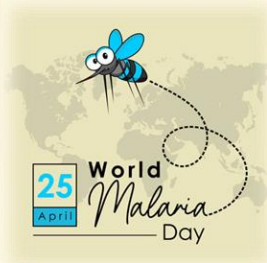


**WASHOUGAL
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**



April 2024

This Month's Notable Dates



National Arbor Day
April 26

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A Message from Pastor Leslie

Dear Church,



Right now, my son's favorite song is "The Wheels on the Bus." All day long, he asks to sing the song together. He chooses the order we sing the verses and does the motions. The wheels, the wipers, the doors, the babies, and the mamas. Over and over again, all through the town.

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus says that in order to be great in the Kingdom of Heaven, we must become like little children. Theologians have pondered for centuries about all the possible meanings of this passage and like many mysteries of faith, we may never fully understand until heaven. But living with a little child certainly brings this statement to life. I am sure God patiently offers us a hug when we metaphorically collapse ourselves upon the floor with a desperate cry because we've been told "no" (it's hard when you can't get everything you want). I'm sure it fills our creator with pride and joy to watch us play in the warm sunshine and enjoy the earth God created. To watch us use our creativity to make a mud pie or bake a cake, to color a picture or paint a wall, to stack blocks or build a planter for gardening. I think God smiles as we call out, "God, God, God! Look at what I can do!" After all, God has called the world and all creation within it "good."

One other thing I am learning from my child is his delight in doing things again and again. We get to the end of a book, and he immediately turns back to page one. He never seems to tire of the same episodes of his favorite show. The truck pajamas go straight from the dryer onto his body. We sing The Wheels on the Bus multiple times a day. Children love to repeat activities, never tiring of the joy found in them. We are now in Easter Season, it will last until Pentecost Sunday next month, 50 days in total. Eastertide is meant to be celebrated as one single, joyful feast, known as the "Great Lord's Day." For 40 days we fasted, repented, mourned, and remembered our own mortality. On Good Friday and Holy Saturday we sat in the darkness and grieved that Jesus is dead. But on Easter Sunday we woke up early and found that the tomb was empty. Jesus defeated the grave! Sin and death do not have power over us anymore! So, we celebrate. Not just for an afternoon, or a day, or a week, or a month, but for 50 days. Over and over and over again. Like a little child, waking up to continue singing the song they started last night.



This month, may you be awestruck again at the power and importance of the resurrection. May you celebrate, whether for the first or fiftieth or hundredth time, that Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Amen!

I am always available for you if you need prayer, someone to listen, or a friend to grab coffee with. Please reach out if myself, or our congregation, can support you.

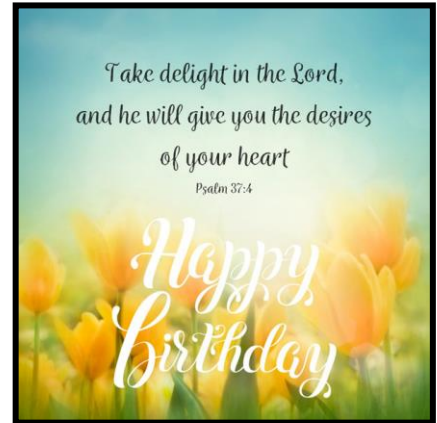
It is a joy and honor to be your pastor.

Pastor Leslie

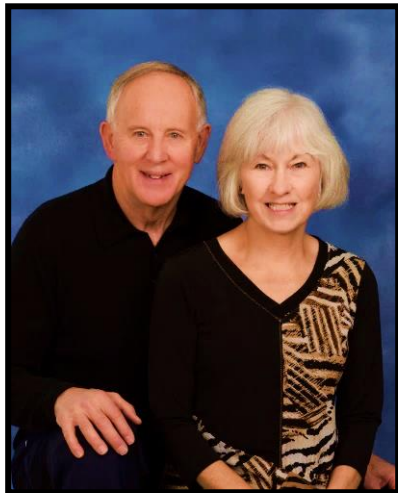
Happy Birthday



Stan Hodgin
April 22
Anita Pulido
April 24



Happy Anniversary



Gene & Cathy Cox
April 14, 1973



Pastor Tom & Pam Tucker
April 6, 1996



Mark Guz & Starla Ryan
April 26, 2011



Giving ~ February

INCOME

General Fund Giving	\$ 6,138.35
Endowment Transfer - Operations	951.60
Ministerial Housing Transfer	1,421.70
Checking Interest	.85

