



Pastor
Rev.
Christina
Thompson

WORSHIP THEMES FOR JANUARY

**January 5 Second Sunday of
Christmas --- Epiphany**

Matthew 2:1-12, Isaiah 60:1-6

The Light of Christ has come into the world and we have received this spiritual blessing.

How do we respond to it?

Communion Sunday

Epiphany Theme "Come and See" ---

We are invited to come and see what Jesus is about and doing among us.

The Word "Epiphany" means

Manifestation. How does Jesus become manifest in our lives?

January 12—Baptism of the Lord

Matthew 3:13-17, Isaiah 42:1-9

In the waters of baptism, we are invited into the journey of faith where we are claimed by God. How does being claimed and loved by God change how we live in the world?

January 19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

John 1:29-42 Isaiah 49:1-7

What are we looking for?

We are invited to come and see.

January 26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Matthew 4:12-23, Isaiah 9:1-4

We walked in darkness but now we have seen light. The light calls us to follow.

The Lord is my light and salvation, who shall I fear?



**WHITNEY UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**



3315 Overland Road Boise, Idaho

WORSHIP TIME

Every Sunday at 10:00 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adults 8:30 and 9:30 am

Children 10:20 am

Nursery open at 8:30 am

OFFICE HOURS

Monday –Friday 9:00 am to 12 noon

CONTACTS

phone 208-343-2892

3315 whitneychurch@gmail.com

www.whitneyumc.org

PASTOR

Rev. Christina Thompson



From our pastor.....

As I write this newsletter article, we are still in the season of Advent, preparing for Christmas. But as I look at the calendar, it is clear that the end of the year is coming soon. Soon I will open a new calendar to a new year and a new decade. This is always the time of year, though, when we look back and reflect on the year that has past.

And this has been a pretty hard year in lots of ways.

In the larger United Methodist Church the actions of General Conference in February 2019 made it clear that our denomination is at stand still when it comes to LGBTQ+ inclusion and as the year has progressed it is clearer that a split of some sort is almost inevitable. I have emotionally swung from deep sadness to anger, to being resigned to what will be and now I find myself in a place of hope of what will come out of this struggle.

In our local church, we have dealt with what this struggle in our denomination will mean for our local church. This fall, we hosted a series of classes called the "Church in Crisis" and looked at this issue from all sides. I was very blessed by all of the conversations that were had and the thoughtful conversations and discussions. While the future is still unknown in terms of what our denomination will do, I do know that this church will continue to welcome all people and disciple and serve and provide resources to children and families as long as God needs us to.

In my own life, this has been a challenging year with the health of my parents. My mom had a tumor removed from her spinal column in May and my dad has double bi-pass surgery on his heart in November. They are both healing well and I am very grateful for all of the support and prayers we have received from this congregation. It has been what has gotten us through.

And then there is our country. The deep division that continues to grow between Democrats and Republicans, between us and them, has left my heart so very heavy. On the day of the Impeachment vote, I just sat very sad for our country, feeling almost a sense of despair of the future.

And yet--- in the midst of all of the struggles of this year, have been such blessings. As our denomination struggles, it has offered the opportunity to take a stand of what we believe and what we feel is most important. In our last Church in Crisis class, I was filled with such hope as I read the dreams for the church that each participant wrote down. In my own life, I have spent amazing hours with each of my parents, grateful for this time we have together. And I have been blessed by the birth of my nephew Isaac who loves just cuddling with his aunt. And in the church, we have all spent hours in worship with God, serving others in our community and being the light of Christ to the world. What more can we need?

Through all of this crazy year, God has been where God always is --- in the midst of it all. Holding those who mourn, standing with those who stand for justice, laughing with children and babies, blessing the world with a sunrise and sunset every day, opening windows and making new ways in the wilderness.

