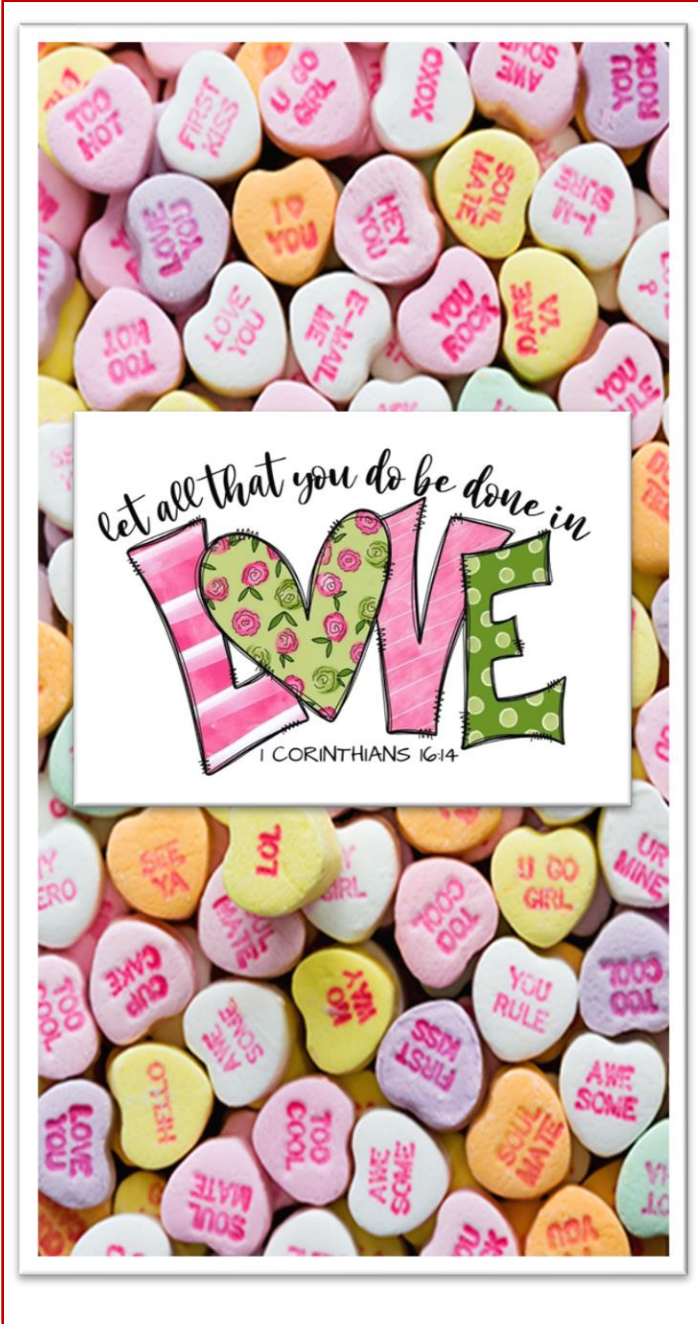




February 2024



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love 

A Message from Pastor Leslie

Dear Church,

We survived 'Snowmageddon 2024'! My son Luca was born in early 2022 at the height of the Omicron wave of the pandemic. As he was a newborn, it was easy enough to hole up in the apartment we were living in at the time and simply sleepwalk from day to day. Nearly two years later, we have a talkative and very energetic toddler who loves being outside. Cue an ice storm that made the ground impossible to run on and we were holed up in the house with nowhere to go, but still many things to get done. One of the days I was on a zoom call in which our Bishop was present and had to apologize for the faint screaming in the background as Luca declared his frustration at being kept downstairs and indoors. The "cabin fever" of the storm is generally how the entirety of February feels for me. We've been in darkness for months, it's been cold for months, it's been grey for months... and we still won't get relief for months.

In some ways, it is the perfect time for Lent to start. The season of mourning. The one in which we remember that "from dust we came and to dust we will return." Dark, desperate, and desolate. But there is work to be done in Lent. Because within the mourning, there is repentance and penance. Lent often includes a fast. A giving up of something in order to make space for God to enter in more fully. But fasting can also include adding something in as a way to move towards God.

As a community, we have a yearly Lenten mission project supporting the Dress-A-Girl organization. Each year we create and send hundreds of dresses to girls around the world. Some in our church cut and organize materials, some sew, some help to package and ship, some give money to help with the costs through direct donations or through tithes, and still others pray over the dresses and the recipients that will begin to adorn our walls. Whatever way you participate, thank you for your faithfulness!



