



Connected for Good

by, Andy Wade

Several years ago I read an article in which a “digital native”, those born after 1993, remarked, “Email is for old folks.” Those may be difficult words for some of us to hear, but the reality is that modes of communication are rapidly changing. My oldest son who was born in 1992 rarely talks on his cell phone – nearly all his communication is via text messaging and Facebook.



Many of us worry that this hyper-connected, 24/7 lifestyle actually damages relationships. There is some truth in that concern. Does that mean we should shun the digital lifestyle? I don't think so. In fact, there is a far greater risk if we don't prayerfully and intentionally move forward into the new, digital reality.

Most of us have already adopted email and cell phones. Some are frequent texters and even “friends” on Facebook. We're not Amish... we will gradually be absorbed into the future. But when we lack prayerful intentionality we risk the very values we care so much about.

What are some of those values we hold dear as a Christian community? Number one on the list is... community. We value face-to-face relationships. While the digital realm is a great arena to communicate, reach out, and meet new people, it's not a place where true discipleship can happen. True discipleship is more

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Our thanks to Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke and members of the Oregon Synod Listening Team for their presence with us on Saturday, April 6.

Thanks, too, to members from both ORLC and Asbury UMC who were able to participate in the process.

We look forward to the bishop's Report and Recommendations to be made to the congregation **Wednesday, May 8, at 7:00PM.**

Bishop Brauer-Rieke **encourages members from both ORLC and Asbury UMC to be present** as we continue the journey of join ministry.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us.

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Weekly Happenings

other item see calendar page—10

● **Mondays**
9am - Happy Hands

● **Tuesdays**
10am - Men's Coffee - Rosauers
6:15pm - Bell Choir Pract.

● **Wednesdays**
10am Bible Study -Down Manor

● **Thursdays**
7:00pm - Choir Practice

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than consuming information, it's walking in the footsteps of Jesus through life in his body, the Church. Discipleship is relational. Discipleship is incarnational.

In Eugene Peterson's translation of the Bible, *The Message*, "The Word became flesh and moved into our neighborhood." "The Word became flesh", here is the root call for us to live incarnationally – in the flesh – with our church family, in our neighborhoods, and in our local community. The importance of face-to-face connections cannot be overstated. It is in personal, loving, caring relationships that the light of Jesus can truly shine through us.

Closely linked to incarnation is the act of corporate worship. We are the "body of Christ", not occasionally connected individuals. When we come together to worship, to pray, to personally share our joys and concerns, to welcome in the friend and the stranger, to break bread together, we live into our call to BE the body of Christ. Digital connectedness can be a tremendous tool to bring us together, but it's no substitute.

And closely linked to that is our incarnational presence as the body in the local community. Our work together in the FISH garden, at FISH food bank, the upcoming pumpkin patch, the warming shelter, quilts, crafts, and plant sales for world relief, and on and on – these are examples of our life together in the broader community... and it is very good!

These things just can't be replaced by living in the digital realm. **So why bother?**

- A new generation lives and communicates in vastly different ways than those generations that have gone before – if the church is to be relevant, it must find creative and helpful ways to engage the new, emerging body of Christ.
- Digital connections can enhance our own levels of connectedness and communication.
- Facebook can be a great method to share publicly our upcoming events, inviting our friends and neighbors to join us face-to-face.
- Facebook and other forms of digital communication can help us connect to church family and friends who have moved away.
- Digital forms of connecting can expand our vision by exposing us to the vast imagination of the larger "Body of Christ" in the world.

And that's just a handful of advantages!

Over the next weeks and months I will be posting tips and articles to help us better engage one another and our world via social media. As a start, let me list where in cyberspace we already are and a short list of guidelines for appropriate use (more on that to follow)

Where we are (And we'll be expanding this list!):

- **Our new blended website!** <http://hoodriverchurch.com> (Online calendar, newsletters, events...)
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/HoodRiverChurch> (Event sharing, sermon discussion, encouragement, outreach...)
- ORLC old website: <http://lutheranchurchoodriver.org>
- AUMC old website: <http://hraumc.org>

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Quick Notes

Good Neighbor Saturday May 4th

Spring garden clean up time
Both an opportunity to volunteer your help and/or suggest a neighbor in need of some assistance.

