

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Sunday Worship** will be via Zoom while COVID-19 infection rates in Washington County are high. We will have communion during each zoom service.
10:00 AM
- **Monday, February 14** Valentine Day
- **Monday, February 21** Presidents' Day
- **Sunday, February 27** Transfiguration Sunday

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FEBRUARY 2022

Rewilding God's Creation

One of the most consequential theological debates in our history is whether we read the creation narratives in Genesis as a story of domestication and domination, or a story of mutuality and care in a wild creation. Many Christians believe that God put humanity in control, on top of a hierarchy of domination over nature, and all plants and animals exist as resources for humans to exploit as we desire. That belief has led us to building societies which are hierarchical and exploitative, not only of nature, but of one another. It does not have to be this way.

The animals are not created for Adam and Eve to control. They are created as partners for Adam and Eve, sharing in God's declarations of goodness and bounty. The plants are not created for Adam and Eve to consume. In fact, one of the first lessons of Creation is that there are supposed to be limits to our consumption. The divine garden isn't centered on human needs alone. Trying to turn everything they see into food is how Adam and Eve break fellowship with the communi-

ty of creation and end up outside of Eden.

Salvation in scripture is often depicted as having natural consequences: trees bear healing fruits, animals change their diets, thorny or rocky ground becomes fertile and so forth. Humanity brought all of nature with us into our mess and there is no redemption for humanity without a rewilding of God's creation. This is a very important change in orientation with many implications, among them:

- We must shrink the amount of land currently dedicated for human use. The earth belongs to all God's creatures and we cannot be good participants in the community of life if we take up all the room and destroy all the habitat.
- Sharing space doesn't mean just creating wild zones, it also means welcoming plants and creatures to inhabit the same spaces we do. It means using less pesticides and herbicides. It means promoting polycultures. It means letting weeds grow

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An Abolitionist Hymn (continued)

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alongside the “productive” plants we prefer.

- Relinquishing control over our fellow creatures means beginning to reverse domestication of some species. We do this by reducing our consumption of industrial animal products and ceasing breeding of animals for pets.
- Most importantly, we must recover our understanding of the sacred and begin to treat the land itself, and our relation-

ship to the land, as sacred, because so long as we treat the land as property we will reduce everything to resources and continue to destroy the basis of life on earth.

These are some of the perspective shifts that will be required if we understand our relationship to God’s creation as one of mutual care and not domination. Can you imagine others?

Submission by Reverend Aric Clark

Willowbrook Food Pantry

January 27, 2022

Willowbrook Food Pantry

Cooperation: the progress of working together to the same end.

Relationship: people who are connected to the quality of each other.

Willowbrook pantry have moved into a nice place of cooperation through our relationship between area pantry’s.

IE: If we have too much of a product (dairy/yogurt) we supply some other pantry and by the same we collect products from another pantry.

What a warm concept ‘cooperation and relationship’!

God is Good.

The Elks of Sherwood gave us 1135 pounds of food and 250 lbs. of potatoes!

Amanda/Laurelwood donation was 429 pounds of food!

Submission by Cherry Trotter



COOPERATION

Worshiping While We're Apart

In an attempt to met the spiritual needs of everyone several opportunities have been developed by your Moving Forward Committee. In place already is a writing group lead by Lynelle Eck. Another project in the works are Goodie Baskets that will be prepared and delivered by volunteers during the Lenten season. Diane Peters and Larry Johnson are helping to organize this activity. Anyone wanting to be involved in either of these activities are welcome to contact Lynelle, Diane, or Larry.

The committee also identified other things That are missing as we worship on-line. One being the gathering together in small group. A plan has be established for groups of 10 or less to meet inside the church when COVID numbers drop to acceptable levels. Pastor Aric will be checking numbers weekly and will make us aware when that this could happen. These groups could be book clubs, bible studies, or chat groups. More information will be detailed when this activity may resume.

