

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Sunday November Worship Services via Zoom 10:30 AM
- Sunday, December 5 Mountain Home UMC in Sanctuary Service with proper precautions at 11:00 AM
- Friday, December 24 Christmas Eve
- Saturday, December 25 Christmas Day
- Friday, December 31 New Years Eve

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DECEMBER 2021

Remembering and Hoping

Having been the Chairwoman of Church Council for the last three years, I started thinking about our past church activities and recognized the HUGE changes we have made since then. Do you remember these pre-COVID activities?

Shared Table
Choir
Mission Moments, Safety Sundays, ERT
UMW Circles, UMM, Men's Breakfasts
Advent Activities/Easter (Shrove Pancake Dinner, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, flowering cross, Easter Sunrise Service, Easter Breakfast)
Tea on the Mountain
Book Club
Church Picnic
Spaghetti Dinner
Harvest Festival

Thanksgiving Dinner
Bazaar
Advent Activities
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Congregational Care Team

Amazing what we accomplished, correct? And then in early 2020, the pandemic raised its ugly head and everything changed. We could no longer go inside or outside without a mask on our face, we had to practice social distancing, we had to wash our hands very frequently, and we could not go to large gatherings, especially inside. The District developed and distributed Guidelines for all church services; we formed a Reimagining Committee to develop Church structure for the future.

(Continued on page 2)

This year for our Christmas Outreach we would like to support some of the 50 students who are homeless or couch surfing/ doubling up with other families. So we came up with a goal of raising \$500 to be put into gift cards for some of these students. If we raise more money then we can support more students. We are working with Shyla again this year to help the Newberg students.

If you feel you can help our Christmas Outreach this year, please send your checks to Mtn Home UMC Outreach. We'd like to have the checks by December 5th if possible. If you need more time please let me know. We would like to get the cards to the students before they leave school for vacation. Thank you for your generosity.

Contact Diane Peters if you have any questions. readerdiane@gmail.com

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Submission by Diane Peters



Remembering and Hoping (continued)

Lately the number of cases in Washington County has been lower than the standard we chose as a decision point at Mountain Home. Using that data, we have made the decision and have started planning for indoor December services. Now that we have committed, presto .. another strain of the virus has appeared in Africa and there is little known about it. However, we have proven that we are strong enough, resilient enough and have a tremendous faith that has kept us going, no matter what the reasons.

ZOOM meetings or face to face, we will continue to worship God and follow Jesus as our savior.

My sincere gratitude goes to Pastor Aric and to Church Council members with whom I've had the pleasure and the opportunity to represent our entire congregation.

Submission by Lynelle Eck

An Advent of Rest

Advent is a time of preparation for the world is about to change. The world imagined by colonizers and capitalists is doomed. It is ending. Today I don't want to focus on the short term chaos this will cause. I want to think about the rest that lays on the other side of this ending.

Rest, true rest, is almost impossible to imagine within capitalism. Rest in our society is something we have to account for; something instrumental to productivity. Some of us have to justify our rest as "earned" and show our receipts, metering out moments of quiet for ourselves like misers, while others luxuriate sinfully in rest predicated on the exploitation of the earth and their neighbors. For many, rest is hemmed in by the constant awareness of how precarious survival is in our culture. Our shopping trips take us past encampments of the unhoused. Our vacations land us on beaches where poverty is hidden, but not really, from our sight.

Take a moment and imagine a restful life. A life lived in community, where there is no

fear of expulsion or lack, because resources are shared and everyone controls the fruits of their labor for the benefit of the whole. A life where you don't wonder if your present ease will compromise your future security because you know who will care for you in your infirmity, not because they owe you, but because mutual-care is the basis of your life together.

Imagine a life in harmony with your ecosystem, and the non-human persons that share your region, such that all that you need is received as a gift, and you understand your labor not as being a matter of earning your keep, but as a matter of returning thanks to the earth. Imagine even one full breath cycle, inhale-exhale, which didn't need to be justified in any way to yourself or anyone else, because you are not your 'self' an isolated monad, but a part of a community and you inhale and exhale the same air, the same spirit, as everything around you, receiving and giving life effortlessly and continuously.

