

# *The Evangel*

*Stayton* United Methodist Church  
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Volume 15 Issue 8

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## **Rediscovering God**

If we want to rediscover God, it is important to emotionally downshift. We need to remove some of the noise and clutter from our lives. God is hard to hear when we're so inundated with the very things that drive us to the depths of despair. We can become so busy moving that we don't have time for God. Stop and listen for the voice of God, and he will lead you out of your "cave", or the "hole" you have dug yourself into. The voice of God will come to you in the most ordinary of places, like at work, or in church, or when you are reading your Bible. God will show you the way out of your current predicament. But it probably won't be in the way you would expect.

I have found that the most popular way God gets me out of my "cave" is to put someone in my life that needs help. When we forget our own worries and get interested in helping others with their needs, we will snap out of our despair. During a lecture on mental health someone once asked Dr. Carl Menninger, a national renown psychiatrist: "What would you advise a person to do if that person felt a nervous breakdown coming on?" Most people thought he would say, "Go see a psychiatrist immediately," but he didn't. Much to everyone's astonishment, Dr. Menninger replied, "Lock up your house, go across the railroad tracks, find somebody in need, and help that person." To overcome discouragement, "Don't focus on yourself, get involved in the lives of other people."

When you are discouraged, beaten down by life, frustrated, down in the dumps, or depressed, stop, rest, listen for the stillness of God's voice and then get busy helping someone besides yourself. Then, you will have rediscovered God.

*Pastor David*

## Moon Shot

God made the stars and two great lights: the larger light to rule over the day and the smaller light to rule over the night. Genesis 1:16 (CEB)

We are in the midst of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. There are specials and programs on just about every channel and platform. Last night I watched one with my grandkids. They were interested but not mesmerized like I was 50 years ago. This got me thinking about how we got to that “one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind” moment and how it might have something to say to the people and churches of this district and the wider UMC.

60 years ago, humankind had just started to reach beyond our atmosphere. Sputnik had orbited the earth and humans had ventured beyond the bubble that provides us life. President Kennedy famously said: “We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win.”

Over the next decade things happened, and we got to the moon. But we got there by the blood, sweat and tears of hundreds of thousands of people. We got there through the unsung efforts of black women mathematicians and migrant engineers. We got there because of assembly line workers and young people pushing the envelope. We got there because we were willing to work together to accomplish something none of us could do alone. We got to the moon because we gave people a task and stepped away to let them figure out how to get that task done. We honored creativity, innovation and risk. We invented new systems. We moved away from the accepted and embraced the out-of-the-box. We didn’t let the rules of what had been overshadow the emerging new possibility.

I know it wasn’t perfect and that a lot of people were in it for the money, for the glory, for nationalism, for patriotism, and for a host of other self-serving reasons. I know that money was spent in ways that are embarrassing to admit and that choices were made to fund the moon program that could have been used to feed the hungry. But still, something worth emulating took place as we worked to meet the challenge of getting to the moon. We allowed what was possible to be the driving force. We let the caution, “we’ve never done it that way before” become the motto. We deliberately set the safe, mundane and known aside and allowed our men and women to dream dreams and have visions and figure out how to make them real.

I think that it is time we did these same things in the UMC. I think we have operated in such a way as to let the safe, mundane, and known rule us. We haven’t paid attention to the voices of the young or people of color or those outside the accepted channels. We have downplayed innovation and required folks to fit our expectations of what the church needs to be. It’s time we choose to be the church God envisions us to be and to do other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to accomplish.

Shoot for the moon!

Tim Overton-Harris

Cascadia District Superintendent

## **BAZAAR CRAFTERS ARE MEETING EVERY WEDNESDAY**

Ladies, we need persons who can sew, glue, cut, and/or put prices on finished items. In August the crafters will continue meeting every Wednesday and we are getting ready for the November bazaar. There are many projects and ideas that need some helping hands to finish. Come and work and fellowship.

On the **third Wednesday** of the month, August 14th, ladies' luncheon will be at Panezanellie's in Aumsville. Carpool from the church at 12:00 or meet at the restaurant at 12:30.

## **Nursery Attendants for August**

August 4 Mary Ferguson  
August 11 Maria del Carmen  
August 18 Irene Marchbanks  
August 25 Deanna Palmer

## **Carpet Cleaning**

We are taking bids for carpet cleaning services. Once we have a contract we will announce when the carpets will be cleaned. Several people will be needed to move furniture out of the way of the cleaners and to move it back in place when the carpet is dry. Please watch for the sign up at the table in the Narthex, if you can help.

Thank you so much.

Valerie Capps, Secretary for the Board of Trustees

## **Partnering with *Feed My Starving Children***

We are looking forward to partnering with Stayton United Methodist for the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack. You may not be familiar with the Feed My Starving Children organization use this link [fmsc.org](https://fmsc.org) to learn more about them. Thank you for the opportunity to share with your church. A presentation is scheduled at your church on September 8th. We will arrive at 9:30. We have a small table display that we will set up.

