February 2018

Faith in Action

a monthly publication of Bremerton United Methodist Church

"Teacher, which command in God's Law is the most important?" Jesus said, "'Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.' This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' These two commands are pegs; everything in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them." Matthew 22: 36-40

Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life... Matthew 28:19 "The Message"

Musings

Dear Church,

Our Lenten Season, Christ Beside Me, Christ Within Me, will have begun by the time you receive this.

I hope that you will come with anticipation and curiosity if you have not yet practiced some of the ways we will be experiencing prayer during this time together before Easter. At the Ash Wednesday Service we began to get acquainted with perhaps a new way of praying for some. It is using a Prayer of Consciousness called the Examen. Throughout Lent, we will find ourselves becoming more and more comfortable using this video tool, created by The Work of the People, which takes us with music, photos, and words, through the five steps of praying this way. The first movement is Divine Accompany where we begin to invite God into our ordinary day; the second is gratitude, where we look over our day and see the gifts we experienced; the third movement is called Emotional Intelligence where we will recall our ups and downs of the day...looking at What gave me life? What things or people drained me? The fourth movement, Acceptance, is where we think about our fears and pains that have been wearing us down, where we ask for help with acceptance and healing. And the fifth movement, Hope for Tomorrow, is where we end our prayer looking and feeling for the shining light of Christ to help us feel the possibilities of the days ahead. Along with this prayer each week we will learn about one of the Celtic saints, and a few of our own saints, like Dorothy Day.

It is good to go back and experience how early Christians worshiped. . .

Why Celtic saints? Well, they are the early beginning saints of the Christian church, found in northern Europe in the 400s C.E. It has become known that they were there even before in some areas such as Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It is good to go back and experience how early Christians worshiped, as we might begin to feel their meditative ways of prayer might be very useful to us in this time of our lives. These ways of praying have been passed down in oral tradition, from mother to daughter, from father to son for generations.

I hope you won't miss a week of worship, as we will experience some body movements, maybe even learn a dance step or two and hear and sing some beautiful Celtic music. Don't forget to pick up some prayer beads, and a prayer journal given out our first Sunday of Lent!

God Bless Us Everyone, as we begin this pilgrimage to Easter!

Deep Peace of Christ to you,

Marta

The Welcoming Center

At the end of summer, we broke ground on our new addition. Now we are nearing the completion of the project. There are many things still to be completed, but we will get there. One item we had not decided was what to call this new area. As I listen to what we are calling this space we are using many terms—Narthex (a traditional church term often used by those who have grown up in the church), Entry (well, yes- but not very specific to a church reaching out into the community), The Gathering Space (is this clear?). The Building Committee has been trying names and has decided that The Welcoming Center best expresses our hopes for how this space can offer an invitation to others no matter what their church connection may be or has been.

What still needs to be completed?
The are many details still to be completed, including:
Interior painting
Finishing the newly redesigned stain glass wall
Floors in the main area and the bathrooms
The handrails around the walkways and beside the entry stairs (thanks, Paul)
Landscaping
When safe, to install the Clyde Allen windows

How are we doing financially? Throughout this project we have paid all our bills in full. Thank you. And Praise God! Now we are facing the bills that will bring us to the completion of the building. As we began, the budget the congregation voted on was $750 thousand; and the church as a body would invest $100 thousand of that from the sale of the St. Luke's property. You have been generous with your gifts and pledges. Thank you! Finances are moving along as we carefully use all of your donations. We will move to borrow from ourselves to cover the final bills while pledges continue to come in. (If you can pay them off sooner, it would be helpful). Our architects, Miles Yannick and Don Roberts and contractor BJC have worked so hard to support our vision and keep the costs down.

