



Tualatin United Methodist Church

Hilltop Highlights

March 2017

Tualatin United Methodist Church

20200 SW Martinazzi Ave.
Tualatin, OR 97062-9369
503-692-1820
www.tualatinumc.org

Sunday Worship
10:00 am.

Sunday School
Sunday School available
during the worship hour

Nursery
available during worship
Infants to 4 years old

Church Office Hours
Monday to Thursday
9:00 am. - 3:00 pm.

FROM THE PASTOR

by Rev. Amy Overton-Harris

Dear Friends,

A few months back one of our church members forwarded this article to me. I have posted it below. It is written by Stephen Mattson, and it is very thought provoking. The incredible wisdom and observation he brings is inspiring. I have shared this already with some folks and I believe it will offer us much thought provoking meditation for the season of Lent. He frames it by things he would like Christians to STOP doing and to add to that, I would like to offer the sentiment on the flip side as well.

Six Things Christians Are Called to Do.

- ♦ Be a peacemaker
- ♦ Put your hope in Jesus
- ♦ Be loving
- ♦ Be an agent of grace
- ♦ Bring hope
- ♦ Be humble

Blessings on you as we begin the season of Lent together,

Rev. Amy

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Six Things I Wish Christians Would Stop Doing

August 16, 2016 by Stephen Mattson

As a parent, there are many things I love about Christianity and want my children to fully embrace as they get older. But I also don't want them to pick up some of the bad habits Christian culture has a tendency to instill, and here are six things I wish Christians would stop doing:

Arguing:

Instead of having a reputation as being peacemakers, promoting reconciliation, and working towards unity, Christians are known for being loud, argumentative, petty, and contentious. Unfortunately, any semblance of Christ's gospel message of hope, love, and grace is lost within the endless noise, debates, accusations, division, and hatred.

Christians need to stop obsessing over being right and having all of the answers and start focusing on following Christ's example: sacrificially serving, helping, comforting, and loving everyone around us.

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JOYS AND CONCERNS

- Cheryl Brown will be a new grandma and Naomi a big sister: Elsbeth & Jonathon Murphy are expecting!
- Joan Beyer—recovering from hip tendon repair
- Ernie & Troy Cawvey settling in in NE Portland. Prayers of joy for them.
- Kay Gooding—foot recovery going well.
- Peter Overton-Harris now in walking cast for broken leg
- Sherris & Darby Harrell—safe travels home!

New Nursery Attendant

Welcome to our new nursery attendant, Renee Dubarko. Renee will join us this Sunday, Feb. 25. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and make her feel welcome. Again, many, many thanks to Sharona for always being available to fill in these past several months.

Six Things cont.

For Christians, it's often easier to yell and scream instead of doing the very hard—and humble—work of loving others. Arguing is addictive because it feeds off of our need for self-glorification, self-righteousness, pride, power, and recognition.

Acting like Jesus, a person who ultimately died on a cross and devoted His life to selflessly helping others doesn't seem that appealing—it isn't. But we need to try—and the first step is to stop being combative and start focusing on being a peacemaker.

Idolizing Famous Christians:

One of the most popular—yet subtle—idols Christians worship are, well, *themselves*. As believers, we respect, honor, and admire those who lead us towards a better understand of Jesus—but we can quickly turn these individuals into false idols.

Our pastors, favorite theologians, Christian reality TV stars, Christian athletes, and Christian celebrities can become a personification of our faith—a modern day Golden Calf that represents our belief in God.

We put lots of hope, confidence, and much of our identity into these idols, and when they inevitable fail, we assume that God failed. But they *aren't* Jesus. Too often, people abandon Christ not because of anything He did, but because of the people that represented Him. Ultimately, are we putting our hope in Jesus or in the people that are trying to symbolize Him?

Craving Power:

The irony of Jesus's story is that He defeated evil by being sacrificial and loving—not through manipulation, political influence, or physical power. Yet Christians continually ignore this lesson and strive for corporate, social, legal, political, economic, and religious *control*. We want to rule the world!

In many ways, we've devolved and become like the Israelites who wanted an earthly king and physical victory instead of a spiritual one. We want *our* laws to be passed, *our* customs to be the most socially acceptable, *our* beliefs to be enforced, *our* leaders to be popular, and *our* lifestyles to be preferred over those of everyone else.

Christianity isn't meant to be a religion of dominating control, authoritarian influence, or a popularity contest. It's meant to focus around a relationship with Christ, but instead we've turned the gospel it into a mechanism for gaining power—God help us.

