

May 2024

M is for the million things she gave me,
O means only that she's growing old,
T is for the tears she shed to save me,
H is for her heart of purest gold;
E is for her eyes, with love-light shining,
R means right, and right she'll always be,

Put them all together, they spell

MOTHER

A word that means the world to me

A Special Happy Mother's Day
 to all the Mothers of Kids you didn't bring into the world,
 but love like you did. And to the Mothers of your four-
 legged kiddos, Happy Mother's Day to you, too.

Mother, noun.
 One person who does the work of twenty for free.



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Pastor Leslie's Message

Dear Church,

The month of May in the United States is the month Mother's Day is celebrated. Despite the masculine often attributed to God, the Biblical writers often refer to God as a mother/female. While Jesus was born as a human male, we don't believe that God holds any specific gender. Gender is a part of creation, but God encompasses the whole of creation. They are both male and female, and neither at the same time. God is not human. But we are and we think in gendered language, so the Bible uses gendered pronouns. I think it could be helpful for us to think about God in feminine terms more often. Not because we are trying to be more "woke," but because God inspired the Biblical writers, who lived in a very patriarchal system, to use these terms! Both men and women are made in the image of God, so women reflect God just as much as their male counterparts.

In the Bible, God is described as a woman (*Psalm 123:2-3, Luke 15:8-10*). God is seen as a mother many times. A pregnant mother (*Isaiah 49:15*), a woman in labor (*Isaiah 42:14, Deuteronomy 32:18*), a nursing mother (*Isaiah 49:15*), a mother of toddlers (*Hosea 11:3-4*), a comforting mother (*Isaiah 66:13, Psalm 131:2*), a mother bear (*Hosea 13:8*), a mother eagle (*Deuteronomy 32:11-12*), and a mother hen (*Matthew 23:37, Luke 13:34*). This is not an exhaustive list of the times God is seen in the Bible in the feminine, but I hope it does help to show us that it is not simply a one-off occurrence or only in poetry. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God refers to herself as mother in the same way God refers to himself as father.

Mother's Day as a holiday is one that is tricky for churches. It falls on a Sunday, so it is hard for churches to ignore completely, but it's also not a church holiday. Beyond this, it's not always a happy holiday. Some people don't know their mothers, or suffer estrangement, or have lost their mothers. Other women have children who died. Some women dreamed about motherhood from a young age and that dream was never realized. In the midst of a day that is meant for celebration - there is so much sadness.

THERE IS MORE TO MOTHERHOOD THAN
SIMPLY HAVING CHILDREN. IT DOES NOT
MATTER IF YOU ARE SINGLE, CHILDLESS,
YOUNG, OR OLD; EVERY WOMAN CAN HAVE THE
REFINING POWER OF MOTHERHOOD.



Pastor Leslie's Message

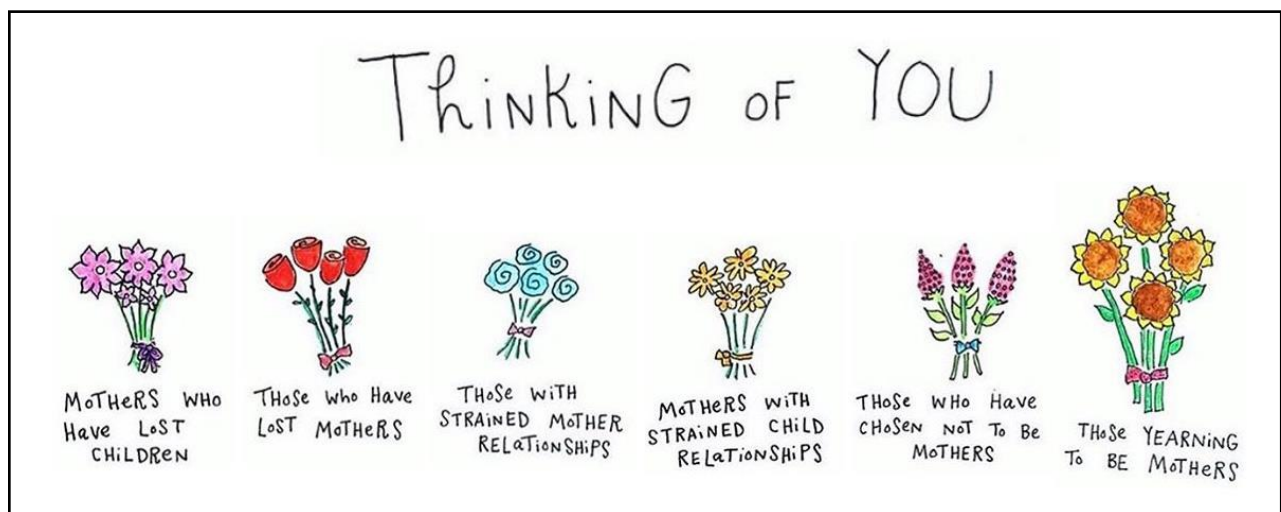
As a mother myself, I wonder if sometimes we put mothers on a pedestal that is neither asked for, needed, or helpful? I love my son... but so do his teachers, his aunts (both family and friends), his godmother, his big cousins, his grandmas, and many others. Their relationship is different than mine, certainly. When I pick him up from school, he abandons whatever he is doing to run into my arms the moment I walk through the door. But in contrast, when I drop him off, he gives me a hug and then heads over to his teacher for free play. I love him, but he isn't only loved by me. And what a blessing for mothers, to know that our children are loved and cared for by so many people in their life! What a blessing for those who aren't mothers, to know that they are important and needed in the life of all children, not simply those who share their DNA, or home, or last name!

