



October 2022 Newsletter

A Word from Pastor David

As a kid, I always loved the beginning of Autumn. The turning of the leaves into brilliant colors, the strong October winds, and of course, the rituals; returning to school, Halloween, and the Thanksgiving holidays. It was an exciting time. It was a learning time. As an adult, I still am captivated by Autumn and all the changes and activities this season brings. As your pastor, it is a time when I think about church rituals, learning and growing in faith, and holiday services and events. One annual "ritual" in Autumn is a focus on Stewardship. This year at Rose City Park our Stewardship theme is, "Faith Grows Here."

"Faith Grows Here" is a timely theme in these challenging times. As we consider stewardship, and the decisions we make about investing time, talents, financial gifts, and service in our church, now more than ever, we need to understand and embrace living by faith in Jesus our Christ. Stewardship is at the heart of the gospel. Methodism's founder, John Wesley, considered it an integral component of Christian discipleship. It was a consistent theme of his preaching and personal practice. Wesley's sermon "The Use of Money" is helpful as we consider our own stewardship. The rules outlined are fundamental to Wesley's theological, ethical, and missional plan:

"Earn all you can." Most of us do not need any admonition to earn all we can. It is the driving message of our culture. However, Wesley was not giving a theological rationale for an aggressive materialism. Wesley emphasized earning all you can through participating in God's healing and creative work in the world. Giving in the Wesleyan tradition considers *how* we earn money, not just how we use the wealth earned.

"Save all you can." Despite how this sounds, Wesley challenges, rather than endorses, accumulating and hoarding. He was not calling Methodists to invest wisely and build large savings accounts; he compared such practices to "throwing your money into the sea." The principle "save all you can" is a call to a *simplified lifestyle*, warning against extravagance, and self-gratification. Stewardship has to do with what we are willing to do without as surely as it has to do with what we are willing to acquire.

"Give all you can." Wesley's third rule of stewardship gives meaning to the first two. We gain all we can and save all we can so that we can give all we can. In Wesley's own words: "Save all you can, by cutting off every expense which serves only to indulge foolish desire, to gratify either the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eye, or the pride of life. Waste nothing ... on sin or folly, whether for yourself or your children. And then, give all you can, or in other words give all you have to God." Earning, saving, and giving are all means of giving oneself to God.

For Wesley, stewardship is rooted in the nature and activity of God, whose nature is love, which is the emptying of oneself on behalf of others. Grace, God's unmerited love poured out to humanity in Jesus Christ, is who God is. Love for God, therefore, must involve giving of oneself to God and neighbor. One cannot love and fail to give.

I believe this reflection on Wesley's sermon on the use of money is helpful for our personal stewardship at Rose City Park UMC as Faith Grows Here!

Blessings,

Pastor David

Financial Update

The Finance Team is pleased to report that as of the end of August, financial giving is at 97.84% of what we budgeted for the first four months of the year. We feel confident that by the end of the year, we will be at, or near, 100%. Thank you so much for your generous giving.

In addition, the Rose City Collective is coming back strong after the pandemic downturn. The building is busier than ever. Youngson Hall is now the place to be for children's birthday parties. Drama classes are here on Sunday mornings and afternoons. The Collective's contributions have kept our expenses down.

We give thanks that our income exceeds our expenses at this point of time.



Still Looking for Bell Ringers!

Have you ever thought about ringing bells? I'm looking for 3-4 more ringers to join our bell choir. We meet on Wednesday nights from 7-8pm in the Holman Music Room. Rehearsals begin October 12th. Contact Jennifer Holman for more information. 503-997-8411

jenniferoleary77@gmail.com

Women of Faith (formerly UMW)

The group will be meeting at the home of Joanne Schilling, 1916 NE 90th Avenue, on Thursday, October 27 at 10am at 10am. All are welcome to join the discussion/sharing and treats. Questions contact Chris Dole, 503-287-8972 or text 503-964-1371.

Board Update

The Board met and approved a change in the overall structure of the Board and how it operates. Currently, we are working under a structure that has three Board members each that represent the Finance, Building and Personnel groups. There is also a Board chair and incoming chair as well a Lay Person to Annual Conference. Including the Pastor, this has given us twelve voting members of the Board (with the Pastor being the tie-breaking vote if necessary). We have found this structure to be a bit cumbersome and determined that it was time to look at another option that will hopefully be more efficient. The new Board structure will have the following:

2 members (a "senior" member and a "junior" member) for each of the Personnel, Finance and Building areas.

The addition of 2 members of the "Ministry" area. (Currently there is no representation for ministry on the Board and it is one of the main reasons we exist!) By having representation on the board, Ministry will be able to advocate for funding and expedite the planning and implementation of ministry opportunities.

The addition of 1 member as a Liaison to the Collective. This person will be the intermediary between members of the Collective and the Board which will allow us to meet the needs of the Collective and address any concerns on a real-time basis.

