

## 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)
- Sunday, September 3 Blessing the Animals Sunday Service
- Monday, September 4 Labor Day
- Sunday, September 10 Grandparent's Day
- Sunday, September 10 Trustees Meeting 9:30 AM

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# Mountain Home United Methodist Church



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## Why Are People Poor?



**“When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist.” Archbishop Helder Camara.**

God’s creation can support all of God’s creatures. This is bedrock theology. God didn’t make a world where, by design, some people must be deprived of shelter, food, and water. This means that where we see such suffering we are seeing evidence of something having gone wrong.

The self-serving explanation of the comfortable in our society is that poverty is the fault of the poor themselves. The appeal of this explanation is that it is simple and requires nothing of those of us who are financially stable. If we blame poverty on poor life choices, then we can rest easy believing the world is fundamentally fair. People get what they deserve.

But, of course, people do NOT get what they deserve. The hardest working

people in our society are often the poorest - farm workers, service workers, custodians. While some of the wealthiest people earn such incredible sums of money that it is ludicrous to suppose they are “worth” that many times more than others whatever their supposed talents. Ultimately, no one deserves poverty. No one deserves to be unsheltered. No one deserves to die of starvation or exposure.

Another possible explanation is that poverty is like a natural disaster - a seemingly random thing which happens to people without respect to background. It rains on the just and the unjust alike. It is true that some famines have natural causes. Droughts and floods can make resources scarce.

But we can also see clearly that we are living in the most abundant period in human history. There is more than enough food to feed everyone. Even in Portland there are more empty housing units than houseless people. We can also see that poverty is not random - that people of color, and people from the global south are disproportionately deprived of necessities. Furthermore, we can see that some people have extreme amounts of excess and this should make it clear to us that poverty is NOT natural, but manufactured.

So if God’s creation provides

Proverbs 16:9 In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.  
“If you want to make God laugh,” so goes a meme, “make plans!”

## Why Are People Poor? (continued)

*(Continued from page 1)*

enough for all, and poverty on the whole doesn't arise due to the individual choices of the poor or by cosmic accident, then we have to entertain the answer which both scripture and historical analysis offer: poverty is a consequence of unjust social systems which exploit many people for the benefit of a few. Poverty is the shadow of wealth.

Consider: all food and all resources come from the earth. In a natural state, if the earth was providing adequate food for everyone no one could be prevented from feeding themselves. They could simply pluck the fruit from the tree, or the fish from the river. What prevents this are cultural and legal concepts of ownership. A hungry person can't just go get the food from the earth, because the land is enclosed and its resources hoarded. Even if there was a famine in one region nothing would prevent people from migrating to other more abundant places were it not for the human constructs of borders and nationalities. What prevents houseless people from simply occupying the empty housing units that are all around our cities? Laws and norms which say that it is acceptable for people to die of cold every winter and of heat every summer, while vacation rentals and investment properties sit empty for the profit of their owners.

This enclosure and hoarding of resources which deprives the poor of bread to eat and clothes to wear is theft. God made enough for all, but it isn't getting fairly distributed. This is why Jesus says it is impossible for a wealthy person to get into the kingdom of God, and why the prophets of the Hebrew Bible spend so much of their time excoriating the nations for failing to care for the poor. The existence of both poverty and wealth is an indictment on society. A just society has neither poor nor wealthy people, but

everyone's needs are met and all thrive together.

We ought to ask, if the enclosure and hoarding of resources that creates poverty is so obviously unfair, and the poor outnumber the wealthy, why is this situation tolerated? Aside from the incredible power which the upper classes wield through governments, policing, and military, the answer to this question is that many (perhaps most) of the poor in our society do not conceive of ourselves as such. Most of us are closer to being homeless than to being billionaires, but we do not relate to our neighbors sleeping outside and see ourselves as having common cause. Instead, many of us have been convinced that we have enough to lose that we are better off spending our energy protecting our modest level of comfort than attempting to build a just society. The working class is divided - and not by accident.