As we celebrate Christmas, it is a reminder that God has come to us in the most unlikely of ways—in the form of an infant. May this gift of Christ given to each one of us, give us the hope we need in this new year. I have no idea what 2020 will bring, but I do know that God is actively at work bringing hope, peace, justice and mercy, transforming the world. Thank you, God, for your blessings in 2019 and for all of the creative ways and blessings you will bring in 2020.

Merry Christmas and a blessed new year to you all.

Rev. Christina



to all of you for your Christmas gifts and Christmas wishes. We are so grateful for each of you and your presence in our life. May you all have a blessed New Year. Blessings, Rev. Christina, Clint, Miriam and Grace

ALL CHURCH MEETING AFTER WORSHIP ON January 19

There will be an all church meeting following worship on January 19 to talk about the future of the larger United Methodist Church and to present some of the information that was presented in the Whitney Church classes "Church in Crisis" that was held this past fall.

Everyone in the church is invited to attend the meeting to hear answers to your questions or ask for more information.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Celia Cowan Circle which meets on the 3rd Tuesday evening of the month at individual women's homes assembled goodie boxes which were decorated for Christmas and contained cookies, candies and other goodies. The boxes were delivered to those in our congregation who are confined to their homes. We also provided two Thanksgiving dinners to our friends at Whitney.

At our UMW unit meeting in December, we had a lovely potluck luncheon followed by a Christmas program led by Barbara Nolan. Thanks to her and also thank you Lorrie Baer for the beautiful table decorations.

On Friday Dec. 6, seven Whitney women greeted parents and students at Whitney Elementary as they gathered for "Muffins with Math." We passed out muffins, coffee and water and then they went to the children's classrooms and did some cool math using dice. We all had a great time!

On Sat. Dec. 7, the women of Whitney were invited to a Christmas luncheon at Cathie Slocum's beautifully decorated home. Twenty five women enjoyed a delicious brunch and gathered for singing of carols. Our gifts of boots, shoes and warm socks will be delivered to Whitney Elementary school for those children who need them during this winter season.

We are planning a "pounding" of staple foods to welcome our new Family Life Director, Andrea and her family to Boise and Whitney.

There will be no January meeting. Our next meeting will be February 5 when we have been invited by 1st Church (Cathedral of the Rockies) UMW to join them for a meeting and a speaker. The speaker will be Bruce Wingate, executive director of Protect Idaho Kids. We will meet at the church to carpool at 11:30 for the 12:00 meeting and salad potluck luncheon.

All men, women and youth are invited to attend the Legislative Advocacy Event on Feb. 23 and 24. It is an ecumenical event sponsored by the United Methodist Women of the Oregon-Idaho Conference. More information and a registration form is included in this newsletter.



Our vision: Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.



Shoes, boots, gloves and socks gathered at the Ladies' Brunch to be given to Whitney Elementary School.



JANUARY

- 2 Nick Nesor
- 6 Elvin Clubb
- 3 Peggy Jackson
Justine Niyogushima
- 10 Emily Nelson
Marissa Nesor
- 13 Christina Thompson
- 16 Bert Allen
- 18 CJ Christophel
Shirlee Hubbert
- 21 Rich Keefe
Dennis Sundberg
- 23 Dortha Bixler
Ruth Romans
Kathy Skalsky
- 24 Robert Burge
- 25 Ramona Walhof
- 31 Kevin Daniel



Kimberly and Stewart Gardner
Ellen and Stan Herzinger

IN OUR PRAYERS

Carl Harden, Glenna Finley, David Hawk, Eric Tabb, Tom Old
SHUT-INS TO PRAY FOR THIS WEEK
Dortha Bixler, Glenna Finley, Don Halsey

INCESSANT PRAYERS

Cheri Carter, Ruthie Carter, Ruthie's Grandson, Carter, Richard Miller, Bonnie Hawk, Marvin Wolfe and family, Sue Frear, Dale and Evelyn Thompson, Marlys Tudehope, Keith Gillespie, Malcom Dunten, Jake Finley, The Family of Billie Lirgg, The Family of Jordan, The Family of Lois Wand, The Pleuddeman family

MILITARY PRAYERS

David L. Hawk, Mark Jerome

STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS OF HIGHER LEARNING

Jenneth McNeas-Ayodele, Justine Niyogushimwa, Marissa Jerome, Nicole Jerome, Nick Nesor, Braeden Dunten, Spencer Jordan, Jordyn Walhof, Hayli Ball, Hannah Ball, Christopher Kozama, Masson Furitami

Please submit names to the office for listing on this new Prayer List feature.

