

The Evangel

Stayton United Methodist Church
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God Will Make a Way

In today's environment of one bad news story after another, it's too easy to allow discouragement to permeate our lives. So come let worship lift you up as we read again the Hebrew Bible stories where God makes a way out of no way. We will use material from Marsha McFee's Worship Design Studio as we explore these Hebrew stories and their application to our lives today.

SAVING: September 16. Genesis 6:16-22; 9:8-15.

"I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

If doppler radar had been around then, the severe weather warning would have been intense. God tells Noah how to get ready for the deluge and sets to work, making a way out of no way. We don't really come to know God until we have some reason to trust God. And God gives us the rainbow covenant.

BLESSING: September 23. Genesis 12:1-9.

"Leave your land, your family and your father's household... I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."

Leaving everything we have known before to set out for the unknown can feel unsettling, to say the least. But at 75 years old! Abram trusted this new path—this new way—and the promise of God's presence and blessing anywhere. We take the first significant step on our journey with God when we accept a blessing that we believe is too large for us to deserve and a responsibility that we feel is too large for us to fulfill.

PROTECTING: September 30. Genesis 39:1-23

"Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison... But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love."

It seems Joseph can't get a break. He is left for dead by his brothers, taken into a foreign land to serve as a slave, then he is lied about by the master's wife and jailed. But throughout he seems to bloom where he is planted, making a way out of no way. Perhaps on our journey we need to learn how to look for blessing not in the absence of struggle, but in the heart of it, where we are protected and prospered.

DELIVERING: October 7. Exodus 14:10-14, 21-29.

"Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today."

Perhaps no other story from the Hebrew texts has the drama that Moses' story has. The people are delivered in an epic scene from their slavery. Our own deliverance, however, might feel just as dramatic when we are in the midst of it. Sometimes the way ahead appears utterly blocked and we have no power or ability ourselves to overcome it. At these moments

we are faced with a critical decision: do we return to slavery and servitude, or do we allow God to make a way out of no way?

CONSECRATING: October 14. Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17.

"I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself."

The drama of deliverance in the Moses story soon gives way to the drudgery of "so now what?!" as the people wander the desert. There is only so much God can do for us without us doing our part. God can give us reason to trust God, God can bless us, protect us, prosper us, and deliver us. But if we are to truly live into our identity as God's precious and holy ones, we are called to make a commitment of our own free will.

SERVING: October 21. Joshua 24:1-15.

"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

The people have now settled and prospered. But "settled and prospered" can be its own roadblock. We begin to forget how we needed God's help before when things weren't so rosy. Joshua gathers up all the tribes and reminds them of all the ways God has served them well and encourages them to joyfully choose to serve God. We know that we have arrived at an important milestone in our journey, living the kind of life that we were created to live, when we can look back over all the struggles that have come before us and affirm that we would endure "the good, the bad, and the ugly" all over again in order to be in the place to which God has led us.

Rally Day Is For Everyone!

Each Fall, we begin our children's program with Rally Day. It's full of joy as the children are seeing each other after the summer vacation, teachers are excited to introduce the new materials, and outside, even the weather is changing. So, this year we decided to make this a special occasion for everyone in the church. Come to worship and be a part of the Rally as we learn about all the exciting opportunities to grow in faith, offer ourselves in service, and enjoy fellowship together. Better yet, bring a friend and show them what a vibrant church we are. You might just learn something new as well.

GED/ESL/Citizenship Classes

English, Citizenship and GED classes start September 6th. We welcome back all seven tutors from last year (thank you for your dedication) and are asking for new volunteers as well. Some volunteers teach on both Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and would prefer to teach one, instead of two nights per week. If you are willing to hear more about joining our group please call Mary Kruger.

Current tutors: Please plan to meet Tuesday, September 6 at 6:00 PM, for a short meeting before we begin the first night of class.

Called To BE Neighbors

An Invitation from Our District Superintendant

Please consider participating in this District Event that will help us explore what it means to know our neighbors and to be good neighbors. Saturday, September 22, from noon to 4, in Salem.

Knowing your neighbors is vital to effective and thriving ministry. *Who are the people in your neighborhood? Won't you be my neighbor?* In most of our churches the people that come on Sunday do not accurately represent the people who walk or drive by the church on Monday morning or Wednesday night or Saturday afternoon. They do not reflect those who use our buildings when we aren't using them. In a lot of places, the neighbors of the church aren't folks we know at all.

