



Tualatin United Methodist Church

Hilltop Highlights

September 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

When I was a kid, my grandmother aptly said “a stitch in time saves nine.” And overall that has often turned out to be the case. And my mother-in-law always said, “If ifs and ands were pots and pans there’d be no work for tinkers’ hands.” What!?! I totally didn’t get that, and then it was explained to me. Oh, I see now. Maybe. Is it that we don’t want to rely on “ifs and ands”? Hmmm.

Obviously, sayings and idioms and the like are time dated, right?? And there are some useful things that can come out of sayings passed down or sayings that become popular. Sometimes, we get sage advice, sometimes sayings are used to promote an ideology. The thing is...They catch on sometimes for the better, sometimes not.

A few things to ponder about sayings. We often are quick to use sayings in any number of situations. In times of sorrow, grief, or death we want to do and say things as a comfort. And we might want to say something helpful and in our hearts is compassion.

About a month ago, a neighbor had a tragic death in her family. People were quick to come to her side, family, friends, neighbors. Such an outpouring of love that all of us would seek to give. Sometimes in our hope to give love or attach larger meaning to an event, these phrases might be said: “Everything happens for a reason.” “God won’t give you more than you can handle.” My neighbor asked me, “Why would God give me this pain and grief on purpose? Does God cause cancer in someone to make them and their loved ones pay? That would be cruel.”

I don’t believe that God drops burdens down upon us. That would be like a punishing game and hardly representative of God’s love and grace. And to attribute “the reason” something has happened as God teaching you a lesson because you were bad is not the core of Jesus’ message of new life.

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For Your Prayers

- Teachers and Kids are back to school.
- Rachel Breyer, Noah Wise, Katelyn Poore and Zamora Hill are college students this fall!
- Melinda Beyers is back from European trip of a lifetime! Ask her!
- Prayers for immigrants in our country.
- Gary and Bonnie Inloes as Gary undergoes chemotherapy
- And a BIG thank you to everyone who makes our building and grounds look SO FABULOUS!!!!
- Myron Carpenter looking forward to feeling better.
- For all with anniversaries and birthdays!
- So nice to spend time with Robin Curtin and her family
- Thanksgiving to Larry McClure and Greg Finch for all their ongoing help and assistance for Bobby Schiskey.
- Big thanks to Lorie Beyers and James Wescott for their excellent music leadership this summer.
- Prayers for the Goldsmith-Alberty family as they visit colleges this fall. Graehm Alberty is a high school senior this fall!
- Kay Gooding's ongoing heart health.
- Megan Harrell's ongoing health.
- Samantha and Jay Julian are moving back to Utah.
- Tom and Emilie Kroen are celebrating their 40th anniversary.
- Ellie McClure is recovering from knee replacement.
- The Roach Family travelled to the Dominican Republic.

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



I believe God's presence surrounds us with love, comfort, and grace. I don't believe that God has killed this woman's husband knowing that she "can take it." What kind of God is that? God is life giving, not burden loading. Science teaches us about disease, aging of our bodies, etc.

In other events, for example, we know that crashes happen when a car runs a stop sign. Injury happens from the force of the crash. Maybe the driver looked away for a moment, the force of the crash causes injury. I don't believe that God has some reason for making that car run into you or wants to pile on the load you have because you can handle it. God's nature is one of rescue, lifting up, living new life, showing grace and love to friend and enemy alike.

It is human nature to ask things like: "Why is this happening to me?" "Is God punishing me?" "Did I do something wrong?" We want to do or say something to fix it and we feel ill prepared.

These are some things I rely on:

*Sit with people, love them, hold them.

*Listen, listen, listen.

*If words are needed, "God's love surrounds you"

"God is weeping with you" "I am going to stay right here with you."

*Fix some simple food and drink.

*Facilitate whatever care might be helpful.

*Love them, just as God does.

Rev. Amy

Reminder when we greet folks at church!

Saying something like “Hi, I am so glad to see you” is a good choice for everyone. Some folks don’t attend every week for a vast number of good reasons.

Even though we may mean well when we say things like:

“We haven’t seen you in ages”

“We thought you fell off the earth” (even if you see it as joking)

“Be sure to come back next Sunday.”

“Maybe your kids could opt out of sports on Sunday”

It most often creates a feeling of guilt or actually turns people away. That is not who we are, of course. Always choose LOVING HOSPITALITY, grace, and genuine interest in folks, just because you love and care for them. That is what we all crave when we are here.



Many thanks to all who sent
cards and who prayed for me
during my surgery and
recovery. I treasure all the
love and kind words.

Debbie

Christian Education

Christian Education Begins Sunday, September 9, 2018

We have ordered some excellent curriculum from "Whole People of God" for 2018-2019. It is available to you online and is very flexible and user friendly for our teachers.

