



November 2023 Newsletter

A Word from Pastor David

Over the years, November has become a favorite month of mine. This is obviously not because of the weather or amount of daylight contained in this month; these aspects of November are not so appealing. No, it is definitely not the weather. I like how the month begins with All Saint's Day, an uplifting reminder of all those who travelled this journey before me; and that great cloud of witnesses whose energy surrounds my life today. What I appreciate most about November is gathering the harvest and the many rituals of gratitude

and giving thanks for life that occur in this season. One personal note of thanks is for the surprise affirmation in worship, and the cards, the cake and encouraging words shared with me on "Pastor Appreciation Day." What a surprise. Thank you!

As Rose City Park UMC completes our Stewardship drive this November, we also give thanks for the life that we share together in this building, in our community, and beyond all borders or barriers, recalling what John Wesley proclaimed, "The world is our parish." Your continued financial, spiritual, and practical support of Rose City Park UMC makes Stewardship theme "Our Hope for Years to Come" possible. So, on behalf of all the people, organizations, saints of the past, present, and future, I thank all of you who support the mission, ministries, and financial needs of this local church through your prayers, presence, gifts, and service. I am truly grateful to you, and so is every person for whom Rose City Park has made or will make a positive difference. Again, thank you!

Together we move forward in gratitude with our hopes, dreams, and faith for years to come. As you will be grateful for his newsletter, there is so much for which to be grateful and so much toward which to look forward! As we plan opportunities for giving thanks this month and through the remainder of 2023, I extend a special invitation on behalf of the NWGA (Northwest Gender Alliance) to include these community gatherings at Rose City Park UMC into your plans.

The Northwest Gender Alliance is a Portland-Vancouver area organization that offers social support and advocacy to transgender, gender-fluid and non-binary people. The organization's website describes the NWGA's focus and work around peer support, social activities, and education in the broader community for more than forty years. Advocacy and educational activities include public service agencies and many other organizations on trans*, gender fluidity, non-binary identities, and more.

This year the NWGA has again invited our congregation to join them in two opportunities to gather for community building, social activities, and advocacy. Please mark these dates on your calendar, follow the link, and register, sign-up!

Transgender Day of Remembrance is November 20th at 6pm in our sanctuary. This is an international memorial service held each year to honor and remember the transgender lives lost through acts of violence during the past year.

December 9th, join us in Youngson Hall for a **Holiday Potluck Dinner**.

Set up is at 1pm and the event starts at 3pm. Joint NWGA and RCPUMC event. People must sign up with what they are bringing and how many in their party will attend at this

link:

<https://www.mealtrain.com/potlucks/lkd096>

Thank you again for the many ways you support Rose City Park UMC. I look forward to sharing many opportunities to express our gratitude together for all the ways God continues to bless and encourage us as we follow Jesus.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor David



November 18, Dinner with NABVETS, 6pm, and Tree Lot setup
November 20, Transgender Day of Remembrance Service, 6pm
November 22, Hour of Gratitude Service, 7pm
December 1, 2, 3, 11, 12 & 13, Christmas Tree Sale
December 16, Breakfast for Sant, 9-11am
December 17, Vespers Service, 4pm
December 24, Christmas Eve Services, 7 & 10:30pm

Women of Faith

Women in Faith (formally UMW) will have a gathering at the home of Joanne Schilling on November 16 at 10:30 am. All are welcome to join us for discussion/sharing and treats. For questions or comments please contact Chris Dole, 503-287-8972, or text 503-964-1371.

Thanksgiving Dinner with NABVETS

Saturday, November 18 at 6pm in Youngson Hall



NABVETS is one of our RCP Collective partners. NABVETS (National Association of Black Veterans) is a community partner created to address the issues of: Housing and homeless prevention; provides food, clothing, and related resource development; employment resources; and youth mentorship and support. We will be hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner for NABVETS members and their families.

We are looking for volunteers to:

1. Set up at 1pm for the dinner for 80 people
2. Provide food for a Thanksgiving meal – food can be prepared ahead of time and dropped off at the church or prepared on site
3. Serve food during the meal hour
4. Clean up

If you are interested contact: Marchelle Paholsky marchellepaholsky@gmail.com Paholsky marchellepaholsky@gmail.com cell (503) 866-5193 or Kay Pettygrove kayp1024@gmail.com cell 503-504-6548.



Collective Update

November Building Partner Events to check out:

Weekly Qigong Class, hosted by NE Village, open to all

Tuesdays @ 9:30-10:30 in the RCPUMC Parlor

November 11th-12th, Portland Columbia Symphony Orchestra Spiritual Moments Concert

FUMC & Reynolds High School

An emotional and moving *New Morning for the World: Daybreak of Freedom* by Joseph Schwantner, incorporating excerpts from the speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., caps off a thrilling musical experience in November. More info [HERE](#)

November 13th, "Generation Found" Film (Free Screening)

Mission Theater @ 7pm

Sponsored by Collective Roots APG, .

