



January 2022 Newsletter

A Word from Pastor David

"First, do no harm."

This rule is an essential principle of healthcare professionals and is attributed to Hippocrates, the Greek philosopher and founder of medical practice. It is also one of the three simple rules of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, "*Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God.*" These two sentences, written centuries apart, became a prayerful meditation for me and for all involved in making worship decisions at Rose City Park United Methodist Church. Given the surge of the omicron covid variant across the country and world, doing no harm must be considered first in everything we do at our church.

Because Multnomah County is considered a high-risk area as defined in our annual conference guidelines it is important for us to follow current recommendations as we look forward to worship together.

Canceling Christmas Eve and Sunday services was one of the most difficult decisions I have made as a pastor. I pray you all celebrated the birth of Jesus in a special way, and I look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus with you in this new year. While these

continue to be challenging times, the year begins with new hope. The omicron is a fast-moving and highly contagious variant, but there are some indications it is not as severe as earlier mutations, and might prove helpful in preventing new, dangerous mutations. While much is unknown about how this variant will affect the future, I am cautiously and tenaciously optimistic we are moving towards less restrictions in the future.

For the time being, we will meet for in-person worship employing the following guidelines:

1. Surgical-quality masks (not cloth only) must be worn in the building
2. Safe social distancing will be maintained
3. Singing is limited to ensemble groups
4. No sharing of food or beverages
5. No use of hymnals in the pews

We can follow these recommendations to safely meet and worship together through this latest challenge. I look forward to celebrating our faith together with you this and every Sunday.

Blessings, Peace, and a Happy and Healthy New Year,

Pastor David



Worship on January 9th

We will continue to meet in-person on January 9, when Rev. Tim Uecker and Jennifer Holman lead us in worship through music and word on the topic of light.

Board Update

Congratulations to us...we survived 2021! I know many of us wondered if that would be the case! COVID has required that we learn how to do church differently and has tested our flexibility and ability to adapt. I know many of us (especially our Finance Team) were holding on to the hope that we would financially be able to survive a year where we weren't able to meet in person for a good part of it. I cannot tell you how grateful I am for each one of you! We have not only survived...folks we have nailed it! Here are some of our highlights:

- Your current church Board has exceeded expectations in their work on the development of a Strategic Plan for our church. This is the first plan we have had that provides direction, guidance, and a road map for our future. It required a LOT of time in meetings wordsmithing, discussing and yes, sometimes arguing to make sure we got it just right.
- We have paid 100% of our apportionments this year!
- We lobbied and received a pastor who has brought passion and excitement, and our future looks bright for the first time in a long time. Pastor David and Deborah are such an incredible addition to our congregation, and I know there are bright things in our future.
- We have operated within our budget, and it looks as if we will come out ahead once the final books are completed.
- We prevailed against Multnomah County when they were looking at charging us property taxes for our building since others are now using our space. Had they prevailed it would have been a game changer (and not in a good way!).
- We provided a small surprise of flowers and cookies for those of our congregants that are eighty and over. What a joy to be able to come together and bring a smile to our precious "elders."
- We began collecting food for Urban Gleaners, a local non-profit that distributes food to those in need.

- We developed job descriptions for all jobs (paid and contract) that we have at the church. It is crucial we treat our employees/contractors fairly and that they are aware of expectations. Without accurate job descriptions this can't happen. A special shout out to David Whitaker for his unbelievable work on this. I can't say enough positive about David. His tenure on the Board ended at the end of 2021 and it is a huge loss for us. THANK YOU, DAVID, FOR YOUR MOST EXCELLENT WORK, COMMITMENT AND RELIABILITY!

We are looking forward to 2022. Plan on us trying some new and different things. Some we might fail at miserably and some we are hopeful will be smashing successes. The only way we are going to know what works is to continue to try new things. We will grow by becoming a congregation that isn't afraid to think outside the box. Who knows, we might even get rid of the box! The possibilities are limitless!

