



Madras United Methodist Church

“The Madras Messenger”

June 2017

Pastor’s Message: Transition

When Chris asked me to write an article for the newsletter, the first thing that immediately came to my mind was the arrival of your new pastor. In a few weeks, Nancy Slabaugh Hart and her husband Michael will be here to join you in ministry with the Madras community. And I thought I might share a few thoughts about how to welcome them into the community. I’m sure your Church Council and SPRC have plans for events that will help them get to know you. So the ideas I have to share are more about easing the transition into a new community. My suggestions are also based on things my wife and I experienced when we moved into new ministries that were helpful to us.



1. Have a few basic food items present in the parsonage when they arrive. A refrigerator stocked with items for an easy breakfast, for making sandwiches for lunch, and for having a cool beverage or afternoon snack is so appreciated. A plate of cookies is especially welcoming!

2. Have an information sheet(s) available that gives recommendations for physicians, dentists, hair stylists, veterinarians, car mechanics, attorneys, and any other service professional you can think of. Be sure to include addresses and phone numbers. Nancy and Michael may not follow your recommendation, but your insights into the community will be helpful anyway.

3. If you take food into them, don’t just drop the food off at their house. Allow for some time to visit with them, if it’s convenient for them. And no more than 10 minutes unless you are invited to stay longer. Tell them a little bit about your personal story. Help them to get to know you as a person, and not just your role at the church. You might even try to avoid church talk entirely and just enjoy a personal visit with them.

4. Provide a yearly calendar of special events in the Madras community and greater Central Oregon. You could include things like the Sisters Quilt Show, the Sisters Folk Music Festival, Culver’s Crawfish Feed, the Cascade Cycling Races, Sun River Music Festival, the Deschutes County Fair. Even better, invite them to attend a favorite event with you.

5. For the first year, let them know about concerts, plays, art exhibits, and other cultural events in Central Oregon they might enjoy.

6. If you are a member of a service organization, invite them to attend a meeting with you. Even if they aren’t interested in joining, it’s a good way for them to begin making contacts in the Madras community.

7. And last but not least, when you are at church, wear your nametag. And if you are NOT wearing your nametag, don’t be upset if they can’t immediately recall your name. Remember, everyone is a stranger to them and it will take time for them to get faces and names connected.

I know you are excited to meet them and welcome them to Madras. I am eager to meet them too and to welcoming them to Central Oregon, the best part of the annual conference and state of Oregon. I will be holding you all in my prayers as you grow together in ministry and love.

Pastor Thom Larson



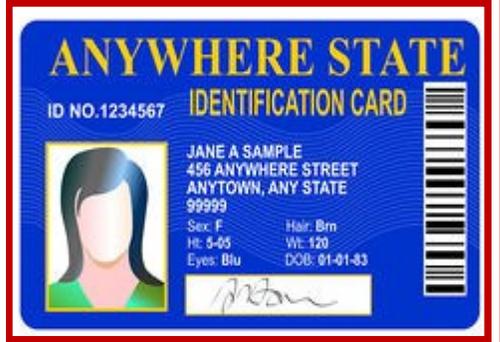
Getting to Know Pastor Nancy and Her Husband Mike

One of our goals as a congregation for July and August will be getting to know our new Pastor and her family and making them feel welcome.

Pat Hastings will be asking members to host small groups for dinner during the months of July and August to welcome our new Pastor. If you are willing to host a dinner, please contact Pat at [541-419-6176](tel:541-419-6176) or she will be calling upon you to help. Thank you.

ID Project: What We Do and How We Do It!

Imagine— a house fire that destroys everything, including important documents such as birth certificates and driver's licenses; a move that resulted in misplaced papers; a theft of personal items, including your ID; a disgruntled spouse (or parent or child) who takes your ID documents out of spite. People who have experienced at least one of these events have come in to the ID Project for help. In addition, some have lost their documents or the documents have expired, or in the case of small children, may never have had them. These are just some of the reasons that people come to Madras United Methodist Church to get help replacing or getting ID's. Occasionally we have had to suggest they see an attorney (a man asked for help in getting a divorce) or we may not be able to help at all. During 2016, we helped over 60 people who had come in to get birth certificates, Oregon ID, or simply get answers to questions. We helped secure birth certificates for 20 people, eight from Oregon, eight from California and one each from Arizona, New York, Colorado, and Montana. We also helped twelve get Oregon IDs. Each client pays a portion of the cost, usually between 30% and 50% and we pay the balance.



