



## October 2024 Newsletter

### From the Pastor

Happy Autumn! As we move into this new season and cycle of life, I am excited to share *Extravagant Love* as the theme for our Rose City Park 2025 Stewardship campaign. This theme grew from a sermon given by Rev. Wes Taylor who joined us as guest preacher last June. Wes's message spoke about "putting on love" as the only genuine response possible to the extravagant love of God given to us through Jesus. A dictionary I consulted for the phrase, "extravagant love" defined it as, "Over-the-top, sold out, totally devoted love" and cited John 12 as an example.

In John 12, Mary and Martha are hosting a dinner party in honor of Jesus; a thankful tribute to the miracle Jesus had performed in their family, raising their brother, Lazarus, from death. But as I said in our stewardship letter, Mary's display of thankfulness is very remarkable in a way that is difficult for us to comprehend. Mary pours a valuable jar of perfume over Jesus' feet and then wipes it with her hair. A year's worth of wages, estimated to be worth about \$30,000 or so by today's standards was in that bottle. Whatever your annual yearly income is, imagine one year of it gone in a matter of minutes. Think of it: all the money you earned working day after day, meant to pay the bills and provide for your needs, given to Jesus.

Judas, who later betrayed Jesus, criticized Mary for this loving act. Judas declared that the money spent on perfume was wasted and could have helped the poor. But do not be fooled by this righteous-sounding proclamation. Judas was all about the money.

Remember, Judas stole money from the disciple's treasury (his own tribe!) and would later betray Jesus for only \$1000. Judas' heart was not full of extravagant love for Jesus, it was full of a love for money. He saw the extravagant act of love for Jesus as a waste. A waste! Judas couldn't see it. Like many today, Judas was blind to what is of ultimate value: loving God and neighbor as much as you love yourself. Here's the truth:

*The love of money blinds us to the worth of Jesus.* This is clear in Matthew 6:22-24, "Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good your whole body is filled with light. But when your eye is bad, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep the darkness is. No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon (money, funds, wealth, capital)."

In essence, if your heart is filled with extravagant love for money, you will never understand Mary's act. If your heart is filled with extravagant love for God, you will immediately understand. These are two very different ways of seeing and being in the world. Whatever you value, there your heart is.

Mary demonstrated an extravagant love when she poured out a gift so big it would take your breath away, because she saw the worth of Jesus and it took *her* breath away; giving all she had and then using her hair to wipe his feet. It's a beautiful act of love that made me wonder: *Where does my extravagance lie?* Is it with my money or is it with Jesus? Where do I lavish my time, talents, and treasures? Do I value the size of my bank account more than my spiritual well-being and the well-being of my neighbors?

Blogger and single mom Aminta Geisler hit bottom after going through divorce, followed by a string of bad choices she made while seeking wealth and fame. She was, she said, running as far in the opposite direction from God as possible. After a few years of running, Aminta found herself on her knees praying to God for guidance. It was the turning point of her life. She shares her story:

"I've shared this phrase before, but I've been called to live in **reckless abandon** for Jesus. Chasing him as hard as I can, with everything I am and everything I have. All for Jesus, poured out at his feet. Everyday. It's a love born of an overwhelming thankfulness for his gift. . . A gift that raised my spiritually dead soul and gave it eternal life. Reading John 12 this morning only strengthened my resolve to passionately pursue Jesus. To live sold out. Radical. Like a woman who would pour out a year's worth of wages on his feet. I know I must look and sound crazy to some people. And that's ok. I am in extravagant love with Jesus and I'm not even sorry about it."- Aminta Geisler

Where does *your* extravagance lie? I invite you to join us in some reckless abandon and devotion to Jesus at Rose City Park UMC this Autumn and beyond! Let's continue this walk together covering the M.I.L.E. (ministries that matter, itineration, lay leadership development, and elimination of racism and all "isms")- encouraging each other and our neighbors near and far as we practice Extravagant Love in Jesus' name!

