

United Voice

United Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

2230 Washington Street, Eugene, OR 97405

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June 2020

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Sunday Worship - www.welcometocentral.org



Dear Friends

As I write this, it has been two months since we have been able to gather for worship in our sanctuary. Two long months. Your church council is evaluating our process in beginning to gather in limited ways. All I can say is stay tuned. Perhaps by the time you read this some decisions will have already been made.

This is new territory for us. The tension between safety and the desire to gather is strong. Many of our saints are in the high risk category. As a pastor friend of mine said, "it's complicated". In the mean time, we continue to participate in the live stream worship at 10:00 AM at Central Lutheran, and we post messages and music on our YouTube channel.

Our call process has been moving along quite well. Many of you were able to participate in a Zoom meeting with our pastoral candidate. Our call committee has been doing a fantastic job of informing us and providing for a path forward in a timely manner. Stay tuned for further developments.

In our call process we have been living in the tension of our epidemic influenced lives, trying to stay on task in the movement to welcome a new pastor. Some counseled for us to wait. Others said there may be another way. With the help of our church wide office, our synod office, our church council, and a talented call committee, there was another way.

The pain of our divided nation has been exacerbated by the epidemic. The American Dream has always been an elusive concept. Difficult to accurately define. Now, with a killer

among us that desires our life, the "pursuit of happiness" and "opening up the economy" are becoming a dynamic polarity.

If the "pursuit of happiness" is defined in purely material ways, there is no polarity, there is only the possibility of sickness and death. If the "pursuit of happiness" is defined more in terms in relationships, then there is a polarity with perhaps life and death at one of the poles, and standard of living at the other. As we watch our nation trying to "open up", we see the tension in this polarity.

"Opening up", like any polarity, is messy. For us to begin to try and begin worshipping together in our sanctuary will be messy. There is no black and white, as much as some have tried to make it so. For some churches, it has resulted in avoidable deaths. Welcome to life in a polarity.

Perhaps you would put different descriptions at the poles. Go ahead. I have no idea where I am going with this article. I do know that Jesus says He came to give abundant life...and he never seemed to put life in material terms. His 'terms' involved radical love that He was living and dying and rising and offering. And if we want to be church, that is the Word we bring to the conversation in the polarity, however the polarity is defined.

God's Blessings to you during these transitional times. United is involved in a lot more than a pastoral interim transition. Throw in all that is going on in our personal lives, and the conflicts in our nation over this pandemic. Grab onto the promise of abundant life, that exists in all circumstances. Look up steps one through three of the 12 steps of AA. Then 'work' them in these gray times. Throw black and white out the window. Go to Paul's letter to the Galatians, and read chapter 5. Those are the fruits we are to embody and to enjoy in the midst of all

things. Out of these fruits, we contribute to the life of the church, and to the conversation in the polarities in which we find ourselves. It is my pleasure to be your Interim Pastor during these polarizing times.



IMPORTANT COUNCIL UPDATE

Greetings to ULC members and friends at home! We are living in strange times, indeed! I hope this finds you all healthy and safe. I know we are all anxious to see each other at worship again. But, in the midst of a pandemic and shelter in place, United continues to move forward. I'm writing to relate some items from a very active May 21 council meeting.

I am very happy to report that the Council voted unanimously to recommend Pastor Eric Jon Dull to the congregation to consider for call as the next pastor for United. The next step is a Congregation Meeting on June 14, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. We will hold the congregation meeting by video conference on Zoom. The Council approved an ad hoc committee to plan the meeting. Details will follow.

The Council voted to continue worshipping on line through the month of June. The Council also approved an ad hoc committee to recommend a plan to the Council for reopening worship. Again, more details to follow.

I also want to thank the congregation for the continued strong financial support of United during the pandemic. We are in a strong position to welcome a new pastor in spite of the challenges of a pandemic. Blessings to all of you. Stay safe and healthy during the pandemic. Thanks for your partnership in the ministry of United.

Bob Johnson,
Council President

Please join us in celebrating all graduates both near and far, even as we are unable to be with them during this important milestone. Congratulations to Mark and Lily Fitzharris who are graduating from Marist High School. Please say the following prayer for the graduates you know and those that you may not know. June is known for it's many graduations so please join me in praying each day this month for those who have worked so hard and are now embarking on a future that is filled with so many unknowns.



