



# January 2024

Thanks to the WUMC 2023 HOLIDAY BAZAAR we were blessed to donate \$1,500 to the Inter-Faith Treasure House in our Washougal community. We are doing what the Word tells us to do.



“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

“...blessed is he who is generous to the poor.” (Proverbs 14:21)

“Jesus told His followers to give to everyone who asks (Luke 6:30) to give to those who cannot repay (Luke 14:13-14) and to freely give what we have freely received.” (Matthew 10:18)

The King will reply “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40)

## *In This Issue*

Pastor Leslie’s Message.....	2-3
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	4
Hungry Page Turners .....	5
Giving.....	6
Who is Your Church Secretary? .....	7
Are Aging Churches a Bad Thing?.....	8-9
Memory Lane ~ 1994.....	10-11
New Year’s Resolutions ☆ 2024.....	12
Happy New Year Word Search.....	13
January Calendar of Events.....	14



Embrace 2024 with open arms and a heart full of hope; for every new year brings fresh chapters yet unwritten, waiting for our stories to unfold.

# A Message from Pastor Leslie



One of my core memories of childhood was watching the 1994 Winter Olympics and learning that the next one wouldn't happen until 1998. As I sat at the table, I remember thinking that 1998 was so far away it would never get here. It's been 30 years since my concerns about waiting for the Olympics occurred. 1998 did in fact arrive and is now in the history books.

There is a popular saying that we often say as parents, "the days are long, but the years are short."

I think about how long the days are when I start to count down the minutes to bedtime as my baby dramatically rolls around screaming on the floor because I wouldn't let him drink the curdled milk he found in an abandoned sippy cup behind the couch. Then I remember he'll be turning 2 in a couple of months, and he actually isn't a baby anymore at all. The years are so short.

As true as the saying is for parents, I think it is true for everyone. Sometimes the days feel really long. This is often most apparent in the winter. It's been dark so long it feels like midnight until we look at the clock and realize it's only 4:45 pm. But before we know it, summer will arrive and then winter comes again. Around and around and around it goes... long days and short years.

As we start a new year, I pray you find moments to savor life. To soak up the joy in the good moments and to stay centered in the hard ones. I pray that you are able to see God at work in the world. I pray that you are able to see your work in the world and that you are encouraged to keep going even when it is hard. I pray that you are able to be present. Present with others and in solitude. I pray that you are able to laugh out loud when you are happy, knowing that God delights in our joy. To cry when you are sad and know that God sees your tears and feels your grief. To sit in the midst of just okay, confident that there is purpose in the ordinary.



# Happy New Year

I am excited to spend 2024 together.

*I know many people in our community are struggling this winter with grief, sickness, and worry. Know that I am praying for you! Please reach out if I can be a support in any way, even if you just need someone to sit with you in silent solidarity.*

“So then, if anyone is  
in Christ, that person is  
part of the new creation.  
The old things have  
gone away, and look, new  
things have arrived!”

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:17**



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

Pastor Leslie ❄️

You can always reach me by phone/text at  
626-340-5638  
email at [wumcpastorleslie@gmail.com](mailto:wumcpastorleslie@gmail.com)  
church office at 360-835-3494

