

HOLY WEEK—2016

3/20/2016—PALM SUNDAY

Luke 19:28-40



3/24/2016—MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:30 pm—Fellowship Hall

We will gather to share a family style meal together before we do as Jesus did among his disciples at their final meal and wash one another's feet. We will share in communion and sing songs and worship together. This is a sacred time of loving and serving one another. All ages are included. Special activities for children are provided.

3/25/2016—GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

5:30-8:30 pm—Drop-In Stations of Reflection

Interactive stations representing each significant moment of Jesus' journey toward the cross will be set up throughout the Church. Come and light a candle and re-experience this story. All ages are welcome. Young children may walk through with their family or be guided through the experience by Pastor Anna.

3/26/2016—EASTER VIGIL

6:30 pm—Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary

On the night before Easter we will celebrate the sacrament of baptism! This service of bringing in the light includes singing, scripture, communion and will culminate with the celebration of baptism. The whole community is encouraged to attend. Nursery and childcare will be provided for our youngest.

3/27/2016—EASTER CELEBRATION

1 Corinthians 15:19-26 & John 20:1-18

9:00 am—Easter Morning Breakfast

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a time of fun, fellowship & a wonderful breakfast!

10:00 am—Easter Worship Celebration

Celebrate the resurrection of Christ in worship as a community on Easter Sunday! Children will be included in the worship service held in the Sanctuary. Nursery care provided.



The Courier
March/April 2016

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Wesley Staff

Minister—Rev. Karlene Clark
Minister—Rev. Josh Clark
Minister of Music—Catricia Mayhue
Minister to Youth & Children—
Anna Eckelbarger Salas
Nursery Director—
Jessica Suzuki-Bullard
Office Administrator—
Tina Campbell Owens
Maintenance—Jim Thomas
Facilities Manager—Joey Gayles

THE DARK SIDE OF EXCELLENCE

What could possibly be wrong with a value of excellence? After all, excellence demonstrates high standards, hard work, and the very best we have to offer. We certainly don't aspire to sloppiness or laziness or failure. Yet the value of excellence has a dark side that is revealed when it goes unbalanced by authenticity, acceptance, and grace. Feeling that we must choose between excellence and sloppiness, we choose the former and apply it to our work, our family life, and even our worship. We raise it as a standard for ourselves, and a standard for others to meet. In valuing excellence we often produce apparently excellent results - our lives neatly packaged with smooth edges and shiny bows, our lips smiling. "Surely God deserves our excellence," we think.

The problem with excellence is that it often competes with truth and with authenticity. An untempered value of excellence tempts us to hide every aspect of our lives, or of our community, that appears to fall short of this high standard. We are all - every single one of us - a complex mixture of wholeness and fragility, of beauty and fear, of light and dark, of health and woundedness. An unbridled value of excellence does not allow for our whole selves to show up in all of our honest complexity. Excellence gone amuck creates an environment where we put a coat of pain over rotting wood and call it good, all the while fearing or denying the decay beneath.



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Unbridled excellence creates an unrealistic standard by which we judge ourselves and our neighbors. It creates a lack of safety in community, causing us to ask, **“If people really knew me, would they still accept me?”** It encourage us to put up false fronts, to hide our pain, to deny our brokenness, and to judge others when their facade of excellence begins to slip.

A culture of excellence without grace or honesty is by its very nature unsafe for mere mortals. And in such a culture, we all become performers instead of people, actors on the stage of our own lives.

The essence of the gospel of Jesus Christ is not excellence, but grace. We are invited to come as we are, no longer ashamed, hiding nothing, to receive unrestrained love and acceptance from God. When we are weak, then we are strong. In our humility we are lifted up. Only in the recognition of our brokenness can we be truly whole. Jesus surprises us by taking our less “excellent” parts and transforming them into the most beautiful. We are wholly loved, and therefore we are free.

