



Tualatin United Methodist Church

Hilltop Highlights

December 2018

Tualatin United Methodist Church

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

Sunday Worship
10:00 am.

Sunday School
Sunday School available
during the worship hour

Nursery
available during worship
Infants to 5 years old

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

FROM THE PASTOR

by Rev. Amy Overton-Harris

It may seem that if the gospel of Matthew is the first book of the New Testament, then it must be the book that was written first. But the books of the New Testament are NOT in chronological order. *(Just a point of information: The first thing written in the New Testament is Paul's first letter to the church at Thessalonica which was written in the 50s and the Gospel of Matthew was written in the 80s.)*

And so from the earliest New Testament writing, 1 Thessalonians 3:12 we read this:

"May the Lord cause you to increase and enrich your love for each other and for everyone in the same way as we also love you. May the love cause your hearts to be strengthened."

Wow, I want my heart to be strengthened in love! So, I commend this scripture to you for this season of Advent and Christmas. We find ourselves in unbelievable times in our country. I bet you, like me, are not anxious for holiday get-togethers that come with discussions involving religion and politics. The impetus for debate becomes a battlefield, and so we often hear the phrase "pick your battles."

I am indebted to Dr. Karoline Lewis for her frank comments on this subject. Events in life can be stressful, especially around the holidays, right? If you think that religion and politics are recent issues that can rip people apart, think again. These subjects have started many a debate over thousands of years.

Dr. Lewis makes a case that "our metaphors shape how we live." Intriguing, right? Currently in our country, world, families, churches, etc., we find ourselves in the trap of 'victory' at all costs. Wow, we are diving in headfirst to declare who is right and who is wrong and ultimately who wins. Why is winning the end all and be all for us human beings? Compete, compete, compete!! Is this our mantra? What is it inside us that we need to be superior - the true winner because that is what matters? It breeds suspicion, discord, distrust, and underhanded dealings. BLECK! I have been there, have you?

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For Your Prayers

- Prayers for devastated areas around the world.
- Prayers for California, the people and communities devastated by fire and destruction of life and property.
- Prayers for immigrants in our country.
- Keep the Caravan refugees in your prayers.
- On going prayers for good health for Myron Carpenter
- Linda Budlowski, prayers for good health.
- Welcome to Jason Roach's parents: Connie and Max!! They have moved from Indiana to Oregon. YAY!
- BIG AUCTION THANK YOU to everyone who donated, attended, helped, tallied and all! It was great fun.
- We pray for everyone as the holiday season is upon us! May you find times of joy in the midst of the season.
- Many thanks to our staff for a wonderful 2018! Debbie Raby, Melinda Beyers, Lorie Beyers, Renee Dubarko, Travis Doughty.
- Alysia and Joel Hill have a new grand-baby!!
- Kristen Poore has been inducted into the National Honor Society!
- Jim Serrill's brother George is recovering from a stroke.
- Dianne Tanac's mom is recovering from shoulder surgery.
- Prayers for good health for Wes Tanac's parents.

Did we miss a prayer joy or concern for you??? Let us know and we can send out an email on your behalf!



This Advent season is a time for us to reevaluate where we are and who we are in the midst of our daily life. Honestly, it can be exhausting, frustrating, and overwhelming, right? Jesus outright names our human tendency toward disagreement, and he lived our exhausting road through discordant government issues, conflict, and blame. Simply making our motto "Beat them, win, win, win" or some such thing does nothing for the good of humanity and creation.

Remind yourselves that we are called to create community with listening and love. That doesn't mean you don't have a voice to call out injustice, or a calling to bring peace. It means that treating others with kindness and respect is the priority, listening and leading into a new vision is the calling. And making this road is what we do together.

"May the Lord cause you to increase and enrich your love for each other and for everyone in the same way as we also love you. May the love cause your hearts to be strengthened."

