

Fern Prairie United Methodist
July-August Newsletter 2023

Greetings friends and family! Summer is upon us and there is renewed energy and excitement that comes from watching things grow. Have you been graced with opportunities to spend time outdoors or visit with friends? Are you finding ways to nurture your soul and walk humbly with our God? And, if so, how does that inspire you to reach out to others that may need an extra word of encouragement or just a listening ear?

The last two months have been a flurry of activity at our little white church on the hill. Most notably, we have enjoyed having special guests come and share their memories and talents with us. A very special thank you to Rev. Carol Davies and Rev. Carol Mariano for their participation in May and June. Our Connexion Sundays have been another way for our congregation members to share their memories and make new ones.

The Music to a Tea event this month was a very special time and a huge success! It was such a blessing to have so many people share of their time and talents to a full house. The Stebbins sisters provided an amazing fellowship time that included song, dance, instrumentals, stories, poetry, love and laughter. Even John Wesley got in on some of the fun! Even though this was not meant to be an actual fundraiser we really appreciate the generous donations that will be used jointly to help cover the cost of our new furnace and help with relief efforts in Ukraine. Thank you, Joan, our worship coordinator, for all your help in organizing this! Please continue to support her efforts by sending her a note or email about special memories you might want to share. She is still collecting material to add to a special book for the culmination of our 150th birthday celebration this year. Check our attached calendar for more upcoming special guests and events!

So far there have been a few organized clean up days that have left the grounds and building looking much neater and welcoming. Thanks to all who have been able to give of their time toward that cause.

The months of July and August we will be adding some summer study sessions in addition to our more traditional worship services. Those Sundays are noted on the calendar as well. We are always open to feedback on what you feel is going well or might need improvement. We thank you for all your support and encouragement as we continue to learn and evolve as a lay lead congregation!

Check out our new website: <https://fernprairieunitedmethodist.org>

You can now choose to support the work of the church financially by putting a gift on the collection plate or by using your credit card or bank account by following this link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZA35>

As always, please know how much you are loved and cared about and feel free to reach out to any of our council members to let us know how we can better serve you through our presence and prayers. Leviticus 19:18 tells us to "Love your neighbor as yourself." This command in the Old Testament is quoted nine times in the New Testament! What a blessing to share His love with each other!

Contact info:

<https://fernprairieunitedmethodist.org>

Calender of upcoming events

July 2: Intro: Summer study session #1

July 9: Rev. Keith Hackett Holy Communion

Church council meeting after service

July 16: Carl Landerholm, 'Reflection on My Time 1995-2002'

Church family meal after service

July 23: Summer study session #2

July 30: Summer study session #3

August 6: Summer study session #4

August 13: Summer study session #5

August 20: Summer Study session #6

Church family meal/picnic? after service

August 27 Rev. Keith Hackett, 'Reflection on My Time 1982-91' Holy Communion

***A special note from our worship coordinator:**

"Do you remember Ruth Mathis who was pastor here 2007-2016?

Have you a story or special anecdote?

Please could you share that with me- by email or by writing a note in the book at the church by September 1?

Sunday September 10th we will be sharing connexions and hope that she will be able to join us that day.

Do you remember Dorothy Northcutt who was pastor here 1961-70?

Have you a story or special anecdote?

Please could you share that with me- by email or by writing a note in the book at the church by September 1?

Sunday October 15th we will be sharing connexions about Dorothy and how she influenced people at Fern Prairie and outside in the wider church.

Thanks for the memories, Joan

Please send your submissions to:
info@fernprairieunitedmethodist.org

Shared letter from Deb Avery concerning our Music to a Tea:

Music to a Tea

Recently I had the blessing of being a part of a joyous group of people of faith at Fern Prairie United Methodist Church. This event, “Music to a Tea” was a part of a year- long celebration honoring the Mission and Ministry for 150 years, in the same site in the Camas area.

They are also passionate about continuing that ministry in a now lay-led congregation! I listened to Bishop Cedric Bridgeforth’s talk recently about the vital ministry of lay leadership needed in our churches today. I observed this is “real time” during this “Music to a Tea”. I witnessed persons planning, working together, baking, breaking bread, sharing music and stories with passion and love for this “Little White Church on the Hill”. I felt welcomed and included as I helped make sandwiches with my sisters and brothers in faith. Babies, children, youth and adults of all ages were actively engaged! Theirs was an eagerness and genuine grace for their ongoing mission. I think even “John Wesley” was inspired by this group.

The roses at the front of the church were displaying, fully, God’s gifts and glory and the people inside displayed the same!

The “Stebbins Sisters” provided their gifts and graces through music, dance and original poetry. Extended family members graciously led all of us in singing. And, like John Wesley, my heart was strangely warmed.

The sun was bright outdoors and God’s love shown even brighter inside those walls that day. I truly believe that God continues to have a plan for those people who are now, and in the future, a part of that “Little White Church on the Hill”.

Deb Avery

PNW Conference President

United Women in Faith

Future note:

Saturday, September 9th, at 10:30: 'Earth Inspiration' A program hosted by United Women in Faith about climate justice and open to everyone. This will be at Fern Prairie UMC. These quarterly events planned by Vancouver Heights United Women in Faith are held at different area churches.