In this season of Lent and Resurrection, **may we receive freedom, transparency, and overwhelming grace through the power of the Spirit of Christ who transforms darkness and death on our behalf!**

With Love,
Karlene

PASTOR KARLENE'S DROP-IN HOURS:
March 8th 12:30-2:30 @ Barn Light East
April 5th 12:30-2:30 @ Barn Light East
April 19th 12:30-2:30 @ Barn Light East

WESLEY WAGONS SEEKS TEAM MEMBERS

Do you have a big heart for our friends without homes? The Wesley Wagons ministry team invites you to join us! Wesley provides three Conestoga Huts on our property for the short-term, transitional housing needs of individuals transitioning from living on the street to more permanent housing. Our team works together to make this ministry run smoothly while our guests transition into and out of our their stay with us, and serves as the liaison with other organizational collaborators. Contact Clay DeForge for more information!

CARING & CONNECTING TEAMS ORGANIZING!

Wesley UMC is a loving accepting church family. We are engaged in strong outreach ministries to alleviate hunger, house the homeless, and feed children to name just a few. Wesley also responds to the needs of our church family members in a variety of ways. While there are individuals and groups taking action, occasionally someone in need of our care and attention may be inadvertently overlooked.

To more fully engage our loving spirits and help avoid those oversights, a new ministry is coming together: **Care & Connection Ministry, whose purpose is to strengthen relationships and grow our caring capacity as a church family.** Since last December, a group of five plus Pastor Karlene has been meeting to bring together an umbrella organization of several teams each addressing specific needs.

- Respite care for caregivers in households with ongoing illness or disability;
- Caring regular contact for homebound persons or those unable to attend worship;
- Persons missing from worship for a period of weeks; communicating our care and concern;
- Visitors and newcomers; outreach to help them learn more about Wesley and find meaningful ways to engage at their level of interest;
- Members and friends in hospital; connecting to communicate the love of their Wesley family;
- Caring support for widows.

Supporting all teams will be:

- Prayer Team** (in addition to the UMW Prayer Chain);
- Meals Support** (food for a household for one meal or several);
- Transportation** (to and from church – worship & events).

The Care & Connection team is looking forward to the **Ministry Faire, planned for April 10th**, when more information and materials will be available to those needing help or seeking to serve. If you have a need, want to serve, or want more information, you are encouraged to talk to any member of the organizing team: Betsy Callahan, Phyllis Lewis, Deborah Mikesell, Jacque Wallace, Richard Anderson or Donna McNeil

COUNCIL CORNER

BOLD STEWARDSHIP STATEMENT

You may have noticed we've been doing something a little different with our offering time lately. As a body of disciples, it's important for us to know have transparency and insight into the work of Wesley. It is also a blessing to know all of the ways in which our shared giving is a blessing to the world. Starting this past January, we have begun to tell stories during our service in which the gifts and pledges to Wesley impact our church, our community, and the world. In our gifts, we participate in becoming a Bold body of Disciples for the transformation of the world.

—Chelsea Clinton, Chair of Wesley Finance Team

WESLEY FAMILY GIVING STATEMENTS—2015 GIFTS

Thank you for your financial gifts to support the mission and ministries of Wesley Church. Family Giving Statements showing 2015 information are available and were mailed to you if you didn't pick it up in February. You can also access your statement on line by logging into Wesley Family and following the steps below.

1. Login to Wesley Family; then go to your profile page: click on your name in the upper right corner of the page. Then click on **Profile**.
 2. Click on the **Financial** tab located below your picture and contact information.
 3. Scan down to **Printable Statements** and click on **Giving Statement**.
 4. Complete the drop down menus as follows:
 - Type: **Family**
 - Date Range: **Last Year** if you want the access the 2015 statement in 2016 (or other selection if you prefer to see a different time period)
 - Tax Deductible: Select **Both Deductible & Non-Deductible**
 - To include Pledge Information: **Click to check the box** to show pledges
 - Click **Run Report**
 5. You should now see your statement on your computer screen. Use the drop down menu under **File** in the upper left corner of the screen to print or save. If you need assistance, notice any discrepancies or have questions, contact one of the receiving stewards, Cindy Smigley, Bob Nelson, Anne Reynolds or Jean Whitney, or Mike Hartwig, treasurer.
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COMMUNITY POSTINGS

EASTER LILY ORDERS

Easter Lilies will decorate our altar on Easter Sunday. Order forms are available in the Narthex or church office and are due by Sunday, March 20th. See Kathy Howard if you have any questions.