Some of our topics this fall are:

Song of Solomon 2:8-13	God's Beautiful World?
Mark 8:27-38	Who is Jesus?
Mark 10:2-16	What does God want for us?

Volunteer to help with a Sunday (or maybe a few)! Bring a friend to lead the class with you!

WE CAN'T DO IT WITH YOU!

Children and youth go downstairs during the worship hour. Class time is just 40 minutes. Rev. Amy is happy to help you prep anything you need—just ask!

Childcare is available for ages 5 and under. If you want to volunteer, call or email the church office.



SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

Sunday School classes begin this Sunday, September 9.

Emilie Kroen will lead the children as they make pinwheels that will be "planted" the following Sunday, September 16.

If you would like to help with this project, please check with Emilie.

WE NEED Volunteers For our Youth Class!

We hope to start our middle and high school youth class September 23. Merry McAdoo can lead some of the classes this fall. If you are interested in leading some sessions for our outstanding youth, please contact Rev. Amy. Amy can give you ideas for leading this class.

On Sunday, September 16 we will
celebrate
International Day of Peace
by planting pinwheels and praying for
Whirled Peace!!!



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
Christianity Family Tree
by Adam Hamilton.

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.

TUMW Meetings Restart

Our Tualatin United Methodist Women will resume their monthly meetings Monday, September 24, at 7:00 p.m. We will meet in the church library. Our first program is Missions & Why We Are UMW, plus the TUMW Pledge Program and Call to Prayer & Self-Denial.

A big Thank You to the Bartholomew's for hosting TUMW's Summer Get Together!

We had a great time and enjoyed great food.

Collecting Glass Beads

Pat Mohny (former TUMC administrative assistant) has been doing mission work with Agape Unlimited in Moscow, Russia for several years. She is teaching women and children how to make Esther bracelets from glass beads. All proceeds from the sale of these bracelets going towards their widow and orphan program. The Book of Esther relates how Esther prepared for a year for her appearance before the king and was adorned with beautiful jewelry. In a similar way we are called to prepare ourselves spiritually to appear before the King of Kings.

Pat is asking if we can collect glass beads. Most of us have broken necklaces or bracelets and Pat can reuse the beads for her project (only glass beads please). Pat will be in Portland in October and will come pick up any beads we have collected in the church office.

Back Pack Buddy program supports families in need at Byrom Elementary School. Our congregation continues to supply breakfast packs and lunch packs for children in need of healthy food over the weekends and holidays.

Items that are needed:

Fruit Cups

Healthy Soups, Macaroni & Cheese



Please bring your donations to the church. There is a bin in the narthex.

RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

Palestinian Film Festival happening in October

The Oregon-Idaho Conference Holy Land Task Force is one of the sponsors of the upcoming Palestinian Film Festival and invites people to Portland Oct. 5-7 to view many of the films.

"Human Rights in the Holy Land, the Rest of the Story" will be held Oct. 5-7 at 5th Avenue Cinema, 510 SW Hall, in Portland.

Films are suitable for youth over 12 and there is a suggested donation of \$5 to \$10 per adult.

Following is a listing of films and events:

Friday, October 5, 2018, 7 pm: Israel & Palestine 101 (6 min), Steadfast Hope—The Big Picture (17 min). Feature: The Stones Cry Out, (58 min). Panel Q&A.

Saturday, October 6, 2018, 3 pm: Steadfast Hope—A Tale of Two Peoples (11 min). Feature: The Wanted 18 (75 min). Steadfast Hope—Response: Theirs and Ours (15 min).

Saturday, October 6, 2018, 7 pm: Steadfast Hope—Telling the Story (15 min). Feature: Imprisoning a Generation (50 min) (images may be disturbing for younger teens) plus Steadfast Hope—Can It Be Called Apartheid? (14 min). Panel Q&A.

Sunday, October 7, 2018, 3 pm: Steadfast Hope—Hardship and Hope (15 min). Feature: The Occupation of the American Mind (84 min). Steadfast Hope—Who Profits? (12 min), Steadfast Hope—Transformation (9 min). Panel Q&A.

Contact Dee Poujade from the Holy Land Task Force at traveling.mimi@gmail.com for more information.

Here's a short summary of responses to Question 6 of the Ministry Evaluation Survey completed in January.

What qualities in small groups or events bring you back? Please share any ideas to improve small groups, events, classes.

Regularity, shared trust, sense of accomplishment, pride in church appearance, food and fellowship, lifelong learning, common goals, mutual concerns, and performing a community good.

Small group activities at TUMC range from the informal to the formal, from weekly to occasional, from those with a designated leader to those that share responsibilities to sustain momentum.

Informal groups include: volunteer gardeners who gather vegetables three weekday mornings each season to supply Tualatin School House Pantry; a small crew of landscapers who care for the grounds; others who help with starting seeds, preparing the soil, and planting.