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Dear God, we thank you that you have indeed given our graduates great hope and a future. We pray for the days you have purposed for them to walk in, every single one, and ask you to fill them with your spirit and power as they live out their destiny. We ask that you would inspire them to never be afraid to dream big, run strong, and soar high. We pray that nothing be allowed to hold them back in this life. May they fulfill every calling you have on their lives. Strengthen them to live a life of so much love, passion, influence, hope, and determination that this world is changed for the better. May they always know that anything is possible for those who believe, for our God is always greater. May they have a deep desire to serve faithfully and a heart to work hard. Shine over them. Fill them with your spirit. Bless them with your favor and peace. Amen.

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Please join together in thanking the many individuals that

helped to make our Sunday school program a success this year. It is through their time and talents that our children have been able to explore the word of the Lord and grow in their relationship with God.

Thank you - Thea Petersen, Randy Sullivan, Camille Haakanson, Jon Brandt, Wendy Stoner, David Zhou, Kim Weiherman, Mark Raney, Diane Masson, Sherlene Schmidt and Sharon Geldaker.

And a special note of thanks to the many teachers and educational support in our community. You have all gone above and beyond for your students and your work and dedication is appreciated by your entire community. Thank you for helping to spread love and peace through your actions and to create a stronger society for our future. The children that you uplift and inspire will go on to do great things for their families, community, and world.

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58 CSB



Activities at United are Ongoing -

Youth Group – All youth from Central, Emmaus, and United are invited to meet via Zoom on Thursday afternoons at 4pm. This is a time to hear how their life is, how they are adapting to the change in their routines, to give them a place to discuss issues relating to faith, and most of all receive the love of our community.

Women's Group – On Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm all women of United are invited to a Zoom meeting. We started this just last week and I can already see the benefit of checking in and supporting each other during this unprecedented time. I do not know where this group will lead, but may it help us grow closer to our Lord and do his work in whatever way we are able.

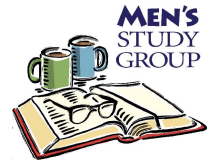
Congregational Devotional – Crystal will begin working on collaborating with the congregation (virtually of course) on the topic of creating a devotional. The idea will be that all those interested will provide one day's devotion. I think this could be a great way to reflect on our current world. It has been suggested that this devotional could be used during Advent this year.

Q: "Dazzle" is a term used for a group of what type of animal? Answer on page 6

Please speak with me if you are interested in participating.

Do you have a group or idea you would like to see happen within our church? Please let me know at 503-320-4055 or fr.cmilller@gmail.com.

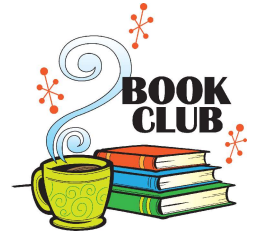
Mens' Group meets Friday mornings at 9:00 am over Zoom. All are welcome!



Blankets for LWR are being sewn as we find flannel. Do you have flannel yardage or lightly used flannel sheets to donate? 100% cotton flannel can be used for both blankets and diapers. Donations may be dropped at church.

UNITED'S BOOK GROUP

Our next discussion will be a ZOOM meeting at 12:30 on May 31. The book will be Terry Masear's The Fastest Thing on Wings: Rescuing Hummingbirds in Hollywood. Already three people have told me how enthralled they have been with the book. I myself have found it fascinating as I learn how passionately the rehabbers are to rescue the birds and the details about hummingbirds themselves.



The book group will continue to meet through the summer by using Zoom for our discussions.

Fatima's Good Fortune by J. and G. Dryansky, will be our read for June, discussion to be held on the 28th at 12:30.

In May we threw out five more book ideas for the group to read which will take us through summer and into the fall. Please check them out and take some time to look for availability:

The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie by Allen Bradley

A Girl Named Zippy by Haven Kimmel

The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson

Unorthodox by Deborah Feldman

Dolly Parton's new book, Songteller, which is expected to be on the shelves October 6th, 2020