# Happy Birthday



Anton Zotov

January 11

Cathy Cox

January 20



# Happy Anniversary



Tom & Barb Crozier  
January 31, 1970

# Hungry Page Turners

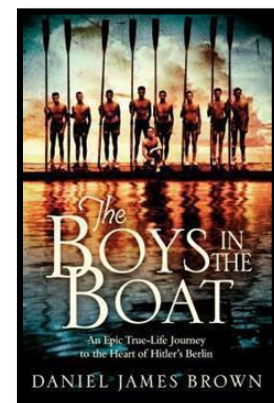
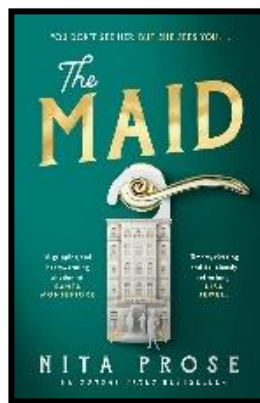
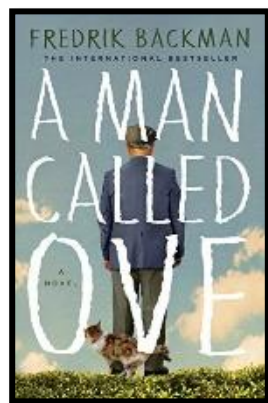
The Washougal United Methodist Church Book Club, **Hungry Page Turners**, meets on the **THIRD TUESDAY** of each month at **NOON** at **Leonardo's Pizzeria** in Vancouver.

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 January through April 2024

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



# Giving ~ November 2023

## NOVEMBER INCOME

General Fund Giving	\$ 5,373.35
Endowment Operations Transfer	1,032.25
Ministerial Housing Transfer	1,478.03
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$ 7,884.13</u>

## NOVEMBER EXPENSES

Personnel	\$12,622.59
Apportionments	1,311.86
Building & Utilities	897.41
Other	1,023.72
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$15,622.60</u>

## NOVEMBER DEFICIT

<\$7,971.45>

TOTAL BAZAAR RECEIPTS & DONATIONS AS OF 12/20/23 \$15,622.60



# Your Church Secretary

*"Several times a year, Mona features a member of our congregation in the newsletter. She spends time interviewing them and sharing their story. This month, I asked if she would feature herself! Mona does so many things around the church that no one notices unless they didn't happen, and always does it with a smile. She has a poster of Colossians 3:23 above her desk and she is a true example of the verse; "work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people."*

- Pastor Leslie

\* \* \*

Mona Chisholm came to WUMC on February 4, 2019. She began her secretarial career as a 16-year-old high school senior in Casper, Wyoming, studying business, typing and shorthand along with the regular curriculum which qualified her as a Business Major to leave campus at noon each day to go downtown to her own office in the swanky Petroleum Building where she would take and transcribe notes dictated by her high ranking Chairman of the Board boss. To say she was feeling her teenage oats would be an understatement. Over her long career she has been given many titles ranging from Secretary to the more popular Administrative Assistant, Office Manager, Executive Administrative Assistant, PBX Operator, Bookkeeper ... always eagerly and happily learning on the job.

She has supported CEOs and Managers ranging from industries in academia to hospitality for The Walt Disney Company in Anaheim, the Disneyland Hotel and The Hotel Queen Mary in Long Beach, California. Mona was the Director of the Bend Visitor & Convention Bureau in Oregon and at the same time owned and operated a popular Tap Room on the road to Mt. Bachelor. While working at the church for the past five years, she continues to operate her own 25-year-old in-home business called "My Private Secretary" with over 100 clients nationwide, across the Pond and in Mexico and Canada.

She collects hearts, not the humankind, just the heart shaped kind. She loves Interior Design and decorating for every event and season known to mankind. You should use caution when inviting her to your home, where she will, without any regrets whatsoever, change your TP roll to feed 'correctly'. Don't be surprised if you excuse yourself to the restroom as you may return to see that the sofa has been moved under the picture window and the refrigerator is now on the other side of the room.

She fancies herself a bit of seamstress and with her Mom guiding her, she made or remade Thrift Shop find school clothes all the way through high school and continued her love of sewing into adult hood. You could always tell Mona's zipper handiwork as one side of the zipper was always ¼" higher than the other.

Mona loves kids. Every week she would read to first graders at the local elementary school in Tustin, California before moving to Camas in 2005 and then Washougal in 2010. She continues to read every Wednesday to first graders at Gause Elementary School through the Read Northwest program. She says it's the highlight of her week.