Continued on page 3

Six Things cont.

Being Judgmental:

...Which leads us to our next problem: *being judgmental*.

Almost on a daily basis there's another news story about a Christian who derisively attacked someone because of their "immoral lifestyle." Instead of being agents of grace, hope, and inspiration, Christians often bring condemnation, guilt, and shame.

Jesus routinely warns against judging others, and throughout His ministry He created meaningful friendships with society's "sinners" and "outcasts." Unfortunately, many modern-day Christians do the exact opposite, preferring exclusion over inclusion, judgment over grace, shame over praise, legalism over freedom, and fear over joy.

Jesus wants people to be full of hope, joy, and freedom—why is it so hard for Christians to desire those things for others?

Being Pessimistic:

Christians can basically be divided into two main categories: optimists and pessimists.

Believers are hopeful or hopeless, happy or sad. Jesus is either restoring a broken world and fighting to bring restoration—ultimately bringing salvation—or, Satan is controlling everyone (especially the youth) and they're all (*you*, not *us*!) headed to hell.

Today's Christians have a bad habit of seeing the worst in everybody and everything: *A natural disaster is surely a sign of the end times. An MTV show reflects our hideous moral decline. A particular nation (obviously not one of our political allies) is being used as the Anti-Christ's puppet to eventually invade and destroy the United States.*

The apocalyptic and hopeless assessments about our world—and Christianity—propagated *by* Christians *themselves* are pathetic and worrisome. Do we have *nothing* to be thankful for? We treat our faith as if it's in a rapid decline, as if the "glory years" are over. Really? The past was Christianity's brightest moment? When racism, segregation, sexism, war, and fear plagued our country—this was the high point of Christianity? Christianity is about bringing an uplifting and energizing hope—but we've turned it into a fear-based horror story.

Playing the Victim Card:

A loss of worldly power, pessimism, combined with fear and a sense of judgment, is the perfect recipe for creating a mentality of victimization. To be fair, Christian persecution is real, and it is happening throughout the world, but Christians see persecution even when it's not there.

Christians have become used to creating, upholding, and enforcing the status quo, but when we're no longer the majority, and lose "control," we immediately become defensive and assume everyone is out to get us.

The irony is that for years, Christians often ruthlessly enforced their expectations upon others, and people had a legitimate reason to fear those who called themselves "Christians." But when the Ten Commandments are removed from City Hall, or you can't publicly pray at work, gay marriage is approved, or a "liberal" politician is elected into office—this isn't Christian persecution.

Christians need to accept that they're no longer considered the respected moral majority—and this isn't necessarily a bad thing. For years, we've associated the health of Christianity by numbers: the popularity of our denominations, church attendance, the amount of "believing" elected officials voted into office, and the quantitative influence of our institutions. We evaluated our faith using data and figures—not spiritual issues that Jesus was passionate about.

Helping the poor, giving to others, being sacrificial, and loving *everyone*—this is what matters to God. If Christianity isn't doing those things, then it doesn't matter how popular it is—it's worthless. Let's start emulating Christ and stop trying to turn Christianity into a religion that it was never meant to be.

Hilltop Highlights

LENT

Lent Book Study with Rev. Amy *A Look at Islam and Christianity*

Sundays:	March 5-April 9	8am in Amy's Office
Mondays:	March 6-April 10	12:30pm in the Nursery

Brief Synopsis of our study book:

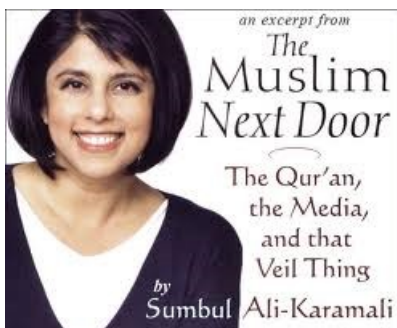
The Muslim Next Door: The Quran, the Media, and That Veil Thing, by Sumbul Ali Karamali,
Bronze Medal Winner of the Independent Publishers Award

(Amy has a limited number of copies of the book..... Reserve yours now!)

Since 9/11, stories about Muslims and the Islamic world have flooded headlines, politics, and water-cooler conversations all across the country. And, although Americans hear about Islam on a daily basis, there remains no clear explanation of Islam or its people. The Muslim Next Door offers easy-to-understand yet academically sound answers to these questions while also dispelling commonly held misconceptions.