On Saturday September 22nd, we are invited to bring a team of folks to gather for a catered lunch and the yearly meeting of the [Cascadia District Church Extension Society](#). In the afternoon we will team up for some detailed work around exploring who are our neighbors. Before we can seriously talk about missions and ministries we first need to know who it is that we might be serving, we need to know the people in our neighborhoods and we need to ask, "will you be my neighbor?"

Collaboration is fundamental to the future of the church. Cooperation is crucial to our efforts to make disciples and transform lives. Knowing our neighbors gets us a step closer to being the church God calls us to be. We are not meant to be some secret society or even a service organization, we are meant to be the people of God gathered together in worship and service. We aren't to be holed up in our buildings, we are called to be in the neighborhoods, crossroads and shops that surround us. We are asked by God to cross over into the streets, and cafes and schools that surround us. We are shown by Christ that our neighbor is everyone we meet.

Please let the office know if you will be part of this team so we can get registered.

Movie Day is Coming!

Many people of the church showed interest in having a movie and discussion once per month. Greg Johansen and Mary Kruger are currently on this committee, but encourage others to join us. Our first movie after summer break will be at the Kruger's house on Sunday, September 9 at 3:00 PM. *Chocolat* is the movie. Please call Mary (503-779-7029) to reserve your spot; only 10 people at this venue, but we would appreciate volunteers who may like to host a movie in a future month in their larger living room. We also encourage suggestions for future movies.

Jesus Taught us how to Serve Others

Stewardship is about action. It's living out our faith. It's what we do, not what we claim to believe. We as individuals, a congregation and a church must outwardly focus on others instead of ourselves. We are called to reach out beyond the walls of our local church to help and serve others in addition to making disciples. We need to be community minded and action oriented, to reach out and touch the lives of others in the towns in which we live, to think globally and act locally. We need to change "church" from a noun to a verb, from a place to go to a way of life.

"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." (James 2:14-17)

Bill Smith

Finance Chair

Remember to include Stayton United Methodist Church in your will!

New City Sign Code Applies to Us!

Last December, we placed a relatively small A frame sign in front of the church announcing the Choir Christmas Program. The City received a complaint about the sign. Since the current sign code did not allow any signs in the area between the sidewalk and the curb (the landscape strip), the police told the church office to remove the sign or receive a \$250 fine. We removed the sign, and since then we have not put any temporary signs in front of the church. In the past, we have put signs out front for the Christmas Eve Service, the Easter Services, the Holiday Bazaar and the Choir Christmas Program.

Since April, Irene and Myrna have been working with the City Planning Commission on an exception in the sign code which would allow us to place temporary signs in front of the church. The City Council approved this change to the sign code at their August 20, 2018 meeting. This change in the city sign code does not apply to the preschool banner since that sign is not in the landscape strip.

To be in compliance with the new sign code, here are the rules:

1. a temporary sign in the landscape strip shall be placed a minimum of three (3) feet behind the curb, and
2. a temporary sign in the landscape strip shall be placed a minimum of 50 feet from a driveway.

If you have any questions, ask Irene Marchbanks or Myrna Headrick.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ACTIVITIES

Ladies, crafters have been busy making items for the bazaar. In September the crafters will continue meeting every Wednesday as the bazaar is getting closer—November 2, 3 and 10. There are many projects and ideas that need helping hands to finish. Come and work and fellowship.

On September 19, **the third Wednesday of the month** ladies' luncheon will be at Glockenspiel in Mt Angel. Carpool from the church at 12:00 or meet at the restaurant at 12:30.

September:

2 Pat Coleman
9 Carol North
16 Claudia Johnson
23 TBA
30 Carol North





Book Study Group

Our September book is "The Identicals: A Novel" by Elin Hilderbrand. Nantucket is only eleven miles away from Martha's Vineyard. But they may as well be worlds apart for estranged twin sisters Harper and Tabitha Frost. After not speaking for more than a decade, Harper and Tabitha switch islands-and lives-to save what's left of their splintered family. But the twins quickly discover that the secrets, lies, and gossip they thought they'd outrun can travel between islands just as easily as they can. Will Harper and Tabitha be able to bury the hatchet and end their sibling rivalry once and for

all? Hmm... This is a light summer read.