JANUARY HOSPITALITY

Date	Greeters	Coffee hosts	Liturgist	Communion Helpers
Jan 5	Mel & Cathie Slocum	Bobbie Bynum Melinda Maillard	James Sorenson	Brandon & Maran O'Meara, Glenda Berto, Clint Wachi
Jan 12	Brad Minaisan Mikki Carr	Lori Baer Gaye Cabe	Joyce Obland	
Jan 19	Kathy Hammers, Julie Hall, DeDe Matthews	Gordy & Jody Myre, Emily Nelson	Kim Gardner	
Jan 26	Gordy & Jody Myre	Betty Dippi Dottie Harden	Carla Biersdorff	

CORPUS CHRISTI HOUSE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Corpus Christi House has opportunities to serve Boise's homeless. For over 15 years Corpus Christi House has been easing the burden of homelessness, providing hospitality with hot showers, good food, laundry, clothes, and educational support.

Join a strong volunteer crew working in the kitchen, clothing room, or Step Up center.

Visit corpuschristiboise.org or contact Mia Crosthwaite at cch.volunteercoordinator@gmail.com

Ask the animals, the birds, and the plants of the earth, and they will teach you... (Job 12:7,8)

OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE OR VOLUNTEER

Every Sunday

Worship 10:00 a.m.

8:30 am Adult Sunday School--
Shelley Cooper

9:30 am Adult Bible Study --
Stewart Gardner

Children's Sunday School 10:20am
Nursery 9:30 am – Lorrie Baer

1st Mondays

6:30 pm Stephen Ministry--
Glenda Berto

2nd & 4th Mondays

6:30 pm Shawlers – Emily Nelson
and Ellen Welch

Third Monday

10:00 am Congregational Care--
Glenda Berto

1st Wednesday

12:00 noon UMW – Lory Nesor

Wednesday

1:30 pm Prayer and Share small group –
Linda Slupe
7:00 pm Chancel Choir – Andy Maddox

Thursday

5:45 pm 6 Ways to Sunday Praise Band –
Kevin Daniel

3rd Friday

WEPRAY team – Shelley Cooper
6:00 pm Community dinner --
Brad Minasian, Clint Wachi,
Malcom Dunten

2nd Saturday

8:30 am UMM – Brandon O'Meara

Every Saturday

10:00 am Saturday Lunch –
Cathie Slocum and Clint Wachi

PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE *from Johnna*

Take this quiz:

Name the five wealthiest people in the world.

Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.

Name the last five winners of the Miss America contest.

Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer
Prize.

Name the last half dozen Academy Awards for best actor
and actress.

Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do?

The point is, none of us remember the headliners of
yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are
the best in their field. But the applause dies. Awards
tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and
certificates are buried with their owners.

Here is another quiz. See how you do on this one:
List a few teachers who aided your journey through
school.

Name three friends who have helped you through a
difficult time.

Name five people who have taught you something
worthwhile.

Think of a few people who have made you feel
appreciated and special.

Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Name half dozen heroes whose stories have inspired you.

Easier? The lesson?

The people who make a difference in your life are not the
ones with the most credentials, the most money or the
most rewards. They are the ones that care!

If they are still available, let them know how this test
makes you feel.

What the Cross Means to Me
Stewart Gardner

“Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself.” Matthew 6:34

Do you ever contemplate the cross in the front of our church? I do. It probably means something different to each of us. These are some thoughts about what the cross means to *me*.