We have eliminated the Board Position of Lay Person to Annual Conference. The position still exists however will no longer be a Board position.

The Board Chair position will go to a "Co-Chair" structure with one person committing to the daily operations and the other to longer term planning. This two-person model for the Board Chair will allow for much more support for the Board Chair as well as spreading the job among two people. It's a big job and we feel that this allows for this position to be done more effectively without burning out the Chair of the Board!

Each of the major areas, Personnel, Finance, Building and Ministry will have teams operating underneath the Board as the teams that are doing the "work." These teams will interface with the Board and help to carry out the work of the church (building

maintenance, personnel oversight and encouragement, financial recommendations and implementation of ministry opportunities). This structure will encourage more than those that are Board members to participate in the life of church. The “team” structure allows those interested to be as involved as they choose to be and doesn’t necessarily require a longer-term commitment.

The term of the Board members will go from three years to two years in hope that this length of time is a more reasonable and less intimidating commitment.

One of the things we as a Board have learned over the past few years is that it’s essential that we remain flexible. We will try this structure for a time, fine tune it where needed and reevaluate after an appropriate length of time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at kayp1024@gmail.com

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

We rejoice with those who celebrate birthdays in October:

10/2 **Chris Dole**

10/3 **David Patterson**

10/4 **Judy Gilfillan**

10/7 **David Ball**

10/9 **Kathy Green**

10/10 **Andrea Llafet**

10/15 **Don Michael**

10/19 **Mari Rudd**

10/20 **Lindi Moser**

10/23 **Kariisa Allen**

10/24 **Kay Pettygrove**

10/25 **Patricia Holman**

10/28 **Meara Espinosa**

JOYS

- **Richard and Charlene Brunkow** celebrate their 50th anniversary on October 14.

They invite you to join them Sunday, October 9th, for cake after the worship service.

- **Frank Holman**, David Wilson, and Bruce Brown, former directors of the Portland Symphonic Choir who died in 2020 and 2021, are being honored in a concert October 23rd. The commemorative concert, "Foundations," will feature music that was performed under each director. Frank directed the choir for 10 years.
- Congratulations to our bookkeeper, **Andre**, and his wife, **Monique**, on the birth of daughter, **Emilia**, on October 3rd.
- "United Women of Faith" met for an initial meeting last month. The next meeting is planned for October 27th. See separate article.

CONCERNS

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

LeAnn, Ernie, Ernesto, Tom, Melody, Rob, Cisco, and Donna

New Members

We were delighted on Sunday, October 2, to welcome new members to our congregation. Shown above with our pastor, Dr. David Weekley, are Judy Payne, Raleigh Sapp, and Angie Sapp. Please take time to introduce yourself to them if you haven't already.

We will be welcoming new members again in late November. Speak with Pastor David if you are interested in joining.



Greater Good NW Food Drive

One of the agencies in our Rose City Collective is Greater Good NW. Their office is Room 201 on the second floor. As Mike Backman, their Outreach Program Coordinator, says in the following article, they work to help find ways to connect people experiencing houselessness to services and resources in an effort to help them find stable and safe housing. They also deliver food to folks. At the bottom of this article, you will see what food items we will be collecting for their distribution. We hope to engage the entire Collective in this new food drive. Please read what Mike has shared with us:

"The Greater Good NW Outreach Team is focused on getting out on the streets of our community to engage with our neighbors experiencing houselessness where they're at. Our goal is always to help find ways to connect folks to services and resources in an effort

to help them find stable and safe housing. However, in many cases we are trying to help overcome some substantial barriers that our neighbors are experiencing. While we work to navigate past those barriers, it becomes vital to help minimize the harm that comes from homelessness. We accomplish this in a few different ways. By continuing to visit on a regular and reliable basis we are able to help keep folks engaged with society as a whole. These visits can act as a reminder that, in an increasingly difficult time, there are still people that care enough to consistently show up. Another way we try to minimize the harm is by providing necessities like sleeping bags, food, water, hygiene, and first aid supplies whenever we are able to gather them. We depend on donations and support from our community partners to be able to provide these items, which further reinforces the reminder to our homeless neighbors that more people actively care about them than just those that are able to visit their camps. Outreach work is about building community through engagement and doing our very best to make sure that community includes all of our neighbors, regardless of where they currently live."

Items to Collect for Greater Good NW

Canned/Packaged meat (tuna, chicken, spam, Vienna sausage)

Fruit cups

Canned vegetables, beans, chili, pasta

Grab and go soup

Box Cereal and chewy cereal bars

Applesauce and fruit snacks

Crackers

Peanut butter and jelly mixed jars

Dried fruit and nuts

Items that do not require can openers or special equipment

Items that do not require refrigeration or cooking

(Note: this food drive replaces the one for Urban Gleaners)

Helpful Resources

Pictorial Directory

If you have any changes to your contact information, please contact Patricia Holman at pholman1025@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

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