



August 2015

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FISH Garden



Cucumbers, beans, carrots, onions, tomatoes, and squash came in fast with the recent heat!

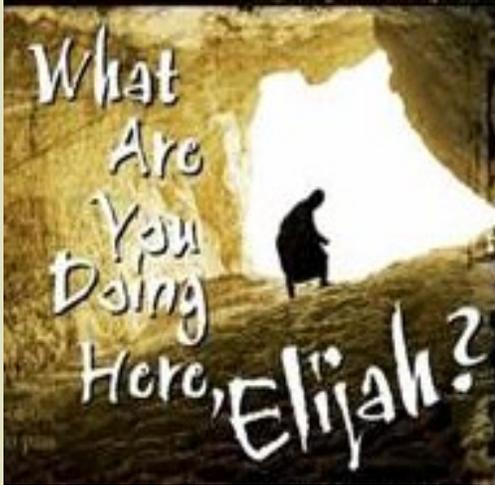
As we move into late summer, we will need to be harvesting about three days a week, preferably in sync with food bank distributions, which happen Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons.

Susan Randolph

Volunteer Coordinator

FISH Food Bank Garden





The Lord said [to Elijah], "Go out and stand at the mountain before the Lord. The Lord is passing by." A very strong wind tore through the mountains and broke apart the stones before the Lord. But the Lord wasn't in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake. But the Lord wasn't in the earthquake. After the earthquake, there was a fire. But the Lord wasn't in the fire. After the fire, there was a sound. Thin. Quiet. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his coat. He went out and stood at the cave's entrance. A voice came to him and said, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

—1 Kings 19:11-14

Dear Friends,

This month we are beginning what is called a *Season of Listening*. It is a process for helping us discern who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do. We have been through a lot of loud events in the past few years. We have gone through the process of bringing two congregations from different denominations together in order to form one congregation. We have come through the process of building the new FISH Food Bank building. We have made it through the process of getting a new pastor. And what is more, we have gone through all three of these simultaneously. Any one of these events by itself would be disruptive to a congregation. Any one would shake things up. Like a wind, an earthquake, and a fire, these changes in the church have destabilized our sense of grounding and have paved the way for something new.

Now, after coming through this disruption, it's time for us to ask what God has for us next. It's time for us to quiet ourselves and listen. It's time for us to ask those questions, "Why are we here? Who is God calling us to be together? What is God calling us to do?"

That's what we are about in this *Season of Listening*. We are about quieting down and listening for that still, small voice, for that thin, quiet sound. We are about listening for where God is calling us next.

A team of eleven listeners met on Monday with Rev. Terry Moe and Katy Rustvold to learn and practice how to conduct 1-to-1 listening sessions. These are the people that you said you trusted to be good listeners. Over the next six weeks, they will be setting up 1-to-1 meetings with as many of you as possible. You'll be invited to talk about who you think God might be calling us to be and what you think God might be calling us to do. These conversations aren't about trying to make quick fixes. These conversations are about sharing our stories and listening for where God is calling us next. They are about building relationships both with each other and with God.

There are a lot of us to listen to, so you might be contacted this week, or you might be contacted several weeks down the road. You can expect your conversation to last about 30 or 40 minutes. The listener who talks with you will be sharing some of what you have to say with the other listeners and ultimately with the rest of the congregation, but they will not attribute what you say directly to you. That is to say, the things you share will be anonymous, but they will not be secret. Once the 1-to-1 conversations are completed, the next phase of the *Season of Listening* will be a series of house meetings where the listeners will share out what they have heard and we will all have chance to pray and converse together about how we are hearing God calling us.

My experience of the first of these 1-to-1 conversations on Monday is that they are filled with holy moments. I think you will find them to be spiritually fulfilling, much more a joy than a chore. The *Season of Listening* is about much more than just gleaning information or setting a goal; the *Season of Listening* is about building relationships and sharing spiritual conversations. We don't know exactly where it will lead us, but I trust that it will lead us closer to God.

