



# Whitney Quarterly

Winter Edition 2026

Whitney United Methodist Church



## WORSHIP!

Worship Sundays  
at 10:00AM

In-person or live streamed on  
our YouTube channel,  
@Whitney UMC Boise

## SATURDAY LUNCH

Sack lunch for the whole  
family - Offered every  
Saturday!

10:30AM - 12PM

## COMMUNITY DINNER

Every 3rd Friday of each  
month.

5PM - 6PM

## Contact Us

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# Pastor's Note

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*The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. ... You are Christ's Body – that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your 'part' mean anything. You're familiar with some of the parts that God has formed in his church, which is his 'body': apostles, prophets, teachers, miracle workers, healers, helpers, organizers, those who pray in tongues. But it's obvious by now, isn't it, that Christ's church is a complete Body and not a gigantic, unidimensional Part? It's not all Apostle, not all Prophet, not all Miracle Worker, not all Healer, not all Prayer in Tongues, not all Interpreter of Tongues. And yet some of you keep competing for the so-called "important" parts. But now I want to lay out a far better way for you.*

1 Corinthians 12:25, 27-31 (Message)

As we welcome in a new year, the life cycle of the church is also revealed. We welcome a change in our church leadership as council members cycle off after their terms and new members begin new terms. We find ourselves in that small corridor between Christmas and Lent of Ordinary Time, and finding our footing once more in the rhythms of our shared ministry. The words of Paul in his letter to the Corinthians offers a stark reminder that we, as individuals, cannot do it all; and we, as the church, are not called to be uniform. These gifts among us, the parts of each of our unique callings, are how we faithfully work in the world as the Body of Christ.

We know that this new year will not always be easy – those same headlines and reports of terror and harm and destruction will continue for who knows how long. It is not in our government that we find hope, or life-giving promise, or even the acknowledgment of what we as humans deserve. But it is in Christ that we find our hope, in resurrection that we find new life. It is in the vast diversity of Christ's body that we find a better way.

*Rev. Hannah J. Andres*

# Back to School



Thanks to all our volunteers who helped out with the first day of school at Whitney Elementary School. Melinda, Bobbie, Coral, and Julie handed out loaded backpacks, clothes, and freebies. The next day, the parents were welcomed and served treats by Julie, Barbara, and Carol after first-day-drop-off. Also pictured, Whitney principal, Brigette Warner.



# Update in Council Discernment

In January of 2025, Rev. Hannah was contacted by a representative with LEAP, a non-profit in the Treasure Valley whose mission is to “Develop and preserve affordable housing while providing empowering services that lead to greater housing stability.” This conversation was picking up from previous conversations with Rev. Daryl. We then invited this representative to speak at our May 2025 Council meeting, the minutes from which are available to review in the office. In order to live into our obligations to do our due diligence, Rev. Hannah initiated contact with another non-profit operating in the Treasure Valley to build and promote affordable housing, NeighborWorks, whose vision is to promote and provide “safe, sustainable, affordable housing for a stronger, healthier Idaho.” The CEO of NeighborWorks was subsequently invited to our November 2025 Council Meeting. Over these past eight months, this has been a conversation of discernment among our council that is in the earliest stages of conversation – simply exploring the possibilities and the impact that Whitney UMC might make in our community.

While these conversations have brought up great questions and exciting “what if’s,” it is important for all of us to keep in mind that these conversations really grew out of asking questions around maintaining our existing ministries that we care so deeply for: Joseph’s Closet, Saturday Lunches, and Community Dinner. In our conversations around sustainability, our chief concerns have been generating ways to sustain these ministries that have meant so much to the life of this church and this community for so many years. Both of these organizations have offered creative possibilities to address the existing priorities of these ministries: establishing a permanent location for Joseph’s Closest and potentially assisting in the renovations and updating of our existing kitchen. Also remaining central in our priorities has been our ability to maintain offering our parking lot to the work of St. Vincent DePaul’s food pantry.

# Update in Council Discernment (Continued)

However, please know that there have been no commitments made to any organizations. We are in very early stages of discernment, exploring those big questions of “what if,” and “what might it look like,” and “how could this work.” We do not know yet if this is the appropriate direction for Whitney UMC to live into our mission to disciple, serve and provide resources to everyone in our community.

We are committed to the careful discernment of this possibility in ministry, which will not happen without various opportunities for input from the whole congregation. This is a decision made by the church in community, not the pastor in exclusivity.