Autumn Blessings and Joy,

Pastor David

## Upcoming Events

- Oct. 6, John Nilsen performs during worship service. Cake in the Narthex.
- Oct. 11, 7:37pm, Blueprint Arts Concert, "Above All Odds"
- Oct. 12, 7:30pm and Oct. 13, at 3pm, Choral Arts Ensemble Concert, "I Believe"
- Oct. 19, 1pm-3pm, Youngson Hall, NE Village PDX, Emergency Preparedness Resource Fair. The fair will include tables from area agencies and organizations involved in emergency preparedness who will be distributing information and sharing resources to assist individuals and communities better prepare for disasters. Free and open to the public.
- Oct. 20, 2:30pm, Michael Allen Harrison concert, Sanctuary, Freewill offering. See separate article.
- Oct. 26, Harvest Festival, 4-6pm, Youngson Hall
- Nov. 2, 3:07pm, Blueprint Arts Concert, Spells and Spectres!
- Nov. 3, 10am, Consecration Sunday. Congregational Gathering potluck in the Parlor after worship service.

## United Women in Faith

Wednesday, October 16, at 10:30am in Room 8

All are welcome

Our program this month will be Trish Jordan, Executive Director of Red Lodge Transition Services.

### The Mission of Red Lodge

To prevent incarceration and reduce recidivism primarily among Native American women and men. To provide assistance for individuals released from jails and prisons, who are working on creating a better life for themselves, their children, and communities. To supply transition information, guidance, and support, to Native American individuals, families, and communities. To prevent and reduce incarceration by breaking the cycle of chemical addiction, violence, abuse, hatred, hopelessness, and neglect. Red Lodge is the only holistic program to aid Native women and men to regain their cultural and societal centers before and after release from prison. The first 72 hours after release can make the difference between going back to prison or being able to start a new life.

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

If you want more information about our monthly meetings feel free to call Chris Dole at 503-287-8972 or text 503-964-1371.

## Michael Allen Harrison Benefit Concert

A concert to benefit Play It Forward will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, October 20 at

2:30pm. A freewill offering will be received, and the concert will feature Mr. Harrison and several students from the program.



Play It Forward (PIF) was born from the ashes of defunded public education music programs. They work to ensure equal access to the genius within each child — to help a young person realize who or what they can or should be. This doesn't mean everyone who takes music lessons becomes a concert phenomenon. But those music lessons from a teacher, as well as the gently-used, donated instruments that PIF distributes, help a child prepare for the future, including job interviews, college placement, leadership, and life. Regardless of income, ability, proximity or any other barrier, PIF helps unlock potential and passion. They help children realize their own brilliance and believe the world is better for it.

## **News From the Board**

### **Sharrard Children's Library**

J'Anna Sharrard was a long-time member of Rose City Park UMC. She attended the University of Puget Sound during 1950-1954 majoring in elementary music. She started attending our church after she was hired as the Educational Director in the 1950's. A very active member, she sang in the choir, played the organ and bells, participated in United Methodist Women and was the Board's financial secretary. She loved to travel going with a group from the church to Turkey and Ireland. Many will remember J'Anna from her large collection of nativity sets which she displayed in the parlor during the Christmas season. Her service extended beyond our walls as every tax season she volunteered at the Hollywood Senior Center preparing income taxes for those who needed assistance. In the early 2000's she was awarded the Jack Ball Award for her many volunteer activities. Shortly thereafter she moved to Auburn, Washington to be near her family.

J'Anna passed away on May 25, 2021, at the age of 88 but her giving did not stop. Her estate bequeathed a substantial amount of money to Rose City Park. The Board decided to honor J'Anna and her love of education by creating the Sharrard Children's Library. Currently, work is underway to change the church library into a warm, welcoming, colorful place where parents, grandparents, teens, and other interested parties may read to children. The library will focus on ages 2-6. Books may be borrowed so children may be read to at home. Many books have been donated including the entire children's collection from the Paper Moon Book Store. A special shelf will be dedicated to Beverly Cleary, a local children's author who grew up in the Grant Park area. After the library is operational, it is hoped that a regular story time hour will occur. We are very fortunate that one of our members, Angie Sapp, a retired children's librarian, will oversee the operation of the library.