Rev. Amy

(Excerpts from Alex Horton, writer at the Washington Post, Nov. 27, 2018)

"On Sunday November 25th US Customs and Border Agents fired the chemical agent CS gas at mostly Honduran migrants attempting to cross into the United States from Tijuana, Mexico. This is an unusual escalation of lobbing weapons over an international border at unarmed civilians, men, women, children, seeking refuge.

"Using CS gas, a chemical weapon, has been outlawed on the battlefield by nearly every nation on Earth, including the United States. Chemical weapons are indiscriminate and are uniquely terrorizing in their application. Women and children choking on tear-gas, running in fear. People seeking peace and asylum are being met with violence and fear."

Love must work in our hearts EVERY DAY.

Speak up, Act boldly, Love unconditionally.

I pray for us to follow God's Kingdom and Jesus' example, love your neighbor as yourself, offer a cup of cold water, welcome the immigrant and sojourner in your midst. Make this your journey for Advent.

Rev. Amy

Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, December 24, 2018

We will have two candlelight worship services:

7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 16

*Our children will present their
Christmas program during worship =
please join us!*



Staff Gifts of Appreciation

"Christmas Card Bags" are on a table in the entry for each of our church staff members. Grab a Christmas card from home and share your well wishes with our staff. Maybe share something you appreciate about the ministry they lead. Or maybe a word of thanks. Whatever you are inspired to say, they would love to hear it. If you would like to include a token of your appreciation, please place that in the appropriate bag as well.

Auction News

Thank you to everyone in the congregation for a fantastic auction. Special thanks to our wonderful auctioneers George Bowsby and John Bartholomew. They helped make it fun to raise funds for the church budget.

The auction raised \$11,168! Thank you to all who participated in making this a successful fund raising event for our 2019 budget.

Giving Tree

Tualatin United Methodist Church will be sponsoring 5 families this Christmas season with a gift and food basket. Tags will be placed on the Giving Tree. The tags will have the name, age of child, and an idea for a gift, a gift idea for a mother or father, or a food or paper product item that the family may need. (Cost of the gift should not exceed \$25.)

Take one tag or more if you wish, purchase the item and bring the item and the tag back to the church and place under the Giving Tree. Please wrap the gifts and be sure to label for which child and family.

Items should be purchased and brought back to the church by December 16. Pick up your tag any time throughout the week, or before or after worship the next two Sundays.

We will also need help sorting the gifts and delivering the baskets during the week of December 17-22. If you are interested in helping, contact Wes Tanac or the church office.

Help bring some joy to those who are in need during this advent season!

Questions? Contact Wes Tanac.





My Dear Friends,

Last Christmas Eunice Arthur sent me a clipping of this poem to comfort me in my grief. In gratitude and remembrance I read it at Eunice's memorial service.

Blessings,

Penny

My First Christmas in Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below,
With tiny lights, like heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.
The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear,
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,
But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.
I have no words to tell you the joy their voices bring,
For it is beyond description to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me. I see the pain inside your heart,
But I am not so far away. We really aren't apart.
So be happy for me, dear ones. You know I hold you dear,
And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I send you each a special gift from my heavenly home above.
I send you each a memory of my undying love.
After all, love is the gift, more precious than pure gold.
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.



Survey Results for Question 9

This month we're looking at Question 9, which is the last of our survey questions. Again, we thank all those who participated. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Tami Weitman or Netha Thacker, co-chairs of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC).

Question 9: Please feel free to share any other questions or comments.

Answers to this question were quite varied. People expressed satisfaction with the church's ministry. One person pointed out the importance of maintaining "a balance of internal spiritual growth through worship and small group participation with the external expression of Christian values and love through community involvement." Another said, "I love being a part of a church that reaches in as well as out."

A couple of people commented on the church's relationship with the children of the church. One parent expressed gratitude for the church's effort to meet child care needs, as well as going "out of their way to care for us." Another commented on the ways this church accepts all kids, including kids who are different, with the annual Christmas program providing a great example. "All our kids are able to participate in the ways that work for them without someone shushing or giving them the evil eye."