More details to come. Registration forms available soon from Providence Faith in Action Committee Members - Jill McBee and Jill Rowland

Pumpkin Patch Planting Party!

Saturday, May 11th is the big day for planting pumpkins!

What's this all about? The kids (and we're all kids at heart) are planting a big patch (72 hills) to raise funds for the FISH building project. Good news Gardening is supplying the seeds and together we'll get them in the ground! So come on out and plant some seeds - watch them grow - and see what God can do!

**So come on out for food and planting - 5pm
Saturday, May 11th!**



Asbury's week to volunteer at the FISH food bank will be May 27, 29, 31. See Linden if you can volunteer.

And as always, we need your paper and plastic bags . Thanks!

CELEBRATION SERVICE

If you have some musical skills and are interested in helping lead the 10:30 Sunday Celebration service, please so indicate to Roy Petit, Linda Boris or Audrey Bentz.

(And if you know someone outside our local congregation that might find this a way to use their musical skills, they would be most welcome!)

SPECIAL WORSHIP ADDITION ON SUNDAY, MAY 5

Perhaps some remember Jennifer Klotz (daughter of Myrin and Audrey Bentz), a professional musician, who gives two weeks every summer to children in Romania, and enjoys sharing her story of this mission work along with songs.

Due to some unfortunate historical practice several years ago, hundreds of babies were relegated to orphanages, and raised as "throw away children". Now, most of them are being released to the streets as they become young teens. "Heart of Hope" is an organization that takes some of these children to a summer camp to help them know they are loved both by God and by those who work with them, so they hopefully find a more meaningful and focused life. Jenn will share some of her experiences in this endeavor. She will preach (and sing) at both services on May 5.

Because no one should be hungry



Building Project

The FISH Food Bank Building Project has been building more and more momentum. More than 300 friends and neighbors have made donations ranging in size from \$10 to \$100,000 to the FISH Building project so far. Combining these donations with some smaller grants, we have raised more than \$445,000 so far. The total project cost is approximately \$1.1 million. Our first big milestone is 50% of the total project costs, or \$550,000.

Once we reach that goal we can start to leverage larger grants.

We are asking for your help to reach this important milestone. But, we are willing to give you something in return – a night of great music, dancing, and socializing.

SWING CREW & FRIENDS

- **When:** Saturday, May 4; 7:00 – 9:30 pm
- **Where:** The Pines (downtown Hood River)
- **Who:** Swing Crew & Friends
- **How much:** \$10 suggested donation
- **WHY:** Because no one should be hungry.

LARKSPUR

- **When:** Saturday, May 25; 7:00
- **Where:** The Elk's Lodge
- **Who:** Larkspur
- **How much:** \$10
- **WHY:** Because no one should be hungry.

For more info call 541-490-1470 or visit www.fish-food-bank.org

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Cyberspace Code of Conduct – Remembering that our primary purpose of a digital presence is to enhance and broaden our community of faith we will:

1. Speak positively and respectfully of each other and the body, keeping our “issues” for private, internal conversation and discussion.
2. Keep our private messages between adults. No private messaging between any adult and a minor unless another adult is included in the message.
3. Always communicate with a minor's parent/guardian before “Friending” or developing an online connection.
4. Keep your posts on church pages focused on relationships, and ministry – don't post personal political views on church pages – keep those for your own personal posts on your own timeline.
5. Never post pictures of children on the web without permission from the parent/guardian. If you do have permission, only use first names.
6. Never post private information on public pages – e.g., phone numbers, addresses, birth dates...
7. Did I say, “Be Positive”? Remember, this is the first place some people will encounter us, don't give them a reason not to look further!

