



A message from Rev. Christina

Living in a Liminal Space

As I write this article, it is Wednesday May 20, 2020. Back in January, we assumed that by this date, General Conference would have met and made decisions about the future of our denomination. (General Conference was scheduled to meet May 5-15, 2020). And back in January we were making plans to have a joint Annual Conference in June with all of the Annual Conferences of the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area. (Oregon-Idaho, Pacific Northwest and Alaska).

All of these things were on my calendar and in all of my worship plans there are notes about presenting what happened at General Conference and Annual Conference.

Who knew that General Conference and even Annual Conference would not happen as planned because of the affects of a virus?

General Conference has been moved to Aug. 29-Sept. 7, 2021. The joint Annual Conference has been canceled for this year at least and at this point a very short Annual Conference will be held on-line to do the voting that has to be done. Even at Whitney, we had planned to have a vote in March 2020 about whether to become a reconciling congregation. That has been postponed indefinitely.

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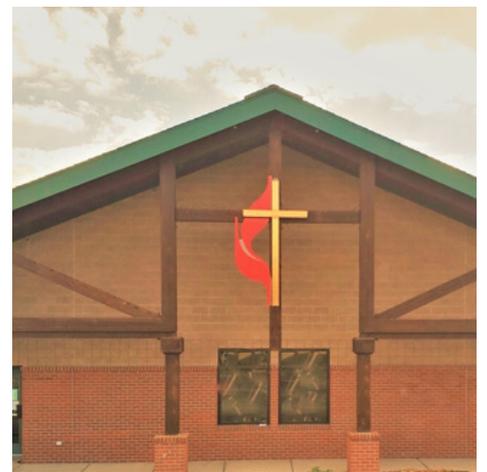
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So I sit here on May 20, 2020, having erased things in my calendar and revised the worship plans, and wonder what's next. Things felt so up in the air and unsettled in January but at least then we had a date on the calendar that would guide us forward. May 5 felt like a landing place. Now it feels like we have nothing. And besides that, even the church as we knew it is gone. We can't even gather together to ponder what is next for the denomination or the church.

So what do we do?

First, it is so important to grieve what we have lost. Through this pandemic, we have lost a lot. We lost our ability to gather on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary for worship, the ability to visit loved ones both those who are sick and those who are healthy. We have lost the road map for the future, both as a church and denomination, but also as a world. We have to grieve what we have lost before we can move on.

Then we have to sit in this space of the unknown. It even has a name. It is called **liminal space**. “**Liminal spaces** are transitional or transformative spaces. They are the waiting areas between one point in time and space and the next. Often, when we are in **liminal spaces**, we have the feeling of just being on the verge of something.” (From www.betterhelp.com)

Liminal spaces provide us two courses of action. We can freeze and crawl back in bed and pretend it is not happening. Or we can embrace this liminal time for the opportunity it is. This time will transform us, the church and the world. If we just crawl back in bed and pretend it is not happening, the world will be transformed anyway. We just will not have a say in what it is transformed into.

If we embrace this time and see it as an opportunity from God to help transform the world into more of the Kingdom of God, oh, the possibilities there will be.

The disciples were in a liminal space too. Jesus had been crucified and resurrected and now he had ascended back into heaven. Before he left, he told them to wait. “And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49). So they waited in that liminal space. And the Holy Spirit shows up in powerful ways (as told in Acts 2). Through the power of the Holy Spirit, they were able to see and act upon the opportunities of that liminal space. Through that space, they spread the gospel of the good news of Jesus Christ and transformed the world.

As we celebrate Pentecost on May 31, we will be reminded that we have access to that same Holy Spirit. The power of the Holy Spirit is ours and will help us find those liminal space opportunities and spread the gospel of the good news of the love of God to the world. Even without General Conference, Annual Conference or even a

church vote, we can still spread the good news to our community that all are welcome and that God is present and guiding us through this liminal space into a new future.

