

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- **Sunday Outdoor Worship Service at Mountain Home 11:00 AM**
- **Monday, September 6 Labor Day**
- **Sunday, September 12 Grand-parent's Day**

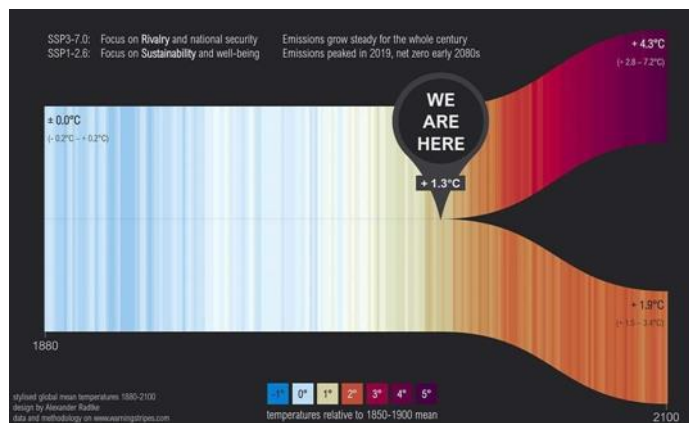
# Mountain Home United Methodist Church

VOLUME VII, ISSUE IX



SEPTEMBER 2021

## When Will We Know If We're Headed Toward A Habitable Climate



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**The IPCC released their latest report calling some of the effects of climate change inevitable and irreversible, which does not mean that we should succumb to fatalism in the face of ecocide. There are still meaningful choices and actions we can take. Foreknowledge of what our greed is doing to the planet presents us with a stark divide in the road: either we continue toward destruction or we turn toward a habitable climate. Every fraction of a degree of warming we prevent potentially saves countless human and non-human lives. The urgency of collective action is the highest imaginable, but what does that action look like?**

**First, let's consider what that ac-**

**tion does NOT look like. It doesn't look like much of what we are presently doing. Presently we have politicians talking about climate change as a serious threat while materially supporting fossil fuel infrastructure. Building more pipelines and roads for automobiles does not set us on a path to lowering emissions. We cannot have our cake and eat it too when it comes to climate change. Anyone who talks about "growing the economy" while also claiming to address climate change is simply lying to you. Business as usual at this point is a crime against life.**

**This means we must become sen-**

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## When Will We Know If We're Headed Toward A Habitable Climate (continued)

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sitive to the lies of green capitalism. For decades now we've been told that if individuals just recycle more, if we just switch our lightbulbs, and lower our individual consumption habits in small ways that we'll fix this problem. We've been conditioned to think about how often we shower, but to ignore the budgets of major corporations, the military, and the impacts of industrial agriculture. Meanwhile, hybrid and electric vehicles often have a worse environmental impact than standard ones, and you'd have to use your reusable shopping bags tens of thousands of times to make them a lower energy expenditure than the single-use plastic variety. So many individualized consumer-focused solutions have turned out to be traps, designed to keep us hooked into the very system that is destroying the basis for life.

When meaningful actions are taken they will not be profitable. We got into this crisis by putting profits over people and planet. We must get out of it by putting planet and people ahead of profit. In fact, we need to understand the profits of the past century and a half since industrialization as an accrued debt that must be paid. The countries and corporations that brought us to this crisis must be made to pay for the efforts that will now be required to save us.

Therefore, that is the first factor we should look for in determining if we really are starting to turn the corner away from destruction and toward a habitable climate: a massive shift in priorities away from profit and toward collective responsibility. When the polluter pays principle is in practice everywhere, instead of headlines focusing on "the economy" narrowly defined as

Wall Street, we will see headlines about the nationalization of major corporations and even whole economic sectors. We will see court judgments against major corporations leading to their dismantling. We will see major new public programs created from formerly private funds designed to do things like assist with refugee resettlement, build public transit, and promote widespread small-scale regenerative agriculture. Instead of "growth" as a dominant metaphor for success we will begin to see "repair" as the critical paradigm. In such a paradigm, the military would shrink dramatically, down perhaps to the Corps of Engineers and the Coast Guard. There would be no money for bombs, and all of our resources would be directed toward the activities that sustain life, and yes, while we're here, a paradigm of repair does entail reparations.