This is just an introduction to church relationships and possibilities in the digital world. I'm in the process of re-creating our blended digital presence. Do you have ideas? Do you want to help craft our digital future? Do you have concerns? Please contact me in the church office or by email (because I'm over 50) at office@hraumc.org.

Surf's up!
Andy Wade

Faith in Action/Stewardship

Our committee is meeting the end of April, therefore there is very little new to report.

- Our next meeting date will be in the bulletin.
- We are supporting the Food on the Fourth, and helping with the ingathering of the FISH donations.
- Asbury/ORLC has a team working on Good Neighbor Saturday May 4 as our service/outreach locally this spring. Feel free to join us Saturday morning at Providence! Contact Gigi, Jill McBee or Jill Rowland for more details.

Additional projects will be announced as they materialize. Thank you for your support in the above outreach efforts.

FOOD on the 4th!

“Because no one should go hungry”



Congratulations food foragers! This past Sunday you donated 20 bags of food totaling 226 pounds in our first-ever “Food on the 4th” offering for FISH!

This is now a monthly event, so pick up your reusable FISH grocery bags in the narthex, fill ‘em with food, and bring ‘em back the 4th Sunday of every month for a special offering of food

Want more ways to get involved helping those in need in our community? We need volunteers the Monday after each 4th Sunday to unload the bags, help sort and box the food, and deliver our monthly contribution to the food bank. If you can help, please contact Sharon Pantely at gpsb1228@yahoo.com or call her at 541.552.5550

If you want to volunteer directly at the FISH Food Bank, please contact Linden Wendle at lawendle@att.net or

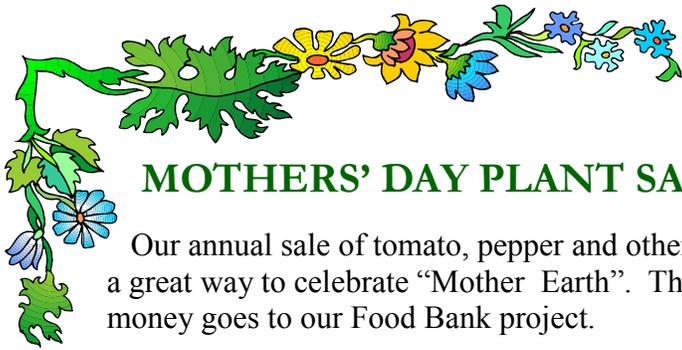
GARDEN REPORT:



The bulk of the FISH Food Bank Garden at ORLC was planted on Tuesday, April 23 and Wednesday the 24th. Our garden space was ready to go thanks to the hard work of Alan Yenne and his tractor-mounted tiller. Soil amendments--gypsum and feather meal--were added to the garden space this year based on results of a soil analysis completed this spring. Carrots, potatoes, onions and acorn squash have been planted. Tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers will be added when the weather has stabilized.

We could sure use some help on Tuesday afternoons between 4 and 6 once the garden (and the weeds) comes up. When picking season arrives, the Tuesday work schedule allows us to have fresh produce available to be distributed through the food bank on Wednesdays.

See you at the garden!
Thanks--Scott Fitch

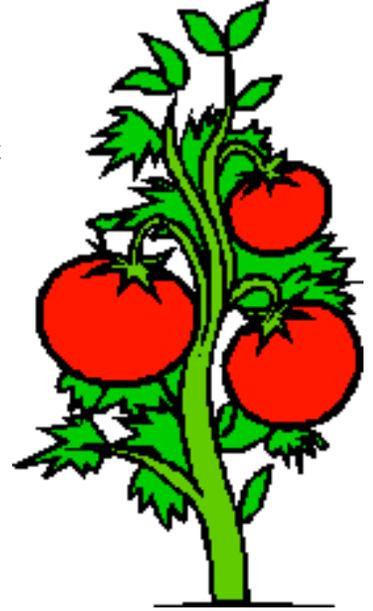


MOTHERS' DAY PLANT SALE

Our annual sale of tomato, pepper and other garden varieties will take place again on May 12, which is a great way to celebrate "Mother Earth". There is no charge (suggested donations however) and all money goes to our Food Bank project.