(Continued on page 3)

An Advent of Rest (continued)

I can only imagine what true rest would be like imperfectly, but I'm starting to understand that the reason my attempts at rest in this society are so fruitless is that it's like trying to dance with a partner who is on the wrong beat, or hug someone who feels uncomfortable and therefore can't relax into the embrace. My rest is predicated on the rest of my human and non-human neighbors. We all pay for each other's sleepless nights, and hangry afternoons, and end of month bill-paying stress. We're all inheriting a deficit of peace going back generations.

But there is a jubilee coming. A jubilee of naps. A jubilee of full bellies. A jubilee of nurtur-

ing childhoods. A jubilee of dignified elderhood. A jubilee of reforestation. A jubilee of restored salmon runs. A jubilee of quiet gardening. There will be rest for us and for our descendants when we finally put this world of domination and greed to rest.

Submission by Reverend Aric Clark

Reconciling Committee Update

- The rainbow flag down by the church sign seems to be holding its own. We've only needed to replace it when it gets weathered, not because it's missing. Early next year, we will be looking at the possibility of adding a Progress Pride flag. The Progress Pride flag adds black and brown stripes to represent marginalized LGBTQ+ communities of color, along with the colors pink, light blue, and white, which are used on the Transgender Pride flag.
- As you may remember, after adopting our Reconciling Welcoming Statement back in 2019, our plan was to next explore becoming a Reconciling Congregation. Then, COVID got in the way. After the first of the year, we'll be looking at taking this next step and you'll be hearing more.
- Sadly, for the last two years, COVID also interfered with the Reconciling Committee's plans to participate in the Beaverton Pride Parade. This year we learned that Newberg's very active PFLAG (formally Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) group has a Car Pride Parade – a good option for us in 2022 and a great way to show our support for the beleaguered LGBTQ+ community in Newberg and surrounding areas.
- After the first of the year, the Reconciling Committee will be working with Val (Mt. Home's Safe Sanctuary Coordinator) to explore adding LGBTQ+ considerations to our Safe Sanctuary policy.
- Lastly, we refer you to the Lay Leader's article elsewhere in this newsletter for an update on General Conference and the continued divide in the United Methodist Church over full inclusion in the church for the LGBTQ+ community.