We are working to set our date to celebrate the completion of the Welcoming Center with a service of Consecration (a blessing) and Dedication (paid for—except what we owe ourselves). Watch for the details…

February Birthdays

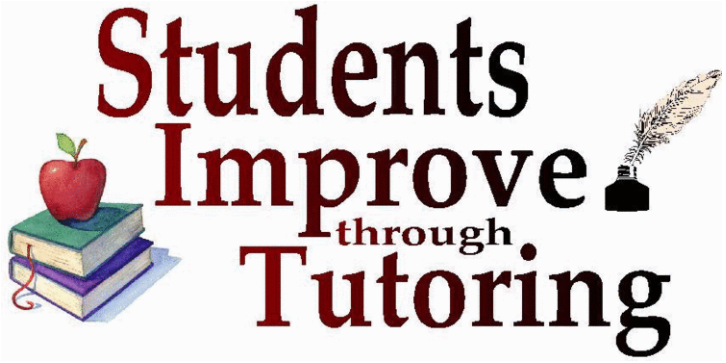
Mitchell Dubeau	Feb 02	Debbie Thompson	Feb 14
William Little	Feb 03	Hiroko Downey	Feb 15
Elaine Evans	Feb 04	Alta Drane	Feb 15
Nicole Huston	Feb 04	Jacoba Fripp	Feb 16
Shannon Crawford	Feb 08	Lee Crawford	Feb 18
Marsha Wirtanen	Feb 09	Ryan Yates	Feb 19
Ellalene Shearer	Feb 10	Jacob Gile	Feb 24
Ben Herrington	Feb 10	Agnes Evers	Feb 25

March Birthdays

Wanda Butler	Mar 05
Alison Gile	Mar 06
Ethan Hacker	Mar 10
Wyatt Wilson	Mar 10
Joy Bonnington	Mar 15
Deanna Hansford	Mar 15
Susie Hathaway	Mar 15
Joe McWatt	Mar 16
Shirley Robinson	Mar 16
Katherine Roberts-Watson	Mar 25
Marcie Carlson	Mar 26
Elsie Dolan	Mar 27
Joyce Kempf	Mar 30
Don Smith	Mar 31

March Anniversaries

Paul and Debbie Thompson	Mar 17
Jeanette Adamson	Mar 21
Harold and Antonia Cuestas	Mar 25
Richard and Penny Pfeiffer	Mar 28



TUTORING for FALL

Dear Church,

One of our important outreaches has been our tutoring program with the Crownhill Elementary School.

With our great leaders, Audrey Sullivan, Sharon Masters and Sandy Rice needing to step down this past year because of many good reasons, we were not able to share in this ministry this year. I will be going up to talk with the Principal during the early days of March and would like to be able to share with her that we would like to continue this ministry with them.

What I'm looking for are two people who would be willing to take on this ministry. We've had it on Thursday afternoons, which has worked well with regular meetings at the church, and still is the one open day during the week. Please pray about this ministry. It means getting the Tutors together and explaining their role in their student's life. Meeting with the Principal to receive the names of the students after the first parent conference in the fall, and then beginning usually around the first part of November. I'm sure I could set up a time for you to talk with our past leaders, and they could gather with you and share what and how they did the program, and then if you are still interested you might want to tweek it to fit your gifts and creativity.

Let's keep this outreach of ministry going. It is a great way to reach children and their families, and to provide a service that helps a child know there are other adults in their lives who care; that the gift of learning to read and to have the help one on one of a listening adult in their life is something that a child also needs in their life.

If we don't get anyone to step up to make this happen, it just won't happen! Is this an area you could have passion for and give children hope and a listening adult for an hour or two a week? Call me. Text me. Set an appointment with me. Marta

Construction is moving along! Can't wait to see what it looks like when it's all done!

parenting CHRISTIAN kids

Young children are savvy explorers, investigating God's creation with unbridled enthusiasm and fearless questions. Their imagination allows them to experiment with thoughts, feelings, and ideas. Imagination is also a powerful tool for discovering faith concepts. Without consistent opportunities, however, curiosity and imagination plummet by the preteen years.