The most popular group activities seem always to involve food, from coffee time after Sunday worship to occasional potlucks, often with a theme, to the annual November auction. A common concern is sharing the load for setting up and cleaning afterward rather than saddling the same folks with these responsibilities each time. The more informal summer gatherings in 2017 built around a variety of topics were seen as interesting and easier on participants' schedules.

Weekly small group meetings combine learning and mutual support for common concerns as men or women meet in a safe setting. Wednesday morning groups include participants who are not members of TUMC, as well as members. Each group tends to select a book that members choose and take turns reading aloud. Sometimes discussions spin in other directions but the essential glue is trust, respect, and doses of humor based on life situations. Another group meets on Monday mornings to study.

Other Bible and faith studies typically begin during the weeks before Easter and Christmas, when Pastor Amy leads participants into discussions of scripture and application. These are usually offered at two different times weekly to accommodate life demands. Participants report satisfaction with these.

What keeps folks from participating? Distance from the church, working during the day.

Recommendations from respondents:

Invite people to be involved in projects and groups to build personal connections, such as "trying out" the experience of being an usher one Sunday. Another example: parents sharing with each other some of the challenges of raising children and youth in today's environment.

Start a series of home gatherings where food and fellowship can bind persons together through friendship, inspiration, and comfort.

Find ways to use members with unique qualifications to lead a study or hobby group (e.g., Biblical history, social issues, managing money, using technology more effectively).

Back to School!



This year we gave out school supplies to 145 children during four scheduled times. Twenty-two people volunteered at one or more of the events. The leftover supplies were taken to Montavilla UMC to be given out through their food panty.

Many thanks to all who donated supplies, money and time!

Hilltop Garden Update

Our gardeners and pickers have been working so hard! To date over 2,000 pounds of produce have been donated to the food pantry. Wow! Keep up the good work!



Scrip Ordering

September 16

October 14

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

A few examples:

Vendor

Fred Meyer

Target

Old Navy / Gap

Macy's

Sears / Lands End

JC Penney's

Donation to our church:

\$50 card = \$2.00 donation

\$25 card = \$0.65 donation

\$25 card = \$3.00 donation

\$25 card = \$2.50 donation

\$50 card = \$2.50 donation

\$25 card = \$1.00 donation

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.

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

Check the schedule for drop off and available pick up.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

SATURDAY, September 1

No Activities

SUNDAY, September 2

10:00 am Worship 11:30 a.m.

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

MONDAY, September 3

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

TUESDAY, September 4

No Activities

WEDNESDAY, September 5

10:00 am Men's Fellowship

10:00 am Women's Fellowship

4:45-7:30 pm Weight Watchers in Koch Hall

THURSDAY, September 6

5:00 pm Music Rehearsals

8:00 pm Tualatin NA Meeting

FRIDAY, September 7

11:30 am-1:30 pm AA Steppers

SATURDAY, September 8

No Activities

SUNDAY, September 9

10:00 am Worship & Sunday School

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

MONDAY, September 10

10:00 am Book Group

TUESDAY, September 11

6:30 pm Ministry Team

WEDNESDAY, September 12

10:00 am Men's Fellowship

10:00 am Women's Fellowship

4:45-7:30 pm Weight Watchers in Koch Hall

THURSDAY, September 13

5:00 pm Music Rehearsals

8:00 pm Tualatin NA Meeting

FRIDAY, September 14

11:30 am-1:30 pm AA Steppers

SATURDAY, September 15

No Activities

SUNDAY, September 16

9:00 am SCRIP Sales

10:00 am Worship & Sunday School

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

MONDAY, September 17

10:00 am Book Group

TUESDAY, September 18

No Activities

WEDNESDAY, September 19

10:00 am Men's Fellowship

10:00 am Women's Fellowship

4:45-7:30 pm Weight Watchers in Koch Hall

THURSDAY, September 20

5:00 pm Music Rehearsals

8:00 pm Tualatin NA Meeting

FRIDAY, September 21

11:30 am-1:30 pm AA Steppers

SATURDAY, September 22

No Activities

SUNDAY, September 23

10:00 am Worship & Sunday School

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

MONDAY, September 24

10:00 am Book Group

7:00 pm Elizabeth Circle

TUESDAY, September 25

No Activities

WEDNESDAY, September 26

10:00 am Men's Fellowship

10:00 am Women's Fellowship

4:45-7:30 pm Weight Watchers in Koch Hall

THURSDAY, September 27

9:00 a.m. Newsletter Team

5:00 pm Music Rehearsals

8:00 pm Tualatin NA Meeting

FRIDAY, September 28

11:30 am-1:30 pm AA Steppers

SATURDAY, September 29

No Activities

SUNDAY, September 30

10:00 am Worship & Sunday School

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