Submission by Marcia Loney

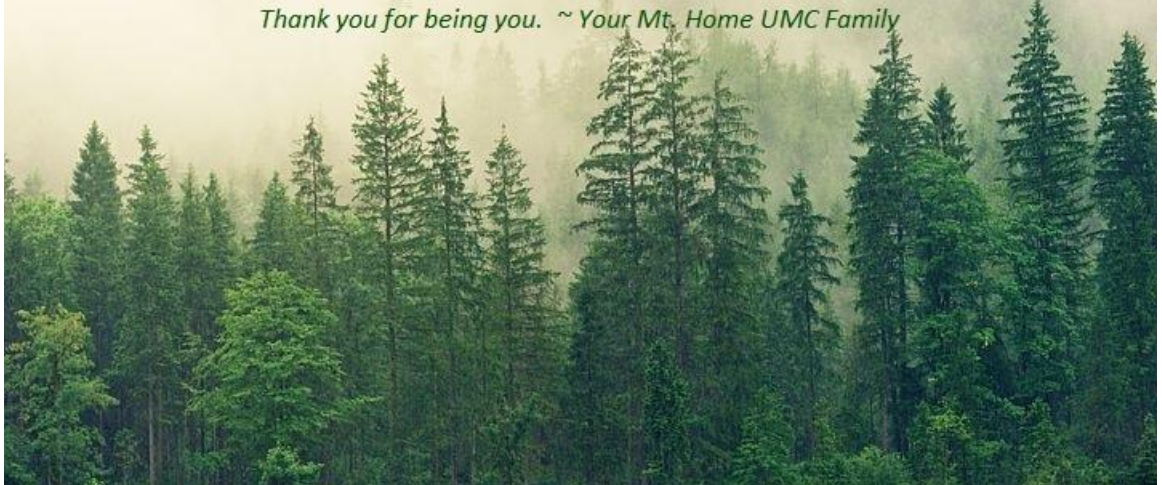




Lynelle ~ As you finish out your tenure as Church Council Chair, we offer our heartfelt thanks for a job well done. Your calm and even leadership has enabled us to navigate our way through day-to-day business and complex issues. All along the way, your goal has been to create and nurture a thriving Mt. Home UMC – a congregation spreading God’s love in the world.

Oh, and did we mention the part about the pandemic?

Thank you for tirelessly giving you time. Thank you for all of your behind-the-scenes work. Thank you for being you. ~ Your Mt. Home UMC Family



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
26	Jonica Smeltzer

Good news!

Please put December 5th on your calendar as re-opening service date.

Washington County's infection rate is staying below 15 infections per 100,000 people. In other words Mtn Home can get ready to fling open our doors to welcome our congregation back inside! We want to make sure we do that in a safe manner to protect each other. We will use the following guidelines in order to keep us all safe.

- Please do not come to church if you have any Covid symptoms or have been in contact with someone who has Covid.
- Use the hand sanitizer as you come in & go out.
- Please wear a mask at all times. We will not be singing at this time.
- Of course we will maintain a 6 foot distance as much as possible which means-
 - Please fill the pews from Front to Back alternating pews
 - Maintain a 6 foot distance in the pew unless you're with family
 - Leave the pews from back to front.
 - No Passing the Peace except from a distance-sorry
 - No hugging-we know you huggers out there!



As the infection rate changes then we may make changes as to what we can safely do. Stay tuned.

Plans for Communion have not been finalized-we will keep you informed.

Submission by Diane Peters

2022 Church Council

The Church Council is excited to welcome new member Cherry Trotter. Cherry will serve as member-at-large and also be Mountain Home's voting delegate to the OR-ID Annual Conference. Continuing council members are SPRC – Alice Hendricks, Trustees – Tom Ettelson, Treasurer – Brian McKennett, Activities/Worship – Diane Peters, and Lay Leader – Marcia Loney.

Rather than having a designated Council Chair, next year those responsibilities will be shared on a rotational basis by some members of the council.

If you have questions or a particular subject you'd like the council to address, you can contact any council member. And, as always, anyone is welcome to attend council meetings.

Submission by Marcia Loney



Willowbrook Food Pantry

Willowbrook pantry staff "Thanksgiving" was our privilege to arrange food boxes for our clients. The collection of food is coordinated with the delightful friends of Countryside Church. With the direction of Joan, director of pantry, they did a super job of collecting, arrange the abundance of food for their congregation of families, youth, seniors and Countryside staff began separated the food into boxes of ten, eight, six and four families. It was a wonderful scene of togetherness, with laughter, joy and questions by the little ones. (the questions means future participants!)

We served 60 families with *Thanksgiving* boxes.

...by people helping and people served.

We served in October 2021 92 families with 410 people

We served in October 2020 111 families with 515 people

Submission by Cherry Trotter



Thanksgiving
Food Drive

Lay Leader

Below is a sampling of articles recently shared by the Oregon-Idaho Conference and UM News. All three relate to General Conference and the continued divide in the United Methodist Church over full inclusion for the LGBTQ+ community. The information will help you understand the challenges currently facing the UMC and why 2022 stands to be a pivotal year for our denomination.

