



Fern Prairie United Methodist Church  
May-June 2026 Newsletter

Spring blessings to our friends and family! We hope you are enjoying bird song, blue skies, and emerging blooms in God's amazing creation! As we find ourselves midway through the Easter season we are reminded of God's grace and mercy that extend to all His people. Please continue to pray for world peace (and within our own country's borders) as we seek ways to help bring about the kingdom. Let's keep our hearts inspired and our souls attuned to the needs of those around us.

We are grateful to our musicians, Brenda, Linda, Carol, and Gideon who provide such lovely musical backdrops for our services, particularly on Easter Sunday. We hope all of you will come check out our new digital keyboard which was recently so generously donated!

Our Earth Day Market was a big success, thanks to the efforts of Heike, our Ministry and Outreach Coordinator. Her behind-the-scenes outreach to local small farm businesses took many hours of contacting and coordinating. We extend special thanks to all the volunteers and helping hands that kept things running smoothly throughout the day: Leah G., for your hard-working hands and environmental knowledge and tips, Lorna, from The Crafty Wee Bothy LLC and her beautiful nature-inspired creations, Jennifer from Farm Boutique in Proebstel for your amazing goat milk products, Marilyn from G-V Lavender Garden, and Girl Scout Troop #10292 for their positive energy and support of our community. You all helped make the event a memorable one!

A meditational reading:

## ONCE UPON A TIME

Once upon a time, we find a certain king who was very rich and powerful. But he was most unhappy because he was unmarried. Without a queen, his vast palace felt profoundly empty.

One day, while riding through the streets of a small village, he saw a beautiful peasant girl. So lovely was she that the heart of the king was won. He wanted to love her more than anything he had ever desired.

On succeeding days, he would ride by her cottage on the mere hope of seeing her for a moment or a glimpse in passing. During each transit, he wondered how he might win her love.

He thought, "I will draw up a royal decree and require her to be brought before me to become the queen of my land." But, as he considered it, he realized that she was a subject and would be forced to obey. He could never be certain that he had ever won her love.

Then, he said to himself, "I shall call on her in person. I will dress in my finest royal garb, wear my diamond rings, my silver sword, my shiny black boots, and my most colorful tunic. I will overwhelm her and sweep her off her feet to become my bride." But, as he pondered the idea, he knew that he would always wonder whether she had married him for the riches and power he could give her.

Then, he decided to dress as a peasant, drive to the town, and have his carriage driver discretely let him off. And, in disguise, he would approach her house. But, somehow the duplicity of this plan did not appeal to him. Trickery won't earn him her love and affection but would only stir dismay and sow distrust.

At last, he knew what he must do. He would surrender his worldly goods, renounce his unrivaled privilege and shed his royal robes. He would humble himself, go to the village and become one of the peasants. He would live authentically. He would work and suffer with them and endure the same hardships and privations that they did. This he did. And he won his adoring wife.

The story is a modern parable. It's a means to crudely illustrate how God came to earth to win our love. God could have asserted God's power to persuade us. Or God could have revealed God's riches to enchant us. But God in Christ became one of us instead. He took upon Himself the form of human flesh to dwell among us and love us. But how easy would it be for God to win our genuine affections, to woo our hardened

hearts, to stir us to faithfulness and to adoringly cling to him? Not easily. Humanity often ignores Jesus' appeals, dismisses his Word, rejects his loving activity, and disregards God's Son. Indeed, people ultimately chose to cruelly condemn and crucify the Blameless One and spare the life of a guilty criminal instead.

In this season of uncertainty and bad news, may we remember the Good News: Jesus lived and died and rose again for his love for us. May we cherish his love and share his love so that all may encounter our Lord who is still among us. He still lovingly gazes at us like the prince eyed his soon-to-be bride because all of us are Jesus' beloved. (— Pastor Don)

## **Upcoming Events**

### **May**

**3-** Regular worship w/ Marilyn

**10- Mother's Day**, a special celebration of the women in our lives

**17-** Regular worship w/ Kathy

**24-** Guest speaker, Karen Carlton

**31-** Rev. Keith Hackett, Holy Communion \*Council meeting following service

### **June**

**7-** Regular worship w/ Marilyn

**14-** Rev. Mark Randall

**21- Father's Day**, surprise speaker

**28-** Rev. Keith Hackett, Holy Communion

Special note: Rev. Mark Randall was campus minister at WSU Pullman and then at Central in Spokane before coming to Salmon Creek UMC in 2006. He retired from there in 2013.