



## September 2021 Newsletter

### A Word from Pastor David

*"We are co-workers with God. We are co-laborers, together with God."*

May this declaration from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 3:9) mark the beginning of our ministry together as disciples of Jesus. It is essential that we understand from the beginning that we are far more than passive recipients of all that comes to us in life. Each experience and circumstance that comes to us offers opportunities for spiritual growth and practical ministries- acts of hospitality.

In my first message I shared a quote by Anil Seth, Professor of Cognitive and Computational Neuroscience at the University of Sussex: "We do not just passively perceive the world; we actively generate it. The world we experience comes as much from the inside-out as the outside-in, in a process hardly different from which we causally call hallucinating."

From the beginning, God invited us to be co-creators of this beautiful world. Now, more than ever all that is sacred needs our help. Our world needs healing, and the gospel offers a way and points in the direction of healing. There is deep need and a passionate cry for personal, national, and global healing. In the time we have together I invite you to pray with me for discernment; to hear what the Spirit is saying to this community, at this time and in this place, as one essential member of the healing body of Christ.

As we begin our journey together, I invite you to pray with me a prayer that has guided my life for many years:

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood, as to understand;  
To be loved, as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.  
Amen.

I invite you to join with me in a daily prayer with this or another prayer you find personally meaningful as we begin our ministry together. In us, with us, and through us may we make disciples of Jesus our Christ, for the transformation of our world. Amen!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor David

## From Your Board

Your Board gathered a few Sunday evenings ago for a well-deserved social gathering (after conducting a bit of necessary church business). It was nice to be able to spend time together after working extremely hard over the last months developing the Strategic Plan for our church. It was an opportunity to meet Pastor David and Deborah prior to his first Sunday with us. We all left with a renewed excitement and sense of hopefulness for our future. One of the items that was discussed and approved was the investment in upgrading our sound system in the sanctuary. After a summer of significant struggles with the system, we have decided it is time to upgrade to a new digital sound board as well as upgrading our speakers (which we think are almost thirty years old). We all agreed that this investment is necessary if we are to attract and keep new members to our congregation. People most likely won't come back if they can't hear what is going on during a service. We are hoping to have the new system purchased and installed prior to the holidays (yes, Christmas is right around the corner). The new sound system will also allow us to market the use of the Sanctuary as a small concert venue with a state-of-the-art sound system. We are very excited about this project and even more excited about what our new and improved sound can do for us!

One of the other things we are looking at doing over the next few months is developing back-ups for every function that makes Sunday mornings possible. Everything from bulletins to communion to setting up the sound system. If you are interested in taking part in this, please let us know. We all want to feel like we can be

away from church for a weekend and things won't fall apart!

In the next four to six weeks, we will be doing a major overhaul of our church website and newsletter. Part of us moving forward as a church and attracting new people to join us, is developing a more contemporary look while still honoring our past. This is no small feat. We have hired a professional web designer to help us with this and look forward to a more streamlined, comprehensive website. If you have anything you would like to see included on the website or as a regular part of the newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We are so very excited about what the future has in store for us! I think wonderful and fulfilling ministry opportunities are heading our way. If there are any projects that you are interested in doing, let us know!

If you couldn't make it to worship this past Sunday to hear Pastor David, I strongly encourage you to try to come in the next few weeks. You won't regret it!

If you have any questions, concerns, comments, or input regarding any of the above, please feel free to contact me at 503.504.6548 or at [kayp1024@gmail.com](mailto:kayp1024@gmail.com)

Blessings to you all!  
Kay Pettygrove  
Board Chairperson

## **Introducing Rev. Dr. David and Deborah Weekley**

Rev. Dr. David and Deborah Weekley recently returned to Portland, Oregon following nine years in Boston and Hull, Massachusetts. David and Deborah had moved there for David to complete a Doctor in Ministry degree at Boston University School of Theology. During this time, Deborah also returned to school to complete requirements to have her Oregon Massage Therapist License recognized in Massachusetts. While completing his doctoral thesis, David accepted a part-time appointment in the New England Annual Conference and served St. Nicholas United Methodist Church in Hull, Massachusetts for seven years. They enjoyed their time with the St. Nicholas congregation, living at the coast and exploring Boston and New England.