Blessings

Rev. Christina



Continued Church Closure

Our Bishop Elaine Stanovsky, in her Bishop's COVID-19 Notice #6, dated May 13, 2020, has extended the closure of worship and building closures through at least June 15, 2020. ([Click here for the Bishop's Notice 6](#))

During this time of building closure the church has been planning for and reimagining our future life and there are several related stories in this newsletter.

Reimagining Our Life Together

Whitney UMC is still actively “churching” in new ways. We have developed and are maintaining various connections with the congregants by making phone calls, worshipping on-line, website, Facebook, our Radio Program KBXL 94.1 FM, E-mail and the monthly Chronicle.

As our state begins to reopen, the question is how is the church going to re-open? We have been given a set of guidelines from our Bishop and The Greater Northwest Area of The United Methodist Church. These requirements and recommendations guide local churches as they reopen their buildings and return to ministry activities during this COVID-19 crises.

A part of this plan is to form a team of church leaders tasked with creating Whitney's plan for how to do ministry moving forward, through 4 stages. Members of this team are Rich Keefe, Dianna Shea, Johnna Dunten, Malcom Dunten, Gena Waller, Shelley Cooper and Rev. Christina. If you have any questions, please feel to contact any member of the team.

The team's objectives are to develop a flexible plan that will determine how we can best follow John Wesley's Three Simple Rules: Do No Harm. Do Good. And Stay in Love with God.

This is an unprecedented time and while this feels daunting, we know that we do this through the power of the Holy Spirit helping us to be the church.

Reimagining Outreach

The Outreach Ministries team met on Tuesday May 26, 2020, to begin its 'reimagining' and determine new procedures to maintain our three major outreach ministries:

- Joseph's Closet
- Community Dinner
- Saturday Lunch.

This team's purpose is to make sure the volunteers as well as those utilizing our ministries are safe, maintaining social distancing, and still feeling the love provided by Whitney UMC.

The food ministries were identified as essential. We are developing a plan so that after the Bishop lifts the restrictions for Phase 1 (which at this time it is June 15 – but could be extended), we can safely serve Community Dinner and Saturday Lunch on a to-go basis.



Reimagining Family Life - Family Life Director Update

Kimberly Gardner is still on board to start on July 1, 2020 as our new Family Life Director. While much of how we will do church has changed since we first hired her, our commitment as a church to reach children and families has not changed. We are so excited to have Kimberly on board. You will hear more about her and what she will be doing in our next Newsletter.



Reimagining Staff Parish Relations

The Whitney SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee) met on Thursday May 28 to begin the process of reviewing and refreshing the responsibilities of all staff members as they have evolved and will continue to evolve with reimagining our church life in a the post-COVID world.

If you interested in serving on this committee, please contact Rich Keefe.

UMW Scholarship Reminder

For the past 5 years the Whitney United Methodist Women has given scholarships to graduating high school seniors who have a connection with Whitney Church. In the past, we have been able to give a \$500 scholarship to the student. We do require that the student has applied for and been accepted at any post high school learning institution. Our first scholarship recipient, Yuni Rueda, graduated this spring from Western Oregon State University. We are all very proud of Yuni and her accomplishments.

There's still time to apply; this year's deadline is June 30, 2020. Scholarship applications can be gotten from the church office by mail or downloaded here ([click here](#)). Please return forms to the church office by June 30, 2020. Contact Lory Nesor or Phyllis Ross if you have questions.

Prayer for a Pandemic

-- Cameron Wiggins Bellm

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving
their health
or making their rent.
May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those who have no safe place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult
of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.
As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love.
During this time when we cannot physically wrap our
arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to
our neighbors. Amen

--Used with permission of the author.

Words of Wisdom

by Phyllis Ross

Was it just a coincidence? I think not. Trixie, my dog, and I were walking in the park and I was contemplating the worship service for Pentecost Sunday. The dog park is a fun place because there are so many birds and bugs and plants to investigate, but this time we (I) saw a pair of beautiful white doves. Perfect for my Pentecost thoughts and that verse from Luke came to me. I know some of you experts will say they were just mourning doves but they looked to me like the Holy Spirit was in the neighborhood and I could feel that God was there, too.