At WUMC, we tend to celebrate Motherly Day. We pass out flowers to everyone in the congregation (and if you come back on Fatherly Day, we do something similar). I hope that however this day feels to you, whether full of celebration or tinged with heartache, you know that you are cared for and loved by our church.

If you are in need of prayer, a listening ear, or someone to go to coffee with, I hope you reach out and let me know!

It is a joy and an honor to be your pastor.

Pastor Leslie



Church Council News

Update: 2024 So Far This Year

CHURCH MAINTENANCE

Following the January ice-wind-snow event, the Trustees were busy arranging repairs and cleanup. We lost two trees, the Comcast cable along the front property went down and was later buried, a live wire went down from the outside light in the parking lot, and there were limbs and branches everywhere.

SOUND SYSTEM UPGRADE



The sound system difficulties stem from a sound board located near the pulpit and the control wires running through the heating system. The life of the wires are shortened by heat when installed in the duct work.

WUMC Trustees, Joe Wittler & Mark Guz met with Tim Adams of Timato Systems regarding next steps replacing wiring and speakers.

Here you see Mark Guz hard at work completing the task with the help of his sidekick, Starla.



Thank you Mark!

RECONCILING CHURCHES

WUMC is honored to be hosting the Clark & Lewis County Reconciling Congregations meeting on May 18th from 10:00 – Noon.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

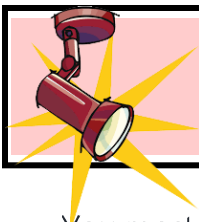
Other groups who will be using our building this spring include the Washougal School District Music Department, and the local Vintage Crest Estates Homeowners Association for their annual meeting.

Warmest regards,

Barb Crozier

Council – Vice Chair





Gene & Cathy Cox

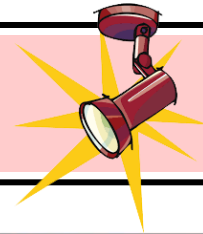
You most probably know Gene & Cathy Cox from their singing voices in the Joyful Noise Ensemble and from their longstanding membership with the Hungry Page Turners as well as from Gene's presence on the Church Council as Endowment Chair with the Finance Committee, Trustee Member in charge of Church Cleaning and frequent Sunday Liturgist, but I bet you didn't know they were members of the Checkerboard Square Dancers Club performing at the Blazers Half-Time Show and the Rose Festival Twilight Parade back in the day.

Gene & Cathy have been active members of WUMC since 1986 when they moved from Gresham, Oregon to Washougal for Gene's work with the 1st Interstate Bank. Gene was born in Salem, Oregon and has always lived in the Pacific Northwest. Cathy was born in Detroit, Michigan and has lived in California, Oregon and now Washington. While Gene aspired to pursue his love of sports; football, basketball, baseball and golf, Cathy wanted to be a cop. Gene's career took him in another direction when he attended classes at the University of Washington in Seattle, graduated from Clark College and received a Bachelor of Science in Business from Portland State. Unfortunately, female cops in the 70's were given desk jobs, so Cathy turned her attention to banking. Interestingly enough, banking was the career path that led to their first meeting at the bank where Cathy was working in Portland when Gene showed up to work there, too, and April 14th of this year marked their 51st Wedding Anniversary.