TOTAL INCOME	\$ 8,512.50
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EXPENSES

Personnel	\$ 10,631.80
Apportionments	1,388.02
Other	2,624.41

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 14,644.23
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TOTAL DEFICIT	\$ 6,131.81
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LowAnn Wittler
Financial Secretary

You may remit your Offerings to PO Box 12, Washougal, WA 98671
OR ... Online at www.washougalunitedmethodistchurch.org



Trustees Report

A BIG  Thank
YOU

The WUMC Trustees wish to extend a heartfelt THANKS to these folks for their stewardship of time, brain & muscle. You are all very appreciated.



BOB JACOBS

Bob troubleshooted the lawn mower's issues and fixed them.

DAVE STEINKE

Dave purchased a new battery for the lawn mower and keeps it gassed up year-round. After that nasty winter storm, he went to work trimming dead branches, breaking down the felled tree, and hauling it away in the bed of his truck. Additionally he would pile up the debris so that the **Clean-Up Crew** could easily load whatever was left into Mark Guz's trailer to be carted off. Dave also keeps the grounds looking pristine, paying special attention to special functions scheduled to take place at the church, like Celebration of Life events and Easter.

WINTER STORM CLEAN-UP CREW

GENE COX ✧ TOM CROZIER ✧ MARK GUZ ✧ DAVE STEINKE ✧ JOE WITTLER

MARK GUZ & LINDA CHRISTENSEN

Mark and Linda work endlessly to research the issues and to as frugally as possible improve the Sound System in the Sanctuary.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED AT WUMC

If you have extra time on your hands and have a special skill set you would like to use volunteering at your church, please contact Joe Wittler to talk about your involvement.

Sincerely,

Joe Wittler

Trustee Chair

PNW General Conference Delegates

The clergy and lay delegates listed on this page were originally elected to represent the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference for the 2020 General and Western Jurisdictional Conferences. The first elect and reserve delegates to General Conference were elected in 2018 so they could attend the 2019 General Conference as observers. The other delegates were elected in 2019 after the divisive Special Session of General Conference held that Spring.

Due primarily to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the 2020 General Conference was rescheduled and rescheduled again before finally being scheduled to take place in Charlotte, North Carolina, on April 23 to May 3 2024. Over the longer than usual term of service, the delegation lost one reserve WJ lay delegate to resignation and one WJ lay delegate, Noriko Lao, to death. Lao was a long-time United Methodist and dedicated volunteer with several organizations including Habitat for Humanity.

In addition to its planning and preparations for the rescheduled General Conference that began in 2019, the delegation represented the PNW Conference at the Western Jurisdictional Conference when it met in Salt Lake City, Utah in November of 2022. At that gathering, they helped to elect three new bishops including Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth – currently assigned to the Greater Northwest Area, Bishop Carlo Rapanut – an elder in the PNW Conference at the time of his election, and Bishop Dottie Escobedo Frank – from the Desert Southwest Conference.

After representing the PNW Conference at the General Conference, the delegation will also serve as delegates to another Western Jurisdictional Conference meeting July 10-13, 2024, in Spokane, Washington.

