



Spirit of Grace

A Lutheran-Methodist Cooperative Church

April 2020

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WORSHIP

The Call to Worship
You ask me why I heed this call
and let some other calls go by?
Let me try to answer.

Worship punctuates my page,
gives meaning to all it contains,
and addresses the "why",
in my surfeited work of "how-to's."

Worship lets me sing my way
through constant change
and live joyfully in the flow.

Worship provides a plot
to this otherwise incoherent
and senseless world stage.

Georhard Frost,
Lutheran Seminary professor

Poem contributed by Audrey Bentz.
Picture: Jennifer Fowler



Dear members of Spirit of Grace,

Thank you for your donations to the FISH Garden!

I am writing this to thank you all for your generous donations to the FISH Food Bank and Spirit of Grace Garden. With your help the garden received all the items needed to successfully get started on spring planting. Thanks to the generosity of the community the garden will be able to continue growing and producing nutritious vegetables for FISH clients well into the growing season.

Thank you once again for your donations and generosity, **Tessa Yoo, Garden Coordinator.**



As it is uncertain when we can gather together again, everyone is encouraged to continue making financial contributions to Spirit of Grace.

You can do this 2 ways:

- Mail your checks to Spirit of Grace, 1140 Tucker Rd, Hood River
- Bill Pay online banking at your personal bank. The bank mails the check for you.



Columbia District

The Rev. Erin Martin
District Superintendent
E-mail: Erin@umoi.org

Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church

March 22, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Spirit of Grace-Hood River:

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ. Today, my thoughts and prayers are with you as we all continue to navigate this global health crisis. Even in the midst of these extraordinary times, it is my task to share with you the news that it is the intention of Bishop Elaine Stanovsky of the Greater Northwest Area to appoint Rev. Dr. David D. M. King to Forest Grove United Methodist Church effective July 1, 2020. The current pastor in that location is retiring, and the Bishop and Cabinet believe that David has the necessary gifts for that key appointment.

I know this news brings with it a mixture of sadness and appreciation as you welcome this new ministry opportunity for David and his family, but also prepare to say good-bye to your beloved pastor. Your ministry together these past 6 years in Hood River have been incredibly fruitful and blessed. I rejoice with you in the significant work you have done to become a true ELCA-UMC cooperative ministry. Your FISH Food Bank and Community Room are nothing short of inspiring. Your ministry to neighbors in need will only be more necessary in the coming months. Thank you for your continued good work in Hood River even as you now begin to release David and his family to their next phase of ministry.

My prayer is that you will take these remaining months together to show your gratitude to David for his time among you. To do so will demand some creativity and a lot of adaptability for how best to be church while also keeping the recommended physical distance from one another. Please know that the Bishop, Cabinet, and I will continue to hold you all in our thoughts and prayers as you bring your time of ministry together to a close.

Many blessings,

Rev. Erin Martin

Columbia District Superintendent

1505 SW 18th Avenue • Portland, Oregon 97201 • Phone: (503) 249-1851



Spirit of Grace

A Methodist-Lutheran Cooperative Church
1140 Tucker Road
Hood River, Oregon 97031
541-386-3993
hoodriverchurch.org

March 22, 2020

Dear Congregation,

As chair of your SPRC, I have a few comments to make regarding the situation in which we find ourselves having read Rev. Erin's letter.

Our Spirit of Grace congregation feels incredibly grateful that we have had David and his family in our midst for so long and we will make the most of their remaining months in Hood River. We are excited that they have a new adventure ahead of them in Forest Grove with enhanced possibilities, for the talents they all have, to be developed.

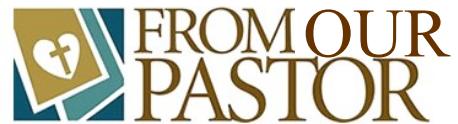
We pray our members will embrace this coming change in leadership as an opportunity to stay solid in our commitment to one another whilst we seize the chance to be flexible and to grow in new directions. Our covenant requires that our pastors alternate between Lutheran and Methodist traditions and so this time we will be seeking a Lutheran pastor.