Likewise, creativity often becomes less important to kids as they grow—and as they progress through the educational system. Yet that skill is an effective way to help children develop a relationship with Jesus.

"Kids can't literally hug Jesus or sit on his lap, [so] creativity helps bridge that gap," says Jeff White, author of Holy Wow (Group). Creativity lets kids "explore God and understand who he is, whether through art, music, food, drama, storytelling, or other forms of self-expression," he adds.

Jesus adored and welcomed little children; in fact, he instructs us all to have a childlike faith (see Matthew 18:3). That type of faith is trusting yet curious. It asks questions, seeks new insights, and wonders how Jesus would address challenges.

Nurturing children's curiosity and creativity provides a solid foundation for learning, living, and loving. The ultimate goal of an inquisitive, imaginative mind is to know Jesus so we can discover how to serve and love him—and other people.
Spending time with children can be unpredictable—and can lead to many God-moments. Through their vivid imaginations, children become part of God's unfolding story with a sense of innocence and trust that we lose as adults. There's no rush to confront little ones with reality; that happens soon enough. Set aside criticism, competition, structure, and comparisons. Instead, emphasize praise, acceptance, freedom, insights, and smiles. Rushing squelches curiosity, so allow plenty of time for your children to make and share their discoveries. Welcome their questions, even if you don't have all the answers. And remember to show curiosity yourself, because that mindset is contagious! Try these ideas for revealing biblical truths through imagination and creative exploration.

It's a Draw Set out art supplies and draw, paint, or sculpt Bible events. Celebrate children's creativity, and find opportunities to link their abstract art with God's creation and his Word.

Action! Encourage children to engage with Bible events by acting them out together. After reading aloud from a children's Bible or Bible storybook, dress up, role- play, and improvise dialogue. Allow embellishment and laughter.

Creative Creation Together, brainstorm things God created. Read aloud Genesis 1:27. Say: "Because we're made in God's image, we're creative too!" Set out shapes cut from different colors of construction paper. Have family members design pictures of God's creation (animals, flowers, people, and so on).

Curious Questions While reading the Bible together, encourage children's curiosity by asking questions such as "How might [Bible person] tell about this event? What do you think he or she saw? smelled? tasted? touched? What other choices did this person have? What in these Bible verses do you want to do? What do you not want to do?"

"O Sovereign Lord! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you!"
—Jeremiah 32:17, NLT

Sunday Van Driver Schedule

1st Sunday		
471-3393		
2nd Sunday	Rich Pfeiffer	373-2940
3rd Sunday	Tom Russell	373-1832
4th Sunday	Marcie Carlsen	917-5976