As a result of the financial help that we have been able to provide, we are nearly out of funds. If you would like to contribute, please make your check out to the Madras United Methodist Church and indicate "ID Project" on the memo line. If you have any questions, please talk to Kathy Hamlet, coordinator of the Project any Tuesday, 9 am to noon at the Madras United Methodist Church. In many instances, the help we provide in securing birth certificates and Oregon ID allow people to become employed. It's a way to assist people in poverty, a way for them to become self-sufficient.

Starting this month, we will begin providing information and assistance in applying for US citizenship. We are available to assist people needing birth certificates, Oregon ID's or other official documents every Tuesday between 9 am and noon at the Madras United Methodist Church, 49 NE 12th St. Phone is 541-475-2150. *by Kathy Hamlet*

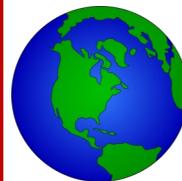


Notes From Finance

You have asked to be informed about church finances; therefore, we will have notices in some weekly announcements and in each newsletter. Monthly finance reports are posted on the bulletin board opposite the office and members of the finance team are always willing to talk with you.

All bills had been paid at the end of May EXCEPT apportionments. Remember, this is the amount we pay to keep the larger church operating. These funds run the Conference office, help with camping, go to the national office, assist pastors, provide for District Superintendents, etc. It is the Conference which provided Dan with his new adventure and provides us with an experienced, well educated pastor to lead us starting in July. We have paid a little less than 10% of our yearly share of these expenses. We should have paid about 42% by this time. Please help by giving faithfully during the summer; consider a special gift earmarked for apportionments.

by Nancy Jolstead



Beautiful Place on the Planet Walk

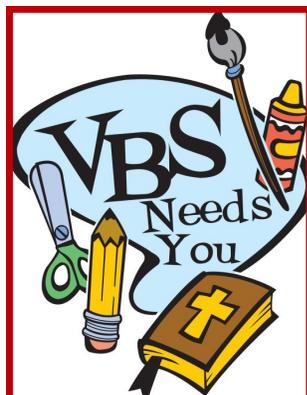
The Beautiful Place on the Planet (BPP) walkers are going to be going on at least one walk for the next four months. In April 16 of us walked from Trout Creek up the Deschutes River two miles. In May, we journeyed to Jack Creek headwaters and back, a three miler. This June we will be heading to either Chimney Rock on the Crooked River or Steelhead Falls. Claudia and I have to check out both walks to see which would be most accessible. It may be a different hike altogether if the slopes are too steep and if the rattlesnakes are particularly active. We can always go hunt for morels or identify flowers on Big Summit Prairie. There are many options to consider. Check the announcements for times, dates, and hike destination.

Jesus walked throughout his ministry. There is both a spiritual and a physical blessing in walking. Going as a group allows us to know each other better, share an experience, and get to see another Beautiful Place on the Planet that the God of the Universe created. Martin Luther King in a 60's civil rights protest song said it best, "If you can't run, then walk, but keep on moving along my brother. If you can't walk, then crawl, but keep on moving along my brother." As long as we can, let's walk. Call 541-410-7035 if you have any other hike destinations you would like us to consider.

Be blessed. Be the blessing. Casey Callan

Vacation Bible School Journey through the Bible

Vacation Bible School is set for evenings on July 10-13 from 6:00-8:00pm. Children ages 4 through Grade 5 are invited to join us for this Journey Through The Bible as we explore bible stories, sing songs, make crafts, play games, and experiment in science. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Emily and Jill Plant at jillplant3@gmail.com. Keep your eyes out for ways to donate supplies! *by Jill Plant*



Notes From The Preacher Woman

Long, long ago, in a galaxy state far, far away, my son, Jonathan, and I would often accompany his daddy when he was leading youth activities. One summer, this included a camping/canoeing trip with some of the youth group boys into the Ozarks. It was an adventure custom-made for a pre-schooler who loved the outdoors—sleeping in a tent, eating fun food, staying up late to sit around the campfire and watching those mysterious fireflies twinkling in the dark.