She was a Sunday School teacher at Calvary Chapel in Anaheim. She and her God-Granddaughter frequently talked about Jesus. One day when Shaela was about 5 years old, she picked up a paperweight from the desk that had a picture of Jesus encased inside. She asked, "Where did you get this?" to which Mona replied, "Well, I think my Great Grandma gave that to me when I was about your age." Shaela asked, "Where did SHE get it?" "Well," Mona replied, "maybe HER Great Grandma gave it to her when she was your age." Shaela then asked, "Did she TAKE that picture?" Mona replied, "You know, it's possible, they were really good friends."

Mona has been married to Robert Chisholm since 1995 and subsequently inherited two loves of her life as a bonus: Grandsons Leo Montgomery and Finn Wilder (aka Grammy's Huckleberry) Chisholm.

Mona says she continues to be delighted to be a part of a Biblically based church touting "Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors." Striving to stir up the gifts God has blessed her with to exceed the congregation's expectations is a daily goal.

Her Motto is: "Every Day's a School Day."



# Aging Churches – Bad?

## ARE AGING CHURCHES A BAD THING?

By Allen T. Stanton

Originally published on [ministrymatters.com](http://ministrymatters.com) dated December 10th, 2019



*Our churches need to be younger.*

It is an engrained truth, repeated so much that one halfway expects those words to be found somewhere in a footnote in a letter from Paul. Like many church-growth strategies, this particular “truth” is rooted, tested, and verified in the experiences and realities of suburban and metropolitan America, where the fastest growing populations (and where we find the fastest growing and largest churches) are young families. Over the years, the adage has become a tirelessly repeated indicator of church vitality and church health, a boiler plate answer for anyone looking to grow their congregation:

*“Want to grow? Attract young people.”*

For many rural communities, though, this familiar truth is actually plain old, bad advice.

A few months ago, I was in a meeting with a pastor in a rural part of Tennessee, who shared their frustration at the aging population of the congregation. The leadership of the church was faithfully trying various tactics to lower the average age of the church by attracting young families and young adults. After all, they repeated to me, young families are a sure sign of healthy and vital churches.

The problem? The fastest growing demographic of their community is retirees, who move to the area for the scenic views and affordable property. In this particular county, the growth in population of those over the age of 65 had outpaced that of the under the age of 18 demographic by almost 300%. These weren’t just people aging in place: Almost half of that growth came from new people moving into the community.

For many rural communities, retirees are proving to be a huge boon to the local economies, so much so that some rural community development experts are emphasizing the importance of supporting senior-citizen entrepreneurs. Recent retirees provide a wealth of assets to the communities where they end up: They are capable volunteers, they tend to have higher discretionary incomes, and they have the insight and knowledge of an entire career that can lend itself to the community and the church.

Focusing on attracting young families in many of these communities is well intentioned, but such effort can run counter to the mission of these churches, which are ostensibly focused on discipling the community in which the churches are located. How can we claim to be incarnational if we are willing to ignore the fastest growing segments of our population?



# Aging Churches – Bad?

Rather than risk burnout by trying to attract populations that might not exist in their communities, rural churches in communities where recent retirees are the fastest growing population have a significant opportunity to lead. In doing so, they can help reframe the rural narrative and breathe new life into their towns.

First, rural churches can help recent retirees engage with the broader community. Rural communities are often places with long social memories. For newcomers, finding a way to join into the existing community can be difficult without an existing family or friend connection. Rural churches are often some of the few organizations that draw together people with a variety of backgrounds and professions. Congregations can help ensure that newcomers are connected to the whole community, as well as the congregation.

Second, rural churches can help recent retirees discern their vocation in the second half of life. As Richard Rohr has shared, the second half of life has its share of volatility, as people transition away from being focused on their professional success. Still, lingering questions about purpose remain. In this new phase, retirees come to the church with talents built over their lifetime and often have no obvious outlet to use them.