In general, people who replied to this question were very satisfied with the church. Comments included:

I think we all need to feel important and vital in some aspect of the church's life.

There is indeed profound grace in my life because of TUMC.

What a wonderful congregation we are. I feel so loved and supported.

I love the songs we sing in worship, but sometimes I think we should limit the number of verses.

Hilltop Highlights

FELLOWSHIP, UMW AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Monday Morning Women's Book Group

Join us Monday mornings, 10 a.m., in the church library.

We are currently reading
*The Living Nativity, Preparing for
Christmas with Saint Francis*
by Larry Peacock.

Men's Fellowship

The Men's Group meets each Wednesday, 10 a.m. in the nursery. We support each other, pray for each other, have a few service projects including creating and donating food packages for the congregation to deliver to needy folks. We are currently reading and studying weekly lectionary scriptures

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: *Grateful* by Diana Butler Bass.



There will be no Elizabeth Circle meetings in December or January. In January we will have our Winter Get Together. If anyone would like to host this event, please let Karen Walker know.

Soup

A big Thank You to everyone who bought soup—we made \$964.00 which will be divided between the following: Tualatin Schoolhouse Pantry, Domestic Violence Resource Center, UMCOR Fresh Water and Shade in Brazil, and Family Promise. All of the soup ingredients were donated! Thank you to Emilie & Tom Kroen, Colleen Rivers, Sherris Harrell, Karen Walker, Tami Weitman, Rochelle Martinazzi and Kelly Myers for their hours in the kitchen. Thank you to Melinda Beyers for her Hot & Sour Soup—it was a great addition.

Kay Gooding and Ellie McClure knitted 100 scarves this year, one to keep each child at the Community Transitional School warm. Our TUMC family donated sixteen coats for the kids. All of the coats and scarves have been delivered. Thank you all for your generosity.



You are invited to tour the new Family Promise Day Center, Thursday, December 20. We will meet in our upper church parking lot at 3 PM to carpool to the Center. We will be back at the church by 4:30 PM. Any questions, call or text Emilie at 503.312.4138, or email her at ekroen@yahoo.com.

Tualatin United Methodist has become a support church for Tualatin Valley Family Promise. Family Promise provides homeless families with school age children, a place to stay while they look for a permanent housing solution, provide dinners for the families, and help, if needed, in finding a job.

TUMC's role as a support church will be to provide what the host church needs during the week. The host church is where the families will stay for a week before they move to another location the next week until they can find housing. As support church we will help provide meals for the week, interact with the families and children after dinner, and possibly spend the night if needed. As a support church, TUMC will provide funds to help support Family Promise.

Cross Over Cross Over *Cross Over!!!!*

We hope you consider joining this year long study of the book by Brian McLaren, "We Make the Road by Walking". Amy will hold classes each week: Sundays at 8:30 a.m. beginning December 2, and Mondays at 1 p.m. beginning on December 3.

If you want to gather up your own group of folks, go for it! The study materials are very accessible and invite conversation. Maybe have some folks come to your house on an afternoon or evening, whatever works for you. It would be GREAT if everyone could join in this study and conversation time. If you would rather read the materials on your own, I encourage you to do that!

The book is an excellent resource. It is user friendly. Each week in 3-4 pages he invites us to revisit biblical principles and our lives of faith. Brian is an extraordinary writer and speaker. He is engaging and thought provoking. He brings new light to progressive Christianity and the world in which we live today. A world in which all of God's children are valued: Every color, race, religion, gender, age, ability, country of origin, sexual orientation and status.

On Amazon the paperback and ebook (Kindle) are each about \$14.00

This book and the conversation will change your life and your connection with Christianity.

