

How Can You Help?

- **Build or contribute to building** a small cover to protect our new irrigation pump system.
- **Got wood chips?** Our garden paths need a deeper chip layer to deter weeds.
- **Donate** to the construction of the labyrinth, or to garden benches and seating areas that will enhance the experience of the garden as a place of contemplation, prayer, and community.
- **Join the Garden team!** Our team is responsible for overseeing the full installation of the project, nurturing our relationships with partner organizations, and providing ongoing management of the garden. Our team is exploring the great potential for community building, ministry, and service.

Come join us!  
Thank you for your support of the Poppen Community Garden!  
Good things are happening here!

Children & Youth at Wesley: Mission Trip and Summer Camps!

Our youth just returned from a Mission Trip in the Portland area—Be sure to ask them about their time together, learning and serving! Many of our children and youth are heading off to camp this summer! Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. We will be sending them cards and notes of greeting and encouragement—be sure and add your “Hello!” & check in with them after they return, they’ll have many stories to tell!


Drop-In Office Hours with Pastor Karlene—

Karlene’s Drop-In hours will resume in September. Looking forward to it!

Minister—Rev. Karlene Clark  
Minister—Rev. Josh Clark  
Minister of Music—Catricia Mayhue  
Minister to Youth & Children—Anna Eckelbarger Salas

Office Administrator—Tina Campbell Owens  
Nursery Director—Jessica Suzuki-Bullard  
Facilities Manager—Joey Gayles

Wesley is a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network.  
We believe in the full inclusion of persons  
of all sexual orientations and gender identities  
in the life and ministry of the church.




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REFLECTIONS ON ONE YEAR AT WESLEY

This month marks the first anniversary of our arrival at Wesley, and I offer some personal reflections on this significant milestone. Healthy pastoral transitions come with all the processes that accompany change, including:

***Acknowledging and embracing the grief of what is lost in the pastoral change.***

For Wesley, this transition has meant the loss of a long-term, beloved pastor who had shaped this community in profound and powerful ways. Saying goodbye to Erin, Charlie, Elijah, and Rowan was a hard thing for Wesley to do! And along with the loss of these wonderful people came the loss of the way things were shaped by their presence in large and small ways.



For our family, moving to Wesley meant being uprooted for the second year in a row, from people and places we loved deeply. It has meant new schools and church communities for our kids, and at times a feeling of disorientation and rootlessness.

For all of us, there has been a measure of grief in this transition that we should not fear to name. Unattended grief can come out sideways, and lead to more pain. We are often sad to the degree that we have loved, and in acknowledging our grief we are better able to care for one another and move forward together. Last summer I compared this transition to the walking of a labyrinth. The journey into the center began for each of us when we heard that the change was coming. We arrived at the center together

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one year ago when Josh and I began at Wesley. In this past year we have been walking back out of this labyrinth of transition together. The journey has been windy, twisty, confusing at times, and also profound as we've learned how to walk the path together.

### ***Developing a New, Shared Identity***

There is a subtle change that happens along the way in a pastoral transition, when “you all” and “us” become a “we.” For Wesley, this has meant getting to know this weird new clergy couple who don't robe for church and whose ways of leading have felt different from the past. For us it has meant the slow process of learning the culture and personality of Wesley, and figuring out how to bring the best of ourselves into a new ministry context that differs significantly from our former churches. It has been a year of all of us learning to love and trust one another.

As we come together, we are all changed and we begin to take on a new, shared identity that looks different from the past for us all. Transition seasons mean that what was is no longer, but what will be has not yet formed. In this in-between space we have journeyed together for a year, slowly becoming a “we” that we are creating together.

### ***Moving Forward Together With Love***

As we round the corner into our second year together, I have felt subtle shifts within me. Faces that were once strangers have become people I love and care for deeply. The physical spaces of Wesley - our sanctuary, the fellowship hall, the office—are feeling familiar instead of foreign. In our backyard we reclaimed the structure from the Good Friday tomb and planted scarlet runner beans at its base. The plants are growing and training themselves to the poles, while producing the flowers that will become its fruit. It has become for me a symbol of resurrection, new life, and rootedness in our new place—even as we grow and learn and see the blossoming of our life and ministry together.



With gratitude, let us give thanks for our year of transition together, for all that we have released and all that we are embracing, for all that we are becoming as we Seek God, Celebrate Community and Serve the World together! May we go forward together with great love!

In Christ,  
Karlene

## POPPEL COMMUNITY GARDEN—GOOD THINGS ARE GROWING HERE!

The other day I walked out in the garden to meet with one of our new Eagle Scouts. A few people who had arrived early for their recovery group meeting were seated at the picnic table, visiting and enjoying the view. A family from Huerto de la Familia was tending their garden plots while their kids ran and played in the grass. A veteran from HUD-VASH stopped to show me how much the very first tomato plant from the dedication ceremony had grown. The new Eagle Scout from troop 100 was excited to explore the details of his new project - building a composting system for garden use. This formerly empty field is now full of life and community!

What's Happening?

This Spring, 30 raised beds and their surrounding paths were installed. All but three of the beds are rented out to a combination of HUD-VASH veterans, Huerto de la Familia families, and Wesley people. The remaining 3 beds have been planted with donated vegetables and are being tended by our Site Host, Mel, and by Chuck, a veteran working part-time at the garden through the VA's Vocational Rehabilitation program. Emergence, a veterans recovery organization, has approached us about sending volunteers to work in the garden.

One Eagle Scout project has been completed, another is in progress, and two more Eagle projects are poised to begin. When complete, the first three Eagle Scouts will have overseen the installation of 18 garden beds, the rock access road, the demolition of the old shed, the building of a new garden shed, and a composting system. A fourth Eagle project will be defined this week!

We experienced a setback with the irrigation that required installing a new on-demand pump system for the well. While the labor was donated by a generous contractor, this was an unexpected expense that was necessary for the garden irrigation.



What is Next?

The Garden team is working on details of the next two installation projects: the labyrinth, and the fencing and border beds. The labyrinth area will need to be leveled, road-grade barrier fabric installed, small crushed rock laid as a base, and larger decorative rocks laid to form the paths. With generous support and participation, we hope to have the labyrinth completed by this Fall!



***(Continued on Back Cover)***

LOOKING AHEAD

<p>CAMPFIRES @ THE CLARKS</p> <p>Josh and Karlene invite you to come hang out at our home this summer! We will be hosting Thursday evening “Campfire @ the Clark’s”: <b>June 30th, July 21st, Aug 4th, &amp; Aug 18th, drop in, 6-9 pm.</b></p> <p>Bring a snack to share and join us for board games, conversation and singing around the fire pit. Everyone is welcome! See you there!</p> 	
<p>SEASON OF FRUITFULNESS—ART RECEPTION</p> <p>SUNDAY JULY 17TH, AFTER MORNING LITURGY IN THE LOBBY</p> <p>Come and celebrate the gifts and talents that are sprouting up in the people of Wesley during this Season of Fruitfulness. We will be enjoying the stories, poems, photos, and art of our friends as they share with the body what it means to be fruitful in their own lives. See you there! Check in with Pastor Josh if you have questions.</p>	
<p>INSIDE OUT SUNDAY—JULY 31ST</p> <p><b>INSIDE OUT</b> Details will be coming soon about our next Inside Out Sunday on Sunday July 31st. As always, it will be a wonderful day of service and working together as Wesley family in bold ways in our community. See you there!</p>	
<p>UMW—HOLIDAY BAZAAR PREP</p> <p>It’s time to begin preparing items for the Holiday Bazaar: jams, pickles, salsa, pickles, dressings, etc. Also handmade items such as scarves, hats, aprons, basket items and ornaments. Looking forward to a wonderful Holiday Bazaar!</p> 	
<p>FOUNDERS DAY—AUGUST 7TH</p> <p>Mark your summer calendar for our Annual Founder’s Day Celebration happening on Sunday, August 7th. Volunteers will be needed for set up and clean up, along with everyone bringing offerings for the potluck we will enjoy together. There will be more information as we get closer to the event.</p>	

CARE & CONNECTION MINISTRY—TAKING SHAPE

“You are the body of Christ and parts of each other.”  
—1 Corinthians 12:27

THANK YOU! Thanks for saying ‘yes’ to being a part of the Care & Connection Ministry! We appreciate all those who signed up at the Ministry Fair, or who responded to a request from one of our team leads. To date, approximately 25 people have agreed to connect with and care for members and friends of Wesley in a variety of ways:

- Provide respite care for spouses caring for loved ones;
- Reach out to folks missing from worship to let them know they are cared about; learn about possible needs to be followed up;
- Help to maintain a caring connection with Wesley family confined to home or senior facilities;
- Prepare food, meals for individuals or families in times of need;
- Be part of a phone chain praying for Wesley members, families and friends;
- Ensure that Wesley folk in hospital receive loving support;
- Provide rides to worship or other church events for folks needing transportation.



If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please speak to one of Care & Connection’s leaders: Betsy Callahan, Colleen Foley, Phyllis Lewis, Brandon Lyon, Deborah Mikesell, Sheila Watkins or Donna McNeil. If you are unable to serve in body, please include this ministry in your prayers.

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY! We are looking for people interested in connecting with newcomers/guests to Wesley UMC. If you have a passion for making people feel welcome; if you want to share your joy as a part of the Wesley family; if you want to help visitors/guests get to know Wesley’s story, help us form a Welcome Team! Please see me on Sunday call/text me at 541-729-5669.

—Donna McNeil