The process ahead begins as soon as possible with the appointment by Lutheran Bishop Laurie Larson-Caesar of a specially trained interim minister who will guide us through self examination and the discernment of criteria that we would want in our next pastor. I have been assured that Bishop Laurie already has a person in mind to help us. The SPRC will expand into a call committee and hopefully by the end of the year we will have a new minister. Our committee is made up of myself, Ty Sibley, Rose Miller, Sharon Pantley, and Board rep. Sharon Poynter. Debbie Chenowith has agreed to join us and we will be looking for a few other members for this in the near future.

Although we may be concerned that this is a dangerous time for change, we must pray that God and our conference leaders can see the whole picture and will do what is good for our congregations and pastors in the Northwest.

Love and prayers, Jill McBee

Tuesday 24 March 2020



Dear Friends,

As many of you have already heard, it was announced on Sunday that Bishop Elaine Stanovsky intends to appoint me as pastor to Forest Grove UMC starting July 1st. I'd like to give a brief response, especially considering the strange times in which we find ourselves.

First, I want to assure you that right now I am still your pastor. This is a crazy time for all of us, dealing with a public health crisis unlike anything any of us have experienced before. I want you to know that I am here, and I am fully committed to being in ministry with you.

Second, I want you to know how grateful I am for our ministry together and all that we have accomplished. Establishing ourselves as a fully integrated two-denomination partnership, discerning a name for this community of faith, building the new FISH building, creating a community-supported garden, major construction, confirmations, baptisms, meaningful worship, discipleship groups, outreach... more things than I can even name. I'm really proud of the work we've done together. I am very grateful to you for the ways that you have supported me and my family. We have a lot to celebrate.

Third, I want you to know that I am supportive of this move. Through prayer and discernment over the last year, it has become clear to me that Spirit of Grace is ready for a change in pastoral leadership. There's nothing wrong, and I'm not unhappy, but the church has changed in the last six years, and the gifts you needed in a pastor when I came are not the same gifts you need now. I'm excited for the next chapter of your ministry in this place, and I trust God will bring you just the pastor you need to take your next steps in faith.

Finally, I want you to know that I'm excited about my next chapter of ministry, as well. I think that the church in Forest Grove is a good match, and I'm looking forward to work there starting in July. Don't get me wrong, this is a strange time to be thinking about moving, and I certainly hope things have calmed down well before our moving date. Still, I think this is the right move for me, for my family, for the church in Forest Grove, and for you.

Change is always hard. It is especially hard in such anxious and uncertain times. And yet, God continues to call us forward. God continues to lead us in new paths. And God will empower us all for the work that is set before us. May God's blessing be with us all.

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Dr. David D. M. King Pastor



We have been cleaning off and cleaning out our bookcases! Many have been donated to the library, we have a bag suitable for a church library, if one can be established. We have a bookcase to contribute to hold the books, as well! New project to think about!

Something else we've been doing is hiking in remote areas along roads frequented in tourist season. They are quiet, and we can easily go two miles with elevation gain and scenery, seeing no one. While walking, we also pick up trash, usually at least half of a bags of discarded cans and bottles, recyclable or redeemable! Improving our souls in fresh air, improving nature while enjoying it!

Sharon & George Pantely

Online I'm listening to my grandkids read to me, playing Monopoly and Uno with them, listening to one practice his music and loving seeing their faces and hearing their voices. I also like visiting with friends and family on the phone as well as chatting with my community group that Pastor David set up and being able to get his sermons online.

From a fortune cookie - Each day compel yourself to do something you'd rather not do. (So easy for me to put off those things) - I do try to exercise or take my dog, Toby, for a walk every day and to find uplifting and thankful thoughts each day. *Jan Dutton*



My favorite Bible verse is Psalm 46:10.

Be still and know that I am God.

It tells me to slow down and study the Bible.

Pat Moore



We are staying home most of the time. Alan & I are spending time at the FISH Food Bank. The FISH Food Bank Board is pleased we are open and can serve our community. Many thanks to everyone for their help at this strange time in our nation. *Bette Lou & Alan Yenne*

What I remind myself of is, that we all have the same amount of time; More specifically, I ask "what will I do with this day so that at the end of the daylight, I will be pleased with what I offered". As far as home is concerned, my routine is much of what it always has been. I have however, added one activity that I have always wanted to participate in, but didn't, since it would amount to another trip across the bridge. Seeing the Lenten study on Wed. night (via Zoom) has been a wonderful new experience.

