

Whitney Quarterly

Spring Edition 2023



Whitney United Methodist Church



Pastor: Rev. Daryl Blanksma

- WhitneyPastor@WhitneyUMC.org

Administrative Assistant: Kendra Dueno

- Office@WhitneyUMC.org

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 5:30—6:30 pm

3315 W. Overland Rd. Boise, ID 83705

Phone: (208)343-2892 | Website: www.WhitneyUMC.org

Daryl's Note

United Methodist clergy are encouraged to take a Spiritual formation and growth leave of one month during each quadrennium and a leave of up to six months for a clergy member who has held a full-time appointment for at least six years. I have not used this provision during my 33 years of ministry but after three years of Covid, a change of appointment, two moves, and a major church renovation I have decided that I need to take a bit of a break to recharge my batteries. The Church Council has granted my request for a 6 week leave starting April 10 (the day after Easter). During this time I am planning to go on a two-week tour of the Journeys of Paul in Greece and Turkey that is being led by Bishop Karen Oliveto of the Mountain Sky Conference, attend portions of the Northwest Leadership Institute, spend some time with family and friends, and catch up on my sleep and reading. While I am gone we have several exciting speakers and preachers lined up to fill the pulpit. I will return from leave on May 22 and be back in the pulpit on May 28.



April 16 & 23 - Charles Owusu-Ansah

April 30 - Mary Kienzle & Louise Kienzle

May 7 - Rev. Karen Hernandez

May 14 - United Women in Faith

May 21 - Rev. Jack Bynum

SOUP'S ON—March 19

Our soup offerings after Worship the past couple months have been so well received that Peggy Jackson and David Hawk have decided to make this a monthly happening (it may not always be soup). They are organizing our next after worship soup Sunday for March 19. Join us for worship and plan to stay for a warm and tasty bowl of soup and fellowship with your Whitney family. If you are able to help make a pot of soup, please contact Peggy or David.

Charles Owusu-Ansah and Family

It is my pleasure to share my life's story with the church. Thank you for the opportunity.

My name is Charles Owusu-Ansah, my last name means “end of sorrow”, I was born on October 30, 1981, in Kumasi city in Ghana. I am the fourth child of six children born to Joseph and Martha, we are part of the Ashanti tribe. After high school I studied in Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana and graduated with bachelor’s in electrical engineering, I worked as temperature metrologist for Council for scientific and industrial research (CSIR) from 2006 to 2018, during that time I became a lay preacher in 2008 in the Methodist church, Ghana, I then studied in Trinity Theological Seminary and graduated with master’s in Theology. In 2018 I came to America to study in Norfolk State University (NSU) in Norfolk - Virginia and graduated with Master’s in Electronic Engineering. I currently work for Micron Technology in Boise Idaho as DRAM Product Engineer. I love reading, painting, biking and to watch funny movies with my family and friends.



Ernestina Deriguba is the first child of eight children born to David and Mary, she was born on June 8, 1985, in a city called Jirapa. She has diploma in cosmetology from Hair planet Institute of Beauty, and currently studying to become CNA in college of western Idaho (CWI). She worked as a cook for Brookwood Hill school in Accra Ghana where we lived from 2010 to 2018. She loves to cook, knit, and to play dart board game for hobby.

In 2005 I met my wife Ernestina and we became friends, in a city called Bole, I had graduated from college and she had graduated from high school and working as the receptionist of her uncle’s fancy hotel, while studying to become cosmetologist, and we got married in 2008, after which she added the Owusu-Ansah to her name, together we have two daughters namely Jessica and Zoe Owusu-Ansah, born in June 16, 2010 and November 29, 2013 respectively. Jessica loves fashion and painting while Zoe loves singing and gymnastics.

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Although I was born in a Christian home and attended worship with my family in charismatic church, I became a Christian at the age of 16 years when a friend invited me to the Methodist church Ghana, when I met Tina, she was already a Christian worshipping with the Roman Catholic Church with her family, after our wedding we decided to worship with the Methodist church.

I hope to pursue my PHD in Theology in the coming year and she want to become registered nurse.