As we enter into Lent on February 14th, I feel it is always important to note what a fast is and is not. It is not a diet or a way to lose weight. If you struggle with disordered eating, please do not give up food. Nourishment of our body is a good thing! If you do want to fast from food and have never done it before, you may want to consider giving up a type of food as opposed to food altogether, such as meat or bread. You can also choose to fast from a particular meal, such as lunch. Fasting, while a type of penance, is also not self-punishment. Please do not fast from something as a form of self-flagellation. Fasting should be hard – it should not be harmful. What fasting should be is a way to remove something in order to make space for God. We fast from food and every time we feel a hunger pang, we are reminded that humans do not live on bread alone and that Christ is the bread of life. When we are tempted to go on Facebook, we are reminded that God created us to be in community and are reminded to pray for our loved ones, and perhaps call a friend to set up a time to be together. Whatever it is that you feel led to fast this Lent, use it to make space for God and ask the Lord to show up more fully in that place.

I am praying for you this month. As you are surrounded in candy and red hearts wherever you go the next few weeks, I hope you remember that you are loved by God and your church!

It is an honor to be your pastor,

Pastor Leslie



Spotlight on Judy Whetzel

Judy was born and raised on Maui, Hawaii. She moved state side to Union City, Michigan after her freshman year while living with relatives. She came home every summer break and, no surprise here, would spend her time earning spending money working in a Pineapple Cannery. After graduation on the mainland, she returned to Maui and graduated from Mauna'olu College studying Philosophy and Theology as well as general studies.



At the age of 20, Judy moved to Portland, Oregon and worked for 21 years as a Senior Circuit Board Designer/CAD for Tektronix in Portland and Vancouver until they closed that office. Judy then did something that was unexpected. She passed the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards and became a licensed, fully-fledged massage therapist working for five (5) years at a clinic in Camas and then from home. Side Note: Her childhood dream job was to be the chief button pusher in a Dry Cleaners. 😊

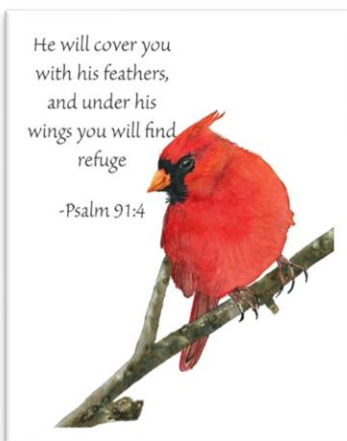
In 1985 Judy was diagnosed with MS. She volunteered for many years for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. For two decades she was Co-Leader of the Clark County MS Self-Help Group and liaison between Southwest Washington and Oregon MS Societies. She met in Olympia with legislators acting as liaison for the MS Society on MS Advocacy Day. For several years WUMC volunteers participated in the Annual MS Walk, raising thousands of dollars for the MS Society. Judy said, "I am very grateful for the support of my WUMC Family."

September 11, 2011, was a date that rocked her world and forever changed Judy. That's when she found her church home right here at WUMC where she has worn many hats over the past 23 years: Lay Leader, and continuing Choir Member, Hungry Page Turners Book Club Administrator and Holiday Bazaar Crafts/Scarfs/Jewelry contributor.

Judy caught Bob Whetzel's eye across a crowded dance floor and the rest, as they say, is history. They will celebrate their 45th Anniversary on May 7th. She is Mom to David and Tammy, Grandma to Danielle, Sammy & Zach and she's Great Grandma to Veda & Georgie.

Something you may not know about Judy is hidden on her ankle. Yep. A butterfly tattoo! Something else you may find interesting is that she worked as a Long-Distance Telephone Operator on a bonified Switchboard, just like Ernestine, Lily Tomlin's character on Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In, who famously asked, "Have I reached the party to whom I am speaking"?

Left on Her bucket list? A Balloon Safari over South Africa.