Our next book is "A Moonless, Starless Sky: Ordinary Women and Men Fighting Extremism in Africa" by Alexis Okeowo. This book is a vivid narrative of Africans who are courageously resisting their continent's wave of fundamentalism. New Yorker staff writer, Alexis Okeowo, weaves together four narratives that form a powerful tapestry of modern Africa: a young couple, kidnap victims of Joseph Kony's LRA; a Mauritanian waging a lonely campaign against modern-day slavery; a women's basketball team flourishing amid war-torn Somalia; and a vigilante who takes up arms against the extremist group Boko Haram. This debut book by one of America's most acclaimed young journalists illuminates the inner lives of ordinary people doing the extraordinary--lives that are too often hidden, under-reported, or ignored by the rest of the world.

We will meet to discuss "The Identicals" on Sunday, September 23, 2018 at 3 pm in the home of Shirley Hardee. Please bring a small snack to share. Everyone is welcome to join us for this discussion or several. If you have any questions or need a ride, please contact Shirley Hardee or Irene Marchbanks.



Back to School

Highland Preschool Begins

Highland Preschool will be back in session after Labor Day. The preschool meets Monday through Friday, 8:15am through noon, in rooms 8 and 9. Be extra careful in the parking lot when parents are dropping off and picking up children.

Pentecost Banner

Acts 2

Rev. 1:4

Rev. 3:1

Rev. 4:5

Rev. 5:6

Through the combined generosity of Ray and Odessa Killin and Ted and Ora Boehme, Stayton United Methodist is able to dedicate a new banner today, June 6, 1976. It will be displayed during the entire Pentecost season. The banner is another creation by Audrey Tonn, depicting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2), symbolized by the descending dove. The seven-fold gifts of the Spirit are dramatized by 7 leaping flames, and the universality of the Spirit's coming is shown by a number of human forms of different colors and sizes. The banner is a thing of beauty and will add a powerful silent witness to the meaning of Pentecost Season. The color is red, suggesting blood, fire and Christian zeal.



The Kingdomtide Banner now displayed in the Sanctuary was created by Audrey Tonn, a friend of our former pastor, Art Hansen. The rich symbolism includes the Greek letters, Alpha and Omega which means the beginning and the end. The X and P represent Christ the King. The color green represents the growth of the kingdom. Further explanations of the 10 symbols on this banner are as follows:

The Cross - appears twice here. There is a large, dominant cross with the four monograms--ALPHA, OMEGA, CHI, and RHO. Another cross is related to the ship, with a mast in the form of a cross.

ALPHA (A) and OMEGA - This monogram comes from the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Origination from Revelation 22:13, the symbols refer to the eternal nature of Christ.

CHI (x) and RHO (P) - This monogram, or abbreviation, derives from the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ.

SHIP - With a mast in the form of a cross, the ship symbolizes the Church under the leadership of Christ. The sails filled with wind, is a symbol of the Holy Spirit at work moving the Church to service.

THE WORLD - Christianity is not a tribal religion. It is for "Greek and Jew, barbarian, Synthian, slave, free man.

(Col. 3: 11). "God so loved the world" (John 3:16). "Behold the lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world." (John 1:29). The cross over the world bespeaks Christ's lordship over the whole world.

THE OPEN BIBLE - represents our source book for all we know of Jesus Christ. It makes known God's will and His love in Jesus Christ.

THE CANDLE - is the symbol of Jesus, the light of the world, and of Christians too, as lights in the world. In Jesus, "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out."

THE CROWN - is the symbol of Christ's Kingly office. He is Victor, and we share His victory, looking to the day when the kingdoms of earth will all be under the sway of God's rule. Crowns await those who persevere in the faith we receive, "the crown of life." (James 1:12)



CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

by Don Robinson

The August Church Council meeting began on the 20th at 7 p.m. with a skeleton crew. Pastor Janine, Angel, three members, and I were present.