Scrip Ordering

**December 2, December 9,
January 13**

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

A few examples:

		Vendor Donation to our church:
Fred Meyer, Safeway	\$50 card =	\$2.00
Starbucks Coffee	\$25 card =	\$1.50
Regal Cinemas	\$15 card =	\$1.05
Kaady Car Wash	\$7 card =	\$1.54
Powell's Books	\$10 card =	\$0.80

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.

Use Scrip for all your holiday shopping and giving!

Note: New check or cash orders can be placed in the Scrip Mail Box in the narthex at your convenience.

Remember, you can also buy Scrip gift cards to purchase:
Groceries for Christmas dinners
Food for the Pantry
Food for the Byrom Elementary children backpacks
Gift & food for the church Giving Tree families

it's the most
DECEMBER
wonderful time of the year

SATURDAY, December 1

9:30 a.m. Hanging of the Greens

SUNDAY, December 2—1st Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. Crossover

9:00 am SCRIP Sales

10:00 am Worship & Sunday School

11:15 am Christmas Program Rehearsal

7:00-9:00 pm New Me Al-Anon and Who Me AA

MONDAY, December 3

10:00 am Book Group

1:00 pm Crossover

6:00 pm Mask & Mirror Rehearsal

TUESDAY, December 4

6:00 p.m. Mask & Mirror Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, December 5

10:00 am Men's Fellowship

10:00 am Women's Fellowship

4:20 pm Weight Watchers in Koch Hall

THURSDAY, December 6

5:00 pm Music Rehearsals

9:00 pm Tualatin NA Meeting

FRIDAY, December 7

11:30 am—1:30 pm AA Steppers

SATURDAY, December 8

No Activities

SUNDAY, December 9—2nd Sunday in Advent

8:30 am Crossover

9:00 am SCRIP Sales

10:00 am Worship & Sunday School

11:15 pm Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal

7:00-9:00 pm New Me Al-Anon and Who Me AA

MONDAY, December 10

10:00 am Book Group

1:00 pm Crossover

TUESDAY, December 11

7:00 pm Encore Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, December 12

10:00 am Men's Fellowship

10:00 am Women's Fellowship

4:20 pm Weight Watchers in Koch Hall

THURSDAY, December 13

5:00 pm Music Rehearsals

9:00 pm Tualatin NA Meeting

FRIDAY, December 14

11:30 am—1:30 pm AA Steppers

SATURDAY, December 15

No Activities

SUNDAY, December 16—3rd Sunday in Advent

8:30 am Crossover

10:00 am Worship—Children's Program

1:30 pm Encore Concert

7:00-9:00 pm New Me Al-Anon and Who Me AA

MONDAY, December 17

10:00 am Book Group

1:00 pm Crossover

TUESDAY, December 18

No Activities

WEDNESDAY, December 19

10:00 am Men's Fellowship

10:00 am Women's Fellowship

4:20 pm Weight Watchers in Koch Hall

THURSDAY, December 20

9:00 am Newsletter Team

5:00 pm Music Rehearsals

9:00 pm Tualatin NA Meeting

FRIDAY, December 21

11:30 am—1:30 pm AA Steppers

SATURDAY, December 22

No Activities

SUNDAY, December 23

8:30 am Crossover

10:00 am Worship

7:00-9:00 pm New Me Al-Anon and Who Me AA

MONDAY, December 24

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

TUESDAY, December 25

Merry Christmas!

WEDNESDAY, December 26

10:00 am Men's Fellowship

10:00 am Women's Fellowship

4:20 pm Weight Watchers in Koch Hall

THURSDAY, December 27

5:00 pm Music Rehearsals

9:00 pm Tualatin NA Meeting

FRIDAY, December 28

11:30 am—1:30 pm AA Steppers

SATURDAY, December 29

No Activities

SUNDAY, December 30

10:00 am Worship

7:00-9:00 pm New Me Al-Anon and Who Me AA

MONDAY, December 31

10:00 am Book Group

**Rev. Amy will be out of the office December 26-January 7.
 January's communion worship service will be Sunday, January 13, 2019**