## **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](mailto:plholman1025@gmail.com)

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## **BIRTHDAYS OF THE MONTH**

We rejoice with those who celebrate birthdays in October:

10/2 **Chris Dole**

10/3 **David Patterson**

10/5 **Loretta Clark**

10/7 **David Ball**

10/9 **Kathy Green**

10/10 **Andrea Llafet**

10/19 **Mari Rudd**

10/23 **Kariisa Allen**

10/24 **Kay Pettygrove**

10/25 **Patricia Holman**

10/27 **Daniel Espinosa**

10/27 **Meara Espinosa**

## **Toastmasters**

The Toastmaster's club is planning an open house on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 11am. The event is called "Speak to Connect". Join us for an enlightening and interactive event inspired by Charles Duhigg's New York Times bestseller, "Supercommunicators."

This free gathering, brought to you by Toastmasters of Portland, offers a unique opportunity to explore and practice essential communication skills in a relaxed, welcoming environment.

You'll get:

- New tactics to apply Supercommunicators ideas: Chris Moore and David Freedman will present speeches based on key concepts from the book, offering practical insights on how to integrate these ideas in your daily life.
- Informal practice: You'll get a chance to practice newly learned skills from the book in a casual setting (Don't worry – participation is optional!)
- Donuts: Enjoy Saturday morning donuts and coffee while improving your communication skills.

We meet at the church in the Chapel. All are welcome.

## NW Vocal Arts joins the Collective

The Rose City Community Collective is pleased to announce a new user, NW Vocal Arts. Their mission is to “foster human connection, inspire the next generation of professional and amateur musicians, and positively impact individuals and audiences in the Pacific Northwest and beyond through the universal language of vocal music and innovative community-focused initiatives.” To achieve their goals, the nonprofit will include a chamber choir, a youth choir for grades 8 through 12, and a parent and young children’s choir for ages 2-4 and 5 - 7. Leading the group is Dr. Samuel Barbara, the Director of Choral and Vocal Studies at Portland Community College, Rock Creek Campus, where he conducts the chamber and concert choirs, teaches applied lessons and class voice. You can learn more about this nonprofit organization by logging onto their website at [www.nwvocalarts.org](http://www.nwvocalarts.org).

Rehearsals will be held here at Rose City Park U.M.C. and a concert is scheduled for Sunday, December 22, at 3:00 in the sanctuary. Below you will find a flyer that contains more information about them. Click on the QR code for pictures and more information on NW Visual Arts.



## NORTHWEST VOCAL ARTS

Northwest Vocal Arts is a brand new non-profit choral organization committed to musical excellence and community outreach with a primary focus on youth mentorship.

- ALL students grades 8-12 can sing in the NWVA Youth Choir, directed by Karen Bohart.
  - Tuition for every student is 100% covered by scholarships.
  - Our Choral Apprenticeship program is available to high school juniors and seniors. These apprentices will be paid members of our chamber choir, paired with a professional musician mentor, and serve as section leaders in our youth choir.
- Scan the QR code below to sign up for the NWVA Youth Choir and/or apply for the choral apprenticeship program.



[nwvocalarts.org](http://nwvocalarts.org)

## Support Hurricane Helene recovery

More than 200 people are now presumed dead as the devastation from Hurricane Helene continues to be revealed, most notably in western North Carolina. Solidarity Grants have been awarded to both the South and North Georgia Conferences of the UMC, with the

possibility for more grants to other conferences. Early Response Teams (ERTs) are also coordinating efforts to remove debris and other materials in some of the most impacted areas on the east coast. You can donate through [UMCOR's U.S. Disaster Response fund](#).

## Helpful Resources

### Newsletter Deadline

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

### Prayer Chain

Just as a reminder, the prayer chain is available to those that would like to request prayers. Also, if you would like to join the prayer chain, send a request to the email address: [rcpumcprayer@gmail.com](mailto:rcpumcprayer@gmail.com).

### Pictorial Directory

If you have any changes to your contact information, please contact Elsa in the office at [building@rosecitypark.org](mailto:building@rosecitypark.org). Copies of the directory can be emailed to you by contacting Kay Pettygrove, 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](mailto:axismundi.dw@gmail.com). Printed copies are available at church on Sunday mornings.



**Rose City Park**  
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