The first morning, Jonathan and I were going to join the boys on their maiden trip down the river. We gathered at the canoe rental shack to receive instructions for the five hour trip. We would stop part way down at a picnic area to eat our lunches, and meet at the pullout mid-afternoon.

It had been an especially wet spring, and the river was running high. The rental vendor cautioned us to bear in mind that the landmarks might be a little different than our printed river guide. I was a bit distracted in my listening to his instructions due to trying to keep track of an excited Jonathan, but I remember him giving us special instructions about what to do at the first fork in the river. Not too far down the river, we would probably have to take our canoes out to cross over a small bridge, and then fork to the right. The left fork was clogged with snags and debris, which would be difficult to get through without a spill.

Jonathan and I settled ourselves in the bow of the canoe, while daddy took up the paddles at the stern. Before long we were cutting through the water, Jonathan chattering in his high piping voice, pointing out the rocks, the birds, the trees. It looked to be a perfect day. (insert ominous foreshadowing music here) My first indication that we might be in trouble came about ten minutes or so into the trip. I glanced down into the water and saw what looked suspiciously like a bridge. What was it doing under the water? Weren't there some special instructions about what to do when we got to the bridge? What was it the guy said? Something about getting out at the bridge? going right at the bridge? Or was it going left at the bridge? The boys were already out of sight somewhere ahead of us—which way had they turned? Had they noticed that the bridge was under water?

At that point, panic began to set in. Which way should we go. Left? Right? It probably did not help my husband's decision making process to have a passenger shouting at him at this point. Whatever the correct instructions had been, we managed to take the wrong fork.

Within a couple of minutes, our canoe tipped. The water wasn't deep, and Jonathan's daddy had the two of us up out of the water in record time. We back-tracked to the main fork and continued on our way. We were very wet. We were very cold. We caught up with the boys, who had also gotten dumped. Our lunches had all taken a dip as well. Clouds had come in to cover the sun by this time, which didn't help our comfort level.

And then it began. The sound of a small, very uncomfortable boy, his voice sad and despondent, "I wanna go hooooooooooooome." It would be impossible to describe the sheer hopelessness my child was able to imbue into those four simple words. His words weren't loud. His words weren't angry. They were just the words of dashed hopes and dreams. And they were repeated over, and over and over again. His sad little voice echoing through the empty spaces, eerily quiet except for his mournful cry.

The youth, pulled as far away from the sound as they could, but there was really no escape. I was cold and miserable as well, and was tempted to join in the lament, but decided the person paddling might dump me out and leave me behind if I gave in to the urge.

Only four and a half hours to go...

Now, the story actually has a happy ending. By the time we stopped for "lunch" we were a bit drier, the sun was beginning to come out, and the red licorice had survived getting dumped (which was fine by Jonathan!). But the next day, Jonathan and I decided to have a quiet day watching the fishermen.

This story has been much on my mind these last few months as I have reflected on what it means to "go home." My adult life has been filled with moving from place to place. I left "home" at seventeen, and have lived in eight states and British Columbia. By most definitions, I haven't been "home" since. But one of the glorious things about being church—with a small "c", is that wherever there is love; wherever there is community; wherever there is relationship with God and one another—I am home.

As we look at the messiness of sorting, packing, saying our farewells, and letting go of the relationships and places we have treasured—we leave home behind. It is always a time of loss and some sadness. And yet, because we are part of God's beloved and radically inclusive family—we will also be coming home. We look forward to being with all of you soon. We can't wait to learn the family stories, traditions, and the ways this special place has been set aside to share God's love and grace with your community, that will now be ours as well.

May our homecoming together become an invitation for any who might be looking for a place where they may be truly welcomed, accepted, and loved into being all that God has called us all to be. Can't wait to get home.

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Nancy



Rev. Nancy Slabaugh Hart



News From the Food Pantry

The walk in cooler is in place and operating thanks to a grant of \$10,000 from NeighborImpact and private donations. The electrical panel has been up graded and the pantry has a budget to include paying for the power utilized by this addition. The cooler will give the pantry the ability to store perishables and breads longer.

Grocery Outlet has established a relationship with the pantry and is now donating food weekly to help fill the pantry shelves with meats, cheeses, dairy and canned products. Safeway donates food

weekly from their dairy, bakery, deli, meat, and produce departments as well. This local support costs the pantry nothing but time to pick up products and is a major factor in the success of this mission.

