

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Sunday Worship will be in-person 11:00 AM unless COVID-19 hospitalization rates in Washington County are high, then via Zoom (notice sent out Friday)
- **Tuesday, July 4** American Independence Day

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Accept No Substitutes

Of all the things that America claims for herself, the most oft asserted, and arguably the most prized, is Freedom. America sees herself as the land of the Free, and it is in pursuit and defense of that Freedom that almost everything we do as a nation is justified. When it comes time for holidays of national remembrance and rejoicing it is Freedom we are enjoined to be grateful for, and Freedom, we are told, is the ultimate cause of our celebration.

There's no doubt that Freedom is a worthy goal, one Christians also share. So here is how Christians understand Freedom:

Freedom is everyone having enough to eat. Freedom is everyone having a safe place to rest. Freedom is a community where no one is superior and no one inferior,

no one is wealthy and no one is poor. Freedom is an end to oppression. Freedom is joyful relationships of mutual care between neighbors, strangers, and even former enemies. Freedom is a right relationship with all of God's creatures.

Freedom often looks chaotic. Free people, with no lords or masters, are free to complain. Free to be cantankerous and express themselves with creative defiance. When the people of Israel were freed from slavery in Egypt one of the first things they did was start complaining about the monotony of manna from heaven. Communities seeking freedom are often judged to be uncouth. Respectable people frequently clutch their pearls in the presence of free folk.

Freedom is a free gift of

- M – Alaska Annual Conference Opening Worship Sermon
- I – Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference Opening Worship Sermon
- L – Pacific Northwest Annual Conference Opening Worship Sermon
- E – 2023 GNW Shared Closing Episcopal Address
- M.I.L.E. – 2023 Annual Conference Sermons by Cedrick D. Bridgeforth

Transcendent God (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

God's grace. Freedom is not bought with blood, not by soldiers heroically sacrificing themselves, and especially not by the murder of our enemies for national security. When Christ was resurrected from the grave Christians learned that true Freedom is Freedom even from the fear of death. Free people do not scapegoat or sacrifice anyone for the comfort of anyone else.

Most importantly, Freedom doesn't tolerate captivity of anyone anywhere. A person who accepts the poverty or oppression of another to maintain their own peace is not free, but enslaved to a false idol. We may get a foretaste of

the Freedom of the Beloved Community, but Christians also know that none of us are truly Free until everyone is Free. This is what Communion is about: we all get free together. Therefore, every injustice against another human being, no matter how seemingly distant from our own lives, is an impediment to our Freedom.

Freedom is indeed a glorious vision, more than worthy of being the aspiration of every nation. May you recognize real Freedom and accept no substitutes.

Submission by Reverend Aric Clark

Summer Book Club

Join us on Wednesday, beginning June 14th at 7 PM to read Sue Monk Kidd's *Invention of Wings*. We'll choose a few chapters to discuss each week.

It is a historical fiction about two women in South Carolina who became abolitionists. They were Quakers. There was dissension in their church about abolition. (The sisters were real people-Grimke sisters.)

It was an Oprah book club book.

Bring a chair, water & maybe a jacket. We'd love to see you whenever you can join us this summer.

Invention of Wings Reading group- Wednesday evening under the trees at 7PM

June 28- Part 1 pg 3-84

July 5- Part 2 87-149

July 19- Part 3 pg 153-210

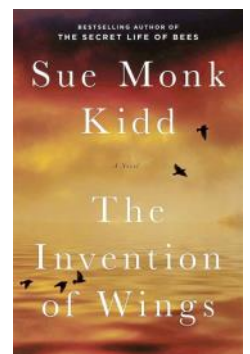
July 26-Part 4 pg 213-261

Aug 2- Part 5 pg 265-298

Aug 9- Finish reading

Aug 16 Speaker

Submission by Diane Peters



Our Inspiring & Productive Community Wood Chipping Day!

Last Saturday the far back field of the church was a hub of activity as we cleared out the many woody debris piles that had accumulated in recent years.

Larry Johnson, his son Travis and grandsons Parker and Sawyer were the muscle of the operation as they relentlessly and without pause fed the wood-chipper an hours-long stream of woody debris.

John Oliver, widower of our former church pianist Nina, came on his Kubota and moved the many debris piles from the field up to the wood chipper. Travis and Bob cleared up the debris remnants that John's tractor couldn't get.

Good Neighbor Dave came on his tractor and mowed the field, even leveling the soil mounds left by the piles.

Pastor Aric showed up and got to work clipping some hanging tree limbs and other areas.

After we wrapped up work, we had a nice pizza lunch in the basement. John even shared some interesting construction history of the church and parsonage.

Much gratitude and admiration to Larry and Brian, who orchestrated most of the site logistics, and to Travis, Parker, Sawyer, and Bob. Plus Carol who came near the end and helped out!

Each person was crucial to the day's work. What an inspiring and productive day for our beloved community!

Submission by Cathy Poff



Willowbrook Food Pantry



Food Pantry Needs



January through May 2023 have been noticeably busy. Our families increased to 760 with 3,221 people.

Last year our numbers were 545 families with 2,204 people. (More 215 families with 1017 people in 2023.)

The grocery prices have been high with not anticipated to change. Our choices with

Oregon Food Bank have been considerably less with food selections, Target and Fred Meyers donations have been significant and the area churches are much loved and appreciated. We've had four new volunteers to meet demands!

Thanks be to God.