Our Council has identified a working group, Mary Kienzle, Kevin Daniel, Kimberly Gardner, and Stewart Gardner, who have committed to the early work of discernment as we explore this conversation, but there is no timeline at this point in time.

Peace,  
Whitney UMC Council, 2026



# Photos



It was Tree-Trimming Day at Whitney!



Whitney gardeners shared their produce



Crop Walk 2025



Our parking lot is once more safe from falling limbs! Thank you, Malcom!

## Help Restock The Whitney Pantry Cart!

Please bring donations at any time and place them in the donation box in the hallway.

### ITEMS MOST NEEDED:

- POUCHES/CANNED CHICKEN
- POUCHES/CANNED TUNA
- ANY POUCHES/CANNED MEAT
- CANNED CHILI
- CANNED RAVIOLI/SPAGHETTI
- PEANUT BUTTER

**THANK YOU!**



Our pantry cart is offered every Saturday while we serve free lunches and any other time someone is in need of food.

**MANY THANKS TO:**  
 Carol, Bob, Maggie,  
 Rich, Bert, Kinley,  
 Kimberly, Robert,  
 Lory & Peggy for  
 assembling and  
 manning our booth  
 and to all those who  
 contributed cookies  
 at the WHITNEY  
 COMMUNITY CENTER  
 BLOCK PARTY!



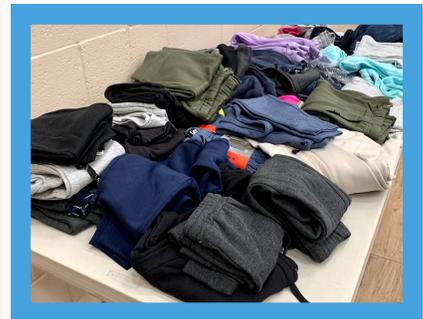
# UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

In October United Women in Faith took a field trip to the Wassmuth Center. Our tour was led by docent Beth Gray who started with an outside tour of the Anne Frank memorial and connection to the green belt. Upon completion the entire area from the Memorial to the education building will be open and accessible to all. The Center has beautiful artwork. There are many opportunities for learning available daily. The highlight of our tour was an interactive interview with an actual Holocaust survivor. Through technology we can ask questions of 5 different survivors and hear their actual voices. We ended our field trip with lunch at Elmer's. The Center is open daily and on Friday afternoons there are docent-led tours for the public. No reservations needed. The Wassmuth Center is truly living their signature phrase: "Be the Light."

Whitney United Women in Faith meet on the 1st Wednesday of every month except January, July and August. All women are invited to attend our potluck lunch, meeting and program which begins at noon. Our February program will be led by Carla Biersdorff on the topic of LOVE.

# Whitney Women's Christmas Brunch

Whitney Women's Christmas Brunch was a wonderful time of fellowship and good food! We collected 62 pairs of sweatpants for Whitney Elementary School! It was good to get together and visit and find out new things about each other and of course the food was delicious and lots of it. Those who attend this luncheon (in years past it has been a brunch) are very generous with giving to a main request from the school. Some have been shoes, underwear, pants and this year it was sweatpants.



Collection of the various sweatpants brought to give to Whitney Elementary School.



Pictured: Melinda Maillard, Carla Biersdorff, Peggy Jackson, Judith Alexander, Juli Draney, Coral Swofford, Angie Yates, Helen Shelby, Barbara Nolan, Johnna Dunten, Kathy Old, Carol Adams, Linda Slupe, Emily Nelson, Lorrie Baer, Glenda Berto, Lory Nesar. Not shown: Shauna Stauch



Left:  
Glenda Berto  
Judith Alexander  
Helen Shelby  
Melinda Maillard  
Peggy Jackson  
Lory Nesar  
Angie Yates  
Backs:  
L Johnna Dunten  
R Lorrie Baer  
Right:  
Emily Nelson  
Kathy Old  
Juli Draney  
Barbara Nolan  
Carol Adams  
Shauna Stauch  
Linda Slupe  
Carla Biersdorff

Something shared with the attendees:

## WELCOME ABOARD FLIGHT 2026

We are preparing for an on-time departure into the new year.  
Please make sure your attitude and actions are secured and locked in an upbeat and upright position.  
All self-destructive thoughts should be turned off at this time and remain off forever.  
Any negativity, hate and discouragement must remain completely stowed.  
In the unlikely event we lose altitude while under pressure, simply reach up and pull down a prayer.  
Prayers will automatically activate if you have faith.  
There will be NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight.  
Now, Captain God has cleared us for takeoff.  
Our first destination is Love with continuing stops at Peace, Understanding and Joy.  
Before you deplane, make sure you don't leave any of your Hopes and Dreams behind.  
P.S. If these are lost 'you' must do the work to reclaim them.  
If there's anything we can do to make your flight more enjoyable, please do the same by paying it forward.  
I wish you a pleasant flight.  
Have a Happy New Year

author: Bougie Builder

# Craft Fair Photos



# Borders & Belonging

Join us for a community study:

**Borders & Belonging**  
*The Book of Ruth: A Story for our Times*  
PÁDRAIG Ó TUAMA & GLENN JORDAN

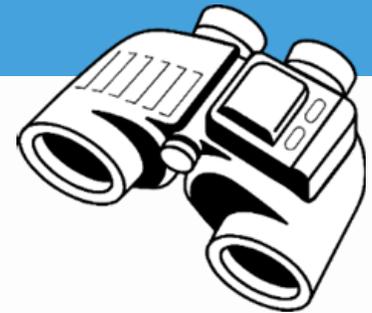
**Tuesdays 7-8:30pm**  
**2920 West Cassia St. Boise, ID**  
**Beginning January 13th, 2026 - Books encouraged!**

Hosted by:  
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Whitney United Methodist Church,  
Southminster Presbyterian Church, Red Rock Christian, Immanuel Lutheran Church

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Redeemer Lutheran Church ELCA  
Red Rock Christian Church

During this season of Ordinary Time between Epiphany and Lent, we are joining with our neighbors at Southminster Presbyterian Church, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Red Rock Christian Church, and Immanuel Lutheran Church (not on the Bench) in building community and connection as we explore through the book of Ruth. This opens an opportunity to have those deeper conversations of faith and explore those difficult cultural and political conversations around migration, immigration, refugees, and seeking asylum. And particularly how we hold the sacred calling of all human life as we explore such difficult and "hot-button" topics. We engage in these conversations faithfully and with care and intention, that we might come to know and recognize the face of God in and among our neighbors - both those we study and wrestle with, and those who our society would rather we do not see.

# Looking Ahead



As we prepare ourselves to move into the season of Lent and Easter, there are a few special worship services to mark on your calendars:

## Safe Sanctuary February 15th

**When:** 10am February 15th  
**Where:** Whitney UMC  
3315 W. Overland Rd. Boise, ID

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed February 17th

This will be the closing session of our Borders and Belonging community Bible Study, please feel free and welcome to join even if you have not had the opportunity to be with us during the rest of the study

**When:** 7pm February 17th  
**Where:** Redeemer Lutheran Church  
2920 W Cassia St, Boise, ID

## Ash Wednesday February 18th

**When:** 5pm February 18th  
**Where:** Whitney UMC  
3315 W. Overland Rd. Boise, ID

## Easter Vigil April 4th

**When:** 6:30pm April 4th  
**Where:** All Saints Episcopal Church  
704 S Latah St, Boise, ID

We have an additional special worship service on **Sunday, February 15th**, where we will designate our worship as a Safe Sanctuary Sunday. It is required in our Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, as well as the Whitney UMC Safe Sanctuary policy, that we host one Sunday a year with the theme centered around our approach to promoting a safe sanctuary for everyone. The contents of this service will center around honoring the sacred safety each person deserves, but there will be discussion around topics like sexual abuse. For those of you who may have children or be sensitive to such topics, please create the space that you need to protect your own well-being or that of your children. Nursery care will be provided during worship, so children and youth will not need to be in worship during this service and discussion should you choose to join us for worship.



Whitney United Methodist Church  
3315 W. Overland Rd.  
Boise, ID 83705

## Upcoming Events at Whitney UMC:

**January 27:** Borders & Belonging; 7pm @ Redeemer Lutheran

**February 3:** Borders & Belonging; 7pm @ Redeemer Lutheran

**February 4:** United Women in Faith Meeting; 12pm

**February 15:** Soup Sunday; following worship

**February 17:** Celia Cowan Circle; 12pm

**February 18:** Ash Wednesday; 5pm

**February 20:** Community Dinner; 5pm

A link to our full Calendar of Events can be viewed on our webpage at

[www.whitneyumc.org](http://www.whitneyumc.org)