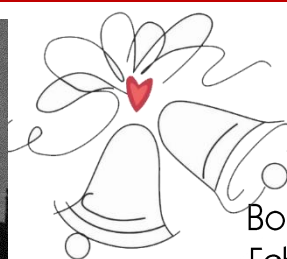


Happy Birthday

Carol Fleming	February 3
Sharon Carmichael	February 4
Cathy Morton-Greenlee	February 10
Bob Hess	February 16
Pattie Roberts	February 17
Phyliss Gildehous	February 21
Jon Cotton	February 24



Happy Anniversary



Bob & Linn Jacobs
February 25, 1989



**JUST
MARRIED**



60 YEARS AGO

60TH Anniversary!
Gary & Shirlee Dedmore
February 29, 1964

Giving ~ December

INCOME

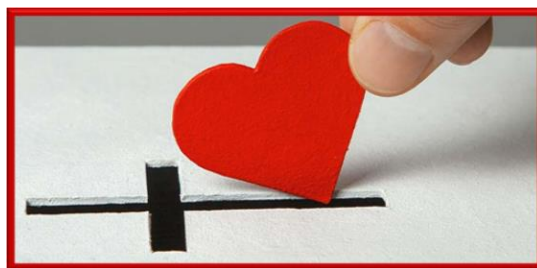
General Fund Giving	\$10,845.31
Donation	50.00
Endowment Transfer - Operations	1,032.25
Ministerial Housing Transfer	1,478.03
Bazaar Receipts	222.00
Designated Donations	6,997.98
TOTAL INCOME	\$20,625.57

EXPENSES

Personnel	\$13,049.62
Apportionments	1,311.86
Other	2091.75
Treasure House	1,500.00
Designated Donations Transfer	6,997.98
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$24,951.21

DECEMBER DEFICIT

<\$4,325.64>



Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

Proverbs 22:9

Ten Percent (10%) of Bazaar Sales are given to the Inter-Faith Treasure House each year.

Remit to Post Office Box 12, Washougal, Washington 98671 **OR**
Go to **www.washougalunitedmethodistchurch.org** to give online.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Financial Secretary
Lou Ann Wittler at 360.834.5677.

Hungry Page Turners

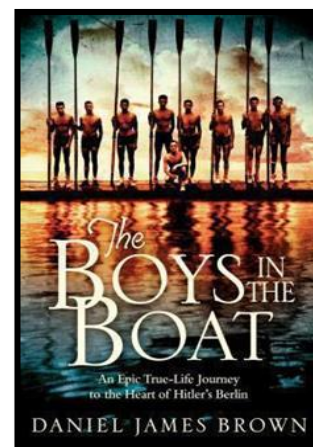
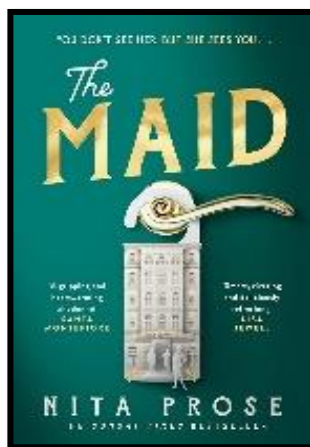
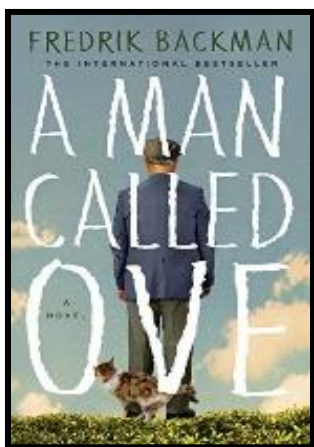
The Washougal United Methodist Church Book Club, **Hungry Page Turners**, meets on the **THIRD TUESDAY** of each month at **NOON** at **Leonardo's Pizzeria** in Vancouver.

Judy Whetzel - 360.835.5230 - maui.born62@gmail.com leads the group and welcomes everyone to join the Club. Why? Because it's a wonderful way to establish a sense of community with other readers, discussing the wider themes and character arcs of a story can give you a new perspective on reading and actually allows you to gain more out of books than you did before. And if that's not enough to convince you, here are seven (7) more reasons to contemplate:

1. It forces you to actually read
2. You can make new friends — not just the fictional ones, either
3. It gives you a different perspective
4. It broadens your horizons
5. It Improves your own writing skills
6. They usually involve snacks
7. It gives you a break amidst the madness of life

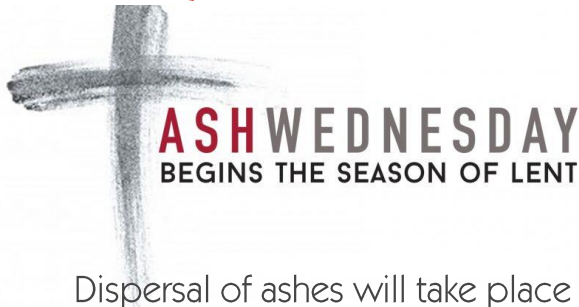
Our Reading List through April 2024

February	A Man Called Ove	Fredrik Bachman
March	The Maid	Nita Prose
April	The Boys in the Boat	Daniel James Brown



Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024



Ash Wednesday is a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God and marks the beginning of the penitential Lenten season. It is commonly observed with ashes and fasting.