Rural churches might consider themselves vocational discernment centers. How might their faith shape what they do with their gifts and talents in this next stage of life? What is their new vocation, post-career? How can they continue to partner with God in ways that strengthens and grows their faith, and that strengthen and support the church and the community?

Lastly, rural churches can help recent retirees form intergenerational bridges. Recently, I wrote about the dynamic between baby-boomers and younger generations, where I advocated that there needs to be a natural air of mentorship and openness to new ideas. As millennials are increasingly finding their way back to rural communities and as youth grow up in the church and community, rural churches can help foster meaningful intergenerational relationships, promoting the institutional memory and new ideas necessary for new growth.


To be clear, I am not advocating that rural churches abandon their call to work with youth and young adults. Rural, small-membership churches can be exceptionally talented at forming youth and young adults, in large part because there are so many opportunities for youth to serve in meaningful leadership roles. The ability to be mentors can be beneficial both to those who are discerning their second half of life vocation and for those younger generations who are beginning to live out their call to leadership.

I am also not suggesting that aging rural churches are always healthy and vital. Churches need to be actively seeking new ways to form disciples of whatever stage of life. If they are not deepening the faith of the members and announcing the reign of God to the surrounding community, they are not fulfilling the primary mission of the church.


Cultivating a healthy and vital church in a rural community might look different than the popular techniques of suburbia. That's okay. In the many rural communities where retirees are the fastest and largest demographic, rural churches can find new avenues towards mission and vitality. By embracing the community surrounding them, these churches show that they are aware of and connected to the unique opportunities of their contexts. When they do so, they will be able to demonstrate their commitment to making disciples and leading meaningful community transformation.



# A Little Trip Down Memory Lane

30 Years Ago



## January, 1994



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						 1 New Year's Day
2 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Ad Council Meet	3	4 10am Prayer and Support 2:45pm Sr. High Youth	5 7pm Choir	6	7	8
9 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	10	11 10am Prayer and Support 2:45pm Sr. High Youth 6:45pm Trustees Meeting	12 7pm Choir	13 7pm UMW	14	15
16 Human Relations Day 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	18 10am Prayer and Support 2:45pm Sr. High Youth	19 7pm Choir	20	21 12noon Senior Soup and Bread Lunch	22
23 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	24	25 10:00am Prayer and Support 2:45 Sr. High Youth	26 7pm Choir	27	28	29
30 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	31					

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Doris Tong
- 9 Allen Ealer, Doris Quarles
- 11 Maxine Sanburn, Clara Tye
- 13 Jon Woolley
- 21 Noel Vaughn
- 22 Ken Olson
- 23 Jessica Lee
- 28 Art Williams, Lance Conley
- 30 Jeneane Woolley

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 19 Pat & Stan Nystrom
- 28 Ester & Art Williams
- 31 Barb & Tom Crozier

**GREETERS**


- 2 John & Maxine Sinden
- 9 Stan & Pat Nystrom
- 16 Gertrude & Wilson
- 23 Siv Larsen & Laura Woolley
- 30 Tom & Clarice Wilson

**COFFEE HOUR**

- 2 Doris Quarles
- 9 Clarice & Tom Wilson
- 16 Don & Kathy Taylor
- 23 Dorothy & Harvey Burchett
- 30 Tami & Aaron Nickelson

**NURSERY**

- 2 Martha Radliff
- 9 Jeneane Woolley
- 16 Laura Woolley
- 23 Clarice Wilson
- 30 Siv Larsen



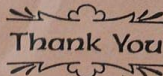
# A Little Trip Down Memory Lane

Grab your magnifying glass ... it's worth it

NEWSLETTER OF WASHOUGAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
January, 1994

## SPECIAL THANKS

Washougal United Methodist Church spent a rich Advent/Christmas together with a flurry of activities including hanging of the greens, our Senior Soup and Bread Lunch, Living Nativity, Christmas program and lunch that followed, Candlelight Worship service, not to mention the extra tidying up of the church that this season brings. Many, many people spent time and energy on these worthwhile projects. Thank you for serving your church!