We intend to keep our Christian faith alive and raise our children in the fear of God. When I came to Boise, I was still joining online worship service in Virginia, however when my wife and children joined me, I knew it was time to find church we can attend physically, that's when we began to search for a place to worship, we googled some of the churches around but we were captured by Whitney's Mission and vision statements, so we decided to be part of this family where everyone is welcome.

Shawlers



(Not pictured: Coral Swofford)

Whitney has a small but thriving Prayer Shawl Ministry that meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 2:00 pm. The shawls (and lap blankets) are knitted or crocheted, in various colors and styles, with love and prayers and once completed they are blessed by the Pastor.

When placed around the shoulders or in the lap of a sick or grieving person they offer comfort, love and encouragement.

If you have a relative, friend or neighbor who would appreciate one of our beautiful shawls, please come to the office to select one or see Emily, Coral or Lorrie.

JOSEPH'S CLOSET

Joseph's Closet had a very successful season. We were open from October 15, 2022 to January 21, 2023 every Tuesday from 10:00 - 12:00, Saturday from 10:30 - 12:00 and the 3rd Friday of every month from 5:30 - 7:00. We gave out 447 coats, 351 hats, 253 gloves, 607 socks, 134 blankets and 7 sleeping bags. The early onset of winter meant that our trailer was almost always full of folks. The people who visit us are families, seniors, persons who sleep under the stars or in their cars, persons who have recently moved from warmer climates and newly arrived refugees from all over the world. We work with social workers who are assisting those with differing abilities, some who are recovering from addiction or on release from prison.

Many thanks to our volunteers who kept the Closet staffed as well as stocked with items. Coral Swofford and Lory Nesor were team leaders assisted by Peggy Jackson, Barbara Nolan, Carla Biersdorff, Linda Gerittson, Kasey Larrocochea, Helen Shelby, Jana Hedges, Julie Hall, Gena and Mike Waller and Lorrie Baer from Whitney, Dawn Bruck from Meridian UMC and Linda Budolfson. Malcom Dunten helped with the trailer set-up and storing of items. Coral kept our name in front of the public with our postings on Facebook.

Most of our items are donated and donations come from everywhere. We receive beautiful quilts made by various women's groups of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Meridian UMC has a barrel set out in their fellowship hall for coats. An anonymous member of Meridian UMC makes a generous donation of brand new coats every year. Cindy Kubena who started the Joseph's Closet ministry about 20 years ago, shops and collects all year long. When we run low on an item or items, we put out the call and Whitney members answer the call. We are grateful this year to have received the proceeds from the Craft Fair to fund the trailer and have some to carry over for next year.

Amazon is discontinuing their AmazonSmiles program which will disable the Charity List we just set up. Pastor Daryl and Kendra are researching setting up a Joseph's Closet Wish-list or Gift Registry on Amazon to take its place. We will have more details about that prior to opening next year.

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Our racks were almost bare when we closed this year so we need to all spend the next months cleaning our closets, talking to friends about our ministry, shopping the sales so that we have a good inventory when we open our doors in October. We also need financial donations. It costs about \$5000 each year for the trailer, electricity etc. Checks can be written to Whitney and Joseph's Closet put in the memo.

God has truly blest Whitney Church during these past years. We are a beacon of light on the corner for so many with our clothing and food ministry. Thanks to everyone who has supported us through the years and we appreciate your continued support.

Whitney Family Events

Our family events have been a lot of fun! In November, we braved the cold to look at all the Christmas lights along Indian Creek in Caldwell. I think the fire blowing dragon was a favorite. Then we headed to a local Mexican restaurant for food. We were lucky enough to get a table for 18 pretty quickly.



Our Christmas ornament making and pizza night was in December. We enjoyed pizza and home made hot chocolate and made a variety of ornaments including candy trains and bird feeders.

In January we gathered at the church for a Movie night and watched "Puss in Boots" while enjoying essential movie treats.

Some possible ideas for the year include: spaghetti dinner night, a hike in the foot hills, visiting a flower farm, the farmer's market, doing the hot air balloon festival and family camp at Camp Sawtooth. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions, let Becky Daniel know: email: blt511@hotmail.com text: 208-989-8050



Souper Bowl of Caring

On February 12, Whitney participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring to Tackle Hunger. David Hawk, Peggy Jackson, Bert Allen and Rich Keefe, and Kacey Larracochea provided delicious pots of soup enjoyed by those who stayed following worship to have a bowl. A collection was taken for the food ministries at Whitney which brought in \$242. We also invited folks to bring non-perishable food items and collected a cart of items to donate to our partner in tackling hunger: St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. Thanks to all those who participated.



