

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Sunday, April 10**
Passion/Palm Sunday
- **Thursday, April 14**
Maundy Thursday
- **Friday, April 15**
Good Friday
- **Saturday, April 17**
Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 AM

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APRIL 2022

Swords Into Plowshares

At several points in the Old Testament the kings and people of Israel are instructed by God to hammer their swords and spears into plowshares - to transform implements of war into tools for sustenance and care. This is part of the explicitly anti-imperial and anti-militaristic politics of the prophets. Along with the command to destroy weapons came commands to avoid military alliances, not to put trust in chariots and horses (their equivalent of planes and tanks), and not to rely on princes generally. Instead, the people of Israel were supposed to face their much more powerful neighbors unarmed and trusting in the providence of God to protect them from harm. Jesus then took this teaching further, instructing his disciples never to return harm for harm, to throw away their swords, and to “turn the other cheek” when assaulted.

The need to heed these teachings has never been more urgent than right now. Once again life on earth is in peril due to the reality that our nation, along with several others possesses enough nuclear weapons to make our planet uninhabitable many times over. The mere existence of these weapons means that we are always a tragic mistake away from disaster, but with unstable people in power, and the eroding of

democratic norms the likelihood of such a disaster increases daily. Watching Russia invade Ukraine and realizing that any response by our leaders could carry unimaginable consequences should renew our commitment to disarmament at every level.

But it’s not only the existential threat of nuclear weapons that makes these ancient teachings relevant. Our nation is currently spending many times more resources on preparing for war than we are on enabling peace, or protecting our environment, or caring for our people. The reason the prophets command the transformation of weapons into tools for care is that a weapon, even when not actively used to kill, steals life by its mere existence. As President Eisenhower once famously said, “Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.”

Let’s listen to the ancient prophets. Decommission our nuclear arsenal. Dismantle the Pentagon. Defund the police. Give up our guns. Hammer our swords into plowshares.

Submission by Reverend Aric Clark

Sunday Services at Mountain Home UMC

Sunday Worship will be in-person at the church depending on COVID-19 infection rates in Washington County at 11:00 AM. Communion will be observed each Sunday to which individual elements will be provided or you may bring your own to be blessed. If infection rates are above criteria One Call notice will call members of the

congregation and friends Friday before indicating that the Sunday Service will be via Zoom at 10:30 AM. In that case, please provided your own elements for communion during each zoom service.

Submission by Tom Ettelson

Willowbrook Food Pantry

March 26, 2022

Our clients to Willowbrook needs to sign-in, fill out their preference sheet and leave them for food volunteers. The preference sheet helps the volunteer get the food which the family would choose. On Tuesday, we had a new family who was surprised with the variety of food on the preference sheet. They eagerly choose their selections. The staff assembled four boxes, bags of produce and fruit for the family. The man was overwhelmed and pulled out his limited cash and gave her \$5.00. When she told him there was no charge for food. He told her to keep the \$5.00 and use to it to help another family. Grace.

Submission by Cherry Trotter

April 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
9	Lynelle Eck
29	Connie Jacot
30	Marvin Walker
30	Alice Hendricks

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.

Preparing for Holy Week

Holy week is just a couple of weeks away. As we prepare for this important time in our worship we are still transitioning in how we worship because of COVID. We are still wearing masks and socially distancing within the church. We have been able for the past couple of weeks to begin to get together for in-person worship(9 members both weeks). The service has included congregational singing and communion. All done within the protocol of CDC and OHA guidelines. The numbers have been small as people are still being cautious about returning to large group gatherings. We are glad that everyone is taking care of themselves and thinking of others as they make they decision whether to return to in-person worship or not.

Knowing we all can not gathering yet, we will again be distributing “Goodies” just before Palm Sunday. As we did before Ash Wednesday our volunteers, Cherry, Tom, Alice, and Larry will be

out and about between April 7 – 9 delivering “Goodies” and good cheer to our members and friends from Mt. Home. The baskets will be loaded with items to lift your spirit and let you know you're loved. One of the special items this time will be a palm branch to help us celebrate the arrive of our Lord.

And just as a reminder, plans are in place for an outdoor 7:00 am Sunrise Service Easter Morning at Mt Home. Followed by a 10:00 am Easter Service at Sherwood. How ever choose to celebrate this end of Lent, either in-person or on-line, may you find peace and comfort in knowing you are loved.

P.S. Pastor Aric also mentioned that we may be able to again begin to celebrate fellowship hour after the services.

Submission 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 18th. The exception would be baked goods and palms fronds which should arrive April 1st or 2nd. Those volunteering to deliver bags would be able to pick them up on April 3rd or 4th. Deliveries then would happen between April 5th and 8th. Palm Sunday this year is April 10th. 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.

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

April 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>* Sunday Worship will be in-person at the church 11:00 AM unless COVID-19 infection rates in Washington County are high, then via Zoom 10:30 AM (notice sent out Friday)</p>					1	2
<p>3 *Worship at church in-person 11:00 AM Trustees Meeting following Service</p>	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>10 *Worship at church in-person 11:00 AM Palm Sunday Church Council Meeting following Service</p>	11	12	13	14 	15 	16
<p>17 Sunrise Service at Church 7:00 AM</p> 	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>24 *Worship at church in-person 11:00 AM</p>	25	26	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
<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:
 Pastor Parish Relations Committer Chair: Alice Hendricks
 Worship/Outreach Chair: Diane Peters
 Finance Chair – Brian McKennett
 Trustees Chair: Thomas Ettelson
 Church Council Member-at-large: Cherry Trotter

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

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Sunday, April 3 Trustees Meeting following Worship Service

Sunday, April 10 Passion/Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 10 Church Council following Worship Service

Thursday, April 14 Maundy Thurs-

day

Friday, April 15 Good Friday

Sunday, April 17 Easter

Sunday, April 17 Easter Sunrise Service at the church 7:00 AM

Sunday, April 17 Easter Service at Sherwood UMC 10:00 AM

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

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