

Fern Prairie United Methodist Church Newsletter

March-April 2025



As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:12

Hello dear friends and church family! As our days get longer and the buds are forming, we are reminded once again of God's transformative power and grace in our lives. We praise Him with thanksgiving for all of you! May He continue to guide and walk with all of us on our faith journeys.

The Lenten season fast approaches and as we enter into this time of reflection we pray for direction, discernment, and discipleship to continue in our little church on the hill. For those interested in joining in, we have been invited by our friends at Camas UMC for their upcoming study, [The Final Days, A Lenten Journey Through The Gospels](#) by Matt Rawle. The study is held each Wednesday at 10:00 in the church parlor at Camas UMC, beginning on February 26. Study books are \$18. Lauralee Harkins will be leading the study. At Fern Prairie, we will host a joint Shrove Tuesday service on March 4 at 6:00 in the evening, followed by a pancake dinner. The following day, March 5, Camas UMC will hold a joint Ash Wednesday service with us at noon at their church. Please note additional information about services in the calendar of events plus a special note about UMCOR Sunday in April.

In January we revived our monthly church potluck lunches following some services. We will begin including a recognition of birthdays starting in March for all the January, February, and March birthdays on Sunday, March 2 during our worship time. Following that, we will begin celebrating April and future months' birthdays on the last Sunday of each month. (Some of you will remember the old tin-bottomed lighthouse that was used

for birthday people to drop coinage in commensurate to the number of years old they had achieved. 😊) Please join us and bring those coins to help celebrate the unique child of God that you are. And please help spread the word to little ones that there is scheduled to be another fun egg hunt following the Easter service on April 20.

We are continuing to collect yard and garden themed items and plant starts for our third annual Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 26, from 10:00-3:00 at the church. Remember that being good stewards of God's creation includes repurposing and reusing, so even older yard and garden decor items are welcome. Bring items to church and we will add it to our growing accumulation. Last year we were very pleased to be able to donate to a local person in need and we pray that this year the proceeds of the sale will do the same.

If there are needs we can fill for you...transportation, prayer requests, visits, etc., please reach out and let us know. Until we meet again...God grant you His grace and hold you in the palm of His hand.

Church website: fernprairieunitedmethodist.org

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

March Calendar

2- Marilyn leading service * Celebration of January, February, and March birthdays

4 (Tuesday)- Joint Shrove Tuesday service with Camas UMC, 6:00 at Fern Prairie

5 (Wednesday)- Joint Ash Wednesday service with Camas UMC, noon at Camas

9- Guest speaker, Doug Wood

16- Guest speaker, Rev. Steve Caskey *St. Patrick's Day potato bar potluck

23- Rev. Keith Hackett, Holy Communion

30- Kathy leading service

April Calendar

6- Music Expressions in Lent (please let us know any hymn requests you may have)

UMCOR Sunday (see additional note following)

13- Palm Sunday & Easter Gardens

20- Easter Sunday, Rev. Keith Hackett, Holy Communion

* Egg hunt following the service

26 (Saturday)- Earth Day yard and garden sale at the church from 10:00-3:00

27- Guest speaker, Rev. Carol Davies

April 6th, Music Expression in Lent is when our talented Fern Prairie musicians will share with us. Please let Brenda know your favorite hymn.

UMCOR Sunday- April 6-

Formed in 1940 in response to the suffering of people in WWII the United Methodist Committee on Relief- **UMCOR**- continues to provide a channel through which people may express their Christian compassion for people around the globe, often the poorest in society, who are undergoing hardship and suffering as a result of natural catastrophes, conflicts or wars.

Gifts given on **UMCOR Sunday- April 6-** strengthen the church's global humanitarian response by **underwriting UMCOR's administrative costs**. This allows UMCOR to use 100% of additional funds for specific programs like **U.S. disaster response**, **international disaster response**, and **global migration**.

Because of your generosity in 2024, almost \$2,000,000 was given in support of UMCOR's work to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing. Thank you!

April 13 Palm Sunday (or Fern Sunday at Fern Prairie) will be celebrated and for the third consecutive year Easter gardens will be created to take home and take to shut-ins.

