

Fern Prairie United Methodist Church

September-October 2025 Newsletter

Greetings dear friends! We hope you have enjoyed time for relaxation, renewal, and recreation this summer. It has been a very busy summer for our little white church on the hill. Many thanks go out to those whose time and efforts were spent on caring for our buildings and grounds and prayerfully supporting those in need.

We owe a very special thanks to Dick and Linda for their generous donation of the new lawn tractor. And to Daniel (Marilyn's nephew) whose generous heart moved him to paint and finish flooring in the parsonage. Without their efforts the work would have been so much more daunting.

God loves a cheerful giver and we are so grateful and humbled by all the behind-the-scenes work and care all of you selflessly provide!

It has been a season for listening and discerning God's will. Please read on to discover Pastor Don's thoughts on this. Note: Don intends to submit monthly reflections in our newsletter and through an updated/improved Facebook page (pending).

Every Person Has a Story to Tell.

Countless dear people have blissfully confided in me about their first romance or enthusiastically regaled to me about their high school or college hijinks or tearfully confessed to me about their personal crises. I have been amused, troubled, humbled, flattered, moved and honored to hear a myriad of stories.

I generally regard every storytelling moment as a divine appointment because many of their narratives are confessional in nature. Consequently, they are uniformly handled with patience, grace, and strict confidentiality and/or anonymity.

Not all stories are easy to hear. I concede that some floridly told stories have little apparent redemptive value — particularly those that grotesquely denigrate others, distort events, manipulate facts or stretch truths. Still, downright troubling tales should be heard. Why? Because they can also reveal something about our brokenness and our need for a divine Sustainer/Deliverer/Provider/Redeemer.

Our Creator did not merely shape humanity out of mud (as the book of Genesis details) and then release us as untended strays or feral creatures. Instead, I believe God amply, actively, lovingly and patiently guides and graciously intervenes for us wayward people in countless moments from birth to death.

The ancients were keen observers of God's activity and deft discerners of our imperfect human condition. These wise prophets and storytellers regaled our ancestors with carefully chosen sacred stories when God and people intersected, intertwined, embraced, withdrew, despaired and rejoiced.

Modern storytellers can still capture a hint of both divinity and humanity. Their colorfully told tales are carefully chosen, well-rehearsed and often exquisitely constructed to inform, impress, amuse, entertain or even shock an audience. Whether secular or sacred, one can consistently discern something about the Creator and those whom God has created.

I've been listening, observing and storytelling my whole life. I look forward to hearing your stories and I'm eager to share mine in occasional sermons, newsletters or online postings.

(—Pastor Don)

We hold you all in our thoughts and prayers and look forward to hearing about other ways we can serve you. Peace and blessings, your church family at FPUMC

Calendar of upcoming events:

September

7 Rev. David Nieda
14 Marilyn
21 Rev. David Jaeger- picnic with Camas
28 Music Sunday and Holy Communion

October

5 Marilyn
12 Kathy
19 Rev. Carol Davies
26 Rev. Keith Hackett H.C

Bio of Rev. David Jaeger:

Born and raised in Tulsa, OK.
BA, Zoology & Philosophy, Univ of Colorado Boulder, 1970
MTh, SMU, 1974
PhD, Biblical Interpretation, Iliff & Denver Univ., 1993
20 years of parish ministry, principally in Colorado, Mtn. Sky Conference, UMC; and two years at First Congregational UCC, Boulder.

Two years as director of development for Denver Inner City Parish.
Five years administration, Office of Ministerial Development, Iliff.
Married to Karen 49 years and counting. In "retirement" we have majored in grandparenting, which occasions our residence in Hood River for the past five years, where our daughter and two granddaughters live. We spent several months a year in the UK, 2013-19, while the girls were growing up in a Lancashire village, where we also enjoyed a close association with the Trinity Methodist chapel. And we expect to remain in Hood River for at least the next six years, through high school graduations.

Additional notes:

Have you enjoyed your summer activities? Return to worship after your summer hiatus. Enjoy a warm and welcoming homecoming. **Come to the potluck picnic on September 21! Campfire songs, food, and fun!** We are replacing our main sign after decades of weathering and exposure.

The new sign will improve legibility and add our website information. The current sign will be repaired, refreshed and relocated. New sign up sheets are at the church to sign up for Sunday refreshments and church cleaners.

Church Website:

fernprairieunitedmethodistchurch.org

Online giving link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZA35>