GENERAL CONFERENCE CLERGY DELEGATE & RESERVE



Rev. Elizabeth Ingram Schindler
First Elected



Rev. Gregg Sealey
Reserve



Skylar Marston Bihl
First Elected



Brant Henshaw
Reserve

Western Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Delegates



Rev. Kathleen Weber



Rev. Joe Kim



Rev. DJ del Rosario



Rev. Jenny Phillips



Rev. Shalom Agtarap

PNW General Conference Delegates

Western Jurisdictional Conference Lay Delegates



Falisha Hola



Donica (Nica) Sy



Kristina Gonzalez



Maria Kuch-Stanovsky



Nancy Tam Davis

Western Jurisdictional Conference Reserve Clergy Delegates

Western Jurisdictional Conference Reserve Lay Delegate



Rev. Austin Adkinson



Rev. Nico Reijns



Rev. Kay Barckley



Erin Tombaugh

A new resource page has been published on the PNW Conference website, providing an overview of the upcoming General Conference, which will meet in Charlotte, NC, from Tuesday, April 23 through Friday, May 3, 2024. The page helps define what General Conference is responsible for, how it is comprised, and some of the significant decisions that delegates to it will consider this year. Also included are numerous links for those wanting to learn more, follow the event closely, and know the members of [our PNW Conference delegation](#). To learn more, [visit the Pacific Northwest Conference website](#).

Hungry Page Turners



Why on earth would I want to join the WUMC Hungry Page Turners Book Club? Well, here are but a few reasons you may want to consider as you ponder whether or not your time would be well invested. You see, a social connection is formed with a Book Club. It offers an affordable way to connect with others and socialization helps sharpen your memory and cognitive skills, which in turn leads to an increase in your sense of happiness and well-being.

By simply gathering with people interested in reading the same books as you, this Book Club can serve as a great way to get you outside your comfort zone and around people you may not have had the opportunity to interact with otherwise. Still need more to give you that little nudge? This Book Club can help you become a better reader, commit to reading, grown relationships, learn from diverse perspectives and become a better conversationalist.

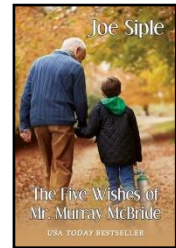
We hope you'll decide to join us this year. Why, just look at this Nine Month LINEUP!

MAY

The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride

Joel Siple ~ (recommended by Sandy Havrelly)

At 100 years old, Murray McBride has outlived everyone he has ever loved. But when he meets Jason Cashman, 10-year-old boy with a terminal illness, Murray may learn something about finding meaning in life as he helps his young friend fulfill his last five wishes before he dies.

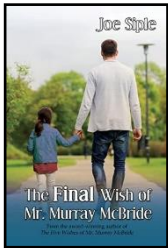


JUNE

The Final Wish of Mr. Murray McBride

Joel Siple ~ (recommended by Diane May)

Jason Cashman has reached the goal he spent the last 20 years seeking, but instead of feeling content, he feels empty. When he meets Alexandra Lopez, a 10-year-old America-loving girl facing deportation, he is inspired by his old friend, Murray McBride, to give her five wishes before she must leave. They set out to check off as many wishes as possible, but Jason's transplanted heart begins to fail, he must choose between his obligations to the past and his hope for a future.

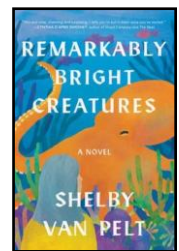


JULY

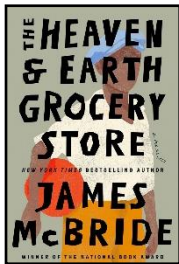
Remarkably Bright Creatures

Shelby Van Pelt ~ (recommended by Judy Whetzel)

Tova Sullivan lives a quiet life, keeping her tiny house tidy and working as a night-shift janitor at Sowel Bay Aquarium. She doesn't need a job, she needs the distraction that staying busy gives her. Tova carries around the kind of sadness very few humans could ever understand, but when she meets Marcellus, the giant Pacific octopus, living at the aquarium, she doesn't know just how much change he will bring to her life.