Volunteerism is in their blood. Gene has volunteered with the Optimists and both he and Cathy were active in the Lions & Lioness Clubs. Gene and Cathy served many years with Habitat for Humanity. They've traveled to work with hundreds of other humanitarians in places like Katrina, Weed, California, Missouri, Texas, the Gulf Coast and Flathead Lake to name a few. They've done framing, sheet rocking, trussing, virtually anything needed at any given time and Cathy even sharpened and organized X-Acto knives when she broke her toe and couldn't join the hard labor fun. And that's not all ... in 1967 Gene was a United States Army Reserve soldier. In the event of national disasters such as hurricanes or flooding, Army Reserve Soldiers are on the scene to support humanitarian and relief operations.

Gene & Cathy Cox



The duo loves travel and even though the pandemic and some health issues may have slowed them down in recent years, they have been on cruises to the Caribbean, Hawaii, Barcelona and have also traveled to Austria, Germany, Prague, Czech Republic, Sweden, Italy, Spain, Netherlands, Canada, Mexico, and Switzerland. When circumstances once again allow travel, Gene and Cathy want to 🎵 "See the USA in a Chevrolet" 🎵 ... okay, maybe a Subaru.

Son, Jim is a successful Realtor in Tigard and daughter, Jennifer is an ESL & Elementary school teacher in Gommiswald, Switzerland. Her born and raised Swiss accountant husband, Raphi, son Timon (9) and daughter Annina (6) all speak fluent Swiss German and English.

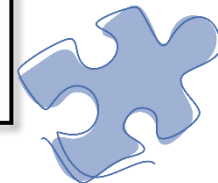
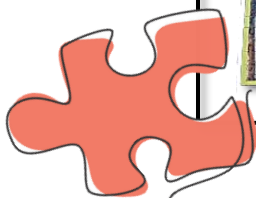


Gene, Cathy, Timon & Annina



Gene & Cathy are
PUZZLERS!

This is actually one of their finished pieces.



Happy Birthday

Sandra Peake May 1
Starla Ryan May 6
Pastor Tom May 20
LouAnn Wittler May 25



*Birthday Blessings to
You, on Your Special
Day*

The Lord bless you & keep you; the Lord make his face
shine upon you & be gracious to you; the Lord turn his
face toward you & give you peace.

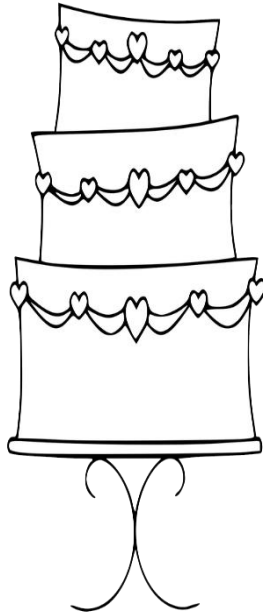
Numbers 6:24-26



Happy Anniversary



Bob & Judy Whetzel ♥ May 7, 1978



Greg & Ginny Hazen ♥ May 26, 1988

Dress ♥ A ♥ Girl

The 221 dresses lovingly hand made by the WUMC women and their families that hung on every wall in our sanctuary throughout Lent have been blessed and boxed are on their way to Hope 4 Women International's Dress A Girl Around the World ministry.

The dresses will be distributed all over the world to young girls in need.



What is Pentecost?

On Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3,000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). White was used in some places, including England, where Pentecost had also become a day for baptisms by the Middle Ages. Whether it happened at Easter or Pentecost or at some other time, those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life. This is why Pentecost may also be referred to in English as "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday."



The *Season after Pentecost* is the time of the church year to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Excerpted from UMC.ORG)



Heartfelt Quilters

by Sandy Havrelly ~ Congregational Care Coordinator

As you know our Heartfelt Quilters, **Cleta Gilman, Gladys Dole, Linn Jacobs, Louann Wittler, Martha Kelly** and **Chuckie Smiley** continue making beautiful quilts for our loved ones and others that are hurting as well as gifting them to Legacy hospital. George Perry (Dialysis at Home Training) & Linda Christensen (Knee Replacement Surgery) were our latest recipients.

I have a personal story to share about these quilts. My long-time friend Betsy, who frequented our events and worship throughout the years, developed dementia and moved to a care facility near her two daughters, Kathy and Cheri who both live in Dayton, Washington. Cheri is Betsy's front-line caregiver. Cheri has battled Lupus for years and recently has been diagnosed with ALS. I shared this story with the Heartfelt Quilters one day and I can't tell you how much their beautiful response affected me. Someone immediately said, "They both need one of our quilts!" In no time they had chosen a quilt for Betsy and one for Cheri. I boxed them up with two containers of sea-salted caramels and shipped them late April. Yesterday I received the following message.