A special note of thanks is in order for our Chancel Choir under the direction of Lilla Larsen and accompanied by Charlene Cowell. Their music makes worship come alive!

## FOCUS ON STEWARDSHIP

There are six United Methodist Special Sundays during a calendar year. These special days illustrate our nature and calling as Christians. They give us opportunities to respond to that calling by contributing to church-wide offerings for special ministries. The observances are set in the context of the Christian year to emphasize various aspects of our Christian faith journey. Each congregation's support is critical to vital, ongoing United Methodist work funded by these Special Sunday offerings.



Human Relations Day is celebrated during Epiphany on the Sunday before the observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday (this year it is January 16). On this occasion, we recognize and support the right of all of God's people to realize their potential as human beings in relationship with each other. The offering supports the Community Developers and United Methodist Voluntary Services programs, administered by the General Board of Global Ministries, and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program, administered by the General Board of Church and Society. On Sunday, January 16, you will have the opportunity to support these important ministries; your prayerful consideration is appreciated.

## TREASURE HOUSE REPORT

The December meeting celebrating Christmas was at Zion Lutheran Church in Camas. Approximately 50 people were present. Donations by Treasure House were made to various organizations to help spread Christmas cheer. Donations for the Layette program are welcome. It insures that every needy mother has a layette to take home with her new baby.

Report of the outreach committee for November:  
\$1,325.74 PUD for 25 clients  
660.00 Rent paid for 11 clients  
378.67 Miscellaneous payments for 11 clients

Last year \$30,000 was given through outreach. 207 food boxes were given last month. Total of 2,000 last year. \$15,761 worth of food donated last year. \$69,000 value of food given to needy last year. The workers were thanked for their many hours of volunteer work that makes Treasure House a huge success.

Doris Randall

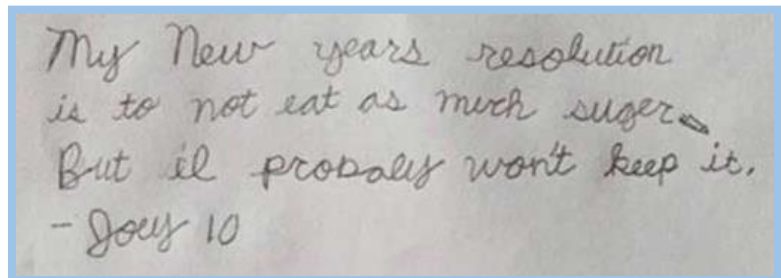
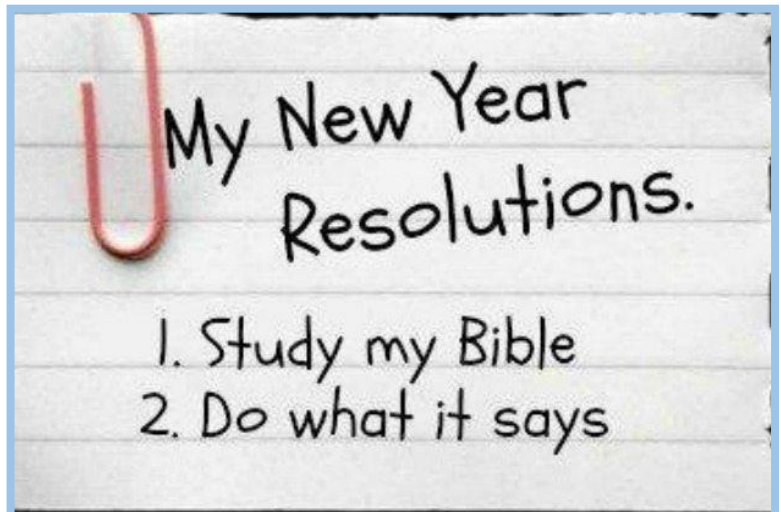
# New Year's Resolutions