White doves often appear in stories in the Bible and their presence is always followed by something positive and their presence represents blessing from God. They have been a symbol of purity, faithfulness, hope, fidelity and redemption throughout the ages.



United Methodist Women

-- Lory Nesper

Quilts and Blankets

I know many of you have been making quilts and blankets which were to be distributed at our Annual Conference in June. Annual Conference in its usual format has been canceled so this is the plan for our quilts.

- Each unit is to take a photo of their quilts with the name of the maker and the church and it will be sent to a conference person who will make a video of all of our quilts which will be shown at our district and conference annual meetings.
- I am asking that those of you who have made quilts either call(808-286-4829) or email (Lneser@aol.com) Lory Nesper and we will make an arrangement for getting it to me. I will then take the photos and turn them in.
- When we meet again, we will decide where our quilts/blankets will be donated. We can donate them locally so be thinking of suggestions.

Upcoming Events

DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING - Sept. 19 - Nampa 1st UMC

CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING - OCTOBER 17 -Cathedral of the Rockies - Boise. The keynote speaker will be our own Rev. Christina Thompson who will speak on the topic "Finding Peace in an Anxious World." She had been asked to teach this topic at Mission u before it was canceled. This will be a great opportunity for all of us to attend a conference meeting and, of course, hear and support Rev. Christina.

All of these events are subject to postponement or cancellation. Let us pray that we will be able to gather and celebrate the work of United Methodist Women in our conference.

All unit and circle meetings of Whitney UMW are canceled until Sept. 2, 2020 when hopefully we will be able to safely gather together.

Mission u

Mission u has been canceled for the summer but there are plans for an online study of the spiritual growth study - "Finding Peace in an Anxious World." Be on the lookout for more information about this study.



Worship Themes for June

June 7, 2020 -- Trinity Sunday

Matthew 28:16-20 and 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

We will celebrate the Trinity—how we understand who God is. We will also pray for our graduates.

Starting June 14, the theme for
for summer is *Walking with Jesus; Being the Church*

June 14, 2020

Matthew 9:35-10:8

Jesus taught and proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of Heaven and sends us out to do the same.

June 21, 2020

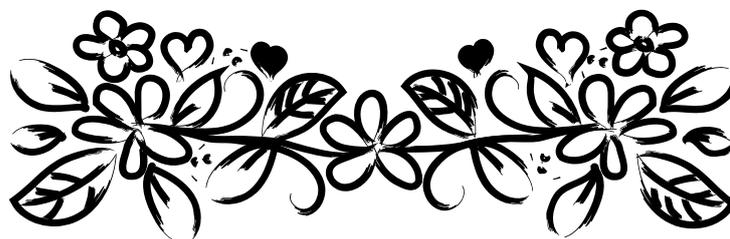
John 10:1-16

Jesus calls us by name and gives us life—abundant life.

June 28, 2020

Matthew 10:40-42

We welcome others and receive the reward of the righteous.



Thank you all for your prayers, cards, flowers, and meals in this month as I am recovering from my ordeal in the hospital and the insertion of this Pacemaker. I felt all of your prayers and am grateful for each of you.

I am also grateful for SPRC and those who stepped up to provide leadership and worship while I needed to be gone. I started back to work on May 18 and I am doing pretty well. I still need to rest after lunch and find that I am still pretty tired but I am finding a new rhythm. Again, thank you!
Blessings, Rev. Christina

Connecting with You



Sunday Worship

Our worship services are being recorded and made available via our YouTube channel, "Whitney UMC Communications". Links to these recordings are sent out in the Saturday email and are posted on our Facebook pages "Whitney United Methodist Church" and "Whitney United Methodist Church Group".

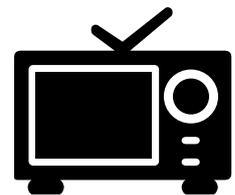
If you do not have access to the service via Youtube, there is audio only access at 10 am on Sundays.

- dial this number on any telephone: +1 301 715 8592 (sorry, there isn't a Boise number)
- enter this number when asked for your meeting ID: 821 125 516 , followed by the '#' key.
- stay on the line and we'll get everyone connected and play the video as audio only, over the phone line.

We also mail out as much of the service as possible. Please call Phyllis at 208-859-3039 to be added to the service mailing list.

As well, our Radio Program "Reach Out and Trust" continues every Sunday morning at 7:30am and 11:30am on KBXL 94.1 FM, where you can hear past sermons by Rev. Christina.

Making Online Worship More "Worshipful"



If you are like me, sitting in front of your computer or other device to watch worship may not feel very worshipful. Some of you have undoubtedly figured out ways to manage this, but for those of you who haven't, I suggest playing worship from your TV. You'll get a bigger picture and better sound and get away from the computer or device.

- If you have a "Smart" TV or a streaming device attached to a TV, you can find our worship videos on our YouTube channel. There are some exceptions where it may not be there, but this works most of the time. Equally, with a "Smart" TV or streaming device, you can 'cast' a video from just about any device to your TV; this will get around the videos you can't find on Youtube directly.
- If you don't have a "Smart" TV or a streaming device, and you use a laptop or other computer, look for a common connection between the two. Hopefully, you will find that both have either a VGA or HDMI connection. Connect them and send your computer output to your TV.

Need help!? Do you have some of these, but the above sounds like Greek? Drop me an email and I will try to assist.

--Becky

Doing No Harm

We all know that John Wesley offered three simple rules to those of us called Methodists:

--Do No Harm. Do Good. And Stay in Love with God--

As we navigate these times, doing no harm means:

- wear your mask
- wash your hands
- practice physical distancing
- stay home as best you can.

If you need a mask, please contact the church office; we have a supply and will mail you one.

A bit of Fun!

Lest you think it has been all work and no play, we offer these pictures of fun things our kids, mostly, have been doing in this time of separation and worry. (photos courtesy of Lorrie Baer, Becky Platt and Christina Thompson)

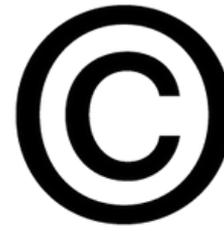


Clockwise from top: Making signs for the church at Easter; Coloring; At the park; Sitting on a log; JJ's birthday party.



Copyright Purgatory

Over the last few months, Rev. Christina, Rich Keefe and I have spent a lot of time in what I will call “Copyright Purgatory”. It is a very special place for those of us who curate material for group email, newsletters and worship. With the change in landscape of how we produce and distribute materials, the rules are very different than they were before COVID.



It boils down to this, when we violate copyright, we are depriving the original author or creator of his or her pay for the work. And as a church, whose mission includes looking out for the least among us, depriving someone of their income due to our actions is just not the right thing to do.

The purgatory lies in figuring out what we can and cannot safely use, and when we can't use something, finding something that we can, in its place.

So, what does this mean to you? When you submit material and it either doesn't get used or it gets modified, I may have very well have been managing a copyright issue. I will try to reach out and give you a heads up. When you submit material, remember that your source may or many not have done the proper homework. Just because someone else violated the rules, doesn't mean we should. When you submit material, be sure to include your source information as well as any information you can glean from that source about any original sources. If you aren't sure whether something you would like to use can be used, give me a call or drop me an email and I will try to offer guidance so that none of us spends more effort than necessary.

--Becky



Upper Room

We have the May/June issues of The Upper Room. If you would like us to mail you a copy, please email the church at 3315whitneychurch@gmail.com.

Meet Betty Dippi!

--profile by Ramona Walhof

Betty grew up in Kuna, where she was active at Kuna UMC, and attended the College of Idaho studying music immediately after high school graduation. But, her father thought she needed something that would lead more directly to a career, so she enrolled in a secretarial program at Links Business School. During this time, she met Jerry, who was then stationed at the air base in Mountain Home. They married, at Whitney UMC, in 1959.

In 1963, she went to work for Joe Albertson, keeping the books and doing payroll for Mr. Albertson's 'other' businesses, not the big stores we know today. She says she likes working in finance. "You can always make the figures add up," she says.

The Dippis raised three children: Melisa, Kurt, and Erika, all of whom still live in the Treasure Valley. Melisa works at Discovery Church. Kurt works for the Department of Health and Welfare and has two daughters, Tera and Alex. Tera is expecting Betty's first great grand-child.

Jerry was Catholic and worshipped Sacred Heart but enjoyed coming to Whitney potlucks and was very active with the St Vincent DePaul food Pantry. He died in 2016 of pneumonia.

Betty became active at Whitney in the 1980's and was church Treasurer for many years. She says she liked all the ministers at Whitney and remembers Ray Wright and his wife, Peggy fondly. Betty does not like to fly, but traveled on one of the trips the Wrights led to Great Britain and enjoyed it, after they got there, very much.

Betty still lives in the same house the Dippis bought in 1963. Betty says it has been remodeled and expanded many times, but it is still the same location.

Betty has done a lot of quilting, but is not as motivated as she used to be. She also does cross stitch and some other crafts. Chances are that she will need to make a quilt for this great grand-child coming soon.



One of Betty's claims to fame at Whitney was her role as a nurse in a church play; I'm told it was hilarious!

IN OUR PRAYERS

Rev. Christina Thompson, the family of Glenna Finley,
Judith Alexander, Coronavirus victims

SHUT-INS TO PRAY FOR THIS MONTH

Dortha Bixler, Don Halsey, Richard Miller, Micky Vail

INCESSANT PRAYERS

Cheri Carter, Ruthie Carter, Ruthie's Grandson, Carter,
Richard Miller, Bonnie Hawk,
Marvin Wolfe and family, Sue Frear,
Marlys Tudehope, Keith Gillespie,
The Family of Ron Jordan,
The Family of Don Hutchinson

MILITARY PRAYERS

David L. Hawk, Mark Jerome

STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS OF HIGHER LEARNING

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

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



Graduation

We'll celebrate graduates from all levels of learning during worship on June 7 and in the July Chronicle. If you haven't already, submit names and photos to the church office.



9 - Ana Valverde
12 - Thelma Cripe
17 - Marilyn Edwards
17 - Zack Warner
23 - Gaye Cabe
25 - Maggie Storm
29 - Lois Hutchinson
30 - Keith Gillespie



13 - Blanche and Herb
Kadel
14 - Richard and Helen
Shelby
16 - Mel and Cathie
Slocum



Author: Lena London

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<http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/descent-of-the-holy-spirit-at-pentecost>.

Pentecost

L	O	T	M	S	I	S	E	U	G	N	O	T	R
E	L	N	R	U	R	U	D	R	E	A	M	S	F
M	A	E	E	O	E	T	U	O	R	U	O	P	I
E	N	M	T	I	H	D	I	W	H	I	D	G	R
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S	A	A	O	L	D	S	P	E	I	O	S	E	E
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GLORIOUS
SIGNS
DREAMS
PORTENTS
LANGUAGES
HEAVEN
FLAME
DIVIDED
JERUSALEM
POUR OUT
FIRE
WIND
TONGUES
JOEL
HOLY SPIRIT
PETER
PROPHET
HOUSE
AMAZEMENT
PENTECOST

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1209217/>

Whitney United Methodist Church

3315 Overland Road
Boise, Idaho

CONTACT US:

phone 208-343-2892

3315whitneychurch@gmail.com

www.whitneyumc.org