From the Santiam Canyon's Hands to the World's Mouth--Join us for the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack on October 26, 2019 in the Field House at Stayton High. Work alongside other community members to pack 108,000 meals for starving children around the world. You can help in three ways. Sign-up individually to volunteer or donate at <https://give.fmsc.org/santiamcanyon>. Use the same link to form a team. Pray that we meet our financial goals, volunteer goals, packing goals, that starving children are fed, and that members of the community can see God at work through the MobilePack. Thank you for serving!

May the God of peace...equip you with everything good for doing his will...

Hebrews 13:20-21

Kelly Fields



*Stewardship*  
a way of life

## Preservation and Progress

“Why then did you not put my money into the bank? Then, when I returned, I could have collected it with interest. He said to the bystanders, ‘Take the pound from him and give it to the one who has ten pounds.’ (And they said to him, ‘Lord, he has ten pounds!’) ‘I tell you, to all those who have, more will be given; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.’”

-- Luke 19: 23-26 (NRSV)

Recently, I traveled to the beach with my children and grandchildren. What a great time we had! I’m so glad Oregon’s beaches have been preserved for the free enjoyment of all. The variety of languages being spoken by the people around us that day was testimony to the widespread appreciation of

the gift of open beaches.

Conservation – keeping things in their natural state – it’s a form of stewardship. In some respects, however, Jesus calls us to more, to make things better than they were, to go beyond preservation, to achieve progress.

Remember the parable of the ten pounds? A nobleman entrusted a pound (a sum of money) to each of ten servants, and said, “Do business with these until I come back,” and then left on a journey to obtain royal power. Upon returning, he found that one of the servants had taken precautions to safeguard the pound he was given, but had done nothing to increase the value. That servant was, as related in the scripture quotation above, dealt with harshly.

Jesus has entrusted us with a piece of his Church. Can you and I say that we have enhanced the Stayton United Methodist Church? Can we say that it is better than it was when we showed up? Can we say we’ve done something to improve it, to cause its light to shine more brightly in the community and world?

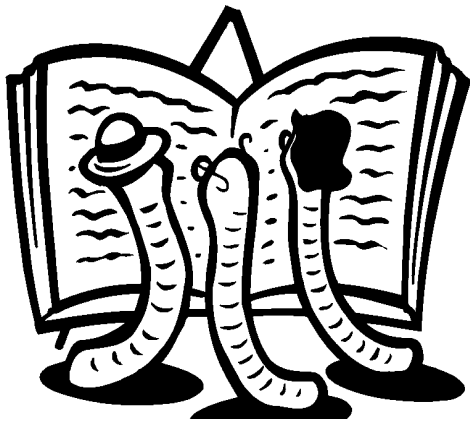
There are many ways we can help strengthen the church, such as through our regular attendance in Worship on Sunday mornings, through our involvement in a church ministry, through inviting others to Sunday morning Worship, through our monetary gifts, through our prayers, through our service on church committees, through caring for one another. Jesus just calls us to be diligent in doing the things we can do.

William Barclay, renowned Biblical interpreter, does a good job, I think, of summing all this up in his commentary on the above passage: “There is no such thing as standing still in the Christian life. We either get more or lose what we have. We either advance to greater heights or slip back.”

So, let us each accept God’s praise for what we have done and are doing, and resolve in the days ahead to do all we can to grow that which Jesus has entrusted to us. Let us be serious about earning some interest for the kingdom of God.

Don Robinson

## The Book Study Group



Due to a change we made at our July meeting, our August book is now "The Storyteller's Secret" by Sejah Badani. In this story, Jaya, a New York journalist, experiences the heartbreak of her third miscarriage and the slow unraveling of her marriage in its wake. Desperate to assuage her deep anguish, she decides to go to India to uncover answers to her family's past. Intoxicated by the sights, smells, and sounds she experiences, Jaya becomes an eager student of the culture. But it is Ravi - her grandmother's former servant and trusted confidant - who reveals

the resilience, struggles, secret love, and tragic fall of Jaya's pioneering grandmother during the British occupation. Through her courageous grandmother's romantic and heart-wrenching story, Jaya discovers the legacy bequeathed to her and a strength that, until now, she never knew was possible.

Our next book is "Catfish and Mandela: A Two-Wheeled Voyage Through the Landscape and Memory of Vietnam" by Andrew Pham. "Catfish and Mandala" is the story of an American odyssey—a solo bicycle voyage around the Pacific Rim to Vietnam—made by a young Vietnamese-American man in pursuit of both his adopted homeland and his forsaken fatherland. Andrew X. Pham was born in Vietnam and raised in California. His father had been a POW of the Vietcong; his family came to America as "boat people". Following the suicide of his sister, Pham quit his job, sold all of his possessions, and embarked on a year-long bicycle journey that took him through the Mexican desert, through the Pacific Northwest, around a thousand-mile loop from Narita to Kyoto in Japan; and, after five months and 2,357 miles, to Saigon, where he finds "nothing familiar in the bombed-out darkness." In Vietnam, he's taken for Japanese or Korean by his countrymen, except, of course, by his relatives, who doubt that as a Vietnamese he has the stamina to complete his journey ("Only Westerners can do it"); and in the United States he's considered anything but American. A vibrant memoir written with narrative flair and a sense of adventure, Catfish and Mandala is an unforgettable search for cultural identity. Caution: Although I really enjoyed this book, I found the chapter on the Gaping Fish very disturbing; you may want to skip this chapter.