WE WISH *new* YOU *year* A HAPPY

2024

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS THAT WILL MAKE YOU AN EPIC HUMAN BEING

- Be positive
- Take care of yourself
- Don't engage in online battles
- Honour others' time
- Don't be offended by every little thing
- Learn to cook some new recipes
- Be kind to strangers
- Encourage your loved ones
- Take control of your finances
- Stop apologising unnecessarily
- DO THAT THING you've been meaning to do

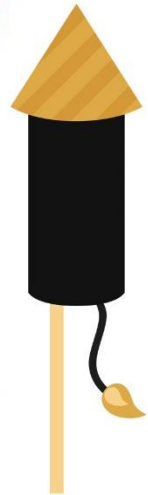
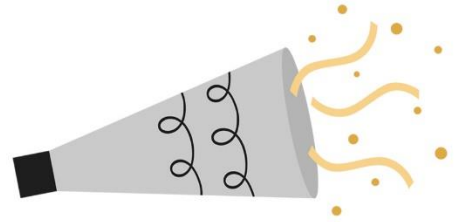


Dear New Year's Resolution,  
Well, it was fun while it lasted.

Sincerely,  
January 2nd



# HAPPY NEW YEAR!



W I H V V A X R N R Z G O A L S A Z Y F  
 G R B K G Z T Y Z I Z Z J Q C O M P X B  
 M D M B T B K T P X N S L T K C X X W T  
 M I Q C R A E Y W E N O Z J K S K R N H  
 L P D M V X P N Z J L O V Z V Y D Z Q G  
 G P E X A X K O Q N C O U N T D O W N I  
 F V Z N D S S M B P C Y W V F T W F B N  
 T R S P S P A R K L E R S H Q T O J A D  
 P J O L B Y V M S Y L N N N R C A F L I  
 Y L P E N S K R O W E R I F Z N Y C L M  
 X J K E B D P P G W B K N J U G J W O J  
 W I S C F S F L D B R G P A J E X A O K  
 Q S C A O W D J R M A W R T J H Q H N C  
 F R Q K J N W P A R T Y P O P P E R S O  
 K E P A U J F G X M I Z X R T S X K Q L  
 V E N R I Y E E B G O Q Y I U P H K Y C  
 Y H I S I R E O T J N O I T U L O S E R  
 Q C S H A P P Y G T B O U V C D L R Z G  
 R M Q G Q X Y B N O I S E M A K E R G F  
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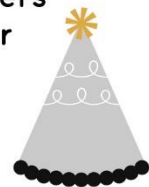
Countdown  
 Confetti  
 Midnight  
 Balloons

Celebration  
 Fireworks  
 January  
 Happy



New Year  
 Clock  
 Cheers  
 Goals

Party Poppers  
 Noisemaker  
 Resolution  
 Sparklers



# January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	OFFICE CLOSED 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship - 10 Coffee Hour 11	Men's Coffee 9 - Allen Room ♥ Quilters 10-2 Fellowship Hall					
14	OFFICE CLOSED 15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship - 10 Coffee Hour 11 Trustees 12:30		Hungry Page Turners Noon		SPRC - 2 Finance - 3 Council - 4		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship - 10 Coffee Hour 11 Potluck Sunday	Men's Coffee 9 - Allen Room ♥ Quilters 10-2 Fellowship Hall					
28	29	30	31			
Worship - 10 Coffee Hour 11	Men's Coffee 9 - Allen Room ♥ Quilters 10-2 Fellowship Hall					

Sunday ~ January 7<sup>th</sup> ~ 4:00 pm  
 Kathy McKinley cordially invites you all to an EPIPHANY CONCERT where she sings with the choir.  
 Peace Lutheran Church ~ 2201 N. Rosa Parks Way ~ Portland

## Sunday ~ January 14<sup>th</sup>

Human Relations Day calls United Methodists to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with one another.