Another thing that time at home has provided, is of additional moments to contact others by phone. What I have discovered is that members of our congregation are wonderfully generous, offering help etc. Also, I marvel at the discipline and order of some of our elders. They have much to teach me about living a life, always prepared for future events. Stewardship of resources and a lifestyle of doing whatever I can to reduce waste is gaining more of my attention in this time of the Virus, and the time to take stock of how I live.

Galatians 6:9

"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at Harvest time, if we do not give up".

Judith Ann Richards

April 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
<i>Weekly Reflections</i>						
5 Palm Sunday 10 Live Worship 6pm Live Youth Group	Matthew 26:69-70 <i>Are there ways that you deny Jesus? How might you acknowledge him more boldly?</i>			9 Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter 10 Live Worship	Matthew 28:5-7 <i>What signs of resurrection and new life are you seeing? Who needs to hear about them?</i>			16	17	18
19 Food on the 4th 10 Live Worship 6pm Live Youth Group	Acts 2:23-24 <i>In what ways is God freeing you from death or fear?</i>	22 Earth Day		23	24	25
26 10 Live Worship 6pm Live Youth Group	Luke 24:30-31 <i>When have you felt the presence of Christ while sharing food with others?</i>			30	Office Hours for Jennifer Mon & Wed 9am to Noon Phone calls and emails are welcome! Church building is closed. I am collecting mail almost every day.	



Debby & Art
Chenoweth

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Prayer Requests can be sent to
Carol Kyger cckyger@gmail.com or 541-386-6341

Backup for Carol is Donna Fitch
fitcheshr@gmail.com 541-386-4043

Debby Chenoweth	2
Curt Kyger	4
Zach Boris	9
Ethan Fowler	13
Ruth Akiyama	20
Esther Harris	22
Dean Kleinsmith	24
Pastor David	29



Spirit of Grace

1140 Tucker Road
 Hood River, Oregon 97031
 Phone: 541-386-3993
 Email: office@hoodriverchurch.com
 Web site: hoodriverchurch.org

Sunday Worship Times
 Worship Service 10:00am
 Fellowship 11:00am

Education Times
 Check with the Church Office

Office Hours

Pastor Mon-Wed 9-Noon. Or by Appt.
Staff Mon, Wed, Thurs 9am-2:00pm
 Tuesdays 9am-1:00pm

Pastor

Rev. Dr. David D.M. King

Staff

Jennifer Fowler

Office Manager & Financial Secretary

Linda Boris

Pastoral Assistant



Happy Hands

Mondays 9am to 11am

Women's Craft & Fellowship Group in Fellowship Hall

Quilting

1st and 3rd Wednesdays

Quilts for Lutheran World Relief meets in Fellowship Hall

Board of Directors

Pastor David King, ex officio	
Tom Hart, Chair	(2021)
Sharon Poynter	(2021)
Shelley Oates	(2020)
Gordon Leigh	(2020)
Michele Sibley	(2022)
Bob White	(2022)

Finance Committee

Pastor David King	
Debby Chenoweth	(2021)
Dottie Gilbertson	(2022)
Muriel Ishizaka	Treasurer
Jennifer Fowler	Financial Secretary
Tom Hart	Payroll
Shelley Oates	Board Liaison

Ministry Team Leaders

Worship	Linda Boris, Dottie Gilbertson
Children & Youth	Melissa Mimier King
Men's Ministry	Marv Turner
Women's Ministry	Kris White
Outreach	Debby Chenoweth
Prayer Chain	Carol Kyger
Reception	Jill McBee & Pat Crompton
Building	Rick McBee

Music Ministry

Organist/Piano	Dottie Gilbertson & Audrey Bentz
Choir	Audrey Bentz & Sharon Poynter

Staff Parish Relations

Jill McBee	(2020)
Ty Sibley	(2020)
Rose Miller	(2021)
Sharon Pantley	(2021)

Representatives

Oregon Synod Assemble	Bette Lou Yenne
Oregon-Idaho Annual Conf.	

Men's Group

Tuesdays at 10am at Rosauer's Coffee Corner

Women's Bible Study

4th Tuesday of the month 2-4pm in Fellowship Hall

Women's Spirituality

1st Saturday of the month Study and Fellowship in Fellowship Hall



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Mail to: