

**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. 10:30 AM
- [Sherwood and Mt. Home UMC Christmas Eve 2021](#)
- Saturday, January 1, 2022 New Years Day
- Thursday, January 6 Epiphany

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JESUS' BAPTISM
VOLUME VIII, ISSUE I

JANUARY 2022

An Abolitionist Hymn

During the Christmas Eve service this year I sang one of my favorite hymns for this time of year, "O Holy Night". It's a famous tune. The lyrics were written in French by Placide Cappeau de Roquemaure, and the music was composed by Adolphe Charles Adams who was Jewish. The song was at first resisted by the church as "too modern" but it became so popular in France that eventually the church conceded. An American Unitarian minister named John Sullivan Dwight wrote the English translation in 1855 and it quickly became both very popular and very controversial here.

Both the popularity and the controversy were due to the lyrics of the third verse which read:

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease

Abolitionists in the United States took this hymn as a kind of anthem for their cause, while slave-owners complained to their pastors that it was "too political". Some things never change.

Even today the 3rd verse of this hymn is often left out of recordings and performances, but in my estimation these words encapsulate what is so radical and important about Christmas. If we really believe what Christmas purports to be true - that God took flesh and came to dwell among the poor, then we must see that the cause of the enslaved, the refugee, the houseless person, indeed of every oppressed person is the cause of God. To follow God and worship God is to take sides against oppression everywhere. If God's law is love, and God's gospel is peace, then every law or power which breeds cruelty and war must end.

O Holy Night is a dangerous hymn for a dangerous feast. May you keep the feast holy until all the chains have at last been broke.

Submission by Reverend Aric Clark

Mountain Home UMC Church Council 2022

Proposed Structure of Church Council to change. Recommended that the five voting members of the Council be

- a) Lay Leader
- b) Activities/Outreach Chair
- c) Trustees Chair
- d) Finance Chair
- e) Member-at-large



The group decided by consensus to adopt this structure and may amend it after Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. One At Large voting members has be invited to attend Council.

Consensus agreement was to appoint the

following leadership:

- Lay Leader – Marcia Loney
- Worship/Activities Chair – Diane Peters
- Trustees Chair – Tom Ettelson
- Finance Chair – Brian McKennett
- SPRC Chair– Alice Hendricks
- Member-at-large— Cherry Trotter
- Annual Conference Delegate - Cherry Trotter

Church Council Chair – rotational basis three-month assignments – Marcia Loney, Diane Peters, Alice Henricks, Aric Clark (Note: Aric’s role will solely be to facilitate the council meetings. As pastor he will not participate in decision making.)

January 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
14	Pat Vial
18	Diane Peters
23**	Aric & Stacia Clark
25	Marcia Loney

If you wish to send a cards or more, please, use the Mt. Home UMC Church Directory for the addresses. If you need a directory contact Diane Peters.

From the Reimagining Committee

Earlier this week the Reimagining Committee sent out the request below asking for your input. If you haven't had a chance to respond, it's not too late! We will be meeting on January 4th and would love to hear from you by the 3rd.

Everyone,

2022 is just around the corner and the Reimagining Committee will be reconvening to look at next steps for our church in a world we continue to share with the coronavirus.

Along with discussing options for Mt. Home's worship services, the committee will also be looking at new ways our congregation can connect. And, that's where you come in!

In as much detail as possible, we'd like to know...

- *Above and beyond gathering in our sanctuary to sing and worship together, **what do you miss the most?** Examples might be visiting over coffee after church, events like the Holiday Bazaar and the Tea on the Mountain, regular meetings of groups like UM Men, etc., etc.*
- ***What would you be comfortable doing?** For example, you might only feel comfortable connecting via Zoom, you might be OK gathering in small groups outside, or you might be fine with larger inside gatherings as long as everyone is wearing a mask.*
- ***What ideas do you have for providing our congregation new ways to connect?** Examples might be a social gathering in the Fellowship Hall (with safety protocols in place), a winter book study group, or opening the church for those who'd like to come and just spend time in the sanctuary - alone or with others. Please don't be limited by these examples. Think about the word "reimagine" and look with new eyes at things we might do.*

Please send your responses to Marcia Loney at mloney51@gmail.com.