Dispersal of ashes will take place on Transfiguration Sunday during worship.

God's Undying Love for Us

Ever wonder how many times **LOVE** is mentioned in the Bible?

According to the King James Version, the answer is **310 times** in 280 verses: 131 times in the Old Testament and 179 times in the New Testament.

But then again, when the King James Bible was updated into the New King James Version, the number changed. Love is mentioned **361** times. The English Standard Version then came out claiming that love is mentioned **551** times!

We have learned that there are **four types of love** found in the Bible. Over the years, scholars have broken down the text of the Bible and divided each example of love into one of four categories:

1. Eros: passionate love
2. Storge: love of parents for children
3. Philia: love of friends and equals
4. Agape: love of mankind



*we
because he
first
loved us*

1 JOHN 4:19



Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950) and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

Here are a few interesting facts about Black History Month:

Black History Month Wasn't Always A Month.

When it was first founded, Black History Month was only a week and was called Negro History Week. In the '60s, various colleges and universities expanded the recognition of African American history to the full month of February. Per the magazine 'People', President Gerald Ford officially recognized it as the month-long celebration that it is now.

Black History Month Was Founded in 1915.

Harvard historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History to bring awareness to the African American people who had made contributions to society, but had been forgotten or left out of the narrative. That turned into Negro History Week, and later into Black History Month. Dr. Carter Woodson helped to create Black History month. He also did many more things in his life for African Americans, including establishing the Journal of Negro History in 1916 and the Negro History Bulletin in 1937. He did this as a way of giving Black scholars a place to publish their research and findings.

There Is A Reason We Celebrate BHM in February.

History states that February wasn't just randomly chosen for Black History Month. Back when it was Negro History Week, the second week of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

Black History Month Has Different Themes.

History also explains that every president decides on a specific theme for Black History Month. This has been done since 1976. The official theme for 2021: “Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity.”

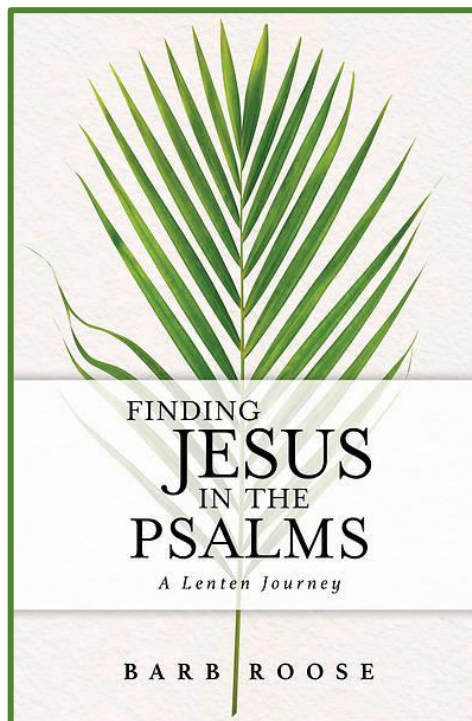


Ground Hog Sausage

Even though the **Annual WUMC Ground Hog Dinner** is not possible this year, it **is** possible to have this traditional and especially important **Church Fundraiser**. Order your Sausage by signing up in the church Sanctuary or by contacting Ladinea at ladinea@juno.com or by phone/text 360.835.5584 by February 15th for pick up at the church on February 24th & 25th. The sausage is \$5.25 Per Pound.



thank you



Sundays
February 18 ~ March 31

*Lenten Bible
Study*

Following Potluck
and
Coffee Hours

Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a time to celebrate romance and love and kissy face. But the origins of this festival of candy and cupid's are actually dark, bloody — and a bit muddled. Though no one has pinpointed the exact origin of the holiday, one place to start is ancient Rome. But we're not going there. We're going to ignore the gore and carry on with love in our hearts.