Author Sumbul Ali-Karamali's anecdotes about growing up Muslim and female in the West, along with her sensitive, scholarly overview of Islam, combine for a uniquely insightful look at this religion. It is well-researched information woven together with a personal narrative.

It begins with the basics of Islam and builds toward more complicated issues like jihad and the status of women in Islam. This is a book that people all over the world, Muslim and non-Muslim, will want to read. Author Sumbul Ali-Karamali answers the perennial questions: What are the day-to-day practices of Muslims and how does Islam fit into the Judeo-Christian tradition? Where do the rules come from in Islam and why is quoting the Qur'an problematic? Who's who in Islam (Sunni, Shi'a, the Nation of Islam, Sufis) and why do dervishes whirl? Are Muslim women really oppressed, veiled, and willing to share their husbands? How do most Muslims feel about holy war and fundamentalism? How did American Muslims react to the September 11th attacks?



The Muslim Next Door clears away the misconceptions about Islam and why they flourish - media distortion, confusion about what is cultural rather than religious, the language barrier, and the old tall tales that still persist after thirteen centuries.

Hilltop Highlights

LENT

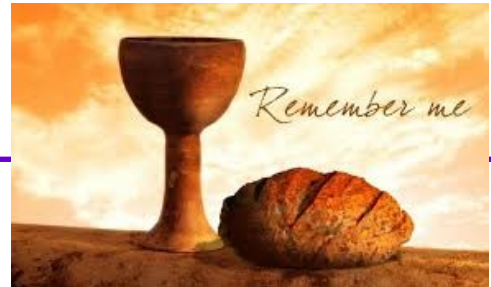
Come and join us in worship for Ash Wednesday March 1, 2017, 12 noon

We will gather together to begin the Holy Season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is so named as we remember that we are mere mortals in the life. We will have time for prayer, for song, for scripture and the imposition of ashes should you wish to receive them. It is also a time to renew our relationship with God as we commit to living out the marks of the Kingdom: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control.



Maundy Thursday Communion Service Thursday, April 13, 2017, 6:00 pm

During Holy Week we will worship and share the Lord's Supper on this Thursday before Easter Sunday. We will remember the night that Jesus shared the gifts of bread and cup with his disciples. We will hear and reflect on the new commandment (*mandatum novum* in Latin) in John 13:34: "Love one another as I have loved you".



Let's Pile It Up!! **Lent 2017 Giving Suggestions**

Weekly Focus: Ideas for Food Pantry

Lent 1	March 5	laundry soap
Lent 2	March 12	cake mix, frosting, candles
Lent 3	March 19	adhesive bandages and small antibiotic ointment
Lent 4	March 26	toilet paper

Focus on items for the Caring Closet (Tigard Tualatin School District)

Lent 5	April 2	Shampoo, soap, toothpaste, deodorant.
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There are many things that folks cannot purchase with food stamps..... Let's help them out with these items.

Hilltop Highlights

LENT

40 Days, \$40 Dollars, 40 People!

Lent is a time we reflect on Jesus' life and death as we renew our relationship with God. For some, Lent is a time to give up something to create space and reflect on what Jesus did for us. Others look to ways that they can give to others in acts of generosity. During the 40 Days of lent you have an opportunity to save \$1 a day for 40 days. If 40 people do this we will raise \$1600 that will be split between the Tualatin School House Pantry and the Transitional School. So join the challenge! 40 Days, \$40 Dollars, 40 People!

You may choose to:

- save a \$1 a day at home and bring the 40 dollars to church Sunday March 9
 - bring money in each Sunday
- bring the \$40 anytime during Lent

There will be a box in the narthex that will be used to collect the donations. Join in!

Family Promise....helping homeless families

Family Promise is a national organization that finds shelter and then permanent housing for homeless families with school aged children. A Family Promise group is being formed to serve these families in the Tualatin, Tigard, Sherwood and Lake Oswego area. The group is in the early stages and has the name Family Promise of Tualatin Valley.

Here is a brief overview of how the Family Promise program functions. 3-4 families at a time will stay at a church for 7 days (2x a year). Churches with large facilities will provide a place to stay. Other churches (or groups) provide meals, overnight hosts and such things as their contribution to the program. During the day families are transported to a day center where the children head off to school, the parents head to work or have guidance in looking for jobs, permanent housing, receiving counseling for life skills etc. At the end of the day the parents and children return to the day center and then are transported to a Church where they have dinner, spend time together and sleep for the night. After 7 days at one location the families will move to a different location for the next 7 days.