AUGUST



The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store

James McBride (recommended by Judy Whetzel)

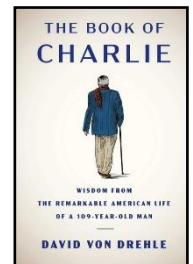
The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store opens in 1972, when workers clearing a lot for a new townhouse development in Pottstown discover a skeleton at the bottom of a well, along with a mezuzah, a small case that often hangs on doorframes of Jewish homes. The police question the one elderly Jewish man still living at the site of the old synagogue on Chicken Hill, but before the investigation intensifies, an Act of God intervenes: Hurricane Agnes hits the Northeast, washing away the crime scene.

SEPTEMBER

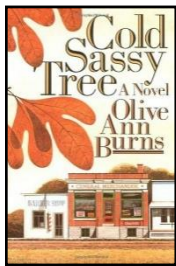
The Book of Charlie

David Von Drehle ~ (recommended by Mary Jane Schumacher)

A journalist recounts his long friendship with Charlie White, the centenarian next door who, sharing his good and meaningful life, mastered survival strategies that reflect thousands of years of human wisdom as his sense of adventure guided him through a century of upheaval.



OCTOBER



Cold Sassy Tree

Olive Ann Burns ~ (recommended by Sandy Havrelly)

An account of the lives and experiences of mischievous and fun-loving 14-year old, Will Tweedy, his irreverent and intimidating grandfather, and the locals in the town of Cold Sassy, Georgia, in 1906. It tells of a scandal that consumes this small town.

NOVEMBER

The Gift

Nicola Pearson ~ (recommended by Cathy Cox)

When a near-death stray dog is left outside Riverside Animal Clinic, in Mount Vernon, Washington, Leo Friel, DVM, has no idea how saving this dog's life will impact his own. Leo's personal life is a mess and the only thing helping him hold things together is his work with small animals.

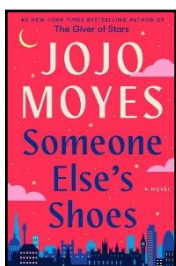


DECEMBER

Our choice of Christmas book - Potluck Appetizers - Gift exchange

Please bring your book list for nomination to the Christmas Party, so we can vote on them and have them ready to read beginning in February 2025.

JANUARY



Someone Else's Shoes

JoJo Moyes ~ (recommended by Cathy Barr)

Nisha Cantor loves the globetrotting life of the seriously wealthy, until her husband announces divorce and cuts her off. Nisha is determined to hang onto her glamorous life. But, in the meantime, she must cope -- she doesn't even have the shoes she was, until a moment ago, standing in.

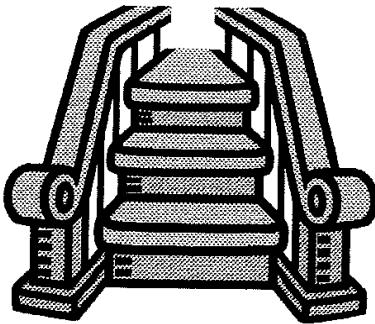
Back in the Day

An Opportunity to “OWN A STEP!”

The Trustees held their monthly meeting on August 31st. One of the biggest concerns of the group gathered was the wooden steps that are located on the South side of the church. They have deteriorated and need to be replaced. It is felt by the trustees that continually fixing the wooden stairs is a losing proposition. Even more importantly is the concern that the church will be liable for an injury. These stairs are used by church members, our children and high school students that cross our property going to and from school.

The Trustees have decided the steps should be constructed of

concrete. Three bids were gathered. The highest was over \$1900 and the lowest, from Meyers Concrete of Washougal, is \$1,138.



...replacing the steps is considered an emergency” Gene Cotton, Trustee

Because it is considered an *emergency expenditure*, the money will be used from dedicated funds to be replaced by money from a fund raiser.

F U N D

RAISER

This creative group of Trustees counted the 13 stairs...and realized that it would be possible to pay for these steps quickly, and have a little fun doing so, in the following way.

- 13 Families or individuals

“adopt” a step.

- Own your step (and railing) for \$88.00
- Steps are now complete!
- Church is free of debt!