Sandy, I am so sorry it's taken me a couple of days to respond to your package. I was so overwhelmed (uncontrollable crying) with the kindness of you, your sisters and the church quilting group. The card was so loving and caring. I have washed the quilt and currently have it on my lap. I over-did it yesterday so am resting a bit today before therapy and then will visit mom. Blessings to all those that contributed to bringing me comfort. Sending you all peace, love, joy and gratitude. Cheri

Remembering our Mission Statement...Becoming the people God calls us to be and doing what God calls us to do....reminds me of how lucky we are as a Church Family to have this band of women (men welcome) who continuously answer that call. I'm always humbled when I ask a quilter "When do you pray and how do you do so?" Most say they pray as they sew, thinking of the person who will receive the quilt, lifting them in prayers of hope, strength and love. I am humbled when I watch the way this group of women work as a team. And then, I'm gratified to remember all of you who contribute to this mission of love through prayer, donations and just about anything the group may request.

I find it so interesting how many community members donate fabric and buttons, etc. They have heard of this mission through some of you and when the opportunity arises they donate. We need to appreciate that Cleta welcomes all fabric knowing that many of us do not know what is appropriate for quilts. She then goes through the donations, putting fabrics the quilters can use on her shelving and the rest is donated to another charity. Thus, the blessing continues.

This seems like a good time to share with you what a quilt would cost....I was shocked!...without donations. Cleta and Chuckie worked out the cost of a hospital sized quilt (approximately twin size) using today's fabric prices.



Fabric for the top	\$ 46.50
Backing	\$ 46.50
Inside Batting	\$ 24.00
Binding	\$ 12.00
Quilting on the Long Arm	\$ 75.00
Total cost per quilt	\$ 204.00

Heartfelt Quilters



Now, consider that they make approximately 70 quilts a year! (That's a lot of loving!)

You can see that our support of this mission brings heartfelt joy like Cheri expressed. It's a mission that carries on because God has called these women to create, and we are called to support. What a gift to not only the receiver but to us! God's love is shared in many ways.

All of our participation makes this particular mission, that some of us might take for granted, a great way to share God's love in an unexpected way.



Giving Report ~ March

INCOME

	General Fund Giving	\$ 14,658.89
	Endowment Transfer - Operations	951.60
	Ministerial Housing Transfer	1,421.70
	Sausage Fundraiser	2,780.25
	Checking Interest	.88

TOTAL INCOME \$ 19,813.32

EXPENSES

	Personnel	\$ 10,839.68
	Apportionments	1,388.02
	Fundraiser Expense	995.44
	Other	1,857.96

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ (15,081.10)

TOTAL NET INCOME \$ 4,732.22

The Finance Committee wants to thank the congregation for their support of the church.

You may remit your Offerings to PO Box 12, Washougal, Washington 98671

OR ...

Online at www.washougalunitedmethodistchurch.org

OR ...

or drop in the Offering Plate on Sunday

If you have any questions, feel free to contact

LouAnn Wittler

Financial Secretary & Finance Committee Member

joeandlouann@comcst.net ... 360.606.2833



Windows

Inscriptions that Inspire from the Windows at a Retirement Home

BY LISA JEAN HOEFNER

The first time I walked into the general-purpose room at the Rose Schnitzer Manor in Portland, Oregon, I was coming for a community orchestra rehearsal, but I sensed immediately the sacredness of the space we were using because of the windows—simple frosted glass windows with these inscriptions:



- ♥ I remember my parents.
- ♥ I worship my God.
- ♥ I teach my history.
- ♥ I respect my friends.
- ♥ I light my candles.
- ♥ I give to my community.
- ♥ I enjoy my memories.
- ♥ I sing my melodies.
- ♥ I cherish my tomorrows.
- ♥ I value my home.
- ♥ I love my children.



How beautiful. How moving. How inspiring within every faith community, and how simply expressed for everyone's reflection and participation. I have been part of this community group for almost twenty years, and I never cease to be moved to pray when I meditate on each of these inscriptions.

Windows

In these inscriptions, I hear the echo of Jude 1: 20-21 (NLT) - “But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God’s love.”[1]

I wonder: What would you add to this list of inscriptions? Is there anything you don’t find meaningful in your setting? Why? Are these inscriptions universally true, or are they timebound? Which one or two are the most compelling for you?