It is not only a deeply personal story, but one with real-world utility for communities struggling with addiction worldwide. The film is 45 minutes long and following the screening, a panel of experts will discuss the film and local resources for youth and families dealing with the effects of addiction. More info [HERE](#)

Check out this article for more info on teen recovery programs in Portland that highlights the important work of our building partner Collective Roots APG that meets in the old youth room: [HERE](#)

Elsa Johnson, Building Manager

Message from the Board

I arrived at church Sunday morning, got out of my car and started walking from the parking lot toward the church. I stopped for a moment and just looked at our newly painted doors, our wonderful landscaping and beautiful trees that were planted earlier this year, and our newly repaired stucco walls going down the ramp into Youngson Hall and I was filled with immense gratitude. Our beautiful old building is looking alive again. She is looking cared for again. It isn't all about the facade and we all know that what is happening on the inside is really what matters. But the exterior is a reflection of all the hard work we have done as a congregation this year to make much needed improvements to our church.

The Board of this church has done some amazing work this year. We have been focused on getting our footing back and getting positioned to be able to really focus on the work of the church...ministry. And boy are we ramping up to do just that. The holidays are a natural time to have lots of fun and activities to look forward to. We get to look forward to being

able to spend time with friends and family and reflect on the gifts we have been given and those we have to share. We all know, however, that the holidays can also be a time that many of us struggle with loss, depression, and a sense of being overwhelmed. There is a solution that doesn't cost any money and can be practiced anywhere. It is gratitude. Taking a moment each day to recognize and acknowledge the things you're thankful for can enhance your perspective, improve your mood, and help you maintain a positive outlook, even when facing challenges. Gratitude isn't about only the grand moments in life; it extends to the often overlooked or taken for granted smaller blessings in life. A glass of wine with friends, a kind gesture from a stranger, new paint on a door, a walk outside in the fresh air are all opportunities for gratitude. Many of us tend to dwell on unwelcome or negative news, and we know that never seems to be in short supply, but it causes the good news to fade in the background. Fortunately for us, gratitude is a skill, and it can be cultivated. Through the right practice, you can discover something small to appreciate even on the darkest days. While the concept of nurturing gratitude might seem cliché, research has demonstrated its benefits. By practicing gratitude, you can elevate your mood, counteract negativity, strengthen your relationships, and even reshape your self-esteem.

On **Wednesday, November 22nd at 7:00 pm** we will be gathering in the Sanctuary for an **Hour of Gratitude**. This will be a time to come together, breathe, take in the spirit of giving and receiving of gratitude before the hustle and bustle of the holidays hits in full force. Please, consider adding this event to your calendar. We hope to see you there! We will once again be handing out Gratitude Jars to help you in your practices of gratitude this coming year!

Kay Pettygrove, Board Co-Chair



Congregation News

If you have any joys or concerns you want shared, or a birthday you want included, please contact Patricia Holman at:

pjholman1025@gmail.com

We rejoice with those who celebrate birthdays in November:

11/6 **Tom Beckham**

11/7 **Nancy Turner, David Whitaker**

11/15 **Becky Larson**

11/16 **Kita Montgomery**

11/17 **Karen McNiel**

11/21 **Jim Carlson**

11/27 **Bhupender Sagoo**

Congratulations to the **Espinoza family** on the birth of their son, **Daniel**, on October 27!



Donations for Greater Good Northwest

Packaged tuna
Boxed cereal
Chewy granola and cereal bars
Peanut butter
Jellies
Crackers
Rainy weather gear
Warm coats
Stocking caps
Gloves
Boots

Christmas Tree Lot Set-up

Saturday morning, November 18, at 9am

Christmas Tree Sale

December 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10

Path Home - A New Opportunity to Help

Path Home is an organization that we would like to create a partnership with this year. Path Home has a mission to empower homeless families to get back into housing and stay there. On a daily basis, Path Home volunteers contribute a sense of community for families. For more information about their history and mission check them out at <https://www.path-home.org/mission-and-vision>

Rose City Park UMC would like to adopt a Path Home family for our giving tree this year. More information about that next month. Other current volunteer opportunities for the following positions:

Meal Provider: Preparing sack lunches for families in transitional housing. We would prepare lunches at the church and deliver them to the Path Home facility. Meal Prep is needed Monday-Friday 9-11. Stay tuned for dates and times.

Grounds Crew: Tending to the outside grounds of the transitional homes, and other Path Home facilities (through weeding, pruning, garden harvesting and other outdoor projects) you will promote an inviting space for families to heal from the trauma of homelessness. There are two dates available for ground crew work on 11/8 & 11/22 if you are interested.

All gloves and tools will be provided, just show up ready to work, rain or shine!

If you are interested, please contact David DeMarkey - dave.demarkey@outlook.com, cell phone: (503) 708-1852

Exploring Lay Ministry

At our Charge Conference Rev. Tim Overton-Harris shared Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth's focus this year encouraging congregations and ministry settings to go the M.I.L.E. and focus on Jesus' call in the story of the Good Samaritan to "Go and Do Likewise." The "L" in the acronym stands for Lay Ministry Enhancement and our Conference offers training courses for those who are interested in exploring this area. Sheryl Shake has taken several of these courses and recommends them.

The "Introduction to Lay Servant Ministry: The BASIC Course" is the foundational course for Lay Servant Ministries. This is the gateway course for those who are called to be Certified Lay Servants, Lay Speakers, and Lay Ministers. It can also be part of a person's discipleship plan to acquaint you with the gifts, calling, and responsibilities as followers of Christ. This course will be offered over five two-hour sessions on Zoom on Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 & Feb. 6, 2024, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. PT | [Learn more + register on the PNW website](#).

Helpful Resources

Pictorial Directory

If you have any changes to your contact information, please contact Patricia Holman at p holman1025@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 p holman1025@gmail.com.



Rose City Park

United Methodist Church

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