I have a few goals for the Board this year. I think it is important to communicate these goals as it helps to keep the Board (and me!) accountable.

- The first is to develop back-ups for everything that has to do with worship. As is typical in most churches, in many instances we have only one person that knows how to do sound, how to prepare the slides for the screen, how to prepare for communion, etc. We are going to change that this year. It is a priority for both Pastor David and me to get us to a point that no matter what, worship will go on seamlessly.
- The second goal is to work with the Board in developing the "how" of our Strategic Plan. We did an excellent job of the who, what and why, it is now time to focus on how we are going to implement our vision and mission statement. Most of this work will be focused on mission and ministry work. I am so excited to get started on this work. This is what makes church fun and gives us a sense of purpose. We have been on hold for a long time, and it is our goal to start moving again this year! Hold on to your hats...it's going to be a fun ride!
- The third goal is the implementation of a new sound system in the Sanctuary. We are well underway with these plans and hope to have everything completed by the end of January. Our current sound system is failing in multiple areas, and it is time to replace the entire thing. We are fortunate to have connections within

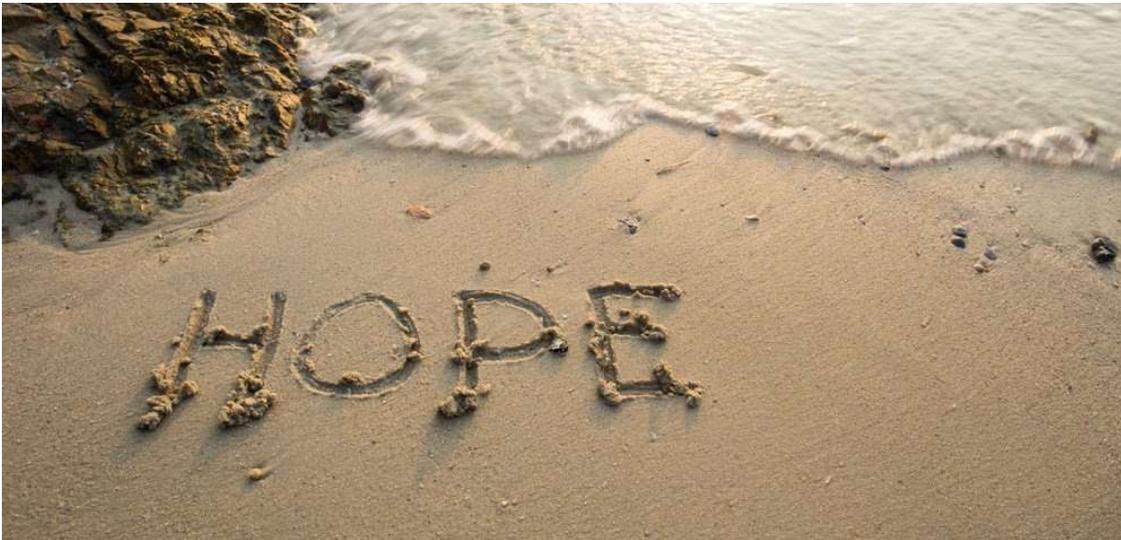
the sound industry and can get this accomplished for quite a lot less than it would normally be. So grateful for that!

- The fourth goal is to expand our relationship with The Collective. We have many groups that use our facility, and we would like to increase our connections with them. Look for more joint activities, more information as to what they are doing and how we can support each other.

Whew! A lot to communicate! As always, please feel free to connect any Board Member if you have questions, concerns, or ideas you would like to share!

I am so excited about the future of our church. It truly feels hopeful for the first time in a long time. Thank you all for your steadfast loyalty, patience, and optimism. May we abound in God's richest blessings of joy, hope and health in 2022!