Submitted Cherry Trotter

Holiday Bazaar Committee



Our ladies of the bazaar committee are continuing to plan for this year's event. Every time we meet there are new ideas floating around. We have such a creative group. We will be bringing things down to do an inventory of items at our

next meeting. With all the things we are doing this year as well I can assure everyone who comes will find something just for them.

Submission by Carol McComis

July 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
5	Avery Clark
6	Tom Ettelson
13**	Larry & Maggie Johnson
21	Molly Woodbury
22	Peggy Luckman
29**	Marvin & Linda Walker

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



Go and Do
LIKEWISE



Oregon-
Idaho
2023 Annual
Conference Sessions



*I am setting a
plumb line in
the midst of
my people.*

Amos 7:8

Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) is an independent movement of progressive United Methodists taking action on issues of **Justice, Peace and Liberation**.

The Methodist Federation for Social Action calls upon the United Methodist Church to expand its understanding and embodiment of the **radical call of the Gospel** to be an inclusive, justice seeking, risk-taking **Body of Christ**. We support and augment **peace and justice ministries** through and beyond the United Methodist Church.

Through MFSA, we **live out our belief** that to be a faithful witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to be involved in the transformation of the social order.

Nationally, MFSA is **accountable** to a Board of Directors, representing the diversity of the membership. We are also connected by a Program Council composed of representatives from all chapters.

Supported entirely by annual memberships and contributions, MFSA is not an official United Methodist body.

In our Oregon-Idaho Conference Chapter, local activities are guided by an Executive Committee of twelve or more officers and representatives elected at an annual meeting.

How You Can Be Involved in Making a Difference

As a supporter of Methodist Federation for Social Action in the Oregon-Idaho Conference you can:

Pray regularly for the prophetic work of MFSA both in the wider United Methodist Church and in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

Challenge the members of the local church to take Jesus seriously, to seek first God's Realm and to speak and act for God's justice in the world.

Know and tell the story of MFSA to at least one other person in the local church and invite that person to become a member of MFSA.

Connect with others in the Chapter network in at least one of the following ways:

- Attend MFSA Events
- Attend MFSA meeting at Annual Conference
- Attend a gathering of MFSA members and friends in my local area
- Sit in on a meeting of the Chapter MFSA Executive Committee (meeting regularly via ZOOM)
- Submit an article for publication in The Witness, our chapter newsletter
- Serve on the Executive Committee for a three-year term

Oregon-Idaho Chapter Priorities

In Oregon-Idaho the priorities our MFSA chapter are working on include becoming a **Fully Inclusive United Methodist Church, Racial Justice, Immigration and Refugee rights, Gun Violence** legislation, **Homelessness /Affordable Housing**, Justice in the **Holy Land, Death penalty** abolition, **Human Trafficking** awareness and education, **Environmental Justice** and reducing the use of fossil fuels.

Join Us in this Work!

No issue stands alone nor can any one issue ignore all of the intersections with other areas of life. MFSA stands ready to help move forward justice and equity in all areas of life. Please join us in this work. It is the work of all of God's creation.

[Join today on the MFSA website](#)

Methodist Federation for Social Action

Rev. Karen Nelson, Chapter President

oregonidaho@mfsaweb.org

www.oimfsa.org

Facebook: MFSA Oregon-Idaho

John Nilsen



Photo by Norm Eder

Save the Date: John Nilsen Concert and Potluck on Sunday, August 13th!

We will once again have the pleasure of John Nilsen playing for our outdoor worship service on August 13th, followed by an additional 30-minute piano concert and a potluck lunch. We will have a free will offering for him.

John is current touring in England, Scotland and Norway, so he will return with fresh inspiration to share with us. He is a pianist, guitarist, vocalist and songwriter and one of the Pacific Northwest's most successful performance and recording artists. The people, landscapes, weather, and tenor of life in our area frequently influence his musical themes.

Put this special event on your calendar, and bring some friends!

- Submitted by Alice Hendricks

July 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
* Sunday Worship will be in-person at the church 11:00 AM unless COVID-19 hospitalization in Washington County	then via Zoom 10:00 AM (notice sent out Friday)					1
2 *Worship 11:00 AM	3	4 	5	6	7	8
9 *Worship 11:00 AM	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 *Worship 11:00 AM	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Wor-ship 11:00 AM 30 *Worship 11:00 AM	24 31	25	26	27	28	29

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

Websites: <http://mthomeumc.org>

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/Mtn.Home.Church)

[Mtn.Home.Church](https://www.facebook.com/Mtn.Home.Church)

YouTube: [Mountain Home United Methodist](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

[Church - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



Reverend Aric Clark contact information

Phone: (503)810-2395

E-mail: aricclark22@gmail.com

Office hours by appointment

Check out the updated website:



Pastor Parish Relations Committer Chair: Alice Hendricks

Worship/Outreach Chair: Diane Peters

Finance Chair – Brian McKennett

Trustees Chair: Larry Johnson

Lay Leader: Cherry Trotter

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

Event Calendar

Sunday Worship will be in-person at the church 11:00 AM unless COVID-19 hospitalization in Washington County are high, then via Zoom 10:00 AM (notice sent out Friday)

Tuesday, July 4 American Independence Day

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

officesherwoodumc@gmail.com

Mountain Home UMC YouTube Channel [Mountain Home United Methodist Church - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

where past Sunday Worship Services can be found.

Downloaded free clipart in this newsletter from

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

[Free High Quality Cliparts - Cliparts Zone](https://www.clipart-library.com/mailbox-cliparts.html)