Now back in the great Northwest and Portland, David and Deborah look forward to connecting with family and old friends and making lots of new connections! Deborah is a bead artist and holds her Oregon Massage Therapy license, which she plans to reactivate once they are settled. David is excited to join you as pastor of Rose City Park United Methodist Church. Both David and Deborah look forward to joining this community dedicated to following Jesus and anticipate many good seasons of ministry together with you at Rose City Park.



If you have any joys or concerns you want shared, or birthdays you want listed, please contact Patricia Holman at: [plholman1025@gmail.com](mailto:plholman1025@gmail.com).

### **BIRTHDAYS OF THE MONTH**

We rejoice with those who celebrate birthdays in September:

9/12 **Della Beckham**

9/14 **Jeffrey and Tommy Espinosa**

9/17 **Tom Phelps, Beverly Walker**

9/22 **Donna Moran**

9/24 **Kay Hart**

9/25 **Loretta Clark**

9/26 **Angela Joy Allen, Donna Grobey**

### **JOYS**

- Teachers and students are back to school! Please continue to keep them all in your prayers as they negotiate a new year wearing masks and social distancing.
- A HUGE thank you to **Chris Anderson, Kathy Green, Patricia Holman, Sheryl Shake, and Nancy Hesselman-Turner** for stepping up and helping with administrative duties this past month. We are so appreciative of your willingness to help. The church couldn't function without the help of volunteers! Thank you!
- Congratulations to **Star Studonivic** who was published in a book titled, "Ancestors Within." Her chapter is, "With Every Beat of Your Heart, An Exercise in Ancestral Connection and Inquiry."
- **Jim Carlson** recently had one of his poems used by the Community for Positive Aging (formerly Hollywood Senior Center and The Giving Tree).
- **Patricia Holman and her Great Pyrenees, Emma**, will be featured in a book about dogs and their owners as a fundraiser for the Dove Lewis Velvet Assistance Fund.

### **CONCERNS**

- **Angela Joy Allen** is at home recovering from an appendectomy.
- **Janell Collier's uncle, Wayne**, is having difficulty with his oxygen level since having hip surgery, and she is flying to Wisconsin to be with him.
- **Clint Moran** asks for prayers for his son, **Gary**, who is going through a divorce.

- **Patricia Holman's brother and his wife** are part of the 25,000 people evacuated from Lake Tahoe due to the fire. So far, their house is safe, but they don't know when they'll be allowed back home.

## On-going Food Drive

Urban Gleaners is a local food rescue organization that provides food to families in need. The staff has been so appreciative of our past contributions. Since we are now back in the building, please drop off your donations in the collection container by the usher's room.

Most needed:

Nut butter, (such as peanut or almond butter)

Canned beans

Canned tuna and salmon

Pasta and sauces

Stew

Canned vegetables and fruit

If you have any questions, please call Patricia Holman, 503-459-3090. Thank you!

## Scholarship Awarded

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that the Ray and Elinor Brunkow Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to the Community Transitional School with the approval of the Brunkow Family. The school will use the Brunkow's legacy gift to benefit CTS students, in keeping with the Brunkow's expressed wish, to ensure that no child experience barriers to graduate from high school.

## Church Pictorial Directory

If you have any changes to your contact information, please contact Patricia Holman at [plholman1025@gmail.com](mailto:plholman1025@gmail.com). Copies of the directory can be emailed to you by contacting Patricia, or a printed copy can be made available.





The Prayer Chain is available to those that would like to request prayers. Also, if someone would like to join the prayer chain, please send a request to the following email to be added: [rcpumcprayer@gmail.com](mailto:rcpumcprayer@gmail.com)

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