Christian Churches do not have a manger on their steeples, or even an empty tomb. They have a cross. This could seem bleak to someone looking from outside our tradition—after all, the cross was a tool of punishment and torture. And there is indeed an element of suffering in the Christian life – bearing our cross, losing our life to gain it... French mystic Christian Simone Weil once made the following astonishing observation about salvation within suffering:

He whose soul remains ever turned toward God, though the nail pierces it, finds himself nailed to the very center of the universe. It is the true center; it is not in the middle; it is beyond space and time; it is God. In a dimension that does not belong to space, that is not time, that is indeed quite a different dimension, this nail has pierced cleanly through all creation, through a thickness of the screen separating the soul from God. In this marvelous dimension, the soul, without leaving the place and the instant where the body to which it is united is situated, can cross the totality of space and time and come into the very presence of God. It is at the intersection of creation and its Creator. This point of intersection is the point of intersection of the arms of the Cross.

- Simone Weil, from *Waiting for God*

This is surely beautiful; but it is austere. For me, the cross also represents something joyous. As we stand beside one another in worship, each of us looks from a different point of view—different positions, different experiences, different troubles—yet we all aim our vision toward the same cross. That shared aim somehow unites us.

For me, the place where the post and cross-member meet symbolizes Eternity touching time. By “Eternity” here, I don’t mean all time. I mean the Transcendent dimension of being that our thinking in time can blind us to. We live in time, but God intends us for Eternity. C.S. Lewis describes Eternal God with the following image that has been helpful to me: “If you picture Time as a straight line along which we have to travel, then you must picture God as the whole page on which the line is drawn. We come to the parts of the line one by one: we have to leave A behind before we get to B, and cannot reach C until we leave B behind. God, from above or outside or all round, contains the whole line, and sees it all.” (*Mere Christianity*, p.148)

When I think of myself purely in terms of time, then I am headed toward death – my life is a kind of “sickness unto death.” Thinking this way, *the timeline I live on is not the true one* – not the

one that God sees and surrounds and pervades. *My* timeline is my own screwed-up invention. My *now* is on God's page, but I don't pay enough attention to now—as Jesus keeps telling us to do (more on *now* in a bit). I am always looking to my past and future—*my invented past* and *my invented future*, which veer far away from God's eternal page. My past is not the true past, it is only my memory, disfigured by my selfishness, my regret and shame and resentment and pride. My future is even less true. (At least my past is somewhat bounded by being *done*.) When dreaming up a future, my imagination can go stark raving *mad*. Living in our own distorted fantasies about the future may be what St. Paul had in mind when he talked about living “in the flesh.” Sins of the flesh—like greed, lust, vengeance and fear—all look forward to our own made-up futures, where we try to *make* our satisfaction or happiness or paradise *for ourselves*.

Now is different. Lewis says that now is “all lit up with eternal rays.” It is real for us in the way all time must be real for God. When God guides us toward living in the actual moment that He gives us – like the birds and the lilies - when we let go into His Spirit, without knowing exactly where it comes from or where it is going, we can feel His Eternal Presence. When this happens, we can live and love accordingly, loving others *as our very selves*, united in the Presence of Eternal God.

For me, the cross is a sign that speaks to this way of living. If I looked at the cross only from the point of view of the flesh, from life-in-time, it could appear dark and gloomy, like the death lurking out there in my *invented* future, the death that I can *fall* into fearing. But Christ went to that cross in the Spirit of perfect compassion. *Love*. It was not the location of death, but the place of death's transformation into Eternal Life.

