

Whitney Quarterly



Spring Edition 2024

Whitney United Methodist Church



Pastor: Rev. Daryl Blanksma

»» WhitneyPastor@WhitneyUMC.org

Secretary: Sonrisa Garcia Draney

»» 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

PASTOR'S NOTE

In just a little over a month, the 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church will meet. No, that isn't a typo. The 2020 General Conference, after being delayed multiple times due to Covid, will finally meet in 2024. It is scheduled for April 22-May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina. There are 862 voting delegates to General Conference — 55.9% from the U.S., 32% from Africa, 6% from the Philippines, 4.6% from Europe and the remainder from concordat churches that have close ties to The United Methodist Church. One half are clergy and one half are lay people and sessions will be translated into 10 different languages. It has been remarked that The United Methodist Church is the only denomination that is both democratic in its governance and global in its membership.



In 2019 I was elected as a reserve delegate to the Oregon-Idaho delegation to General Conference. I'm now in year five of what would normally be a one year commitment. Due to the small size of our delegation, reserve delegates help out the voting delegates by reading and tracking different pieces of legislation. There are 14 legislative committees who will be dealing with 1,100 pieces of submitted legislation. The legislation for the committee I am tracking takes up 114 pages so I have a lot of reading to finish before April 22.

Some of the more notable legislation that will be under consideration this year are: a new pension plan for U.S. clergy, a reduction in the number of U.S. bishops, a reduction in the budget to offset reduced membership in the U.S. due to disaffiliation. Three of the most watched pieces of legislation will be a plan to regionalize The United Methodist Church, a new set of Social Principles for the 21st Century, and the removal of the "incompatibility clause" and other anti-LGBTQI+ language. Our current organizational plan and Social Principles were adopted in 1968 & 1972 when the denomination was overwhelmingly based in the U.S. Regionalization would put the U.S. church on par with other regions of the world, and the new Social Principles have been written with input from United Methodists around the world. The incompatibility clause was added in 1972 with the adoption of the current Social Principles, and other restrictive and harmful language toward LGBTQI+ persons has been added in the years that followed.

We are also scheduled to hold another Jurisdictional Conference in July of this year in Spokane, Washington. Two of the active bishops in the Western Jurisdiction: Minerva Carcaño and Karen Oliveto, will be retiring and, unless GC reduces the number of bishops, two new ones will be elected to replace them.

Peace,

Daryl

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith is the women's organization of the United Methodist Church. We are the largest women's faith organization in the United States and our focus is on programs which help women, children and youth. At Whitney we meet monthly. Our unit meeting is on the 1st Wednesday of the month. We have a potluck lunch at noon followed by a business meeting and a program. Our business concerns our mission work both locally and nationally and the programs usually focus on concerns facing women and children. On the 3rd Tuesday of every month Celia Cowan Circle meets and the purpose is primarily to develop a supportive community. All women are invited to attend. Our March program will be on Human Trafficking and presented by Vicki Lehrman. In April Mary Kienzle will give us a presentation on her mission trip to Kenya last year.

Last December we had a lovely luncheon and invited all the women of the church to attend. We were grateful that 20 women came for an afternoon of delicious food and wonderful visiting. Each woman shared an Advent/Christmas experience they had had over the years. In the past we have brought various items that Whitney Elementary needed. This year we were told that the biggest need was food. We decided on gift cards. The women donated \$775 and we purchased gift cards from Walmart, Albertson's and Thana's World Market. The cards are being distributed through Whitney Community School Coordinator, Susan Dennis.

Lorrie Baer and Lory Nesor attended the Legislative Event organized by the Sage District United Women in Faith. We had two Sunday evenings of zoom events. The first one focused on the bills before the Legislative concerning Maternal Health Care and the second on Education. On Feb. 12 a group of us met at the Capitol at 8:00 where we planned our day. Our first visit was to a House of Representatives hearing on a bill concerning Libraries. We also visited the House and Senate during their sessions. We concluded with a soup luncheon held at the 1st Presbyterian Church where we met with legislators. We were primarily talking about those issues/bills concerning Maternal Health Care and Education.

The Legislative Event is held every year and gives us an opportunity to visit our Capitol and have input in those bills that especially effect women and children.,

United Women in Faith from
Sage district for Capitol
Advocacy Day.



JOSEPH'S CLOSET

Due to an early cold spell and an increase in customers, Joseph's Closet had a banner year. We were open 2 days a week for 2 hours each plus 2 hours one Friday a month for 3 months and during that time we gave away 695 coats, 436 hats, 365 gloves, 526 socks, 184 blankets (including sleeping bags) and hundreds of extra items. We were visited by people in our community, case workers, newly arrived refugees, the St. Vincent's de Paul re-entry program, those sleeping under the stars or in their cars. There is a great need for warm clothing and we are grateful that Whitney can help meet that need. We had to close our trailer in mid January but we have kept some items in the church office and we continue to give to those who call or come to the church.

Many thanks to our volunteers who kept the Closet staffed as well as stocked with items. Our volunteers this year were: Lory Nesor, Coral Swofford, Peggy Jackson, Lorrie Baer, Julie Hall Barbara Nolan, Carla Biersdorff, Linda Gerittson, Kacey Larrocochea, Helen Shelby, Jana Hedges, Gena and Mike Waller, Cameron Ostrem, and Cindy Shafer from Whitney, Dawn Bruck from Meridian UMC, Linda Budolfson and Kathleen Trotter. Malcolm 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. This year we received a huge donation from the Kuna Nazarene Church. They decided not to give away coats anymore so they donated 86 bags of coats to us! They were all sorted and we could start the year with full racks. They continue to donate as they receive coats. We are so grateful to them. The women of the Church of Latter Day Saints donate beautiful quilts. Dean and Cindy Kubena and Meridian UMC are generous in their giving. Many donations were given by the people of Whitney. Whenever we ran low on an item, Coral advertised, and by the next time we opened we had a supply of that item. Many of our women search the sale racks and we have new items. As you clean your closets or see a good sale, we appreciate all donations. They can be brought to the church office anytime.

God has truly blest Whitney Church during these past years. We are a bright light to many with our clothing and food ministry. But as we give to others, we have received. Each of our volunteers has expressed at different times what a blessing it has been to work in the Closet. Thanks to everyone who has supported us through the years and we appreciate your continued support.

Lory Nesor



Joseph's Closet packs up after another successful season.



JOYFUL NOISE

Our November 26 Joyful Noise Worship focused on being Thankful, and preparing for Advent.



NEW PASTOR WATCH

As Pastor Daryl announced last year, he will be retiring this summer. His last Sunday at Whitney will be June 16. In The United Methodist Church, new pastors are appointed by the Bishop after consultation with the local church, not hired by the congregation. Our Church Council has met with the District Superintendent to talk about the needs of Whitney and now the District Superintendent is working with the Bishop and other District Superintendents (the Cabinet) to “discern” a new pastor to appoint to Whitney. When they have a candidate in mind, the District Superintendent will meet again with a smaller group of the Council to introduce the candidate and assuming no issues come up during the introduction a letter will be read to the congregation during Sunday Worship introducing the name of the pastor the Bishop intends to appoint. There is no timeline for when this will occur. The Bishop is hoping to have most appointments determined by early April, but the Cabinet has until Annual Conference meets in June to finish its work.

WHITNEY ELEMENTARY CONNECTION

Whitney Church has had a close connection with Whitney Elementary for many years. It began over 20 years ago when a group of men from Whitney formed a group called the Whitney Grandpas. They had all recently retired and spent 2 hours every Thursday during the lunch hour at the school playing board and card games with the students. Through this interaction they built strong friendships. We no longer have the Grandpas group but because of them we have maintained a strong connection to the school, primarily through Susan Dennis, Community School coordinator. There are several Whitney members who continue to volunteer on a weekly basis at the school in various capacities. During Covid, we felt the teachers needed to know that they were supported by the community so we recognized them with various gifts at different times of the year. That crisis has passed but we continue to show our support. This year we gave them special post it note holders for Thanksgiving. Our current bulletin board display has a number of thank you notes that the teachers wrote, expressing their appreciation. We haven't forgotten our Whitney Church teachers and send them coffee gift cards several times a year.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 24

Palm/Passion Sunday 10 am Worship
Palm Procession and Reading of Passion
Story

Sermon: "Why Did Jesus Have to Die?"

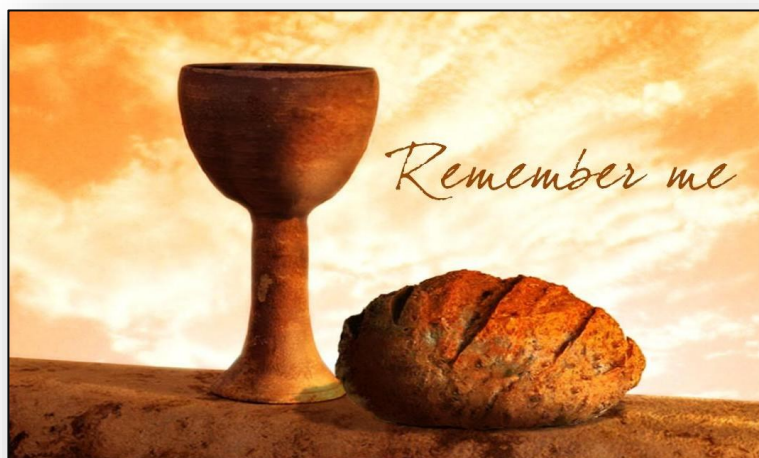
Scriptures: Mark 11:1-11, Mark 15:1-47

Our March Soup Lunch will follow
Worship



March 28

Holy Thursday 7:00 pm Worship
Service of Prayer and Communion
Scripture: Mark 14:1-72



March 31

Easter 10 am Worship

Bring fresh flowers for our floral
cross, and/or potted spring
flowers (lilies, azaleas, tulips,
daffodils, et.) to decorate the
Sanctuary Sermon: "Is This Any
Way to End a Story?"

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8



CHRISTMAS EVE



Whitney Women's Christmas Lunch, collected \$775 for Whitney School's food program.



COMMUNITY DINNER

Our Community Dinner ministry is thriving under the leadership of Emily Nelson and her team of cooks, servers and set-up/clean-up crew. We typically serve about fifty meals at our dinner, served every third Friday at 5:30 p.m. A big thank-you to all our volunteers!



WHITNEY CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Have you noticed the bulletin board in the hallway? The one that is always covered with pictures of Whitney comings and goings. Thanks to Lorrie Baer for keeping this bulletin board current with things that are going on in the church. We especially appreciate seeing some of the fun things the kids are doing. Take a minute and take a look. Guaranteed you will enjoy what you see.

FINANCE

I am so grateful for the financial support we receive from each person in our church family. We have experienced so many challenges in the past few years. Yet, each time we have come together to keep our doors open and the bills paid so that we can continue to reach out and help with physical and spiritual needs.

As we went into 2023, we were recovering from the past years' expenses of the parsonage overhaul and the flood that damaged the floors and walls in multiple rooms of our church building. The Church Council approved a budget that was about \$20,000 above our projected income based on pledges of income and anticipated expenses. Fortunately, our general fund was only short \$3,338.90 at the end of the year. Giving exceeded our anticipated income and expenses were down since most of the year we were without an Administrative Assistant and a Choir Director.

The major expense outside our General Fund in 2023 was repairing and restoring the parsonage after multiple floods. Our insurance paid \$26,571.57 for the flood repairs leaving us to pay the balance of \$25,983.88. We collected \$3,005.83 in special offerings and had to transfer \$22,978.05 from dedicated funds to pay the balance. These repairs included replacing the sewer line to the parsonage which accounts for over \$10,000 of the expense.

A first look at the 2024 budget shows our Whitney leadership of the Church Council is looking at another year where our anticipated income (based on pledges received) will not cover our operating expenses in 2024. The anticipated shortage is \$23,000. Hopefully, we will have a year of giving that significantly exceeds the pledges we use to prepare a budget.

I would encourage everyone to turn in a pledge for 2024 if you have not already done so. The pledges help us plan and prepare for expenses. It is simply an estimate of giving. We understand that a pledge is your intention of giving based on current knowledge. Things often change and that can affect what you can give. Another thing to keep in mind is that the Pledge Drive is for giving for the General Fund. This is the fund that keeps the doors open and the lights on. If you give dedicated money to a specific ministry such as Joseph's Closet or the food ministry, that should not be in your pledge. Those ministries have their own separate budgets and do not directly depend on the General Fund.

FINANCE CONTINUED

Church leaders have worked to make sure it is easy to give and are transparent about how your gifts are used by the church. Our most recent addition to being transparent is having a notebook in the office containing the latest financial reports for you to review. This notebook also contains minutes from Church Council meetings and a section with recent church policy updates.

For those who prefer the convenience of online giving, we offer multiple opportunities on our website, WhitneyUMC.org, to give to the general fund and individual ministries of Whitney. Vanco (our electronic giving payment and processing provider) also just released a new feature for our online giving portal. If you already have any recurring transactions set up in a “giving” profile, you can now edit and update your recurring transactions. You can change things like frequency, transaction amount, payment method, fund choice, and more without having to contact anyone to make these changes.

One interesting fact is that during 2022-2023, Whitney paid over \$1,000 in credit card fees on giving through credit and debit cards. Each card transaction has a small fee and a percentage fee associated with them. This compares to a small fee for giving via ACH (direct giving from your checking or savings account). If you give electronically, you might consider this option. Using this method, the fee to Whitney is only about 25 cents per transaction.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions about our budget and financial obligations. Rich Keefe, cell/text 208-830-9166, email: Treasurer@WhitneyUMC.org



Whitney Choir under the direction of Isaac Flake.



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3315 W. Overland Rd
Boise, ID 83705

GO CAMPING

Registration for summer camps is now open. For more information and to register go to the Camp and Retreat website at <http://www.gocamping.org>

Scholarship assistance is available for attending Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Church camps. Contact Pastor Daryl for more information.