I wonder: How could local congregations bring expression to these prompts? Could signs be made? Could a sermon or study series pick up on several of these themes? Could art be shared that would illustrate or nudge more consideration of these actions? As you move into and through your years of older adulthood, are you taking the time to do the inner work of aging? These simple declarative statements have grounded me each week as I attend my orchestra rehearsal. In a wonderful way, they have provided a checklist to take stock of my life – pre-retirement, active retirement, slowing down, trying not to slow down – all the days of my life so far. My prayer for each of us is to use every opportunity to deepen our spiritual life – we don’t stop growing, changing, stretching for new understandings. These few sentences have nurtured my days thus far, and I wish that for you, too.

This article first appeared in *The United Methodist Church Discipleship Ministries: Older Adults/Boomer Ministries Newsletter*, Spring 2024.

Rev. Dr. Lisa Jean Hoefner is the Older Adult Ministries Coordinator for Discipleship Ministries. She has served as a pastor of churches and director of camping ministries in the New York, Susquehanna, Upper New York, Oregon-Idaho, and Cal-Nevada Conferences from 1975 to 2020.



History Memorial Day



The meaning of Memorial Day sometimes gets lost in translation. Below, we'll cover everything you need to know to finally understand the full Memorial Day meaning.

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. It's difficult to prove the origins of this day as over two dozen towns and cities lay claim to be the birthplace. In May 1966, President Lyndon Johnson stepped in and officially declared Waterloo, New York the birthplace of Memorial Day.

Regardless of the location of origins or the exact date, one thing is crystal clear – Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War (which ended in 1865) and a desire to honor our dead. On the 5th of May in 1868, General John Logan who was the national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, officially proclaimed it in his General Order No. 11.

Part of the history of Memorial Day meaning will show that in the Order, the General proclaimed, "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land." Because the day wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle, the General called it, The date of Decoration Day.

On September 27, 1920, The American Legion made the poppy its official flower to memorialize those who fought and died. Mar 26, 2024

We cherish too, the Poppy red That grows on fields where valor led, It seems to signal to the skies That blood of heroes never dies.

Excerpted from usmemorialday.org



Church Bulletin Bloopers

*Back by popular demand & because we all could use
more Jesus & more Joy & Lots More Laughter*

- † The Choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.
- † The church's new tithing campaign slogan is "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."
- † This evening at 7:00 there will be a hymn singing in the park. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- † The 'Over 60's Choir' will be disbanded for the summer with the thanks of the entire church.
- † Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our Church and community.
- † The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
- † A cookbook is being compiled by the ladies of the church. Please submit your favorite recipe, also a short antidote for it.
- † At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- † Next Sunday is the family hayride and bonfire at the Fowlers'. Bring your own hot dogs and guns. Friends are welcome! Everyone come for a fun time.
- † Let us join David and Lisa in the celebration of their wedding and bring their happiness to a conclusion.
- † Announcement to the Moms Who Care ladies' group: There will be no Moms who care this week.
- † The class on prophecy has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.
- † The peace-making meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.
- † Ladies don't forget the rummage sale. It is a great chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."
- † Great news! Doctors have performed a CAT scan on Pastor McLaren's head and report that they have found nothing!
- † The church is glad to have with us today as our guest minister the Rev. Ralph Green, who has Mrs. Green with him. After the service we request that all remain in the sanctuary for the Hanging of the Greens.
- † For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- † A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- † The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.
- † Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.
- † Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday. Please use the back door.
- † Weight Watchers will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Pastor OOO Continuing Education	2 Pastor OOO Continuing Education	3 Pastor OOO Continuing Education	4
						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship 10:00 Coffee Hour 11:00	Men's Coffee 9:00 am Quilters/Crafters 10 ~ 2 Cleta's Shoppe					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
HAPPY MOTHER'S Day Worship 10:00 Coffee Hour 11:00	Men's Coffee 9:00 am Quilters/Crafters 10 ~ 2 Cleta's Shoppe	Hungry Page Turners Noon Leonardo's Pizzeria		SPRC ~ 2 Finance/Council 3		UMC Clark County Clergy Group 10-Noon Reconciling Ministries Fellowship Hall
	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship 10:00 Potluck Sunday 11:00	Men's Coffee 9:00 am Quilters/Crafters 10 ~ 2 Cleta's Shoppe					
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Worship-10:00 Coffee Hour 11:00	 Church Offices CLOSED					

**WASHOUGAL
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**



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