

LAMP

Lutherans & Methodists in Partnership
living...loving...learning



November 2013

Latest news from your JMLT

By the time you read this you will almost certainly have received the Single Board Structure Joint Covenant of Union in the mail. This document reflects the many concerns shared after reading our first draft and we are confident it is a very workable structure for the Asbury/Our Redeemer Partnership to adopt for the next two years as we learn to be one functioning unit. Both Bishop Dave and Rev. Steve have paved the way for the operations described in this document to supersede both the Lutheran Constitution and the Methodist Discipline for a two year provisional period. Please read the document and accompanying letter carefully.



Please plan to attend one of the Town Hall meetings scheduled for:

- **Nov. 6th at 3.00 p.m. and**
- **Nov. 10th at 6.30 p.m.** in the Sanctuary.

You will be invited to share your concerns and positive feelings as well as have a chance to have your questions answered.

- **Voting will take place on Sunday Nov. 17th at 3.00 p.m.**

Please be sure you take every opportunity to educate yourselves and join us in our Christian mission of living, loving and learning. Following a successful vote, our nominations committee is ready to spring into action, Their task will be to seek excellent people to put our dream into action. You could soon be electing your new officers and celebrating a new era.

We ask for prayers that we may be guided to make sound decisions.

Nominations: Discerning God's Call

Pastor Jim, Vicki Wartalski, Gigi Siekkinen, Donna Fitch, and George Pantely are actively working on nominations for our Dec. 8 elections. We are intentionally moving to a call system as we seek to align abilities and passion with mission. Join us at one of the upcoming town hall meetings to learn more about this process!

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Dear Members and Friends,

It is my honor to be among you these first few weeks and serve with you as interim pastor. Thank you and blessings to all in the Good News of grace we share!



**PASTOR'S
CORNER**

Here are a few introductory thoughts similar to what I like to say at the outset in interim work I do:

- **Do you know someone with an interest in baptism or connecting with a faith community?** Welcome them and invite them to a church event or worship. Share a beverage with them, introduce me or whatever hospitality you care to show.
- **Does pastor do counseling?** The short answer is no. I have no counseling credential, but I am a pastor and am happy to have conversation, problem solve or make a referral in efforts to befriend and help.
- **My working motto for interim parishes is... Transparency:** be clear and open in communicating, in speaking and writing (no unsigned notes). No unofficial cliques or groups who share privileged information only with each other. We endeavor healthy practices as one body in Christ.
- **Participation:** Those affected by decisions are included in some way in shaping decisions.
- **Win-Win:** Seek win – win outcomes in our interactions.
- **Announcement Notebook:** Use the new white notebook when you cannot reach the office by Wednesday to get your announcement in the bulletin for Sunday. Print legibly and put it in the notebook kept near the pulpit up until worship time. Only hand announcements to pastor as a last resort before worship, but readable is great. For time management only a limited number of announcements will be solicited orally from worshipers present. We will do our best to direct people where to look for further information. Blank paper is provided in the notebook.

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE WHEN:

1. ...your contact information changes.
2. ...you want to schedule an event at church so it can be put on calendar and space provided.
3. ...you or family is ill or in the hospital (let us know what hospital, please).
4. ...a child is expected or born in your family.
5. ...you want information for a baptism, wedding or funeral
6. ...a prayer request is on your heart

Watch for news and information about the Covenant of Union process and progress. Jill McBee is chair of the Joint Ministry Leadership Team and we are grateful for their diligent efforts.

Bless you and thank you for many little and not so little things you do and who you are behind the scenes that support of life and ministry together!

--pastor jim

Comfort & Joy

A Word from Pastor Jim

On wholeness and Healing

As we enter Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas season this year, I am mindful that a number of us welcome the “comfort and joy” of the season, as one hymn says. As interim pastor, I invite you to seek and find rest and renewal, wholeness and healing in these days. In good measure then, I commend worship and church life be a blessing for us all and for comfort and joy.

In these days and into the new year, I will be:

- Available for conversation individually
- Developing ideas for one or more education sessions on wholeness and healing
- Considering a wholeness and healing theme involving worship.

Grace and peace to all,

Pastor Jim



New Faith in Action Project: Rides to Church Ministry

Fall is upon us and the need for occasional rides to church has come up again. We wondered about the possibility of a **Ride Dispatcher Ministry**. We are thinking one (or two) person to call if you need a ride to church or a church event.