Volunteers are an enormous support and appreciated. The pantry always needs more volunteers! Volunteers pick up food, stock food on shelves as well as work the pantry in registering clients, walking the client through the pantry to shop, and filling items requested and available from the freezers. The shopping pantry hours of operation are 10am to 1pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Pat Hastings is the Volunteer Coordinator and can be reached at 541-419-6176.

Beginning June 1st the pantry entrance will move from the front of the church to the side doors to ease traffic in and out of the front door. People will park in the back parking lot and use the sidewalk to the church doors.

NeighborImpact has designated the Madras Food Pantry as it's "focus pantry". In other words, job well done. They are sending Bend pantry managers to us to view our operations and process. This is certainly an item to note and be proud that we have a pantry that is working well! *by Pat Hastings*

UMW Turing 150 Years Old!!

What? United Methodist Women's Organization soon to be 150 years old. As stated by Harriett Jane Olson, General Secretary United Methodist Women: "As an organization that has been organized and re-organized many times over it's years of mission, United Methodist Women has great experience in listening to the call of God, hearing the needs of women, children and youth in our churches and communities and around the world, and finding ways to express God's love in actions that make a difference. This is another step in our journey. It's our turn to organize for mission as UMW to meet the needs of our day, and in doing so, continue an amazing history of women in mission."

The Madras United Methodist Women once again had a successful spring bazaar we call "Bloom In May". Thank you to the men for cooking burgers and to all of you who contributed your time and talents, the monies collected will go towards mission in our community and abroad, as well as help fund needed projects around the church. Currently, we are looking to replace the kitchen's dish sanitizer and also have scheduled a commercial company to clean the kitchen's gas stove.

The annual baby bottle collection is happening. Baby bottles are distributed on Mother's Day and returned on Father's Day full of coins from "pocket change". If you were not able to pick up a baby bottle, any jar or can will work. All monies are given to the local Morning Star Relief Nursery. (Last year we collected close to \$900)

We bought a cow! Actually, our group has sent money to Uganda Africa through Kingdom Works Ministry International, to commission a farmer to milk a cow. This milk will sustain many children through out the year as well as provide employment to a farmer. A check was sent to one of our own who is doing mission work in Uganda Africa, Annie Beamer Boelter is proving massage training to mothers and working with babies, we are very proud of her work. Thank you to Sharon Bean for replacing the coffee maker in the kitchen.

We meet at 8:00 am the third Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall for a small potluck breakfast. All women are invited and welcomed. UMW officers are Judith Bowden and Pat Hastings, co-presidents, Sharon Comingore, Secretary, Mina Hartshorn and Connie Howland, co-Treasurers.

by Pat Hastings

Jill Plant's Ordination



It has been a long process, but the day is finally coming! I want to thank all of you for your prayers and support through this journey of hearing God's call to be ordained as a deacon, through seminary at Iliff School of Theology, and through the transition to answering the call to serve as a music teacher in the 509J School District. By serving as the coordinator for the Backpack Buddies weekend food program, I am connecting the church to the schools to provide much needed food for vulnerable students. I also see my work as coordinator of the Willow Creek Community Garden as to connect the church to the community and respond to hunger issues in a way that walks alongside our neighbors. I am honored to be ordained in The United Methodist Church on Saturday, June 17 at 2:00pm at Red Lion Jantzen Beach, 909 N Hayden Island Dr., Portland, OR 97217. It is an open service and I invite everyone to attend if you are able.

by Jill Plant

BackPack Buddies



We are nearing the end of another school year! Thank you so much to all of you who have packed weekly bags, delivered bags, picked up and delivered food to the church, and donated money and food. Our weekend food program fed around 55 students each weekend in the Culver and 509J School Districts. Thank you for hearing the call to feed the vulnerable and care for children in our community! *by Jill Plant*

Our Uganda Mission

by Casey Callan

It was Wednesday night; the UMC worship musicians were practicing Sunday's music. The second song "Breathe" started and in the lyric "Your Holy presence living in me," the tears started gathering beneath my eyelids. In verse two, "This is my daily bread, your very word spoken to me," the tears started flowing. And then came the chorus, "And I am desperate for you. And I am lost without you." I cried. That is a yearly event. Luckily, I kept it short, contained, and the band played on. And before the song was over, I was back to playing again.