*Blessings for the new year,
The Reimagining Committee*

Outreach Christmas Project for Newberg Homeless youth

With your generous help and support we were able to collect \$2000.00 to purchase Fred Meyer gift cards. Many of the homeless students will receive cards to help with their basic needs and some wants. The Reconciling committee joined with us to support three more students. In addition the Men's group donated McDonalds gift

cards which will be handed out to unaccompanied homeless youth. Thank you for your kind generosity.

Submission by Diane Peters



Willowbrook Food Pantry

December 28, 2021

Willowbrook Food Pantry 2021 Year End

How would I describe the year 2021 for Willowbrook pantry...

It is always a joy to work with my colleagues, like-minded dear friends.

I'm in awe to experience the wonder of God to see that we are assured of food. When we are out of cereal then a 'miracle' cereal is donated. Or soup, spaghetti or tuna.

Target Company has contracted with OFB to donate meat/canned goods/yogurt/coffee, tea & beverage. Willowbrook pantry has Sherwood Target to obtain these foods & beverage. Target has been a godsend for the pantry.

The cleaning of the pantry is donated time from the Friends Community Church. What a wonderful group of people. They come once a month to clean the pantry.

We had privilege of working with Countryside Church for Thanksgiving boxes.

Out of the blue, we had a person who had an unselfish prayer to help with a pantry. He had construction skills so he built 3 shelving units for the waiting room. It took 4 days and he was gone to another charitable project.

I would describe Willowbrook pantry a lot more than a food pantry. Willowbrook shows us an example of God's love.

We served 12 families and 51 people in December

We served 1016 families with 4285 people in 2021 + 60 Holiday Boxes

We served 1357 families with 6005 people in 2020 + 72 Holiday Boxes

Submission by Cherry Trotter



Two great opportunities...



Together, Abundant Health teams across the UMC Greater Northwest Area are offering a four-week Virtual Health Fair for anyone interested. The one-hour classes will focus on holy health, Tai Chi, meditation, and prayer as methods of improving overall health. The classes will begin on Thursday, Jan. 13 and run through February 3, 2022. Classes start at 6 p.m.

Read more and register [here...](#)



Ecumenical Ministries Interfaith Power & Light Green Circles is a monthly statewide gathering bringing together people of faith from across Oregon to learn about issues of climate change, faith, and justice, and to root ourselves spiritually as we build relationships and take action together.

Their January-April gatherings (third Tuesdays of each month 6:30-8:00 pm) will focus on reading *Becoming Rooted: 100 Days of Reconnecting with Sacred Earth* by Dr. Randy Woodley. Discussions with the author will occur at the January, February and April gatherings –


Read more about the book [here](#).

To register click [here](#).

Note: Although you can sign up as an individual, this would be great for us to do as a faith community. Let me know if you are interested! mloney51@gmail.com

~ Marcia Loney, Lay Leader

January 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 <i>Have A Blessed New Year!</i>
2 Worship w/ Communion via Zoom at 10:30 am Trustees Meeting via Zoom	3	4	5	6 	7	8
9 Worship w/ Communion via Zoom at 10:30 am Church Council Meeting via Zoom	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Worship w/ Communion via Zoom at 10:30 am	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Worship via Zoom 10:30 am	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Worship via Zoom 10:30 am	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:



Pianist: Cindy Souza
 Lay Leader: Marcia Loney
 Pastor Parish Relations Committer Chair: Alice Hendricks
 Worship/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 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 at 10:30 AM

Saturday, January 1, 2022 New Years Day

Sunday, January 2 Trustees Meeting via Zoom at 11:30 AM

Thursday January 6 Epiphany

Sunday, January 9, 2022 Church Council via Zoom Meeting following Worship Service

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

Downloaded free clipart in this newsletter from

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

Free High Quality Cliparts - Cliparts Zone