Some say it originated as a Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine and, through later folk traditions, has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.

As the years went on, the holiday grew sweeter. Chaucer and Shakespeare romanticized it in their work, and it gained popularity throughout Britain and the rest of Europe. Handmade paper cards became the tokens du jour in the Middle Ages.

Eventually, the tradition made its way to the New World. The Industrial Revolution ushered in factory-made cards in the 19th century. And in 1913, Hallmark Cards of Kansas City, Mo., began mass-producing valentines. February has not been the same since.

Fun fact about St. Valentine who died in 3rd century Rome on feast day February 14. He was named of one or two legendary Christian martyrs whose lives seem to be historically based. Although the Roman Catholic Church continues to recognize St. Valentine as a saint of the church. He is the patron saint of lovers, epileptics, and beekeepers.

15 FUN “FACTS” about our sweet Valentine's Day

1. Cupid has its roots in Greek mythology.
2. The first valentine was sent in the 15th century.
3. Nearly 250 million roses are grown in preparation for Valentine's Day each year.
4. The color of flower given on Valentine's Day holds meaning.
5. Today, Americans spend a lot on love.
6. Americans send 145 million Valentine's Day cards each year.
7. The Valentine's Day gift that people spend the most on is jewelry.
8. The first heart-shaped box of chocolates was introduced in 1861.
9. Conversation hearts got their start as medical lozenges.
10. But it wasn't until 1866 that we first got sweet, printed messages on conversation hearts.
11. More than 8 billion conversation hearts are manufactured each year.
12. Words of encouragement were added to Sweethearts in 2022.
13. Nearly 6 million couples get engaged on Valentine's Day.
14. Valentine's Day horror movies are a thing.
15. Four states have a city named Valentine and Mona's father-in-law's name was Valentine Thomas Chisholm 





Valentine's Day

EPZNRWHEZJAHCTITCBZIQOEFALSMVJGBMPWQIMHNEENEXFUTBQJEELYFWWXFDVWKAQVYDEWKWOGQXRMLKLRSVYBSDWSTJXEYJSZCVJWQPJTUXWHRHRZLZPIDJMRRELATIONSHIPSURJKAJLKEHIXSIIQIBBHQOYFRTILVYZXHSSLDPUPIESLPDUXDCHOCOLATESULLJIRASUMFOCRFEBRUARYVPNTTBXUIHUGJMPWLZOKIVGAEZVEFCNKPOPRNONQUNDNSAPQRUXLRXOJCVFDBIOKIZIPPGEEOCBPAXEVULTIFLVVIXWSIURCDDCVVCSSTEDDYBEARSCBYWMDUISNAROSESNAIWXYJPQMCGYYPVALENTINEXJYETGVCA TCXZVAPSIPROPOSALXMC

Relationships

Proposal

Darling

Love

Teddy Bears

February

Cupid

Hug

Chocolates

Presents

Roses

Date

Valentine





Puppies

Jewelry

Kiss

February 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
 BLACK HISTORY MONTH		February is American Heart Month 		NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY 		Carol Fleming Birthday
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sharon Carmichael Birthday Worship 10:00 am	Men's Coffee 9:00 Allen Room 					Cathy Morton-Greenlee Birthday
Transfiguration Sunday 11	12	13	♥ Valentines Day 14	15	16	17
Worship 10:00 am Trustees Meeting After Coffee Hour	Men's Coffee 9:00 Allen Room 		 Ash Wednesday	MEETINGS SPRC 2 Council & Finance 3	Bob Hess Birthday	Pattie Roberts Birthday
1 st Sunday in Lent 18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship 10:00 am  Potluck Lenten Journey		HUNGRY PAGE TURNERS Noon Leonardo's				Phyllis Gildehous Birthday
25	26	27	29			
Bob & Linn Jacobs <u>Anniversary</u> Worship 10:00 am Lenten Journey	Men's Coffee 9:00 Allen Room 		Gary & Shirlee Dedmore 60 th Anniversary	Mona's 5 th Anniversary February 4 th	Church Secretary 	

Mondays

During Lent ~ February 5th ~ March 18th

Cleta's Shoppe

10:00 am ~ 2:00 pm



**WASHOUGAL
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**



P.O. Box 12 ☩ 4020 M Street
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wumcassistant@comcast.net
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PW ♥ WUMCGUEST2001