And, each family/individual has their personal step to call their own.

What an opportunity!

You Have Only

13 Chances

To Own Your

Own Step!

Gather your family together. Pray. Make a decision. Who knows, you may soon have a “step” to call your own!

The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps. Proverbs 16:9

TWENTY YEARS AGO !

The above is an excerpt from a Newsletter in 2004 referencing the current concrete steps on the south side of the church.

Enjoy reading this piece of our history.

Worship Sound Technician

All those interested in this important & fun Sunday Worship role are encouraged to contact

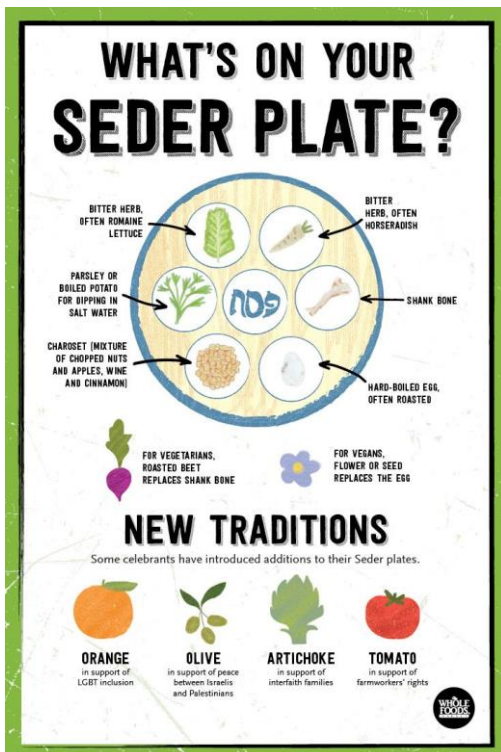
LINDA CHRISTENSEN
Worship Sound Technician

to sign up to become a valued
Church Tech Team Member



What is Passover?

Passover is a festival of freedom and this year it falls on April 22. It commemorates the Israelites' Exodus from Egypt, and their transition from slavery to freedom. The main ritual of Passover is the seder, which occurs on the first two nights (in Israel just the first night) of the holiday. It is a festive meal that involves the re-telling of the Exodus through stories and song and the consumption of ritual foods, including matzah and maror (bitter herbs). The seder's rituals and other readings are outlined in the Haggadah.



What are some Passover practices?

The central Passover practice is a set of intense dietary changes, mainly the absence of hametz, or foods with leaven. (Ashkenazi Jews also avoid kitniyot, a category of food that includes legumes.) In recent years, many Jews have compensated for the lack of grain by cooking with quinoa, although not all recognize it as kosher for Passover. The ecstatic cycle of psalms called Hallel is recited both at night and day (during the seder and morning prayers). Additionally, Passover commences a 49-day period called the Omer, which recalls the count between offerings brought to the ancient Temple in Jerusalem. This count culminates in the holiday of Shavuot, the anniversary of the receiving of the Torah at Sinai.

What foods do we eat on Passover?

Matzah, or unleavened bread, is the main food of Passover. You can purchase it in numerous stores, or you can make your own. But the holiday has many traditional, popular foods, from haroset (a mixture of fruit, nuts, wine, and cinnamon) to matzah ball soup — and the absence of leavening calls upon a cook to employ all of his/her culinary creativity.

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship 10 Coffee Hour 11	Men's Coffee 9 Allen Room					
14	TAXES DUE ♥ 15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship 10 Coffee Hour 11 Native American Ministries Sunday	Men's Coffee 9 Allen Room	Hungry Page Turners 12 Leonardo's		SPRC ~ 2 Finance & Council 3 Fellowship Hall		
21	Stan – BD ! 22	23	Anita – BD ! 24	25	26	27
Worship 10 Potluck Sunday 11 Festival of God's Creation	Men's Coffee 9 Allen Room Passover Begins					
28	29	30				
Worship 10 Coffee Hour 11	Men's Coffee 9 Allen Room					