Our previous August book, "The Rewind Files", is now our October book.

We will meet to discuss "The Storyteller's Secret" on Sunday, August 18, 2019 at 2 pm hosted by Carol Robinson at the church in the Fireside Room. 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.



# August 2019

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed | Thu  | Fri                               | Sat |
|---|---|--|-----|--|-----------------------------------|-----|
|   |   |  |     | 1<br>9:30-11:00 AM<br>Pastor David @<br>Food Bank  | 2                                 | 3   |
| 4<br>11:30 AM Bible<br>Study<br>6:00-8:00 PM<br>Game Night                                    | 5<br>6:00 PM Weight<br>Watchers   | 6<br>3:00 PM Prayer<br>Team  | 7   | 8<br>9:30-11:00 AM<br>Pastor David @<br>Food Bank  | 9                                 | 10  |
| 11<br>11:30 AM Bible<br>Study   | 12<br>6:00 PM Weight<br>Watchers  | 13<br>3:00 PM Prayer<br>Team   | 14  | 15<br>9:30-11:00 AM<br>Pastor David @<br>Food Bank | 16                                | 17  |
| 18<br>11:30 AM Bible<br>Study<br>2:00 PM Book<br>Group @ Church<br>6:00-8:00 PM<br>Game Night | 19<br>6:00 PM Weight<br>Watchers<br>6:30 PM Finance<br>Meeting<br>7:00 PM Church<br>Council | 20<br>7:30 AM United<br>Methodist Men<br>Breakfast @<br>Covered Bridge<br>Café<br>3:00 PM Prayer<br>Team | 21  | 22<br>9:30-11:00 AM<br>Pastor David @<br>Food Bank | 23<br>1:00 PM Evangel<br>Deadline | 24  |
| 25<br>11:15 AM Annual<br>Men's BBQ<br>11:30 AM Bible<br>Study                                 | 26<br>6:00 PM Weight<br>Watchers  | 27<br>3:00 PM Prayer<br>Team   | 28  | 29<br>9:30-11:00 AM<br>Pastor David @<br>Food Bank | 30                                | 31  |

### August Birthdays

Alice Halse 4  
Ralph Strommeyer 17  
Bruce Lanham 18  
Betty Fields 19  
Irene Trent-Valencia 20  
Mary Scott 21  
Jacob Blocker 21  
Evelyn Johnson 28  
Carol North 29  
Erma Hough 29  
Marilyn Strout 30  
Sara Elkington 30

### August Anniversaries

Don & Irene Marchbanks 5  
Lee & Pat Griffin 13  
Cole & Allison Henry 13  
Bill & Carol North 15  
Keith & Kara Blocker 18  
Dave & Irene Valencia 21  
Janell Fehlen & Cary Moller 23  
Don & Carol Robinson 24  
Jim & Marilyn Strout 27

### Coffee Hour:

Group A-F has the first Sunday of the month.  
Group G-J has the second Sunday of the month.  
Group K-P has the third Sunday of the month.  
Group R-W has the fourth Sunday of the month.

Since we are just doing the simplified Coffee Hour we will continue to use the alphabetical system as is. Please provide just finger foods, items that can be carried on a napkin or small paper plate and require no silverware. Each Group is responsible for bringing juice.

### Ushers:

Team 1 (Odd Months)  
Jim & Mary Kruger (First Sunday)  
Chuck & Erma Henry (Second Sunday)  
Gil & Roma Stewart (Third Sunday)  
Diane Pankonin & Bob Bushman (Fourth Sunday)

Team 2 (Even Months)  
Niki Loewen & Ben Beltran (First Sunday)  
Bill & Carol North (Second Sunday)  
Margaret Ables & Mike Palinkas (Third Sunday)  
Pat & Zeke Coleman (Fourth Sunday)

Fifth Sunday: Durelle Hudson & Jane Kuenzi

### LOVE Team & Nursery

#### August 4

LOVE Team: Irene, Shirley, Christine  
Nursery: Mary Ferguson

#### August 11

LOVE Team: Durelle, Valerie, Charlotte  
Nursery: Maria del Carmen

#### August 18

LOVE Team: Janet, Betty  
Nursery: Irene Marchbanks

#### August 25

LOVE Team: Erma & Chuck, Mae Belle  
Nursery: Deanna Palmer

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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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 Days Off: Friday