Why did that burst of tears come flowing out? First, it was because Claudia and I had just gotten back to Central Oregon after spending two weeks in Africa. It was good to be back. Second, we had just experienced a gift, so blessed, so fulfilling, so beautiful that the line "Your Holy Presence living in me" tore down that wall of emotional resistance. Jesus living in me (and the other team members) had brought us together to serve the poorest of the poor in the Eastern Uganda villages of Kapechria and Kabalaboto, K and K for short. Because of Jesus' presence in us, we were the blessed ones. We got to witness the courage, perseverance, faith, and the hope of a community of growing Christians.

The week started with a four and a half hour worship service of singing, dancing, giving testimony, kids sharing bible verses, preaching, and introductions of our team. When the service was over, the community of K and K lingered, sharing news, and beginning the process getting the invitation by word of mouth that our medical team would be at the K and K school to do our annual checkups.

At our arrival the next morning, a line of twenty-two patients sat waiting for us. By the time we had set up the pharmacy and the medical stations, the line had doubled. Our first mother of five had just delivered a baby the previous week. She had her baby alone. Her husband had left her. She took the five children through the stations getting each checked by the pediatric nurse. The doctor evaluated her condition. We were touched deeply by her story and her courage. "And I am desperate for you. And I am lost without you."

One baby, Jeremiah, was 7 months old and had gained two ounces. He immediately became a huge concern and was taken to a nearby hospital. From there he was referred to a cardiac hospital in Emboli and then on to Kampala. He has a hole in his heart. He will have surgery to repair it soon, at no cost to the parents. Another heart surgery was planned for Nehemiah, a less serious valve issue. A man walked down from a mountain village with an extremely swollen arm. He was also taken up to the hospital, two hours away. Other wounds were treated and one-sixth finger was removed. A most pregnant woman journeyed to the clinic with her 1, 3, and 5-year-old children. Her husband had just left her also. She carried the burden of being alone in childbirth and providing for her family. "And I am desperate for you. And I am lost without you." There were tears on that one too, biyearly, two times a year.

Did I mention that this area has been in drought for six months? There was no food. Only two wells produced water. The other four went dry or stopped working mechanically. When last years grain was gone, Kingdom Works Ministries International (KMI) provided food so the people could eat. The Ugandan government supplied 2 kilos of corn per week assistance per family, one day worth. KMI gave an additional 20 kilos to each family every two weeks for the last two and half months. That has since been changed to 5 kilos per person. So far KMI has provided 5 truckloads of dry food, both corn and beans. KMI also funded the repair of the four non functioning wells. They are all producing water now.

These people depend on Jesus for the rain, for their food, for their medicine, for their health, for their water. And for the week that Claudia and I were at the medical clinic, we got to be the hands that served these people. "This is my daily bread, your very word spoken to me." Matthew 25, verses 34 to 36 reads, "Then the King will say to the people on the right, 'Come, my Father has given you his blessing. Receive the kingdom God has prepared for you since the world was made. I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was alone and away from home and you invited me into your house. I was without clothes and you gave me something to wear. I was sick and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'"

At the end of the week, as we were departing, I realized Jesus had fulfilled his word in this scripture. We received the Kingdom of God by being the Kingdom of God. We were the ones being blessed. Jesus was and is very present at K and K communities and the Amazing Grace School. Likewise, Jesus is present at Madras UMC. Whenever we feed or clothe or take care of the sick we are being the kingdom of God. When our members serve in the prisons, minister in the hospital, and teach in our schools, we are being the kingdom of God.

Members of Madras UMC sponsored 10 students in "Amazing Grace School". Letters were delivered to their respective students this week. As we were leaving the school, 95 students were given new shoes to compliment their maroon and white plaid uniform (uniforms are hand-sewn by the women of the church). The remaining 230 students will have to wait until more shoes become available. The secondary head teacher provided me with a list of items he needs for the secondary school. I have two 50-pound bags of free shipping when I go back to Uganda for a Pastors Conference in August. Let me know if you are interested in helping me fill the bags with school supplies.

I am grateful to be a member of this congregation and to have served in Uganda. If you are ever curious about getting involved in this mission, we'd love to talk to you. Be blessed. Be the blessing.





Madras United Methodist Church
49 NE 12th Street
Madras, OR. 97741
541-475-2150

