs and too much on the wrong side of the law. We are all still married to our first spouse. My wife has not yet kicked me out for teasing her too much. And all 4 of us kids have been there for our children just like our Mom and Dad where there for us.

My favorite movie of all time is "It's a Wonderful Life". When the main character realizes what it would be without his existence, his angel tells him, "Strange, isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives, and when he isn't around, he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?" <https://www.filmsite.org/itsa3.html>

There are many other examples, but I have one more. She makes baby blankets, crochets them. I do not know how many hundreds she has made. One time the lady that picks them up at the church for distributed was sick, so Mom had to do it. I guess these go to preemies and less fortunate families all over the United States. This batch went to Pine Ridge, a Sioux Reservation in the Bad Lands of the Dakotas. Which it turns out was where my Mom spent her internship back in the mid-1940 at the end of World War II. What goes around comes around.



I believe my Mom feels that there is nothing she can do to make her mother's life whole; just as I believe there is nothing, I can do to pay back all that my Mom has been to the world or been for me. That is the nature of grace.

Let me be very clear as to my message. Wessie gave her broke body for whatever reason so my Mom could live a full and productive life and pass on that unconditional love. She loved her daughter unconditionally just as I love my daughter without question. All of us have parents who are just human. Many have parents who cannot handle the world or cannot be there for their kids. Yet, God has shown his unconditional love through the broken body of his son so that we, any of us, may know his grace, his unconditional love.

To be loved and therefore to know you are loved may seem a trifle notion, but it is the world to each of us. To know you can be loved means you can love. That knowledge is everything. That knowledge quite literally has, is and will change the world

Mary Ettelson

Born July 6, 1926

Passed away All Saints Day November 1, 2020

Written and submitted by Thomas Ettelson.

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December 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5

6 Zoom Worship w/ Communion 10am
Trustees Meeting via Zoom 11:15 am

13 Zoom Worship w/ Communion 10am
Book Study with Pastor 6pm

20 Zoom Worship w/ Communion 10am

27 Zoom Worship w/ Communion 10am
Book Study with Pastor 6pm

7 8 9 10 11 12

14 15 16 17 18 19

21 22 23 24 25 Christmas 26



Recorded Christmas Eve Service

28 29 30 31



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:



Music Director/Organist:
 Substitute pianist: Cindy Souza
 Lay Leader: Marcia Loney
 Administrative Council Chair: Lynelle Eck
 Pastor Parish Relations Committer Chair: Georga Dorsey
 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 Worship will be via Zoom during the cold weather months, with a few possible special events to be determined. We will have communion during each zoom service.
10 AM

Sunday, December 6 Trustees Zoom Meeting at 11:15 AM

Monday, December 14, and 28 Join Pastor Aric for a book study this fall over Zoom. Every other Monday evening at 6:00 PM we will gather and discuss Ibram X. Kendi's "How To Be An Antiracist".

Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service via video

Friday, December 25 Christmas

Friday, January 1, 2021 New Years Day

Sunday, January 10, 2021 Church Council Zoom Meeting

Choir Practice , UMW Elizabeth

Circle, UMW Lydia Circle, and UMW Men's Breakfast suspended until further notice

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

officesherwoodumc@gmail.com

Downloaded free clipart in this newsletter from <https://www.clipart.email/clipart/religious-fathers-day-clipart-251827.html>

<http://clipart-library.com/mailbox-cliparts.html>