After 30 days progress is evaluated and new goals are set. The average stay is 90 days before housing is found.

The Family Promise of Tualatin Valley is in the beginning stages and would like additional people to help in setting up this program. There is a clear template from the national organization and many opportunities to help:

host recruiting, finding a day center, transportation options,
fund development, grant writing and communications.

If you are interested in becoming involved email Tualatin Valley Family Promise (tvfamilypromise@gmail.com), or contact Wes Tanac.

The next meeting will be:
Wednesday March 15, 2017 11:45-1PM
Rolling Hills Church.

Scrip Ordering

March 19 April 9 May 7

Each vendor donates money to TUMC when the Scrip gift cards are purchased through our church.

A few examples:

Fred Meyer, New Seasons	\$50 card = \$2.00
Starbucks Coffee	\$25 card = \$1.50
See's Candy (1 pound)	\$18 card = \$1.62
McMenamins	\$25 card = \$3.00
Kaady Car Wash	\$ 6 card = \$1.56

Check and cash orders may be turned in during office hours (Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.—3 p.m.) and Sunday mornings before worship. Credit card orders will be on the Sunday morning of the order date.



Get a See's Candy card to buy your Easter candy!

Outreach and Mission

We've highlighted some of the organizations we support at Tualatin UMC including a bit of background information on each of them.

Community Warehouse

Community Warehouse is a local furniture bank. With support from local individuals and businesses, simple goods turn into a fresh start for families every day.

Donated items may be dropped off at 8380 SW Nyberg St. in Tualatin. If you have large items, visit communitywarehouse.org to request a pickup.

Current needed items are mattresses, blankets, dressers and toasters.



Chili and Chocolate Potluck was a success!!!

Plenty of great chili, wonderful chocolate desserts, and there was plenty of fellowship. Thank you to everyone who contributed the chili, the chocolate desserts and put money in the pot. Our congregation does great things for our community. Bless You!!!

\$300 was raised for the Community Warehouse.

Tualatin School House Pantry

The Tualatin School House Pantry is a community organized food bank that includes local churches, businesses, social and civic organizations, individuals and the City of Tualatin.

The mission of Tualatin Schoolhouse Pantry is to provide emergency food to qualified households in a welcoming environment. As a part of the Oregon Food Bank we also share in their mission to eliminate hunger and its root causes because we believe that no one should go hungry. We operate with a volunteer staff that is dedicated to serving others.

Tualatin School House Pantry is located on the lower level of Rolling Hills Community Church. You will find us at 3550 SW Borland Road, Tualatin. Our phone number is 503-783-0721. Food donations can be brought to our pantry during normal business hours.



Box Tops for Education

In California in 1996 General Mills wanted to create a program to help support education and benefit America's schools. As part of the initial test program, Box Tops were only available on select Big G cereals such as Cheerios, Total and Lucky Charms.

The program was such a huge success that it soon launched on other General Mills products and expanded across the nation. By 1998 more than 30,000 schools were clipping Box Tops and earning cash to buy the things they needed: books, computers, playground equipment and more. Since then other brands have joined the Box Top including Pillsbury, Green Giant, Ziploc, Kleenex and more. Schools have earned over \$719 million.

Bring your Box Tops to the church office and our UMW group will distribute them. Each Box Top earns a school ten cents!



Hilltop Highlights

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Lydia and Elizabeth Circles: Wed March 8 at 11:30am Bring your lunch, dessert and beverage provided.. A speaker from **Coffee Creek Women's Prison** is coming! **Don't Miss it!!**

Thanks Kay and Karen W! And Winona Grange for : 17 Coats, 96 scarves, 3 scarf/hat sets in school colors. These were taken to the Comm. Transitional School!!

Our UMW received a certificate for Five Channels of Mission Giving: **Pledge to Mission**, **Special Mission Recognition**, **Gift to Mission**, **Gift in Memory**., and **World Thank Offering**.

*And we have certificates for having completed the criteria for being a 2016 Healthy Vital Unit and have received a **2016 Coach's Whistle**. Thank you to one and all!!*

Thanks to all who participated in the UMW Sunday on Jan 26th!!!!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We welcome others to join this great group!

Current Book Study: "Jesus Interrupted"



The TUMC Men's Fellowship continues meeting each Wednesday at 10 a.m. to learn and support each other and contribute to worthy causes. Recently we have started a program to supply food packages to the needy in our area.