FINANCE UPDATE

We ended 2022 with a deficit of \$15,700. The overage was covered by reserves we had built up in our General Fund Reserve. Our preliminary budget for 2023 shows a deficit of almost \$23,000. We are going through our expenses to see where we can make savings and the church council will be looking at all options for covering our shortfall at their April meeting. The largest non-fixed cost in our budget is staff salaries, especially the pastor. We have not filled the Family Life Director position (we did not include this in the budget) and our choir director position remains unfilled (this was included in the budget at \$7,000). We may need to have some serious discussions over the next year about whether Whitney can continue to afford to have a full-time pastor. In the meantime, we will be continuing to look at new ways that we can connect with our community and attract new families.



Members of the Celia Cowan Circle decorated our Christmas Tree



Jessica and Zoe Owusu-Ansah light the candles during worship



Simon Ntamuhoza show off his Advent Wreath crafted during Joyful Noise while Judith Alexander works on hers.



The congregation sings Silent Night during our Christmas Eve Worship



Kathy Old and Zena Larracoechea dish up soup before our Congregational meeting



Anna Larracoechea and Evelyn Daniel decorate the Nursery while Zena Larracoechea and Zoe Owusu-Ansah decorate the Sunday School classroom



Whitney UMC Boy Scout Troop 49

On February 5, 2023, Scout Sunday, in a moving and meaningful ceremony, Whitney UMC disbanded the Scouting units chartered by the church.



Boy Scout Troop 49, Venture Crew 49, Pack 49 and Scouting BSA Troop 49G (girls troop) were disbanded by representatives of the local Mountainview Scout Council, representatives of the units chartered at WUMC and church representatives who participated in a ceremony to formally disband the units. The recent COVID crisis caused the units to struggle with keeping Scouts and leaders, due to meeting restrictions. Whitney UMC has supported and chartered Scouting units for the past 70+ years. During that time, the church had sponsored and hosted Explorer posts, packs, troops and a Venture crew. Church members have supported the Scouts while those Scouts went to summer camp, attended leadership training, completed many service projects, conducted fundraiser projects and overall supported the church with many activities.

Many of our church members participated in the Scouting program. Members participating in the Scouting program at Whitney UMC included Marv Wolfe, Ed Mordhorst, Don Halsey, Jake Finley, and Eric Owens. Many of our Scouts attended church at Whitney.

In addition to supporting the Scouting activities at Whitney UMC, adult Scouters supported the local district and council activities. Marv Wolf sat on the Council Executive Board among other positions. Ed Mordhorst served as the Council Eagle advisor. Eric Owens taught Roundtable training, leading the Klondike Derby activity in Idaho City, as well as the district Camporee at Edna Flats. David Hawk, Marv Wolfe and Tom Old have served on the Mountainview council executive board for many years.



Perhaps in the future, Scouting units will be restarted at Whitney UMC. The local council has pledged to preserve the 49 unit designation for Whitney UMC, in the hopes that another set of leaders and youth will resurrect the Scouting units at our church, with the support of our congregation. Let's hope so.



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3315 W. Overland Rd
Boise, ID 83705

Lent/ Easter Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday - February 22

Service of Ashes at 6:30 pm

First Sunday in Lent - February 26

“A Matter of Identity”

Genesis 2:1-17; 3:1-7,

Matthew 4:1-11

Second Sunday in Lent - March 5

“Like It or Not”

Genesis 12:1-4a; John 3:1-17

Third Sunday in Lent - March 12

“Living Water, Living Faith”

Exodus 17:1-7, John 4:1-42

Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 19

“Now I See” John 9:1-41

Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 26

“Resurrection Now”

John 11:1-45

Palm/Passion Sunday - April 2

Matthew 21:1-11, Matthew

Maundy Thursday - April 6

Service of Prayer and Communion at 7:00
pm

Easter - April 9

“Whole Lotta Shakin’ Going On” Matthew
28:1-10