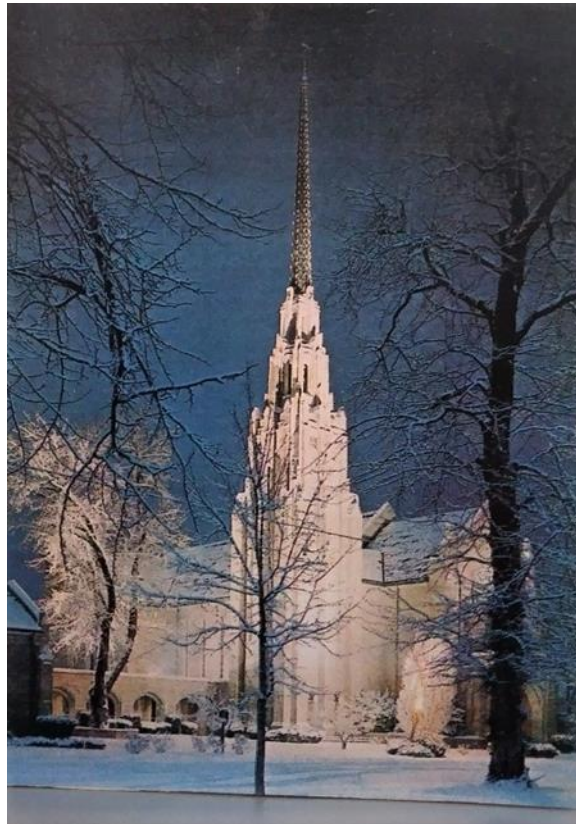
- “Setting criteria for a 2022 General Conference” - General Conference organizers plan to decide early next year whether the pandemic-postponed legislative assembly can go forward as scheduled next summer. You can find more information [here](#).
- “Judicial Council to review church-exit rules” - The United Methodist Church’s top court faces multiple docket items stemming from a new church law that allows congregations to leave with property. You can read the full article [here](#).
- “Group seeks bishops' grace in church exits” - Across the denomination there is a growing concern that the 2022 General Conference may be postponed and growing angst that the current divide over LGBTQ+ inclusion in our church is ever more untenable. Behind the scenes there is more than cursory faithful strategizing going on (Wendy Woodworth, our District Superintendent, mentioned this at Charge Conference). More details can be found [here](#).

Lastly, to finish out the year of sharing a bit of information about other churches in the Oregon-Idaho Conference, here (both pictured in the snow) are Lincoln St UMC in Portland and the Cathedral of the Rockies in Boise.

Lincoln St UMC has been located at the bustling corner of SE 52nd Avenue and Lincoln Street in Portland for over 100 years. They are a congregation of about 40 – 50 and think of their Sunday gatherings as "Free Range Worship: Local, Fresh and Always 100% Organic."






Cathedral of the Rockies in Boise, ID was founded in 1872 and is the largest United Methodist Church in the OR ID Conference. The stained glass in the present building is a notable feature and depicts both Biblical history and aspects of American history. In order to serve a diverse congregation, COTR offers a variety of worship services, each with its own unique style.



~ Marcia Loney, Lay Leader

December 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	
5 Worship Service via Zoom 10:30 am All Saints Day Trustees Meeting Zoom after service	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Worship Service via Zoom 10:30 am Church Council Meeting after service	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Worship Service via Zoom 10:30 am	20	21	22	23	24	25
					CHRISTMAS EVE 	
26 Worship Service via Zoom 10:30 am	27	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:



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:
 Chair Lynelle Eck

Newsletter Editor: Tom Ettelson t.ettelson@comcast.net

Event Calendar

**Sunday, Worship Service via Zoom
 10:30 AM**

**Sunday, December 5 Mountain
 Home UMC in Sanctuary Service
 with proper precautions at 11:00
 AM**

**Sunday, December 5 Trustees
 Meeting via Zoom 9:00 AM**

**Sunday, December 12 Church
 Council via Zoom after service**

Friday, December 24 Christmas Eve

**Saturday, December 25 Christmas
 Day**

**Friday, December 31 New Years
 Eve**

**Choir Practice , UMW Elizabeth
 Circle, UMW Lydia Circle, and UM
 Men's Breakfast suspended until
 further notice**

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

officesherwoodumc@gmail.com

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