If you would like to help with set up or take down, please contact Audrey Bentz or Sharon Pantley. And remember what a nice "Mother's Day gift" plant would be for a special mother, with the proceeds going to provide food for a needy mother's meal to her family. If you would like to reserve a special tomato plant(s) and can't be here on Mothers' Day, talk to Audrey (509-365-3600).

Any plant containers of all sizes would be welcome meanwhile: we are collecting them outside the back door of the Fellowship Room.



Ruth Akiyama enjoys a birthday gathering. That is a very wise expression!

Blessing the WELCA quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

Get Connected!

Updates are coming to the ORLC and Asbury websites to reflect our blended ministries. We will continue to maintain separate websites in order to emphasize the different denominational connections while at the same time creating a more uniform look and feel between the sites.

Some of you may have already noticed that we have shared Google calendar on both websites. If you want to know what activities are happening in our life together, just check the "Calendar" tab on either website!



Nathan & Linda Boris	25
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Michael Hustman	4
Ray Ishizaka	7
Becky Rice	9
Linnea Denis Zelda Stanton	13
Carol Kyger	14
Sharon Pantely	15
Lee Huckins	16
Jill McBee	20
Adeline Schull	25
Milt Schliebe	26
Megan Winans	28
Donna Fitch Dave Hindahl	29
Don Collins	30

Thank you to everyone who has given the Celebration service a try during the month of April. We appreciate the support and helpful feed back as we strive to find just what we want the service to be. Here is a short synopsis of what will be happening in the Celebration service this month:



- 5th: We are pleased to have Audrey and Myrin Bentz's daughter, Jen, leading us in word and song this day.



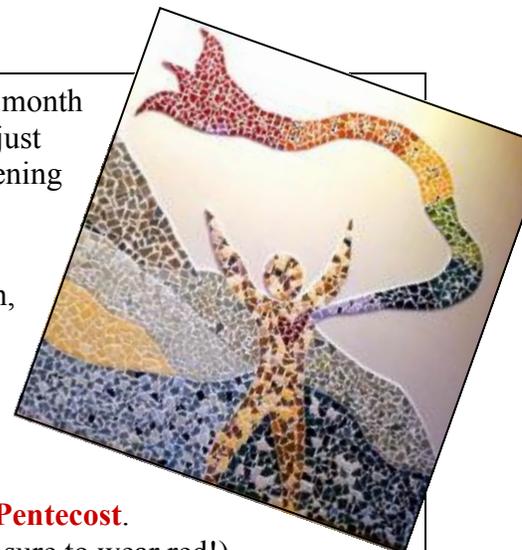
- 12th: We will be celebrating holy communion as we focus on John 17:20-26 and the theme of unity.



- 19th: Come experience the power of the Holy Spirit on this **Day of Pentecost**. We are excited to welcome the Rev. Steve Ross to the pulpit today. (Be sure to wear red!)

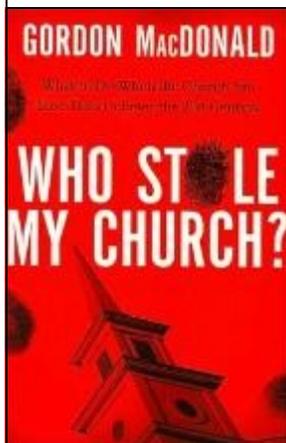
- 26th: Trinity Sunday - we will be exploring the idea of the triune God: Father/Creator, Jesus/Savior, Holy Spirit, as well as honoring the servicemen and women of our congregation.