Thanks to Myron Carpenter for our new Coffee Machine!!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Come join us mid-week for a time of recharging and regrouping.

We meet on Wednesday mornings at 10 am. in the church library.

Our current book study: **"Kitchen Table Wisdom"** by Rachel Naomi Remen, MD



TUALATIN
KIWANIS CLUB

35th ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

All You Can Eat

Pancakes
Scrambled Eggs
Ham
Juice
Coffee-Tea-Milk



Sunday, March 5, 2017

Juanita Pohl Center in the
back of Tualatin City Park,
8513 SW Tualatin Rd
7:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Adults	\$7.00
Children under 12	\$5.00
Toddlers	Free

Proceeds to benefit Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp for children and adults with disabilities.

Call George Bowlsby (503.692.7013) for tickets. Tickets also available from any Tualatin Kiwanis member or at the door.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1—Ash Wednesday

10:00 am. Men's Fellowship
 10:00 am. Women's Fellowship
 12:00 pm. Ash Wednesday Service
 4:45-7:30 pm. Weight Watchers in Koch Hall
 8:00 pm. Tualatin NA Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

5:30 pm. Handbells
 6:30 pm. Chancel Choir
 7:45 pm. Praise

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

11:30 am. - 1:30 pm. AA Steppers

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

10:00 am. Nancy Brown Performance Class

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

8:00 am. Lenten Study with Rev. Amy
 10:00 am. Worship—Sunday School
 7:00-9:00 pm. New Me Al-Anon and Who Me AA

MONDAY, MARCH 6

10:00 am. Book/Bible Discussion
 12:30 pm. Lenten Study w/Rev. Amy

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

10:00 am. Men's Fellowship
 10:00 am. Women's Fellowship
 4:45-7:30 pm. Weight Watchers in Koch Hall
 8:00 pm. Tualatin NA Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

5:30 pm. Handbells
 6:30 pm. Chancel Choir
 7:45 pm. Praise

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

11:30 am. - 1:30 pm. AA Steppers
 7-9:00 pm. Spanish AA

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

9:00 am.—3:30 pm. Encore Sectional Rehearsal
 10:00 am. Potluck Setup

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

8:00 am. Lenten Study with Rev. Amy
 9:30 am. SCRIP Orders
 10:00 am. Worship—Sunday School
 11:30 am. Potluck
 7:00-9:00 pm. New Me Al-Anon and Who Me AA

MONDAY, MARCH 13

10:00 am. Book/Bible Discussion
 12:30 pm. Lenten Study with Rev. Amy

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

No Activities

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

10:00 am. Men's Fellowship
 10:00 am. Women's Fellowship
 4:45-7:30 pm. Weight Watchers in Koch Hall
 8:00 pm. Tualatin NA Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

5:30 pm. Handbells
 6:30 pm. Chancel Choir
 7:45 pm. Praise
 9:00-10:00 pm. Tualatin NA meeting

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

11:30 am. - 1:30 pm. AA Steppers

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

No Activities

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

8:00 am. Lenten Study with Rev. Amy
 10:00 am. Worship-Sunday School
 7:00-9:00 pm. New Me Al-Anon and Who Me AA

MONDAY, MARCH 20

10:00 am. Book/Bible Discussion
 12:30 pm. Lenten Study w/Rev. Amy

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

No Activities

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

10:00 am. Men's Fellowship
 10:00 am. Women's Fellowship
 4:45-7:30 pm. Weight Watchers in Koch Hall
 8:00 pm. Tualatin NA Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

5:30 pm. Handbells
 6:30 pm. Chancel Choir
 7:45 pm. Praise

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

11:30 am. - 1:30 pm. AA Steppers

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

No Activities

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

8:00 am. Lenten Study with Rev. Amy
 10:00 am. Worship—Sunday School
 7:00-9:00 pm. New Me Al-Anon and Who Me AA

MONDAY, MARCH 27

10:00 am. Book/Bible Discussion
 12:30 pm. Lenten Study with Rev. Amy

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

No Activities

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

10:00 am. Men's Fellowship
 10:00 am. Women's Fellowship
 4:45-7:30 pm. Weight Watchers in Koch Hall
 8:00 pm. Tualatin NA Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

9:00 am. Newsletter Team
 5:30 pm. Handbells
 6:30 pm. Chancel Choir
 7:45 pm. Praise

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

11:30 am. - 1:30 pm. AA Steppers

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