Your Servant in Christ,

+Pastor David

HOPE is wishing
something would happen.

FAITH is believing
something will happen.

COURAGE is making
something happen.

Constitution Update

At the same time that we are using the *Season of Listening* to help us explore our identity and mission, we are also doing the administrative work to solidify our covenant together as one congregation. A small team, made up of **Debby Chenoweth, Donna Fitch, Jean Sheppard**, and me, have been working to draft a constitution for our congregation. We have been consulting with **Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke** of the ELCA Oregon Synod and with **Rev. Steve Ross** of the UMC Oregon-Idaho Conference to make sure that this new document meets all the standards and requirements for both denominations.

Here's what you should expect from the new constitution. We plan on keeping the same basic administrative structure that we have been using for the past 2 years under our current *Provisional Covenant of Union*. The committees, the election process, the annual meeting—all of that should stay basically the same. Most people probably won't notice a change at all. The most significant changes have to do with making our current, provisional arrangement into a lasting, ongoing covenant.

The team has gained some clarity in the last couple of weeks on how to address the issues of membership and our congregation's relationship to our two denominations. After consultation with Bp. Dave and Rev. Steve, we intend to define ourselves as a "*federated congregation*" according to ELCA polity and as a "*union congregation*" according to UMC polity. Here's what that means. We will be one congregation with a single membership roll. Our one congregation will be an ELCA congregation and also a UMC congregation. That means that any member of our congregation will be considered a member of an ELCA congregation and will also be considered a member of a UMC congregation. So, we're not trying to become a nondenominational congregation. We are not trying to become a congregation that is 50% Methodist and 50% Lutheran. We are trying to become a congregation that is 100% Methodist and 100% Lutheran.

Of course this doesn't mean that individual members of the congregation can't have more affinity to one denomination than the other. There is no problem with identifying yourself as a Lutheran or as a Methodist. What it does mean is that we will have removed any barrier that might have kept an individual from participating in the ministries of either or both the UMC and the ELCA.

I have to say, I am really excited about this possibility. It is an excellent witness to our unity in Christ and the ways that Christians from different traditions can work together to strive for God's Kingdom.

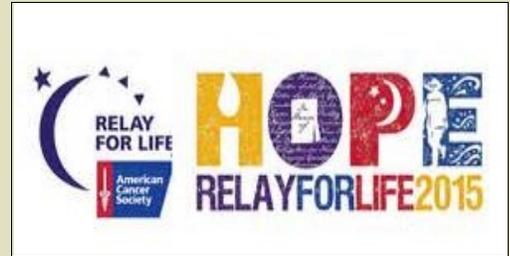
The team's goal is to have a complete draft of the constitution in time for everyone to thoroughly review it and suggest necessary changes before we vote on its adoption in late November or December. Admittedly, that's not long from now. If we find that there isn't enough time before the end of December to adequately review and revise the constitution, then we will propose a short extension of our current covenant of union while we put the finishing touches on the constitution. However, we are going to work as hard as possible to make sure that overextending this process won't be necessary.

If you have any questions, thoughts, or concerns about the coming constitution or the process for adopting it, please don't hesitate to talk to me, Jean, Donna, or Debby. Any of us would be happy to talk with you about what we've drafted so far and what we have in mind going forward.

Your servant in Christ,

+Pastor David

Martha Hoskins, our Happy Hands Relay for Life coordinator, reported that AORP raised \$725 for Relay for Life. Wow!!



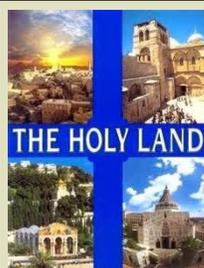
Choir Kickoff Potluck will be held on August 27 at Morningsong Acres Retreat Center (Bentz home) on High Prairie above Lyle beginning at 6:00 p.m. Anyone interested in joining our choir this year should contact Audrey Bentz or Marv Turner. For directions to the Bentz home talk to any choir member.



MarvTurner 541 386 1587
HrmarvRuth@aol.com

CROP Walk is coming up Saturday, September 26, starting at 10:00am from Valley Christian Church, and ends at VCC also.

We will meet at 4:00pm on Thursday, August 20. Packets for church teams will be ready to pick up then. If you would like to get yours earlier, please make arrangements with Kathy Holmson at HRVCC.



An Oregon Synod Holy Land Trip is happening in May of 2016. If you are interested in exploring this opportunity, please contact Pr. Nick Doversberger at 503-266-4061 or at ndoversb@gmail.com. The trip brochure is available on the Oregon Synod website

Worship Assignments

August	2	9	16	23	30
Lector	Marlene Lahti	Kathy Terry	Tom Hart	Bob Havig	Kris White
Greeter/ Usher	Vicki Wartalski Rick McBee	Kathy & Craig Terry	Kris & Bob White	Sally & Bob Havig	Vicki Wartalski Doug Swanson
Fellowship	Choir/Bells	WELCA	Happy Hands	Methodist Men	Youth Group
Altar Care	Marlene Lahti Della Henderson		Marlene Lahti Della Henderson		
Flowers	Rose Miller	Della Henderson	Dottie Gilbertson	Sally Havig	Pat Crompton



Martha Hoskins	1
Vita Corrado	2
Betty Shalhope	15
Bill Crompton	16
Jana Austin Jacobson	17
Bob Havig	18
Cindy Murahashi	22
Nicolas Saenz	23
Jack Siekkinen	26
Audrey Bentz	27
Judith Ann Richards	28

Pepi & Erica Gerald	1
Tom & Cory Hart	2
Alan & Bette Yenne	10
Scott & Cindy Murahashi	17
Bill & Pat Crompton	19
Jim & Cheri Anderson Scott & Donna Fitch	20
Bob & Kris White	23
Don & Betty Shalhope	25
Jim & Gladys Edwards	26
Dean & Diane Kleinsmith Jim & Mari Matthias	28
Greg & Shelley Oates	29

August 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Communion for 9am service is the 1st and 3rd Sunday</p> <p>Communion for 10:30 service is the 1st Sunday</p>						<p>1</p> <p>9am Women's Spirituality</p>
<p>2</p> <p>9am Traditional 10 Fellowship 10:30 Celebration</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9am Happy Hands</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10am Men's Coffee @ Rosauers</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9am Quilting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:15pm Celeb. Serv Prac</p>	7	<p>8</p> <p>8-1 Church Yard Sale</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9am Traditional 10 Fellowship 10:30 Celebration</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9am Happy Hands</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10am Men's Coffee @ Rosauers</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9am Traditional Worship Planning</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10am Celebration Worship Planning Noon Celeb. Serv Prac</p>	14	<p>15</p> <p>8am Men's breakfast at Charburger</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9am Traditional 10 Fellowship 10:30 Celebration 11:45 SPRC</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9am Happy Hands</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10am Men's Coffee @ Rosauers 2-4 WELCA Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9am Quilting</p> <p><u>Newsletter</u> <u>Items Due</u></p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:15pm Celeb. Serv Prac</p>	21	22
<p>23</p> <p>Food on 4th 9am Traditional 10 Fellowship 10:30 Celebration</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9am Happy Hands</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10am Men's Coffee @ Rosauers 2-4 WELCA Bible Study</p>	26	<p>27</p> <p>5:15pm Celeb. Serv Prac</p>	28	29
<p>30</p> <p>9am Traditional 10 Fellowship 10:30 Celebration</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9am Happy Hands</p>					

Office Hours - Closed Fridays

Rev. David King Mon to Thurs 9-Noon; by appointment

Jennifer Fowler M 9:30-2 T 8:30-11:30 W 8:30-2 Th 8:30-2

Linda Boris Tues 10-1



A Living Bridge

Connecting Community with God's grace

Asbury Our Redeemer

Partnership

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