The Celebration Planning Team



Books: Roy Pettit would like to bring to your attention:

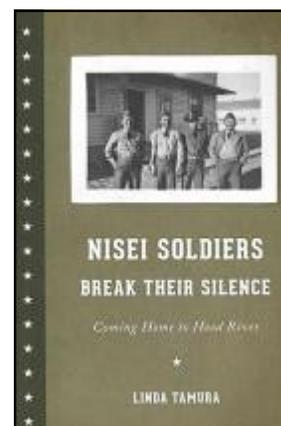
Who Stole My Church? [[Amazon](#)]



As you know, we have 10 books in circulation, on a check-out basis. If you've had one checked out for more than two weeks, please finish it up and return it for others to read because as Dottie Gilbertson said: "Everybody needs to read this book!" UMC Conference Director of Vital Church Projects Steve Ross considers it a significant read for our church at this time. You are encouraged to read it all, because the meat of the book is in the last several chapters. It's an easy book to read, but more importantly, the message applies directly to what we are doing in our joint adventure together. I learned a lot about the many sides of the issues we face, and came to a better understanding of the needs of all ages in our church (it opened my eyes about our "legacy"). In my humble opinion the two most important things you can do for your church are (1) read this book; and (2) get involved. Copies are on the table just inside the church doors.

Nisei Soldiers Break Their Silence [[Amazon](#)]

Hood River graduate and now university professor *Dr. Linda Tamura* recently published a book about local Japanese-American soldiers during and after World War II. Included is how past Asbury Church Reverend **Sherman Burgoyne** fought against the discrimination local Japanese-Americans faced. There is a picture of him in front of the honor roll that was on the courthouse wall, as well as a picture inside the Asbury sanctuary of a memorial service. Past church member George Akiyama is mentioned throughout the book, including how he received his silver and bronze stars. Bessie Asai is also quoted. This book will help you understand the heroism of our Japanese-American community, and the prejudice they faced. As said in the preface, it's a timely "nationwide debate about the meaning of citizenship in this country".





May 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Online calendar and details available at: http://hoodriverchurch.com/calendar/</p>			<p>1 9am WELCA Quilting 10am Bible Study at Down Manor</p>	<p>2 11am GEM 6pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Good Neighbor Day!</p>
<p>5 9am Trad. Worship 10am Fellowship 10:30am Celebration service 12-noon Women's Spirituality Group</p>	<p>6 9am Staff Mtg 9am Happy Hands 6:30pm New Member Orientation</p>	<p>7 10am Men's Coffee @ Rosauers 6:15 Bell Choir Practice 7pm SPRC mtg.</p>	<p>8 10am Bible Study at Down Manor 7pm All Church mtg. w/ Bishop Dave</p>	<p>9 6pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 9am Trad. Worship 10am Fellowship 10:30am Celebration service - Baptism! </p>	<p>13 9am Staff Mtg 9am Happy Hands 6pm Celebration Service planning and dinner</p>	<p>14 10am Men's Coffee @ Rosauers 1pm Traditional Worship Service planning 6:15 Bell Choir Practice 7pm ORLC Council mtg.</p>	<p>15 9am WELCA Quilting 10am Bible Study at Down Manor</p>	<p>16 6pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 8am Men's Breakfast @ Charburger</p>
<p>19  9am Trad. Worship 10am Fellowship 10:30am Celebration service</p>	<p>20 9am Staff Mtg 9am Happy Hands</p>	<p>21 10am Men's Coffee @ Rosauers 6:15 Bell Choir Practice</p>	<p>22 10am Bible Study at Down Manor</p>	<p>23 6pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 Holy Trinity  9am Trad. Worship 10am Fellowship 10:30am Celebration service "FOOD on the 4th!"</p>	<p>27 9am Staff Mtg 9am Happy Hands 10am Sorting FISH Food  Memorial Day</p>	<p>28 10am Men's Coffee @ Rosauers 2pm WELCA Bible Study 6:15 Bell Choir Practice</p>	<p>29 FISH Duty - AUMC 10am Bible Study at Down Manor</p>	<p>30 6pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>31 FISH Duty - AUMC</p>	<p>June 1 9am Women's Spirituality Group June 2 New Member Reception</p>

Wear Red!

Oregon Synod Assembly

Oregon Synod Assembly