If I let its shorter cross-member stand for my short-sighted fleshly or temporal view, then the vertical post is a ray from—and toward—Eternity. The point where they *cross* re-presents to me the perfect moment, the perfect infusion of time with Eternity—a moment long ago, when time was fulfilled, but also available *this* moment! Much of the time I turn my back on this moment, toward selfish temporal troubles. Lifting my eyes to the cross breaks up my temporal vision and lifts the eyes of my heart up to the Eternal Kingdom of Heaven. It *turns* me—if only sometimes, and a little bit—toward the Spirit; frees me some from my petty invented anxieties; opens me up to God's Present Peace.

Time and the flesh hurt. Eternity and the Spirit heal. As best I can put it now, that's what the cross means to me.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY EVENT

February 23 and 24, 2020

Boise, Idaho

Registration Form

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Options are available for those who cannot attend the full event. Check the sessions you can attend on the registration form. The registration packets will include informative materials to guide you in the legislative process. It is better to attend partially than not at all!

Local Housing can be arranged if registration form is sent in by February 16, 2020. It is important to note if transportation will be needed as well as any allergies to pets or special needs.

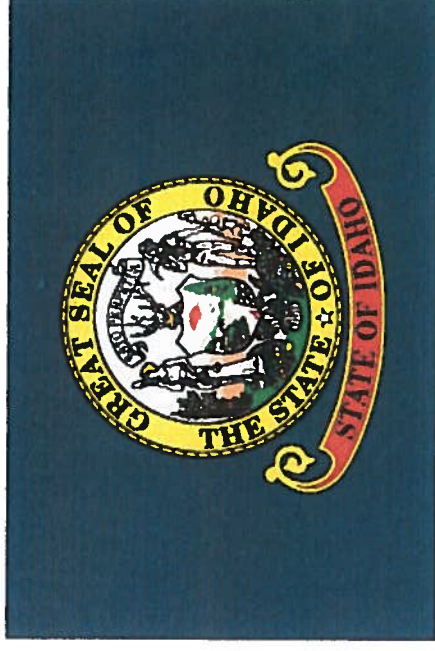
Locations:

First United Methodist Church, 717 N. 11th,
Between Franklin and Hays on N. 11th St.

First Presbyterian Church, Lindsay Hall 9th and W. State St.
Capitol - 700 West Jefferson, 8th St. between W. State St. and W. Jefferson

Parking: Instructions for parking will be given Sunday evening. There are parking garages within walking distance of the Capitol. There is parking at Boise First UMC and First Presbyterian Church. On street parking at the Capitol is metered, 2-4 hour meters available.

Who is your legislator? Contact your county clerk or check the Idaho Legislature web site: www.legislature.idaho.gov. **If you contact your legislator before the event, you are more likely to get him/her to come to lunch with us.**



Legislative Process

Medicaid Expansion: What Next?
Women in Idaho Prisons
Effective Communication with your
Representatives



Visit Idaho's State Capitol
Attend legislative sessions &
Committee meetings
Meet your legislators
Guided Tour of the Capitol

This ecumenical event is sponsored by the
United Methodist Women of the Oregon/Idaho Conference

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Home church _____

Host Housing _____ Sun. _____ Mon. _____
allergy to pets _____
special needs _____

Transportation needed: yes _____ no _____

Guided tour of the Capitol Building? Yes _____ No _____

Registration Fee

Full attendance \$25 _____

(includes Sunday supper; Monday lunch & materials)

Sunday \$15 _____

(includes supper and materials)

Monday \$15 _____

(includes lunch, and materials)

Please return the registration fee and form by February 20, 2020 - the earlier the better for planning!

Elinor Chehey elinorchehey@gmail.com

617 N Ross Street

Boise, Idaho 83702

Please make checks payable to UMW. Confirmation of your registration will be sent to you upon receiving your completed form and fee. SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE. Please contact Elinor or Mary.

For additional information, contact: Mary Getchell, 208-860-2715, mlgetchell@aol.com.

2020 Legislative Advocacy Event

The Legislative Advocacy Event is an opportunity for you to learn about current legislation affecting women and children in Idaho. The Sunday seminars bring us up to date on current legislation. We will provide printed materials about the legislative process and the state's budget process, and agendas of the Monday committee meetings.

SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 23--Boise First United Methodist Church

3 pm Registration

3:30 - 4:45 pm - CREATING CHANGE TOGETHER.

Workshop on considering our Christian principles and the priority issues of United Methodist Women to evaluate our legislators and candidates.

5:00 - 6:15 p.m. FUNDING MEDICAID and other health related measures before the legislature. Christine Tiddens from Janus has been our tireless advocate for years.

6:15 - 6:45 DINNER

7:00 -8:30 pm - Representative from IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: WOMEN INCARCERATED IN IDAHO - What legislation is proposed: education and preparation for life post-release, connecting with their children.

Monday, February 24

Breakfast on your own

9:00 a.m. House & Senate Committee meeting

House & Senate Sessions

10:00 a.m. Guided Tour of Capitol Building

Noon Lunch, First Presbyterian Church, 9th and State St., join your legislators for a delicious lunch and lively discussion

1:00 p.m. Capitol Options—

House & Senate Committee meetings

House & Senate Sessions

Meet your legislators

From the children of Whitney
ited methodist church

AIKEE

Hayden

Guiney
Kadon

HENRY
IAN

EVELYN
ZACHARY

ROBERT

Ruth

Zena

Grace

LORRIE

Jody

ana

Becky

The Sunday School classes
donated their money for
the St. Vincent DePaul toy
drive for less fortunate
children. They were excited
to have a total of \$34.00.

Dear Susan, I'm glad to hear that
both of you, including Zena, Robert &
Yvonne, are going to the store.
Thank you for your generous
and thoughtful response to the
store. You are going to make some
children very happy this Christmas.
Love,
Lorraine DePaul

 www.svdpid.org
3217 W Overland Rd Boise, ID 83705

JANUARY



WHITNEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY 10:00 A.M.

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 Worship 9:30 am Nursery Open 8:30 am "Practical Scripture" with Shelley 9:30 am Adult SS 10:20 am Children's SS	6 9:30 am Finance 11:30 Visitor follow up 6:30 pm Shawlwers	7 6:00 pm Scouts	8 1:30 pm Prayer & Share Small Group 3:30 pm Joseph's Closet 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	9 5:45pm Praise Band	10	11 8:30 am UMM 10:30-12:30 Joseph's Closet 10:00 am Saturday lunch
12 10:00 Worship 9:30 am Nursery Open 8:30 am "Practical Scripture" with Shelley 9:30 am Adult SS 10:20 am Children's SS	13 10:00 am Congregational Care 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry	14 6:00 pm Scouts 6:00 pm Celia Cowan	15 1:30 pm Prayer & Share Small Group 3:30 pm Joseph's Closet 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	16 5:45 pm Praise Band	17 5:30 pm Joseph's Closet 6:00 pm Community Dinner	18 10:00 am Saturday lunch 10:30-12:30 Joseph's Closet
19 10:00 Worship 9:30 am Nursery Open 8:30 am "Practical Scripture" with Shelley 9:30 am Adult SS 10:20 am Children's SS 11:15 am Coffee with the Pastor All church meeting 5:00 pm all church potluck	20 3:30 pm Building committee 6:0 pm Shawlwers	21 6:00 pm Scouts	22 1:30 pm Prayer & Share Small Group 3:30 pm Joseph's Closet 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	23 5:45 pm Praise Band	24	25 10:00 am Saturday lunch 10:30-12:30 Joseph's Closet
26 10:00 Worship 9:30 am Nursery Open 8:30 am "Practical Scripture" with Shelley 9:30 am Adult SS 10:20 am Children's SS 6:00 pm Scouts Exec.	27 6:30 pm Shawlwers	28 6:00 pm Scouts	29 1:30 pm Prayer & Share Small Group 3:30 pm Joseph's Closet 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	30 5:45 pm Praise Band	31	