

July-August 2024 Newsletter

Fern Prairie United Methodist Church

Greetings and happy summer everyone! How does your garden grow? In Janice Kempe's writing on dandelions she likens our life of faith to those persistent plants. "Christians should be more like dandelions. Our sunny yellow faces should be a reminder that simple faith has deep roots that are impossible to dislodge. Our vast number would show the world that even though we are not fancy or pampered we are evident everywhere, even in the best neighborhoods." God bless the dandelions in our midst!

The month of May saw the conclusion to a year of special celebrations for our 150 year old ministry here.

"Thank you everyone who helped by taking part in or attending the Grand Finale 'Sesquicentennial Pageant' on May 18th and Celebration Worship with Bishop Mary Ann Swenson on May 19th." -Joan Hackett, Sesquicentennial Coordinator (Please see attached commentary at the end of this newsletter)

We invite everyone to walk about the grounds and note the special commemorative red leaf maple in the orchard area out back (many thanks to the generous donation made by the Laselle family!). Feel free to spend a little quiet reflection time in the freshly cleared out grotto area (many thanks to those whose hard work is ongoing!). And lastly, look for small miracles in our midst (see additional attached reflection at the end of the newsletter).

Please let us know if you have special prayer requests or other needs we can fill for you. It is good to know...The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalm 121:8

<https://fernprairieunitedmethodist.org>

Link for online giving: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZA35>

Calendar of upcoming events

July

7- Carl Landerholm

14- Marilyn

21- Rev. Keith Hackett, Holy Communion

28- Kathy

August

4- Carl Landerholm

11- Marilyn

18- Rev. Keith Hackett, Holy Communion

25- Kathy and Marilyn

Included commentaries:

What a beautiful celebration of history over the past year came to completion during an amazing "pageant" of sorts here at the Fern Prairie United Methodist Church. A full house of all ages witnessed amazing vignettes that brought to life some of the past 150 years of ministry of "the little white church on the hill". Glimpses of history through gifts of drama, skits, storytelling, music and more came alive for all of us present. It was obvious to me that much research, planning and preparation took place to make this an event to remember. I was honored to be invited to be a part of it. To be able to have the opportunity for the group photo on those front steps will be a treasure for years to come. It is obvious to me that Fern Prairie United Methodist Church will continue in its mission and ministry well into the future and I, for one, look forward to see where God is leading this committed group of faith believers. Thank you for your ministry in the past, now and into the future,)

Deb Avery, Pacific Northwest Conference President, United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women of Faith)

Another Mystery: On leaving church this morning - June 30th -and closing the outside door by the kitchen Justin Shropshire caught a piece of paper falling down onto his head. Lo and behold it was a church bulletin from April 29th 1945, when George L Poor was the Minister. For the Order of Worship just hymn numbers not first lines were given and no sermon title. They did have a Children's Story. There was an outline drawing of the church and the words, "*I was glad when they said unto me let us go into the house of the Lord.*"

Notices included:

"Also this afternoon at 3:30 the nominating committee will meet with Mrs. McQueen.

Our youth have accepted an invitation from the youth of the Mill Plain and Washougal churches to a Skating Party this Friday evening in the Columbia House in Vancouver. This recreation hall is 3 or 4 times larger than the Camas rink and is reserved that evening for church youth only.

The date for this years Daily Vacation Bible School is set for May 28 to June 8. The age includes 5 through 14 years old. The bus route will be announced later."

No one can explain where this came from as the kitchen and bathroom extension was built in 1985 forty years after that 1945 Sunday. Note that this is the time when the church owned the school bus and would use it for collecting children for Vacation Bible School. Mrs. McQueen would have been Etta- Pinkney's daughter we presume.

SAVE THESE DATES & INVITE YOUR FRIENDS

September 15- Potluck picnic/barbeque at the church at noon. Games and fun provided.

November 23- Visit with St. Nick 2-5pm

For stories, a photo, cookies and cocoa.

St. Nicholas will be visiting us early again this year before he gets too busy with his lists 😊

Please join us again for stories, photos, cookies, and cocoa!