

March-April Newsletter
Fern Prairie United Methodist Church

"The flowers of late winter and early spring occupy places in our hearts well out of proportion to their size." - Gertrude S. Wister. Gertrude Smith (Wister) was the only woman in her class in the College of Agriculture (majoring in horticulture) at the University of Wisconsin and at the age of 22, she graduated in 1927 with honors. Another quote taken from her book, *Hardy Garden Bulbs*, states: *"There is a tremendous amount to be learned from books, and no gardener can do without them, but your plants, too, will teach you. I have always thought that to be a good gardener, first of all you must have a green heart, and next you must have a green mind. These combined with a little muscle are needed to produce a green thumb and a beautiful garden."*

As we enter into this lenten time of reflection and renewal where do you see areas of growth in yourself? What fills your heart to overflowing? Springtime provides opportunities for us to learn from each other, to hope for brighter times, to refresh our souls. As stated in 1 Corinthians 7:20-24 we are blessed with the knowledge that we can "bloom where we are planted."

Looking back over the past two months we are grateful for our guest speakers, our new pianist, and for remembering those who have passed on to their heavenly home. We also want to thank those whose behind-the-scenes work have cleaned the building, the grounds, the gutters, tuned the piano, and all the other seemingly mundane tasks that help show our neighbors that we are still a light on the hill. Let us shine on and be blessings to all we meet! Can we be a blessing to you in any particular way? Please reach out personally or through our website: fernprairieunitedmethodist.org

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

March Calendar

3- Carl Landerholm

10- 'World Connexions & UMCOR' - Joan, followed by

Memorial service at 2:00 to honor the life of Jim Franklin

16- (Saturday)- Church clean up from 10:00am-2ish?

Bring a sack lunch and a smile with your work gear! We hope to put our newly acquired "clean and green" mower and trimmer to good use!

17- Rev. Steve Caskey (Please see note below)

Church family meal to follow

24- Palm Sunday & Easter Gardens, followed by

Open house from 2:00-4:00pm to honor the life of Mark Phimister

31- Easter Day – Rev. Keith Hackett, Holy Communion

*United Methodist Churches

Sunrise Service

March 31 6:30 am

Gazebo at Fort Vancouver-All Welcome

April Calendar

7- Carl Landerholm

14- 'Pioneer Family Connexions' Joan

20- (Saturday)- Second annual Earth Day Event 10:00am-2:00 pm. at the church.

This year our focus is a yard and plant sale, proceeds to go to a family or individual in need in our neighborhood. Please feel free to take pots and seeds from the table in the fellowship hall to get things started. And bring your pre-priced yard sale items ahead...they can be stored in the basement for the time being:) (This day also includes our second church clean up.) All hands on deck for another fun gathering like last year's! Bring a sack lunch along with your garden gloves please!

21- Marilyn leading service

28- Rev Keith Hackett H.C.

Additional Notes:

Rev. Steven and Beth Caskey are coming March 17th

“We were appointed to the Kendrick and Cavendish UMC'S in 1975 and we served those two wonderful churches for six years! It was in that appointment that I was mentored by King Rockhill. I fell in love with the rural, small town church and realized that, if I wanted and we wanted to have a life, this was the ministry calling for us! Beth completed her Elementary Education degree at Lewis Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho during those years.

We moved to Morton in 1981. Beth started her thirty nine year teaching career in the Morton School District and we served the Morton UMC for eight years. Then we bought an old house just a block away from the elementary school and in 1989 we moved into it. That year we were appointed to Winlock UMC and Grace UMC in Vader. We served those two churches for twenty years. I retired in 2007 but kept the two churches for two more years. In 2009 I gave up the Winlock appointment and continued to serve Grace Church, Vader. We are in our thirty fourth year of serving this historical church! We are looking forward to coming to Fern Prairie in March!”

On **March 10th** **an offering will be taken for UMCOR** the United Methodist Committee on Relief to cover overhead operating expenses, so every cent - 100% of donations go to the disaster response in over 80 countries including the United States. We will also celebrate our connexion with Katherine Parker, Missionary in Nepal as well as many past connexions of the church with places around the world.

March 24th Palm Sunday and Easter Gardens. We will wave branches in a parade and then make gardens to take home and for others in the congregation as we did last year.

Coming up: Sunday May 19, 2024- 10:00 am Bishop Mary Ann Swenson,
Preacher & Communion Celebrant

*Bishop Mary Ann was the pastor at Orchards UMC from 1974-83. She was also the Bishop in the Denver Area 1992-2000 & California Pacific 2000-12.

Anniversary Luncheon to follow, which concludes our yearlong specific celebration of 150 years of continuing stewardship and community service. (See the included flyer for more detailed information.)