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00am Adult Faith Formation
10:30am Worship Service
12:00pm Coffee Fellowship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 *4:00-4:30 Paul @ Bay Pointe* *6:30 Praise Band*	***2*** ***NO YOUTH GROUP***	*3* *9:30-11 Study Group* *6:30 Bridge Club*
4 *9:00 Adult Faith Formation* *10:30 Worship* *10:30 Sunday School*	*5* *11:30 Book Study Group* *12:00 Al Anon* *1:30 Building Committee DR* *5:30 Adult Children of Alcoholics Wesley Room* *6:30 Bridge Club*	*6* *10:30 Bridge Club* *1:00 Craft Group WR*	**7** *10:00 Staff Meeting DR* *10:30 Bridge Club* *2:00 Confirmation Class* ***6:30 Chancel Choir***	*8* *6:30 Praise Band*	*9* *6-9:00 Youth Group* *All Newsletter Items Due*	*10* *9:30-11 Study Group* *6:30 Bridge Club*
11 *9:00 Adult Faith Formation* *10:30 Worship* *10:30 Sunday School* *UMCOR Sunday*	*12* *11:30 Book Study Group* *12:00 Al Anon* *5:30 Adult Children of Alcoholics Wesley Room* *6:30 Bridge Club*	*13* *9:00 Committee Chairs Lib.* *9:30 Quilters WR* *10:30 Bridge Club* *12:30 Massage Group DR* *1:00 Craft Group WR*	*14* *10:00 Staff Meeting DR* *10:30 Bridge Club* *2:00 Confirmation Class* ***6:30 Chancel Choir***	*15* *4:00-4:30 Paul @ Bay Pointe* *6:30 Praise Band*	*16* *11:00 Newsletter Folding* *6-9:00 Youth Group*	*17* *9:30-11 Study Group* *6:30 Bridge Club*
18 *9:00 Adult Faith Formation* *10:30 Worship* *10:30 Sunday School*	*19* *11:30 Book Study Group* *12:00 Al Anon* *5:30 Adult Children of Alcoholics Wesley Room* *6:30 Bridge Club* *7:15 Trustees, Finance, Ad Board Meeting Disciple Rm*	*20* *9:30 Quilters WR* *10:30 Bridge Club* *1:00 Craft Group WR*	*21* *10:00 Staff Meeting DR* *10:30 Bridge Club* *2:00 Confirmation Class* ***6:30 Chancel Choir***	*22* *6:30 Praise Band*	*23* *6-9:00 Youth Group*	*24* *9:30-11 Study Group* *6:30 Bridge Club*
25 *9:00 Adult Faith Formation* *10:30 Worship* *10:30 Sunday School*	*26* *11:30 Book Study Group* *12:00 Al Anon* *5:30 Adult Children of Alcoholics Wesley Room* *6:30 Bridge Club*	*27* *10:30 Bridge Club* *1:00 Craft Group WR*	*28* *10:00 Staff Meeting DR* *10:30 Bridge Club* *2:00 Confirmation Class* ***6:30 Chancel Choir***	*29* *7:00 Maundy Thursday Svc.*	*30* *12:00 Good Friday Svc.* *6-9:00 Youth Group*	*31*

CONFIRMATION CLASS

6th GRADERS AND ABOVE: Have you been confirmed yet? Are you interested In confirmation classes - they will start of Wednesday 28th February and will go through mid May on Weds afternoons at 2pm. Rides home offered if you need it. Do you have a friend who would be interested in doing this class with you? Bring them along! We usually have fun, do join us!!! Let Babs know -360-990-3132 or babsabad@aol.com

Lent Sermon Series

February 18th - 1st Sunday of Lent
Daily Life and Work

February 25th -2nd Sunday of Lent
Blessing As a Way of Life

March 4th - 3rd Sunday of Lent
Creation

March 11th - 4th Sunday of Lent
The Presence of God

March 18th - 5th Sunday in Lent
Soul Friends

March 25th - Psalm Sunday
Pilgrimage

March 29th - Maundy Thursday
7:00pm Service
The Cross

March 30th - Good Friday
12:00pm Prayer Service in the Sanctuary

April 1st - Easter Praise
Easter Sunrise Service 7:30am
Continental Breakfast 8:45am
Easter Celebration Service 10:30am

YOUTH GROUP: Saturday 24th February there will be a big fund raiser here at church and your help would be greatly appreciated. There are areas to help in the Nursery, waiting tables, clearing tables, to name but a few! If you can help - please see Pastor Marta!!

SOUPERBOWL
A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO THE CONGREGATION: for your support!! We fed you with potato and leek, tomahhhto soup (!!!), and taco soup on Sunday and you in turn supported our SOUPERBOWL fund raiser to the tune of $247.51 and even then, there may be some more coming in. The recipient of this money is still under discussion but in tune with the organization who help with this - it will be a charity of our choice (youth group) and we shall announce it when it is decided!!
Again THANK YOU TO YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