Kay Pettygrove – Current Board Chairperson



New Book Study Begins

You are invited to join Pastor David in a multi-state zoom book study beginning Tuesday, February 1 at 4:00 pm Pacific Time. This is a five-week program that will take us to Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. The title of the book is, *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times* by Bishop Michael Curry. The book is available on Kindle or hard-copy purchase. It is also available at local libraries. Here is a review of the book from Amazon:

"As the descendant of slaves and the son of a civil rights activist, Bishop Michael Curry's life illustrates massive changes in our times. Much of the world met Bishop Curry when he delivered his sermon on the redemptive power of love at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. Here, he expands on his message of hope in an inspirational road map for living the way of love, illuminated with moving lessons from his own life. Through the prism of his faith, ancestry, and personal journey, *Love Is the Way* shows us how America came this far and, more important, how to go a whole lot further."

I hope you will consider joining us for this book group. Please contact Pastor David if you are interested: dew@bu.edu

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Deborah Weekley is looking for knitters that would be interested in knitting prayer shawls as a ministry of the church. She has pocket prayer shawls given to the church by St. Nicolas UMC in Hull, MA, and seven full size shawls. If you are interested in being part of this ministry team, contact Deborah at axismundi.dw@gmail.com. For additional information go to: <https://www.shawlministry.com/>.

Frank Holman Music Award

It was announced at the December 19th service that we are instituting a new award: The Frank Holman Music Award. This award will be given at the discretion of the Music Director and will not necessarily be an annual award.

Frank Holman was our beloved Director of Music for 40 years. He passed away a year ago this past December. Frank believed that everyone should have the opportunity to experience music and, no matter their level of expertise, feel proud of their contribution to the music program. He took his music seriously, conveyed joy and passion in the music he chose for the choirs, bells, and brass, and led the groups to exceed their own expectations.

The first Frank Holman Award was given to JoAnn Schilling. JoAnn has sung in the church choir for seventy years! She grew up singing in a trio with her sisters, so music

performance has always been a part of her life. The decision to have JoAnn be our first recipient was easy, and her cheerful and positive spirit are contagious to all of us that have the privilege of singing with her. Congratulations, JoAnn, from all of us at Rose City Park United Methodist Church!

Heifer International Campaign

We started a giving campaign in mid-December to make donations to Heifer International. Our goal was to raise \$5000. We were able to raise over \$2,500 (final tally still to come!)

All your donations will be equally matched so the total we are responsible for raising comes to over \$5000! WELL DONE! If you are interested in finding out more about Heifer International, you can find more information on their website at www.heiferinternational.com. Thank you for your help in providing "New Beginnings" for people all over the world!

Sirens Concert a Huge Success

The December 5th concert was an absolute joy for the Sirens and audience alike and raised almost \$900 for Urban Gleaners! I delivered the check and food collected at the church and they were so thrilled. Thank you for your generosity! Patricia Holman

Congregation News

If you have any joys or concerns you want shared, please contact Patricia Holman at: p holman1025@gmail.com)

BIRTHDAYS OF THE MONTH

We rejoice with those who celebrate birthdays in January:

Ernesto Quilban

Eddie Bennett

Tod Grobey

Clint Moran

Star Studonivic

Sherri Whitaker

Keith Peck

JOYS

- **Janell Collier's uncle Wayne** has moved into an assisted living facility and is doing much better
- Congratulations to **Jennifer Holman** and **Tim Uecker** on the release of their Christmas CD, "I Wish You Christmas." A life-long dream fulfilled for Jennifer! They are back in the recording studio working on their love CD, "Shades of Love."

CONCERNS

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

- **Pat Sharp** as she deals with multiple health issues
- **Andy Pettygrove** and his partner, **Anthony Sandin**, who lost one of their brokers, **Craig**, to a fatal heart attack in December. Please keep Craig's family in your prayers.
- **LeAnn Kelley** as she copes with the death of her beloved brother, **Rory**

On-going Food Drive Update

Thanks to your generosity in 2021, we donated almost **1500 lbs. of food** to Urban Gleaners, the local food rescue organization that provides food to families in need. Let's try to surpass that figure in 2022! 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

The prayer chain is available to those that would like to request prayers. 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.

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