Another piece people are missing is the peace and comfort of being in our wonderful sanctuary and church grounds. That can now change. Any of us can drive up on a nice day and sit on the bench and enjoy the view of the vineyards below and the mountains to the east but not all of us can access the inside the church.

With the installation of a new lock box, anyone from the congregation may venture inside. The lock box is located to the left of the main entrance. The key box has a 5 figure push button code. You must enter it to retrieve the key and then enter it again to close the box. The directions for use are located on the inside of the

weather cover. The key will open any outside door on the church.

Inside the church you would be able sit in silence enjoying the wonderful banners Pat Vial has provided us. You can view the scenes depicted on the stain glass windows. Some share a verse to reflect on. Thanks to the Schmeltzers and others for such wonderful contributions providing beauty and meaning to our church. Did you realize those on the west side show scenes from the bible while those on the east show scenes from our beautiful Oregon landscapes. All of these windows have been produced by one local artist over a period of several decades.

Just recently added is a prayer station located in the front of the church. Cherry Trotter has put a together an area where you may light a candle, reflect on your spiritual journey and hopefully recharge yourself.

If you don't have a key and would like to use the lock box, please contact Larry Johnson lj.big4sportsfan@gmail.com , Tom Ettelson Thomas t.ettelson@comcast.net , or Brian McKennett bmckennett1@gmail.com they will provide you with the code. The combination may be changed periodically. If it is everyone will get a notification.

You are welcome to come day or night. Please sign in when you enter and out when you leave. If you light the candle please extinguish it before you leave. The door will remains locked when you enter. Give it a tug when you leave to make sure it's secure.

Submitted by Larry Johnson

Worshipping Together While Apart

Please take a moment to read this message. It contains important updates.

Dear Friends of Sherwood United Methodist Church,

As we approach 2 years of pandemic I am deeply grateful for the flexibility, patience, endurance, and creativity of our church in Sherwood. The Reimagining team has recently met to make some plans for the future and to revisit current best-practices and guidelines from the CDC and our District.

As you are probably aware the Omicron strain currently has sent case numbers into the very severe range which means extra caution is warranted. If you haven't had a booster shot yet, please go get one. Continue social distancing wherever possible and wear a mask. Up your mask game if you can, instead of just a cloth

mask consider buying N95 or KN95 masks. If you travel or are exposed to COVID consider getting tested. If you experience any symptoms, self-isolate and inform people with whom you've been in close contact.

This week, due to high case numbers, worship will be online only, via zoom at 10am. This will be a single service for all our Sherwood and Mt. Home friends. Join us on zoom via this link: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/95411425101>

While case numbers are high, worship will continue being on Zoom, but we'll get to that promised feast the only way we ever get any place worthwhile: together.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Aric Clark



Debate about church future heats up

This recent article in **UM News** provides an update on the future of our denomination.

[Debate about church future heats up](#)

Submission by **Marcia Loney**

February 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
* Sunday Worship will be via Zoom while COVID-19 infection rates in Washington County are high		1	2	3	4	5
6 *Worship w/ Communion via Zoom at 10:00 am Trustees Meeting via Zoom	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 *Worship w/ Communion via Zoom at 10:00 am Church Council Meeting via Zoom	14 Valentines Day 	15	16	17	18	19
20 *Worship w/ Communion via Zoom at 10:00 am	21 Presidents' Day 	22	23	24	25	26
27 *Worship w/ Communion via Zoom at 10:00 am Transfiguration Sunday	28					



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/Outreach 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 while COVID-19 infection rates in Washington County are high. Please provided your own elements for communion during each zoom service at 10:00 AM

Sunday, February 6 Trustees Meeting via Zoom at 10:00 AM

Sunday, February 13 Church Council via Zoom Meeting following Worship Service

Monday, February 14 Valentine's Day

Monday, February 21 Presidents' Day

Sunday, February 27 Transfiguration Sunday

Choir Practice 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