Lord, Hear Our Prayers

Prayers of Healing: For George Wagner's sister, Tessa Aldrich, who has cancer; for Marilyn Schlicting's nephew with Lou Gerhigs Disease; for Billie Jo Peterson's son-in-law, Ira; for Wendy Schaafsm, a friend of Corky and Audrey Sullivan and a mom of two, just diagnosed with MS; Loida Neumann's mother-in-law Lydia Neumann, who fell in her California home and broke her neck; Tom Burch; Richard Pfeiffer's grandson healing from surgery; Michael McKinney; Lynn Hume; Robert Sawyer; Anne Leddon; Joan Clemmons; Marvin Leach; Gary Pepper; Betty & Floyd Langton; Lorna Crawford; Lee Crawford; Michael McKinney's dad; Marilyn Schlichting; Loretta Coates; Frank and Ruth Hutson; for families who are hurting; Betty Baker's brother with brain cancer; Ellalene Shearer.

Prayers of Joy: For Towan Curry getting on the dean's list at OC; for Maia Adolph who is serving in Kenya for a semester; for the everyday blessings from God, "For such a time as this"when our building project is moving along on schedule. For our new Rotation Sunday School; for the many volunteer hours that so many of this church put in, to help bring about the kingdom of God.

In Their Loss: For Debora Scott and her family on the death of her mother Lorraine Whisenant; for the family of Vivian White, on her death ; for Towan Curry and family for the loss of his grandma, Maxine Robinson; for the family of Delma Pheiffer on her death; for the family of Brian Miller on his death; for Tom and Donna Russell on the death of Clara DeBardi; for Carol Branscum on the loss of her friend Barb, and for all those who loved Barb.

Community and World: For our country and all the people who are in leadership; For our planet earth, and to all who are working on creative ways to bring about a rebirth to end the climate change; our country's leaders, that they make wise decisions that lead to peace; for all the immigrants who are afraid of being deported from our country; for the many who have been impacted because of hate crimes. Let us be the change in Creation care to save our planet, racial issues, homelessness, immigration, health issues, and making sure every child goes to school.

Come enjoy a night full of live music (even a string quartet from the Bremerton Symphony), great food, auctions, dessert dash, and lots of fun and laughter. Tickets are:

$120/Table of 8
$15/Each

To get tickets, please either contact the church office during office hours (Monday through Friday from 9 am to 1 pm) and ask for Michelle or Dee or come into the office.

All of the money is going to our welcoming center to finish up the project and purchase new furniture. All to help open our doors even more to our neighborhood and world

UMCOR Relief Kit Storeroom

The Bremerton United Methodist church's UMCOR Relief Kit Storeroom is ready for business! We will collect items throughout the year for school kits that will be distributed to help those who need these essential supplies when a disaster strikes. The items to be donated are: blunt scissors, pads of paper, hand-held pencil sharpeners, 30 centimeter (12 inch) rulers, unsharpened pencils, 2-inch or larger erasers, 24-count box of crayons, and 14 x 16 inch cloth bags. For a complete description of the items, head here (https://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies/Relief-Supply-Kits/School). Supplies will also be collected from other churches. When the Storeroom is filled, all supplies will be picked up and delivered to the UMCOR Depot West in Salt Lake City, Utah. The UMCOR Depot West will assemble, store and distribute School Kits to those in need. If you have any questions, please contact Marly Galindo, cell = (360) 621-6096, email = marlyg78@gmail.com. Thank you for giving to UMCOR!