When we are finally addressing climate change we will see the decline of globalization (really neo-colonialism) replaced with a new spirit of internationalism. There will be fewer consumer electronics. Get ready to make the things you have lost. There won't be food in the grocery store from everywhere else on the planet. On the other hand, borders will be demilitarized and the right to migrate will be recognized and honored. Furthermore, we will recognize that what one region does impacts others. We will accept collective responsibility for not only our shared atmosphere, but for the impacts we have upon the land and the water as well. Internationalism as opposed to globalization means that we won't tolerate labor exploitation in one place to fund excess consumption in another place. It means no

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## When Will We Know If We're Headed Toward A Habitable Climate (continued)

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more sacrifice zones; no more places or peoples we are willing to destroy because they're out of sight of the wealthy.

We will know these changes are afoot when we see a real and broad respect for indigeneity. Indigenous people, who amount to less than 5% of the world's population, are currently protecting 80% of global biodiversity. If we're seriously addressing the threat of ecocide we will see more and more power given to indigenous peoples, and more and more non-indigenous peoples seeking to listen and learn from their indigenous neighbors how to live well in their local ecosystem. Environmental activists who court indigenous support for their movement without demonstrating real support for indigenous sovereignty aren't serious about addressing the underlying causes of climate change, because colonialism is the foundational ideology that has enabled the devastation of our planet.

We will really be on the path to evading extinction when few of the changes we observe can be described as lifestyle choices or adjustments of habits. Individualism will cede ground to communitarianism the way the coastlines will cede ground to the oceans. The questions will not be how much energy an individual is using, but how neighborhoods are coming together to build distributed energy networks. Not what constitutes an eco-friendly diet, but how much food your community is growing and how it is being

shared. When we are less concerned with how individuals commute to their jobs and more concerned with building our cities so that people live and work and care for each other within close walkable neighborhoods, then we will have started to move toward a livable future.

Perhaps the ultimate sign that we are finally beginning to take climate change seriously will be evidence that we understand this planet belongs to more than just humans. When we begin to reverse the transformation of wild habitat into human-centered biomass. When even our agricultural land ceases to be monocultures, and becomes instead complex polycultures intentionally cultivating habitat for creatures beyond the ones with immediate utility to humans, then we will have started to turn the corner. When reverence for non-human life is as foundational as reverence for money is now. When knowing one's watershed and being able to speak the language of one's local ecosystem is seen as being of equal importance to being literate and understanding basic mathematics. When the dominant cultures of our world understand human beings as part of nature, rather than as lords over nature, and we start to believe that humanity actually has a positive role to play in the ecosystem... THEN we will know we're headed toward a habitable climate for generations to come.

Submission by Reverend Aric Clark

## Fall Worship

Worship at Mt. Home this fall will continue outdoors while the weather permits. Worship will be at 11 am. If the weather looks dubious a decision will be made at 8:30 am Sunday morning by Brian McKennett or (one of our other mountaintop residents) and a one-call will go out only if the service is being moved indoors.

Any indoor services will follow [the guidelines established by the District COVID-19 team](#) which may mean we won't be able to sing and if our numbers exceed the amount that our sanctuary can safely hold while social-distancing some people may need to gather in the downstairs fellowship hall. We are grateful to everyone in advance for your graciousness and flexibility.

Submission by Reverend Aric Clark



## Thank You Sherwood United Methodist Church

Hi Alice,

Pastor Aric is going to bring the equipment Mt Home wants to borrow for outside services to Mt Home sometime after tomorrow's services. The equipment will be left there until the outside services are completed. Someone at Mt Home will need to set the equipment up for your outside services starting next month. Pastor Aric won't be able to get from Sherwood to Mt Home early enough to set the equipment up.

The equipment consists of a keyboard, a microphone on a stand, a bag of cables, a tripod and a speaker. Enjoy!

It's awesome you will be outdoors and able to sing!

Have a great week!

Cheryl

**Cheryl Barry**  
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Sherwood United Methodist Church

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# Connectionalism and Sherwood United Methodist Church

Way back in February (an eon ago in Covid time), I wrote about how the United Methodist Church sees itself as a “connectional”, believing that churches, just like individuals, may become more Christlike through connection. And, in celebration of that philosophy, in some of this year’s newsletters, I’ve highlighted a few of the churches in the Oregon-Idaho Conference - from Fort Klamath, OR to Fruitland, ID to Ocean Shores, WA.

As I was thinking about which church to include for September, it occurred to me that, over the past many months, we have had the opportunity of taking connectionalism to a new level. We’ve had the privilege of worshipping – hearing the word of God and praying and singing and sharing - with another congregation, our friends at Sherwood UMC.

And, we are grateful for that connection.

~ Marcia Loney, Lay Leader



## Mtn Home Bicycle Outreach

Earlier in August as I was driving by the church, I saw four bicyclists relaxing in the shade. I told them that they were very welcome to our delicious well water. One of the gentlemen came over towards my car to say that he had enjoyed the water over the years. They asked me questions about the church’s history. I invited them to our outdoor services in the next couple of months. They said the drinking fountain here made riding on these roads very attractive. They appreciated having this spot to refresh themselves.

I was thinking about how many times I see people in their cars, on the bench or swing enjoying our peaceful oasis. I want to thank the trustees and friends who work so hard to make our yard a welcoming space to relax in and appreciate the beauty of our site. I think we have created a much needed peaceful outreach to all who stop here.

Submission by Diane Peters

## Board of the Trustees

When the Board of the Trustees met in person at the church it was open to all to attend and we had folks that were not board members attend all the time. Since the past year our meetings have been on Zoom, thus none members have not been ability to attend. If you would like to attend the Mountain Home UMC Board of

the Trustees Meetings as a guest we will be meeting after outdoor services unless they are cancelled due to weather. If you wish to attend meetings that are conducted by Zoom, please, contact me the chair at [t.ettelson@comcast.net](mailto:t.ettelson@comcast.net).

Submission by Tom Ettelson


## September 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
2	Laura Hartley
4	Brian McKennett
8	Kahlia Knox
12	Millie Robinson
17	Carol McKennett
26	Wendy Ettelson
26	Betty Gordon
27	Julee Schmeltzer
28	Margarita Peters

# September 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Spanish Heritage Month		1	2	3	4	
5 Worship Service Outdoor at Mountain Home UMC 11am Trustees Meeting via Zoom	6 <b>LABOR DAY</b> 	7	8	9	10	11
12 Worship Service Outdoor at Mountain Home UMC at 11:00am Grandparent's Day	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Worship Service Outdoor at Mountain Home UMC 11am Church Council Meeting after service	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Worship Service Outdoor at Mountain Home UMC 11am	27	28	29	30		



# 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](mailto: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](mailto:aricclark22@gmail.com)  
 Office hours by appointment  
 Check out the updated website:



Substitute pianist: Cindy Souza  
 Lay Leader: Marcia Loney  
 Administrative Council Chair: Lynelle Eck  
 Pastor Parish Relations Committer Chair:  
 Georga Dorsey / Alice Hendricks  
 Activities Chair: Diane Peters  
 Finance Chair – Brian McKennett  
 Trustees Chair: Thomas Ettelson

Do you know someone who is unable to come to church or a shut-in?  
 Contact our congregational care team:

Newsletter Editor: Tom Ettelson [t.ettelson@comcast.net](mailto:t.ettelson@comcast.net)

## Event Calendar

**Sunday, Outdoor Worship Service at Mountain Home UMC 11:00 AM**

**Sunday, September 5 Trustees Meeting Mt. Home UMC 11:15 AM**

**Monday, September 6 Labor Day**

**Sunday, September 12 Grand-parent's Day**

**Sunday, September 19 Church Council following service at the church**

**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](mailto:officesherwoodumc@gmail.com)

**Downloaded free clipart in this newsletter from**

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



**MOUNTAIN HOME**  
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH