

# Whitney Quarterly

## Fall Edition 2022



## Whitney United Methodist Church



**Pastor:** Rev. Daryl Blanksma

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**Worship**— Sundays at 10:00 am: in-person or live streamed on our YouTube channel @Whitney UMC Boise

**Saturday Lunch**— 10:30 am—noon

**Community Dinner**— Every 3rd Friday from 6:00—7:00 pm

**3315 W. Overland Rd. Boise, ID 83705**

**Phone: (208)343-2892 | Website: [www.WhitneyUMC.org](http://www.WhitneyUMC.org)**

## Pastor's Note:

At the Annual Conference session in 2019 I was elected as a member of the Oregon-Idaho delegation to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. I am now in year three of what I thought would be about a one year commitment, as Covid has caused repeated delays in holding General Conference. It looks like we will finally be able to hold a Jurisdictional Conference this November, barring any last minute cancelations. For those who don't know, the Jurisdictional Conference is where we elect Bishops for the church. There are five jurisdictions in the United States. The Western Jurisdiction is scheduled to elect three new bishops. Thirty-three candidates were nominated for the positions, although a person does not have to be nominated to be elected, so there are a lot of names to sort through. Our current bishop, Elaine Stanovsky, is retiring at the end of 2022 so we will have a new bishop as of January 1.



Meanwhile, the 2020 General Conference has been delayed until 2024 - no date or location has been named yet. The delegates elected in 2019 are the ones who will go to General Conference when it happens, although there is currently a case before our Judicial Council arguing that new delegates should be elected. The Judicial Council's ruling should come down later this year.

In 2020 I was elected as a co-chair of the Order of Elders for Oregon-Idaho. At the time I didn't see that to be a problem since my responsibilities on the General Conference delegation would be wrapping up soon. But as I said, Covid changed that. So in addition to being a member of the delegation I also have responsibilities as Co-chair of the Order of Elders. For one, I serve on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM), and I'm responsible for gatherings of the Order of Elders.

So that brings me to the point of this note. My responsibilities on BOM, as co-chair of the Order, and as a member of the delegation are all merging together in a series of meetings over the next month. October 5-7, I will be at Collins Retreat Center outside Sandy, Oregon for a meeting of the Board of Ordained Ministry. The next week, October 11-13, I will be in Bend for a gathering of the Order of Elders. I decided not to drive back to Boise between those meetings so I'll stay in Oregon and Jack Bynum will be preaching on October 9. Then I will be in Salt Lake City for Jurisdictional Conference November 2-5. I'll be back to lead Worship on November 6. Oh, and then we have our annual charge conference meeting on Sunday, October 30.

It's going to be a busy month.

Peace,  
Daryl

## Return to Whitney

Simon Ntamuhoza (Sih-mOHn Nah-moo-hOH-zah) was born in Ruhengeri, Rwanda, in East Africa during a time of civil war and genocide. He has an older brother Emanuel and a twin sister Bernadette. It is not surprising that mother Agnes, known to many long-time members of Whitney church, wished to bring her family out of this country, although she still clings to some customs from her homeland. With the help of the United Nations, they were able to immigrate to the US, arriving in Boise in 1995. None of them spoke English or knew much about their new country.



Agnes received some limited education and English as a foreign language. The children were simply enrolled at Owyhee Elementary School, but their classes included ESL. Beginning at age six, Simon was able to master English perfectly and continue through school. The family came to Whitney church when Simon was 14. The twins became active in the youth organization which was quite active, and Simon remembers some of the people he met in that group and in Boy Scout Troop 49.

As many teenagers do, Simon got into some trouble. Debbie and Bob Coutts were youth ministers at Whitney, and they invited Simon to their home as a foster son. Bernadette finished high school at Borah high, and Simon graduated from Mountain View High. He worked a variety of different jobs, but continued to be in contact with alcohol and drug users. Although he had a permanent Residency card, at one time he was threatened with deportation for his behavior. He remembers several Whitney members for writing to support him as he fought to stay in this country. Particularly, David Hawk was a mentor. David and Bonnie got on the phone with the judge to plead that he could change his behavior and should be helped to do so and stay in the US.

Simon became determined and spent several years working for permanent change. He credits programs at the Boise Rescue Mission for much of this help, especially the late Ray Carleton, Project Manager of the New Life Recovery Discipleship Program. Simon received instruction and housing. After almost 18 months, he was offered employment and worked as Assistant Event Coordinator and Resident Advisor. Simon continues to live at the River of Life Rescue Mission but is working to save money toward more independent lodging. He feels very sure that he will stay sober and clean.

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Simon is now employed fulltime as a flagger by Northwest Traffic Services which provides service to ACHD. He also works part-time doing janitorial work for Western Building Maintenance.

His older brother and sister have become American citizens, and that is one of Simon's goals. His younger brother Moses was born in the United States. Simon maintains his sobriety in part by working with Celebrate Recovery. He has attended many churches, but feels welcome back at Whitney where he is remembered as a youth by many. He sings in the choir and is a part of Shelley Cooper's Bible study class that meets early Sunday morning.

We congratulate Simon on his hard work and determination and welcome him back to the Whitney congregation.

## Joseph's Closet

For more than 20 years, Whitney has provided warm coats, accessories and blankets for our community. This year will be no different. We will be opening the Closet on the 3rd Friday of October during Community Dinner. We have a good supply to open the season but are in need of items. When gathering your donations, please be sure they are clean and appropriate for winter outerwear. We do not take shoes or boots. We are always in need of warm, waterproof gloves. We have coats for children, youth and adults. We especially need adult coats in large sizes - 3X and 4X.

Joseph's Closet will again be held in a rented trailer. If you would like to help this ministry by donating funds to pay for the trailer rental, memo your check Joseph's Closet. This is a vital ministry of our church. There are many ways to help in addition to donations. If you would like to volunteer please see Lory Nesor or Coral Swofford.



## **Charge Conference, October 30 at 6:00 pm**

Our annual charge/church conference will be held on Sunday, October 30 at 6:00 pm. The meeting will be chaired by district superintendent Karen Hernandez and be held over Zoom, the link will be sent out in the Midweek Email the week before the meeting. The purpose of this meeting is the adoption of the pastor's compensation package, election of church officers for 2023, voting on certified lay speakers, and taking any required action on membership changes. There will not be significant conversation or discussion as a part of this meeting as the focus is on adopting the reports submitted. The meeting should last about 30 minutes and is open to all members of the church.

## **Annual Check-in with DS, November 10 at 6:00 pm**

Our annual check-in with the District Superintendent will take place on Thursday, November 10 at 6:00 pm. This will be an in person meeting with Karen and according to the DS "will include more content and dialogue (rather than forms and voting). All elected church leaders and pastors should plan to participate. Other church members/constituents and staff are welcome to participate." Karen describes the meeting this way: "As promised in last year's meetings, I will be asking each group, "What have you done towards becoming anti-racist since we last talked about this?" Karen writes, Leaders/members (not just pastors) should be prepared to answer. I welcome conversation about this good work! The video, some info sharing, and this conversation will last 60-75 minutes.

## **Building Update**

The last repairs to our building following our sewer backup on May 17 were completed on September 1, but we are still unpacking boxes and putting away all the things that have accumulated in Room 3, and getting pictures and bulletin boards hung up. It has been a long summer. The upside is that we have all new carpeting throughout the building and new, upgraded flooring in the Sanctuary. And we've been sorting and cleaning out some of the accumulation of the last 22 years. A tremendous thank you to all those who helped with packing and moving and cleaning and sorting and cleaning and... The risk when we start listing names is that we will leave someone off but I do want to lift up 3 people who have put in tremendous effort, not only on our building restoration, but also in setting up for worship each week while we were at the Holiday Inn Express: Rich Keefe, Bert Allen, and Dianna Shea. We couldn't have pulled this off without them, or any of those who have helped. Thank you all! - Daryl

## Neighborhood Block Party

Despite the triple digit heat on August 31, hundreds of students, parents and neighbors met at Whitney Elementary for the annual block party. This year there were many organizations with booths, food and activities. As in years past, Whitney Church provided homemade cookies to go with the hot dogs provided by Sojourn Church. Whitney UMC also had a booth with games, tags for backpacks and church information. The miniature golf and giant bubbles were a big hit. Thanks to all who helped with setting up, taking down and managing the booth. We all had a wonderful time of community.



## Whitney Elementary Connection

We have already been busy helping out at Whitney Elementary. Already this year several of our members have helped by passing out backpacks and greeting kindergarten parents. At their September meeting, United Women in Faith assembled colorful pencil cases with items to Welcome Back Whitney teachers and staff.

Whitney has a long history with Whitney Elementary. Many years ago, there was a group of Whitney Grandpas who spent at least one day a week playing games with the students at lunch time. Many relationships were developed through this activity. Whitney Elementary wants to start this program again and has asked for Grandpas and Grandmas to volunteer some time each week. If you are interested in joining this activity, see Lory Nesor.



## **WHITNEY CRAFT FAIR**

**Friday, November 4, 10:00 am - 7:00 pm**

**Dinner served 5:30 pm -7:00 pm**

**Saturday, November 5, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Lunch Served 11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

After a two year hiatus due to Covid restrictions the annual Whitney Craft Fair is back this year on November 4th and 5th. There will be lots of homemade crafts and food items for your Christmas giving, or just to keep for yourself.

Saturday's lunch menu will feature our famous homemade lasagna and vegetable soups. Friday's dinner menu is still being planned. Please let Johnna Dunten know if you can help with the dinner.

We will have a Silent Auction again this year. If you have a special talent or item that you would like to donate to the Silent Auction, please let Lory Nesor know. We are limiting the items this year so speak to her as soon as possible.

Lorrie Baer is this year's Craft Fair chair and Johnna Dunten will coordinate the kitchen and meals. Contact them for more information or to sign up to help. There is also a sign up sheet at the church to volunteer at the craft fair, to help in the kitchen, to make soups and pies, or for bringing crafts to sell.

Due to limited space, there will not be a Grandma's Attic this year as we want to make sure the church is filled with the greatest crafts and pies.



### **October/November Important Dates**

October 30 - Charge Conference

November 4-5 - Craft Fair

November 6 - All Saint's Sunday

November 10 - Annual Check-in with District Superintendent

November 13 - United Women in Faith Sunday

November 20 - Joyful Noise Worship

November 24 - Thanksgiving

November 27 - First Sunday of Advent



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**Join Us for the Ada County/Boise CROP Hunger Walk  
October 16, 3:00 pm at Julia Davis Park**

Last year 20 walkers from Whitney raised \$863, can we top that?

All ages are invited to walk. The route is 3.4 miles, the distance that many people in the world must walk to access water. There is also a one mile route for those unable to do the longer walk.

25% of all funds generated will be designated to the Idaho Food Bank to end hunger here. Come join us and help support our community programs. We will wear our "GOT FOODS" shirts so bring yours if you have it or shirts will be available.

Go to <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/whitney-united-methodist-boise-id> to join our team or make a donation.