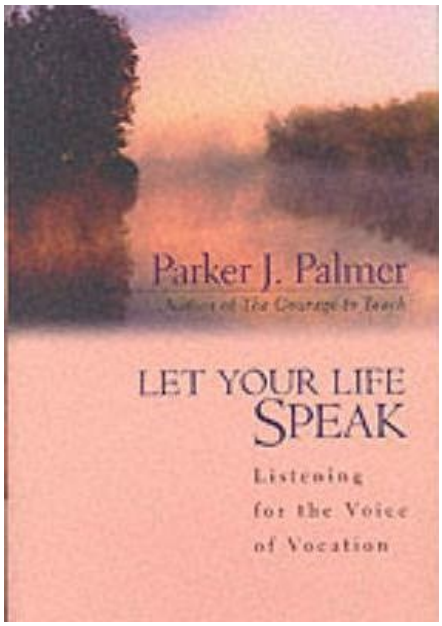
Gentle Reminder

A gentle reminder that when there is food in the kitchen with a name on it - please do not help yourself! You are taking that food away from the person/s it was meant for! And conversely if you are donating food for something specific please let the office know so we can help it can get to its intended destination.

UMCOR Sunday – Connectional Giving

One of the things that sets United Methodist congregations apart is our approach to generosity. We believe in connectional giving. Connectional giving is what happens when thousands of congregations, across the world, give together beyond their local churches. Some of the many opportunities for connectional giving happen six times a year on designated giving days we call Special Sundays. The momentum of generosity is unstoppable when tens of thousands of us come together to donate toward sustainable life change for people around the world.

UMCOR Sunday, celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Lent, is one of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. This Sunday calls United Methodists to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. When we give on UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing), we empower the United Methodist Committee on Relief to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church. Our giving helps the most vulnerable in their darkest days. We believe that all people have God-given worth and dignity — without regard to race, religion or gender. On UMCOR Sunday, we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.



Lenten Study:

Using Parker Palmer's book called
Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation
Two Opportunities:

1.Saturdays from 9:30am to 11:00am in the Disciple Room beginning Saturday 17th of February (read the introduction and the first 2 chapters)
2. Mondays at 11:30am to 1:00pm in the Disciple Room beginning Monday the 19th of February (read the introduction and the first 2 chapters) AND, bring a brown bag lunch for nourishment.

This may be a very different kind of book than you've ever read, as it isn't often that we take the time to be in prayer and share with other people how we are listening to our inner self, to make sense of what our purpose here on this earth might be...so we find our deeper truer self. Parker Palmer is one of my favorite writers and teachers. He is a gentle soul, who is willing to share his dark times, and depression, as well as the joys of his life, as he struggles to find his own vocation .....his own true calling of his life. He helps us see that our inner work needs to be done in community. So we will be speaking a lot about our inner work; working with things like reflective reading, spiritual friendship, journaling, meditation, and prayer. Wouldn't it be great if more young parents learned this skill, and began teaching it to their young children, of the importance of this inner-journey? This time spent in class will be a deeper way of using what we will be learning in worship about ourselves and our pilgrimage to Easter. We will again use the practice of the Examen during this time together. Either call the church office, or simply show up to one of these classes. You will be welcomed. (At the time of printing the newsletter, I'd like to encourage you to attend the Monday class. The Saturday class is getting pretty large. However, if it is the only one you can attend, I don't want to discourage you. But, if you have a choice, please sign up and come to the Monday class.) Books are $8.00 or you can purchase one on Amazon or get a copy on your kindle or e-reader from Amazon as well.

Paul Thompson and his crew installing our railings leading into our new Welcome Center.

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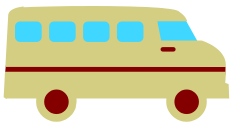
- Louann Morris, Prayer Chain Hostess 360.620.3771
- Angel DeJesus, Custodian
- Albert Buster, VADIS Worker

Calling for a Ride?

To request a ride, please call the church office at 360-373-3510; for the van, choose option 2, and for the accessible bus, choose option 5.



Sunday Schedule:

9:00 am Adult Faith Formation
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Fellowship

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

MARCH 9

Bremerton United Methodist Church celebrates the diversity of our community and the world. We affirm the sacred worth and dignity of all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, or physical and mental capabilities. We openly proclaim this welcome to all, including those who have known the pain of exclusions or discrimination, and invite everyone to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, respect and understanding.

RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK