

## 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
- Wednesday, March 2 Ash Wednesday
- Sunday, March 6 First Sunday in Lent
- Sunday, March 27 UMCOR Sunday

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VOLUME VIII, ISSUE III

MARCH 2022

## Descent Into Silence

There's a silence at the middle of things, but it takes practice to hear it over all the noise. The first step to descending into this silence is to stop talking. It might seem like an obvious thing to say, but we're very often completely unaware how much noise we're putting out into the world. A friend of mine went skydiving for the first time. As he plummeted through the sky in tandem with his instructor he heard everything his instructor said about assuming the proper body position, and counting down the seconds of the freefall. He heard the wind rushing in his ears. He heard the whistle of the cable being released and the billow of the silk filling up with air, and he relaxed into the hush that came after the freefall slowed to a gentle descent. It was only then he realized he had been screaming the entire time.

Silencing ourselves doesn't mean coming to a dead stop. You can hear the silence in the middle of a Los Angeles traffic jam as certainly as you can on top of a mountain in the Holy Land. In order to silence ourselves we only have to learn the art of being still in the middle of the chaos. On the third or fourth time my friend went skydiving he discovered that there is perfect silence

in the middle of freefall. Even with the wind howling in your ears and your hair whipping around your face, if you are relaxed, you can close your eyes and it is as quiet as being a mile under the earth. It is as still as a sensory deprivation tank.

This dynamic "resting while in movement" posture is a difficult thing to teach. It can be discovered by accident, but it is hard to replicate. Even if you've experienced it you might not be able to find your way back into it. Still, the knowledge the silence is there, omnipresent, is something you can carry with you into the hurry of life, and you can always practice descending to that silence again, wherever you are, as often as you like.

This Lent we are practicing that descent. Noisy banners. Noisy bulletins. Noisy money. Noisy instruments. Noisy words. Bit by bit we peel back the layers of sound to get to that quiet core. The quiet of a desert. The quiet of a garden at night. The quiet of a lone man of sorrows whispering prayers after his friends are asleep. We descend ever deeper into the silence: past the noise of the crowd calling for blood, the crack of the whip, and the pounding of the hammer. Be-

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## Descent Into Silence (continued)

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yond the sound of labored breathing. Beyond the hushed murmur of a dying heart. Beyond the sigh of a life spent. Beyond the wails of mourners. Beyond the heavy finality of a stone rolled into place.

In the absolute silence of the grave we pause. Here everything is stopped. Light and sound go in, but none come out. Beyond the event horizon of the gravestone no information is available. This is where the silence comes from. This is what dwells at the heart of all things. This is what is in your heart, which you can access even as the days and years fly by with ceaseless

buzzing. Inside each of us there is a tomb. To touch it is to know that we are dust and to dust we will return. It is the only thing which is certain. So certain it puts everything else we experience into doubt.

During Lent we descend into silence, toward that tomb, hoping, praying, that one morning we will find the stone rolled away, and the tomb will be empty.

Submission by Reverend Aric Clark

## Willowbrook Food Pantry

**February 25, 2022**

Archer Glen Elementary School had their Food Drive 2/14 -17, 2022. This has been an annual food drive altered for the pandemic for 2 years. What a blessing to begin again, both for the school children and the Willowbrook Food Pantry. This year the drive brought in 2524 pounds of food! We are thankful and grateful for the kids, parents and teachers for their generosity and care.

We served 106 families with 432 people in January.

We served 102 families with 412 people in February.

With love for "our" families.

Submission by Cherry Trotter

## 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,

Submission by Reverend Aric Clark

## Worshipping 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

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## Worshipping Together While Apart

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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](mailto:lj.big4sportsfan@gmail.com) , Tom Ettelson Thomas [t.ettelson@comcast.net](mailto:t.ettelson@comcast.net) , or Brian McKennett [bmckennett1@gmail.com](mailto: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



## Staying Connected While We Continue To Worship Apart

I hope you're enjoying you Ash Wednesday Goody Bag. Thanks to all who provided items, packed the bags, and delivered the goodies. It was the Moving Forward Committee's hope it would allow all of us to focus on the beginning of the Lenten season and bring us together as a congregation. Thanks to Diane Peters for organizing that outreach project.

As we continue to move forward, the COVID-19 news is improving. Each day as our country and the world continues to battle COVID -19 new recommendation for being shared by the scientific communities. The numbers are dropping into levels that are allowing our Governor to slowly remove restriction. There may be a chance in the near future for small gatherings or/and a return to in-person worship. Pastor Aric will continue to monitor the numbers and consult with the church leadership to work out the details for returning to in-person activities.

Even though we may return to in-person activities this spring, the virus will still be present in our communities and a risk to those who are vulnerable. There maybe some of us that will still not feel comfortable returning. And that's OK. Everyone will need to decide for themselves the risks they are comfortable taking. There will remain options for on-line worship available for anyone.

With all that said, a Palm Sunday Goody Bag activity is being planned. This will continue to keep us connected as a congregation no matter what's happening with COVID-19. So hears the outline for the project. Those wanting to provide goodies should deliver them to the church by March 18<sup>th</sup>. The exception would be baked goods and palms fronds which should arrive April 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>. Those volunteering to deliver bags would be able to pick them up on April 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>. Deliveries then would happen between April 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Palm Sunday this year is April 10<sup>th</sup>. Here's hoping we can all wave our palms together to start the beginning of Holy Week. If you are interested in helping with any part of this projects email me at [lj.big4sportsfan@gmail.com](mailto:lj.big4sportsfan@gmail.com).

There are also plans in the works for an Easter Sunrise service at Mt Home. It's six weeks away so it to early to share many details. But as weather forecasts and COVID-19 numbers are reviewed more details will be shared.

Submitted by Larry Johnson

In Memory  
Orville N. Nilsen – July 25, 1925 – February 1, 2022



Reverend Orville N. Nilsen died on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. He served as the pastor of Mountain Home UMC from 1992 to 1996, at which time he retired. Prior to that he had also been the pastor at Garden Home UMC and Seaside UMC.

Many of you know that John Nilsen, whom we often welcome and enjoy as a visiting musician, is Rev. Nilsen's son. John says that he could not have asked for a better dad. He remembers his father as a tremendous listener who looked past the things that didn't matter. In fact, John reports, his father never once asked him to cut his hair! He describes Rev. Nilsen as traditional in his philosophy, with services that were steeped in hymns and scripture.

When John's daughter was young (and Rev Nilsen was at Mt. Home), John and his wife decided that attending services there was the perfect way to introduce their daughter to a spiritual life. He recalls a feeling of comfort from start to finish and a family atmosphere that his father so loved. Rev. Nilsen was especially happy when his wife, Jean (a tremendous pianist and organist), would play for the service. Faith and family were the foundation for his strength.

John also remembers that Rev. Nilsen appreciated the big window at the front of Mt. Home's sanctuary - an eye out into the "wonderful wilderness" surrounding our church.




Rev. Nilsen and wife Jean, c. 1980s.

Submission by Marcia Loney



# March 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 Ash Wednesday 	3	4	5
6 *Worship w/ Communion via Zoom at 10:00 am 1st Sunday of Lent 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	15	16	17	18	19
20 *Worship w/ Communion via Zoom at 10:00 am	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 *Worship w/ Communion via Zoom at 10:00 am <b>UMCOR Sunday</b>	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](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:



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](mailto: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, March 6 First Sunday in Lent**

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

**Sunday, March 13 Church Council via Zoom Meeting following Worship Service**

**Sunday, March 27 UMCOR 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](mailto:officesherwoodumc@gmail.com)

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