The Ride Dispatcher will have a list of drivers and the Dispatcher will arrange the ride from somebody on that list who can conveniently give the ride needed. This way the person needing a ride will not feel they are inconveniencing anybody, because the Dispatcher will find a convenient match between a rider and driver.

Are you home most weekends to receive an occasional call? Would you be interested in taking on this ministry?

Please contact Pat Pettit if you are interested in more information.

It Takes a Village to Raise a Pumpkin

Thanks to everyone who contributed to Solar Pumpkin and the pumpkin sale. It was such a positive experience, largely because of the generosity of our combined congregation. Pastor Andy Wendle saw the project’s potential, and Dave Radley and the FISH building committee provided encouragement.

Scott Fitch and Roy Pettit literally laid the groundwork for the project with their efforts behind a sod cutter and rototiller. Numerous families turned out to plant the patch, and Good News Gardening donated seed. Andy Wade helped get the website up and running. Most of our young people assisted with watering at some point during the summer, and Zach Boris merits special recognition for his faithfulness in that department. Craig Terry figured out the irrigation schedule, while Scott Fitch kept his eye on the condition of the plants and also helped with harvest. The Yennes, the Edwards, and Pat Pettit donated additional pumpkins, gourds, and potted plants to supplement what we were able to grow on site. Many of you supported the pumpkin sale with generous donations.

Proceeds from the sale exceeded \$600, and donations continue to trickle in.

Everyone involved deserves a great big, orange

“Thank you!”



Faith in Action!

Faith in Action meets about 10 times a year, and is devoted to outreach in our community, region, nation and globally. Our September outreach was for Malaria Tents. **A total of \$1144 was donated**, and given to the respective Lutheran World Relief or UMCOR, as designated. Each tent costs \$10, so we are helping to reduce the death rate of children, a preventable and treatable disease!



Thank you for supporting this effort!

Our next outreach designated Sunday is December 15, when our donations will go to the local **Warming Shelter**, serving Hood River County.

Sharing our good gifts... **Food on the Fourth** continues on October 27 and November 24. Bring your filled bag to the altar and the contents will be sorted and delivered to the Food Bank by our young people. Bags are available in the narthex for filling.

Appropriate items left from our Green Light Project have been donated to Habitat for Humanity, who have been helping people in our region with repairs and improvements to their homes so they can 'age in place'. If you know someone who has a need, contact our committee. We had some weatherization materials that Habitat will use as needed.

Fundraising for the **School Grants project** was discussed. Linda and Gigi proposed doing a Shrove [or Fat] Tuesday pancake dinner next late winter, rather than bake pumpkin pies. Our committee will support this effort with organization and advertising, as well as work! Thinking ahead.

We welcome Pat Pettit to our committee. She presented a local outreach that we will support along with the women's and men's groups. There are members who no longer drive, and are dependent on rides to get to worship services and events at the church. Hopefully, our combined effort can help this very special part of our community of believers!!

In appreciation for your support of our efforts are committee members:
Sharon, Debby, Vicky, Gigi, Linda Boris and Pat.



The Next Door, Inc. is cordially inviting Mid Columbia community members to take part in The ASIST workshop. The ASIST workshop is for professionals and caregivers who want to feel more comfortable, confident and competent in helping to prevent the immediate risk of suicide.

Over one million have participated in this two-day, highly interactive, practical, practice-oriented workshop. Participation in the full two days is required. Enjoy small group discussions and skills practice that are based upon adult learning principles. Experience powerful videos on suicide intervention; feel challenged and safe.

This is the most widely used suicide intervention and prevention model in the world. **The Training will be conducted on November 19 and 20 beginning at 8:30, in the conference room of the Hood River Fire Department.**

The cost will be \$60 per attendee. Please register early since we are limited to about 20 attendees.

Registration forms are in the foyer

Lessons from the Pumpkin Patch

Church nerds like myself use the words “attractional” and “missional” to describe how churches relate to their community. The **attractional model** relies on drawing people to a facility or program, and the **missional approach** emphasizes going out to serve and connect. While both approaches have their place, many established congregations rely almost exclusively on the attractional model. The recent Pumpkin Sale brought this concept home for me.