This is perhaps the darkest underlying truth of why people are poor: poverty exists to keep those of us who are a few steps above poverty working and cooperative with a system we know is exploitative. The maintenance of an obviously unjust wealth distribution partially relies on many of us being convinced that things could always be worse. There is someone who has it worse than we do, and that is both a threat and a comfort designed to encourage us to keep upholding myths of bootstraps and self-made millionaires and American dreams. No one would work for minimum wage if they had any choice. Camps of houseless people around the city are there to remind people why they should accept an inadequate wage. That is why people are poor.

Submission by Reverend Aric Clark

## A Prayer For Learning From Animals

Many parents introduce a pet into their home to teach their children responsibility and other positive character qualities. Such life lessons are definitely biblical. Pets also provide companionship, amusement and unconditional love. It's why pets are taken to hospitals and nursing homes to interact with people in need. We can learn an incredible deal from animals. If you're ready to learn from your pet, say this prayer: *Help us, dear God, to learn from all wild things. How to live in harmony with our land;*

*how to deal with enemies; how to live in peace with those who are unlike us; how strong is the love of a parent; how the young must learn to grow up; how to enjoy the beauty of strength and life and how to accept death. Amen*

By Lesli White

[7 Prayers and Blessings For Animals | What is the Feast Say of St. Francis of Assisi? - Beliefnet](#)



## Holiday Bazaar on the Mountain

**Bazaar Date: Saturday, November 11**

Well folks . . . I am so excited about what our ladies have made for our bazaar so far!! We are still going strong!! There will be lots of new items you have never seen before and some of the items we have had before and are known for.

In order to better display our items we are changing our table layout. We are going to try using more long tables and less round thus making it easier to see items. We are asking the congregation for help, so if you happen to have any 6ft light weight tables that we can borrow, please contact Carol or Wendy. The date we need them by would be November 7 or sooner. And thank you so much for helping us have a better bazaar.

Also, just to put a little bug in your ear we will be having goodies for sale. Please consider sharing your great tasting Holiday treats. All cookies are to be 6 per container, only large loaves of bread, any kinds of fudge, etc.. If you do not have a container we will box it for you upon delivery to the church. More info to come in the October newsletter.

Thanks so much for helping us make this years bazaar another great success.

By the way our proceeds will go towards Hopes Haven and Willowbrook Food Pantry. If we succeed in making more funds than estimated we will contribute to another organization.

Thanks Carol McComis



## Willowbrook Food Pantry



**MORE families, MORE people.** Willowbrook has been very busy, like Safeway!

We offer the same food selection, but we must stock each time we are open. The economy is making life harder for low-income families.

“Hunger is an income issue. It affects our most at-risk populations: seniors, people with disabilities, the homeless and many who work full- and part-time.

More than a third of those eating from an emergency food box are under the age of 18.” \*

We appreciate your continued donations and fi-

nancial support.

The pantry is low on Cereal, Spaghetti and Pasta Sauce, Tuna/Chicken, Hamburger Helper, Juice, and a variety of crackers.

**We served 156 families with 738 people in July.**

We served 106 families with 434 people in July 2022.

\*OFB Network for Hunger Relief

Submission Cherry Trotter

### September 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
2	Laura Hartley
4	Brian McKennett
8	Kahlia Knox
12	Millie Robinson
17	Carol McKennett
26	Wendy Ettelson
26	Betty Gordon
27	Julee Schmeltzer
28	Margarita Peters

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.

# September 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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3 *Worship 11:00 AM 	4 <b>LABOR DAY</b> 	5	6	7	8	9
10 *Worship 11:00 AM 	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 *Worship 11:00 AM	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Worship 11:00 AM	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](mailto:mthomeumc@gmail.com)

Websites: <http://mthomeumc.org>

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

[Mtn.Home.Church](#)

YouTube: [Mountain Home United Methodist](#)

[Church - YouTube](#)



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:



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](mailto:t.ettelson@comcast.net)

## Event Calendar

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

[officesherwoodumc@gmail.com](mailto:officesherwoodumc@gmail.com)

Mountain Home UMC YouTube Channel [Mountain Home United Methodist Church - YouTube](#)

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](#)

