

June 2022 Newsletter

A Word from Pastor David

Generally I try to keep my church newsletter articles upbeat, informative, positive; even humorous. Despite hours and now days of reflection, prayer, and waves of emotions across the spectrum from heart-breaking grief to hot rage, I cannot find a way to be light-hearted at this moment. This newsletter will come out just days after Memorial Day. Usually, our focus on this holiday lifts up those we have lost to death, especially in military service to our nation during times of war. Last Sunday, however, I chose to focus on the creation of memorials themselves- a monument, a place, a date to commemorate and recognize many kinds of memorials. I spoke about the importance not so much in the memorials themselves, but of the *meaning* behind each monument, place, holiday, or date. It is so important to do this remembering so that we educate, so we remember to remember, so that we do not create the same violent environment or tolerate the same xenophobia and bigotry that is presently running rampant in our world.

I had never heard of Uvalde, Texas or was aware that before preaching my sermon last week Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas would become an example of the kind of memorial to which I pointed. Nineteen fourth graders and two teachers were gunned down by an eighteen-year-old high school student living in that same town. As I prayed and reflected over this I realized that in this era, in this country, the battlefield and the meaning of our memorials has expanded into civilian territory: schools, shopping centers, grocery stores, houses of faith. So-called "soft targets." Like so many colleagues and people of faith I cry aloud, "How long, O God?"

I remain in deep prayer about what our country has become and the countless forms of violence and abuse we accept as "just the way it is." And I agree with The Rev. John Pavlovitz who said that "If all you're going to offer in the face of this kind of repeated carnage are "thoughts and prayers," people will continue to die, and you (and I) will be an accessory." Why is this true? Because far too many "Christians" offer only thoughts and prayers, "As if God is somehow responsible for easy access to assault weapons; the NRA perpetuating a Wild West cowboy gun culture; houses of worship still teaching fear and hate for lgbtqia+ people, Muslims, Jews, and people of color; and that God blesses a nation that spends four times more to arm its military than to teach its children."

I had to pray yesterday, and I still pray today. We need to pray and never stop. But you and I can do more than thoughts and prayers. As my colleague Rev. Pavlovitz reminds us: "You can get off your rear end and do something to make guns less plentiful and less easy to get. You can take a stand in your community of faith for the inherent value of lgbtqia+ and other marginalized and maligned people; you can demand that legislators and law enforcement personnel who disregard the humanity of people of color are removed and prosecuted. You can call out racism and homophobia and Islamophobia in your church, in your home and -and in your heart. And you can vote. You can vote for candidates committed to protecting all life, not just the unborn or those they deem worth protecting. And you can defy the rampant style of a bullying "eye for an eye" Christianity that actually appears to make violence seem noble or holy."

Let's not leave all this in the hands of God. May we remember that God gave us hands, voices, feet, and the ability to think- to choose to love one another as Christ loves us.

In heartfelt prayer, and with hope for the future,
Pastor David



On Pentecost Sunday, June 5, 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 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called *Shavuot*, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus. The color red is associated with Pentecost.



A Concert for Ukraine

Sunday, June 12, 3pm

**Rose City Park United Methodist Church
5834 NE Alameda (1/2 block off Sandy Blvd.)**

**Featuring the church Praise Band, Choir, Bell Choir,
plus instrumentalists, soloists, & ensembles**

A free will offering will be received

The concert will also be live-streamed at www.rcpumc.org



We Need Your Help!

The great cleanup is beginning! Like any "home," junk and "extras" tend to collect over time. It is no different with our church, and we have been collecting for a very long time! Beginning Monday, we are going to be cleaning out all spaces that are not being used full time by a designated user. I will be at

the church every evening starting no later than 5:00pm working on various rooms and would love some company and help! There is a lot to get through and the more hands we have helping, the easier the task will be. We are going to be working on the following over the summer:

1. Transition the upstairs library into the Sharrard Children's Library.
2. Move the Sunday School from the current room next to the elevator (which is pretty much a large closet) into a revamped Room 4 across from the elevator. We want to create a fun welcoming space for children to "be" during worship services.
3. Update the Nursery with new paint/mural and some new child friendly toys.
4. Possibly turn the former Youth Room into a storage space for our members of the Collective.
5. Clean out the Bride's Room so that it can be returned to a more fitting purpose than storage.
6. Clean off the stage so it doesn't look like a space for clutter to collect.
7. Replace missing/damaged ceiling tiles throughout the building.
8. Reorganize the upstairs storage in the hall by the chapel.
9. And the biggie: We are hopefully going to redo both Youngson Hall and the Parlor (new flooring, paint, etc.) The board will be looking at how to get the funds to accomplish this which will include help from the congregation.

Our current reality is that our immediate future is 100% reliant on the success of the Collective. We would not be able to remain in our building without the income our building partners generate. We also believe that in order to attract new people into our space, (both Collective members and congregation members) we need to make sure our building looks cared for and well maintained. Currently, it doesn't appear that way with an excessive amount of clutter almost everywhere you look.

We are excited to tackle these projects this summer...but the biggest, immediate need is for all of you to help this coming week (June 6-12). The dumpster arrives on Monday!!! There will be sign-up sheets on Sunday with specific projects in specific rooms mapped out. Items that we

think should not be thrown away or donated somewhere (and aren't used on a regular basis) can be stored in clearly marked bins in the upstairs storage room).

It will feel so good to have a sense of pride in our space again. We have the most amazing congregation (remember "The best kept secret in NE Portland"). Let's all work together to make sure our building and spaces reflect just how wonderful the people inside it are!!!

Thanks in advance for your help!

Kay Pettygrove
Current Board Chair

Chris Anderson
Board Chair Elect

Scholarship Applications Welcome

The scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for the Rose City Park Memorial Scholarship. It is for post high school education, summer and/or fall term. The requirements and application can be found at www.rcpumc.org/scholarship. Or click [HERE](#).

Applications can be mailed to Janelle O'Gara, 7524 S. Laview Drive, Portland, OR 97219 or emailed to mjogar@comcast.net **Applications are due by June 8th.**

Choir News

After June 9, we will not have rehearsals until September but will continue to sing on most Sunday mornings during the summer, meeting at 9:30 am. If you've thought about singing, this is a great time to try it out on a Sunday morning. Contact John Green with any questions.

Congregation News

If you have any joys or concerns you want shared, or a birthday you want included, please contact Patricia Holman at: plholman1025@gmail.com

BIRTHDAYS OF THE MONTH

We rejoice with those who celebrate birthdays in June:

6/10 **Larry McDowell**

6/11 **Corinne Tate**

6/16 **Alan Ely**

6/19 **Ruth Geislinger**

6/25 **Barbara Ely, Don Sheets, Kim Upham**

6/27 **Janelle O'Gara**

6/28 **David Buell**

JOYS

- For all the students and teachers who have made it through a full school year back in person

CONCERNS

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

- **Sheryl Shake's father** was admitted to the hospital this last week with a fever and COVID, but his health was much worse than first realized. He is being given comfort care and morphine.
- **Tom Tate**
- **Ernesto Quilban**
- **Frank and Becca Shields** as they travel for three weeks visiting family in Pennsylvania.
- All the families affected by the recent shootings. Families who lost beloved children and adults, who have children who were injured and will forever be traumatized by what they saw and heard that day, and legislators as they wrestle with the issue of gun control, knowing there are no easy solutions, and hoping conversations remain civil and they put our children and their safety first. May there also be prayers of forgiveness.

On-going Food Drive Update

We are still collecting food for Urban Gleaners, the local food rescue organization that provides food to families in need. Please drop off your donations in the collection container by the usher's room.

Most needed:

Nut butter, (such as peanut or almond butter)

Canned beans

Canned tuna and Salmon

Pasta and sauces

Stew

Canned vegetables and fruit

If you have any questions, please call Patricia Holman, 503-459-3090. Thank you!

Helpful Resources

Pictorial Directory

If you have any changes to your contact information, please contact Patricia Holman at plholman1025@gmail.com. Copies of the directory can be emailed to you by contacting Patricia, or a printed copy is available in the Narthex.

E-mail Version of the Sermon

Would you like to receive an email version of the sermon? If so, please contact Deborah Weekley at axismundi.dw@gmail.com. We are also planning to provide printed copies available at church on Sunday morning soon.

Prayer Chain

Just as a reminder, the prayer chain is available to those that would like to request prayers. Also, if someone would like to join the prayer chain all they need to do is send a request to be added to the email address below. rcpumcprayer@gmail.com

Newsletter Deadline

All newsletter submissions are due on the first of every month. Please email your articles to Patricia Holman at plholman1025@gmail.com.

Rose City Park United Methodist Church

5830 NE Alameda St, Portland, OR 97213

503.954.2830 | office@rosecitypark.org | www.rosecitypark.org