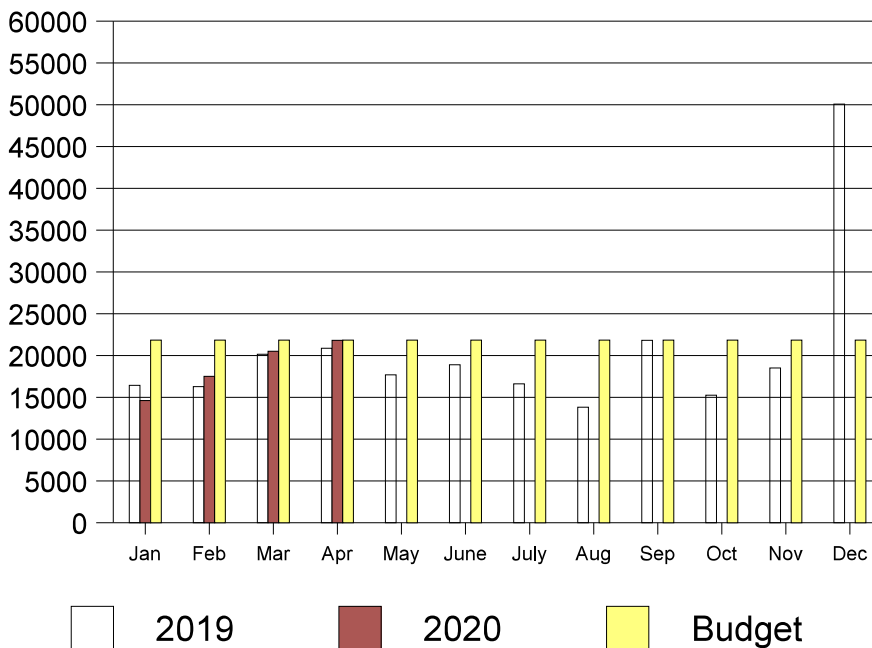
Contact Jean Frantz if you have questions

Special dates

- Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2020
- Flag Day, June 14, 2020
- First day of summer, June 20, 2020
- Father's Day, June 21, 2020



2 Year Giving Comparison
2019 and 2020



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - David Brink
- 4 - Deborah Hample
- 5 - Dan Bowers
- 7 - Sue Pickrel
- 9 - Nathan Adair
Patrick Dodd
- 12 - Eunice Kjaer
- 13 - Cara Haakanson
- 14 - Kim Weiherman
- 15 - Peter Helikson
- 17 - Jerome Hirsch
- 19 - Eva Buenau
- 21 - Arden Olson
- 28 - Lloyd Helikson

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 - Ada Muth
- 5 - Bill Bezuk
David Westcott
- 7 - Sue Pickrel
- 8 - Ruby Bryce
- 11 - Bob Schmidt
- 13 - Diane Masson
- 15 - Jena Wise
Cameron Wisecaver
- 19 - Don Wirtala
- 22 - Wendy March
- 24 - Sally Cairnes-Wurster
Kenny Westcott

ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 - Mary & Randy Sullivan
Christine & Alan
McCullough
Charissa & Mark
Callison
- 14 - Gemma & Dale
Rettmann
- 15 - Becci & Zach Buenau
Jean & Paul Frantz
- 17 - Peggy & Bob Johnson
- 21 - Trudi & Dan
Diffendafer
- 22 - Sally & Jeff Krueger



Our continued support of FISH is needed

Dear United Lutheran,

On behalf of our clients, I want to thank you for your ongoing, generous support of FISH. We had to suspend our food box program for a few weeks in April as we could not acquire enough food. However, we are now back in full operation supplying food boxes as well as continuing to provide propane and prescription drug assistance. Thanks for helping make this possible!

- Del Hawkins, coordinator

Food for Lane County Dining Room Update

We are ramping up our efforts to feed the unhoused! Through a collaboration with the City of Eugene and Whitebird, we are planning to start making up to 1600 sack lunches a week, getting meals out to the City shelters, homeless camps through City outreach workers, and by supplying them to WhiteBird's COVID Distribution Center that gives people items they need to shelter in place in their camps.

We could use a little help.

If you have the ability and love to bake (like our master baker Bill T), we could really use any type of cookie, brownie, or bar you could create. We will take any and all quantities of desserts, granola bars, scones, etc. that we can use as desserts in our to-go meals.

Another helpful item would be water. So many places that our dinner guests depended on for bathrooms and water are now closed.

Donations can be dropped off at our front door of the Dining Room between 9am-10:30am. Please call Jesse at 541.284.1340 ahead of time so he can roll out a sanitized cart so we can keep with the social distancing procedures.

The Theological Book Group will be reading and discussing, "The Book of Joy" by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu. The next meeting is on Saturday, June 13th at 9:00 am on Zoom. All are invited to participate. Please contact Patricia Dodini at pdodini1@sbcglobal.net with your email information so you can be notified of meetings.



Dear Friends of Camp Lutherwood Oregon,

Camp Lutherwood Oregon's Board of

Directors has made the difficult decision to suspend all planned programs for summer 2020. The health and safety of all campers, staff and guests is our top priority as well as the desire to be financially responsible with the future viability of this ministry.

We believe this decision will allow camp to be a vibrant place for all to gather again in the future. We are constantly monitoring the recommendations of Oregon Health Authority, the American Camp Association and the Governor's mandates to see if any small group program options could be possible later in the summer. These could include opening camp for day use, small group family camps or work days.

As you can imagine, COVID-19 has put all of us, including Camp Lutherwood Oregon, in very challenging financial positions. We are grateful for the continued support of camper families, donors, volunteers, congregations and friends of camp. Your continued support is needed now to ensure that camp is poised to launch operations again as soon as it is safe to do so.

We are eager to stay in touch over the coming months. Be sure to follow us on social media for regular updates from camp. You are invited to join us for Zoom Campfire on Friday night at 7pm PST.

Thank you for your support of Camp Lutherwood Oregon! We wish you health and safety in the days and weeks ahead.

Blessings,

Andrea Scofield, Executive Director
Camp Lutherwood Oregon

Upcoming Events at Camp Lutherwood Oregon

SAVE THE DATES:

July 9 – Master Site Planning Information Gathering workshop. 10-2:00pm at Camp Lutherwood. More details to follow

September 24 – A gathering at camp with Lutherans Restoring Creation. Planning to have tracks for youth and tracks for congregations as we look at ways we can care for creation. More details to follow but please save the date!

November 13 - the Camp Lutherwood Association Gathering will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Albany beginning at 3pm. This will be an important meeting for you to attend and will be fun too. University of Oregon Professor, Dr. Mark Gillem, will present findings on the Master Site Planning process and will engage all participants in a 90 minute process to look at the “preferred alternatives” for Camp Lutherwood.

Lutherwood received a loan through the Small Business Administration. This loan/grant is to cover payroll, benefits, utilities, and insurance for the next 8 weeks. The total amount was far less than 10% of our annual budget so therefore the Board does not need the approval of the Association to accept this loan which, we all hope will be forgiven.

We have scaled back our number of employees which has been very painful, but we are working to be fully ready when the time comes for Lutherwood to open to guests again.

In the meantime, the new dining hall construction continues with an expected date of completion sometime in the first part of May. We celebrate that everyday!!!!

Thank you, again, for your partnership



caring for
GOD'S
earth

Earthkeeper
News

Relative to last month's article on Pollinators, if you have

access to National Geographic May 2020 you will see the main article is "You'll Miss Them When They are Gone". It has been estimated there has been a SEVENTY SIX per cent drop in insect biomass between 1989 and 2016. The graphics are astonishing. One very visible sign for those who drive: Have you noticed your windshield has many fewer "splats" of insects than in previous years? It is thought that the drop in bird population might be related to the diminishing insect population (and possibly related to insecticides). Insects have five important "jobs". They are Providers (food for larger animals), Decomposers,(of waste and carrion), Pest controllers (they feed on crop-threatening pests), Pollinators (nearly 90 per cent of flowering plants and 75 per cent of crop plants depend on pollination by animals, mostly insects) and Soil Engineers (termites and ants can transform soil in hot, dry climates, their tunneling aerates hard ground. This helps soil retain water and add nutrients. It is said that in some areas the introduction of termites has turned infertile land into crop land within a year!)

Possible causes of insect demise are use of neonicotinoid pesticides, glyphosates (Round-up), climate change, change in farming practice to larger scale single crop production, destruction of hedge rows and other natural areas. In the Mid-West we called them "ditches".

So the next time you see a spider or a wasp think twice before you get out the spray can. store.

A. Zebra

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Especially for:



June 7 *The Holy Trinity* Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20
June 14 Exodus 19:2-8a, Psalm 100, Romans 5:1-8, Matthew 9:35-10:8 [9-23]
June 21 Jeremiah 20:7-13, Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18, Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39
June 28 Jeremiah 28:5-9, Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18, Romans 6:12-23, Matthew 10:40-42



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