Part of the vision of the pumpkin patch was that it would be a visible indicator of the future FISH Food Bank building. When folks saw a field of orange pumpkins, they would be looking at the footprint of the proposed building. In that same mode of thinking, we decided to hold the pumpkin sale at the church to highlight the future building location.

When the big day arrived, we had our best sales people ready to handle the crowds. If you saw Noah Boris in action, then you know what I’m talking about. Noah, appropriately dressed in orange, would hand each customer a Solar Pumpkin business card and offer to show him his loose tooth. Irresistible! Unfortunately, very few people without ties to our congregation got to experience Noah’s charm. Tucker Road was busy, but our modest enterprise went largely unnoticed. We had fallen into the trap of relying solely on the attractional model.



As a small band of rather dejected volunteers began to pack up the remaining pumpkins, Kate Siekkinen asked if she could take some home and try to sell them in front of our house. No one has ever accused Kate of being an extrovert, so the idea that she wanted to set up a pumpkin stand was rather surprising. Perhaps it didn’t occur to her that this endeavor would require her to speak to strangers. Or perhaps she was so focused on a mission that her own comfort was not at the forefront of her thoughts.

She set up a stand on our corner and by the time she came in for dinner, she had shared the story of FISH Food Bank and Solar Pumpkin with a number of neighbors and earned over \$50 in the process. Encouraged by her success, Kate convinced Pat Pettit to host the pumpkin stand at the Pettit’s house the following day. When it became obvious that very few folks were going to walk by the stand, Pat and Kate loaded pumpkins in a wagon and went door to door. They had pumpkins to sell and a story to share and couldn’t

afford to sit around waiting for people to find them.

While I was reflecting on the parallels between churches and pumpkin sales, a line of scripture came to mind.

“The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.”

John 1:14, *The Message*

What would it look like if we, the partnership of Asbury and Our Redeemer, followed the example of Christ and moved into the neighborhood? Don’t panic, I’m not suggesting a door-knocking campaign. I am saying that with God’s help we will soon have a new Food Bank facility, and it will be very tempting to believe that our work is done. It’s a bit like growing pumpkins and assuming that people will come to us. If we don’t take our passion for feeding spiritually and physically hungry people and “move into the neighborhood,” we may miss out on the joy of really connecting with our community.

In peace,
Gigi Siekkinen

Quick Notes



Things are Hopping!

Are you planning to use church space for your group/gathering?

Please schedule your meeting through Jennifer in the church office to ensure there's a space for you!

With many new ventures, there is a time to try something out, evaluate it, make necessary changes, and try again. The Celebration planning team has been doing a lot of that since the beginning of the Celebration service in April.

Our latest adjustment comes after we realized that holding the Young@Heart services on every "5th Sunday" as previously announced, would place the next two services during Christmas and Spring Breaks. Not a great time for a service which is full of children and youth participation. So our next Young@Heart service will be held on November 3rd, and we will be celebrating All Saints' Day.

This will be a great time to invite neighbors and grandkids and anyone who is young at heart.

The Celebration Planning Team



YUMMY TOASTED CORN

This summer our neighbor John Hergenrather from Good News Gardening grew a small patch of *cancha corn* (which he brought home from Peru) on church property between the FISH Food Bank garden and the playground. John worked with Alan Yenne in laying out the test plot on a part of the garden previously used for cover crop.

John hopes to grow enough corn next summer to provide some *Cancha* for the food bank. The large puffy kernels are a very tasty snack when toasted in hot oil and salted. *Cancha* or *Kancha* is made with dried *chulpe* corn (*maíz cancha chulpe*), which has a medium-large, yellowish kernel. Unlike the corn used for popcorn, *chulpe* does not "pop" when heated.

Cancha has been an important food in the Andean regions of South America for many centuries, even existing long before the Incan Empire and predating the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors. In Peru it is an ever present snack and is easy to carry while traveling or hiking (a fact that made it a useful food source during long journeys in pre-Columbian and colonial times). These days it is often served in South American restaurants as you wait for your meal, much the way we serve tortilla chips before the main course.



Marlene and Fred Lahti are grateful for all your cards, prayers, and for joining with them, both at church and in their home, to help them celebrate 50 years of Marriage!

A Big Thank You!

Our church ministers (that's you) have been a blessing to me and to my family. With the offer of companionship, support and tangible care during the time following Pete's death, I was warmed by so many caring people.

The Welca women went beyond duty, to host a light dinner following the Memorial Service. This included beautifully decorated tables, hospitality to a large number of people and friendship to strangers.

I will always remember your offering of care.

Thank you. Judith Ann Richards and family



Following God's Lead

Many of you have probably already heard that I will be leaving my ministry/work with Asbury/Our Redeemer on November 14th. October 30th was my four-year anniversary with Asbury - and what a fun and exciting time it's been! What many of you may not know is that I've been trying to go full-time with my other ministry, [Mustard Seed Associates](#) (MSA), since I started there over five years ago. MSA is a non-denominational organization working with Christian churches, organizations, and individuals to better understand our changing world and how those changes impact how we live and do ministry. In the process, we also work to stimulate Christian imagination, or as one co-worker puts it, "ignite the divine spark". If you navigate to our website you can find out more and also read some of [my articles](#), many of which are about spirituality and gardening.

As you can probably tell, I'm excited about my work with MSA and look forward to expanding my writing and speaking opportunities with them. At the same time, I am sad to leave my work with all of you, one of my church families. You are working on the kinds of things MSA is trying to get churches to understand - that the world today is not the same as it was 50, 20, or even 10 years ago. Many churches face, but often don't realize it, the same choice that's before you: become a page in history, or leave a vibrant legacy of hope, creativity, and faith that both sustains community and transforms neighborhoods, cities, and the world.

My family and I are not leaving Hood River. Most of my work can be done via the internet and with a bit of travel. So you will still see me from time to time. You are, after all, family, not a job. And with that in mind I encourage you to continue to work on family dynamics; discussions, hugs and healing, celebrations, and learning to love one another "as Christ loves the Church and gave himself up for her."



I am excited about your future together! You have the opportunity to knit together a unique body of faith in Hood River, to sew together a quilt of love and cooperation that speaks hope to those who have lost hope in the church and a world filled with division. You are "Ambassadors of Reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:16ff)

Thank you all for being family, and for your prayers, encouragement, and love.

Andy Wade

Scott Fitch	5
Pat Moore	5
Muriel Ishizaka	6
Gwen Richards	7
Myrin Bentz	10
Sean Crompton	11
Grant Anderson	14
William Hindahl	15
Roy Pettit	18
Gigi Siekkinen	18
Bill Davis	20
Jim Edwards	20
Tom Hart	23
Jim Oates	25
Bob White	26
Pat Crompton	30

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!



HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY



Fred & Marlene Lahti	2
Rocky & Kathy Rice	20
David & Robin Hindahl	22
Bruce & Patty Ludwig	26

November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 	2 9am Women's Spirituality Grp 1-3pm 50 Anniv. Open House at Lahti's 2pm Memorial for David Harris 
3 9am Trad. Worship 10am Fellowship Lahti's 50th Anniv. 10:30am Young@Heart	4 9am Happy Hands	5 10am Men's Coffee @ Rosauers 5:15pm Ukulele class 6:15pm Bell Choir	6 9am WELCA Quilting 6:30pm JMLT Town Hall	7 11am GEM 4:30pm Celebration Service practice 6pm Choir Practice	8 Women's Retreat	9
10 Women's Retreat 9am Trad. Worship 10am Fellowship 10:30am Celebration Worship 3pm JMLT Town Hall	11 9am Happy Hands 10:15 Faith in Action! 4:30pm FISH Bldg meeting	12 10am Men's Coffee @ Rosauers 5:15pm Ukulele class 6:15pm Bell Choir	13	14 Andy's Final Day 4:30pm Celebration Service practice 6pm Choir Practice JMLT	15	16 8am Men's Breakfast @ Charburger
17 9am Trad. Worship 10am Fellowship 10:30am Celebration Worship 3:30pm Joint Ministry Vote!	18 9am Happy Hands LAMP Newsletter items due	19 10am Men's Coffee @ Rosauers 5:15pm Ukulele class 6:15pm Bell Choir	20 9am WELCA Quilting	21 4:30pm Celebration Service practice 6pm Choir Practice	22	23
24 FOOD on the 4th! 9am Trad. Worship 10am Fellowship 10:30am Celebration Worship	25 9am Happy Hands	26 10am Men's Coffee @ Rosauers 2pm WELCA Bible Study 5:15pm Ukulele class 6:15pm Bell Choir	27	28 	29	30