COLLECTING DONATIONS

WAVE and the UMW are collecting feminine hygiene products for the next two weeks. Products can be left in the marked box in the Narthex. Thank you.

KITCHEN HELPERS NEEDED

Once a week our Wesley kitchen needs to be cleaned. In the past people have assumed these duties on a monthly basis. Currently 3 people have volunteered to cover a month to clean the kitchen each week. The cleaning takes about 1 hour each week and the volunteer is given a key to access the building. Still open are: May, June, July, August, October and December. Please consider offering a bit of your time to help cover this need. If you have any questions please contact Sarah Richardson.

WESLEY TALENT SHOW

May 20th, we are having "The Wesley Talent Show." This is a fund raiser to support our youth & preteen faith formation activities and a fun way to share your talent: singing, dancing, poetry reading, skits, or whatever! Contact Richard Anderson or Patrick Folsom with your talent idea!

24TH ANNUAL LAURA LEE LUCE RETREAT

—MAY 20-22, 2016 / MCKENZIE RIVER CONFERENCE CENTER

All ladies of Wesley are invited to attend this annual retreat. Join us for this time to relax and enjoy games, crafts, prayer, fellowship & biblical study. You can carpool or drive. We arise early enough on Sunday for breakfast and devotions and are back in Eugene in time for worship. The fee for the weekend is \$60 (your dinners are extra) and space is limited. Please see Sarah Richardson or another member of UMW for more information and a registration form. We hope you will join us for this time of rest and rejuvenation.

POPPEL COMMUNITY GARDEN

Spring is nearly upon us and plans are progressing for the Poppen Community Garden! The team has approved a plan for the garden designed by Greg Oldson of Landwise Landscape Design, and has identified the first phase of the garden, to be ready for dedication and planting on May 1. Nearly 400 fliers have been distributed to our neighbors and excitement is building for our Spring planting!

PHASE ONE

The first phase will require tilling/ leveling the designated area, irrigation lines and spigots, setting raised beds with soil, and filling paths with wood chips. Goal: May 1.

PHASE TWO

The second phase will include the labyrinth, a low fence along the front of the garden, perennial beds, a composting system, and additional paths and borders. Goal: Sept 15th.

PHASE THREE

The third phase will include the remaining raised garden beds, paths, benches, gathering / picnic area, and finishing touches. Goal: Spring of 2017.

PARTNERSHIP WITH HUD-VASH

Wesley and HUD-VASH are expanding our partnership that exists through our WAVE ministry, supporting veterans who are moving from homelessness to housing. Veterans being served by HUD-VASH will have the opportunity to grow food in the Poppen Garden. Additionally, **HUD-VASH is creating a 20 hr/week, paid position for a veteran who will work as the on-site coordinator for the Poppen Garden!**

PARTNERSHIP WITH BOY SCOUT TROOP 100

Scout Bo Murray of Troop 100 is taking on the project of restoring and relocating the shed from the north side of the field to the south side. This shed will provide storage for tools and supplies related to the Poppen Garden. Both of our scouting troops are partnering in the the installation of the garden.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED!

- Garden with us! Reserve your raised bed today!
- Join the Garden team (see Karlene or Ron)
- Donate garden tools in very good or new condition
 - hoses, shovels, wheelbarrows, etc.
- Donate or help facilitate donations for:
 - equipment rental (for installation)
 - irrigation
 - fencing and entrance pergola
 - signage
 - labyrinth materials
 - beds, soil, and entry materials
- Labor (operate tiller, trencher, bobcat, assist with installation)

HOW IS THE GARDEN FUNDED?

The initial installation of the Poppen Community Garden is being funded by the former Poppen Pavilion fund. While this will cover the bulk of the cost, the team is also pursuing a grant and inviting additional donations of money, time, and materials. Garden beds will be rented for a small annual fee to cover ongoing maintenance-related expenses. A community garden takes a community to thrive. Thank you for your support of the Poppen Community Garden!