We opened with prayer and a devotion centered on Luke 6: 32-33. Discussion of chapter four of *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* – “Risk-taking Mission and Service” followed. We found our church’s involvement in the ESL, GED, citizenship classes, and refugee support to be the prime examples of hands-on, face-to-face engagement with the needs of people outside our congregation.

We decided:

- To put out a sign-up sheet for the Cascadia District Event on 9-22; it will be publicized via bulletin, announcement in Worship, and “The Evangel.”

- Not to sponsor any Oregon Humanities Conversations at the library this fall.

- To get a few folks together to write a draft “Church Profile” for the District Superintendent.

- Regarding the \$500 micro-grant, for Pastor Janine to investigate a possible partnership with Santiam Hospital, Stayton youth center, or the Stayton schools.

- Not to utilize Herb Miller’s “New Consecration Sunday” again this year for a stewardship program. One member said, “I hated it.” I bemoaned the fact that the program failed last year because we failed to follow it sufficiently.

- Consecration Sunday is set for November 18; the stewardship team will seek to develop a program.

Finance reports show that expenses are beginning to exceed income.

Pictorial directory sign-ups are slow – only about half of the congregation have reserved times.

Sunday School curriculum is on back-order with Cokesbury. Teachers will do two-week rather than monthly rotations. A “Rally Day” is planned for September 9th for Sunday School and all small group ministries.

Next Council meeting is set for September 17, 2018 at 7 p.m.

Summerfest 2018

The Stayton United Methodist Church was a “fan” favorite at Summerfest 2018. Thanks to all the help printing, cutting, gluing, and giving away close to 1000 “vintage air conditioners!” We brought smiles and some heat relief to many. Special thanks to Bob B. and Carol N. for locating the pop-up tent that did fit the cover. We were blessed to be in a great location with gracious neighbors that shared chairs and smiles.

To continue on with increasing the visability of SUMC in the community I as asking each member to take 5 or more invitation cards (same size as traditional business cards with our name, address, telephone number, worship time, and a qr square to get directly to the church website) to give away each week as an invitation to attend service. Sunday School was listed at 9:00 AM and I will supervise all new attendees in September.

The next challenge: Personally hand-out the 1000 “invitatons” located by the front door and on the table in the narthex!

May God Bless, Margaret Ables

Starting in October

Women's Bible Study and Fellowship Begins with a New Time

It's time to gather once again to study God's word and support our sisters as we journey through life. If you've never joined us before, please plan to do so if this interests you. Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 3.

We will begin this season of study with a guided theme called: Reading the Bible for Our Times: How the Bible Can Help Us Navigate Through this Challenging Early 21st Century. The class is led by Rev. Arlene Webb.

Wednesdays, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Stayton UMC, beginning October 3, 2018
Sack dinners are welcome.

Questions? Contact Pat Coleman or Betty Smith



You Are Invited
Commissioning Service for Arlene M. Webb, M.Div., M.T.S.
Saturday, September 29, 2018
4:00 p.m.
Stayton United Methodist Church
Officiating Minister: The Rev. Donna Schreiber

Greetings SUMC Friends!

I am very happy to announce that I have been commissioned for ministry (ordained) by the non-denominational Federation of Christian Ministries. A commissioning ceremony will be held on September 29 and your prayerful presence is requested.

The church at Stayton and, importantly, members and friends of the congregation, have been a very meaningful part of my journey. Please plan to attend and help me celebrate this significant event.

In Christ,

Arlene

503-800-1723

helloarlenewebb@yahoo.com

Thus says the Lord, "Let the sage boast no more of his wisdom, nor the valiant of his valor, nor the rich man of his riches! But if anyone wants to boast, let him boast of this: of understanding and knowing me. For I am the Lord, I rule with kindness, justice and integrity on earth; yes, these are what please me – it is the Lord who speaks. (Jeremiah 9:22-24)

Light Refreshments to Follow

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mission Statement: As a spiritual community, our mission is to grow in our *Love of God, Relationships with Others, and Service to the Community*

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The Evangel

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Editor: Angel Miller

Support Staff: Kyle Rumley

Proofreading: Mary Ferguson

Thank you to all our contributors.
Become one!

The people of the
Stayton United Methodist Church
welcome you!



Office Hours
Monday through Friday - 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Pastor's Day Off: Friday
Sunday Schedule
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Coffee Hour following the Service

OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS