

The Evangel

Stayton United Methodist Church
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God's New Covenant

Long ago, God had made a covenant with the people of Israel. This covenant was a commitment always to be present with the people, loving and caring for them, but the people were not responding to God's love and gifts. Instead, they were disobedient, breaking covenant commands. So, God decided that the old covenant needed to be updated, and Jeremiah learns from God that a new and better one will take its place. Instead of writing the law on stone tablets, this time, God will write this new covenant with permanent ink on the hearts of God's people. This new covenant will be as permanent as a tattoo or a brand. The people didn't know that God was about to send his one and only son to be the tattoo artist.

Jeremiah realizes that God wants to be in a relationship with His people. And that God's love is steadfast, even when we are unaware of it. Jeremiah understands that human actions cannot weaken God's commitment to us. We, humans, keep neglecting to live up to our covenant with God. If we only commit entirely to Him, God will reform our hearts, thus freeing us from our sins. Then, we will become righteous through God's grace alone, rather than any action we can take on our behalf. Amen.

Pastor David

Community Service

I caught word that the teen center in Stayton can use meals/snacks and I thought about the ladies at church who like to cook & bake. If anyone would be interested they need to contact santiamteens@gmail.com OR connect on their Facebook page.

Robin

Thank You

The North Family would like to express their appreciation for the many letters, cards, flowers and phone messages we received following the death of our dear Bill, and to those persons who made his Celebration of Life service and reception so meaningful and uplifting. A thank you also to all those who made donations in Bill's memory. It was really comforting to know that he had touched so many lives. Our family feels privileged to have such supportive friends in our church community.

Carol North and Family

Choir Gratitude

You may have noticed on Easter that the choir wore new stoles and sang a new song (The Prayer). Both were purchased with the memorial funds donated in memory of Myrna Headrick. We are so grateful to all of you who donated to the Choir Fund in her memory. Myrna was in our hearts as we sang this Easter.



Celebrating Easter Together Again After Two Years

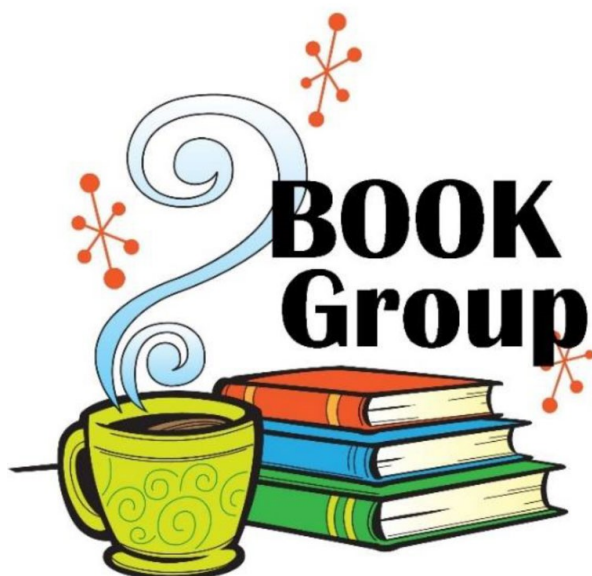


Easter Egg Hunt



Sunday School Class Decorating Easter Cookies for Coffee Hour





Book Group

Our May 2022 book is: "The Children's Blizzard: A Novel" by Melanie Benjamin. The morning of January 12, 1888 was unusually mild, following a punishing cold spell. It was warm enough for the homesteaders of the Dakota Territory to venture out again, and for their children to return to school without their heavy coats—leaving them unprepared when disaster struck. At the hour when most prairie schools were letting out for the day, a terrifying, fast-moving blizzard blew in without warning. Schoolteachers as young as sixteen were suddenly faced with life and death decisions: Keep the children inside, to risk freezing to death when fuel ran out, or send them home, praying

they wouldn't get lost in the storm? Based on actual oral histories of survivors, this gripping novel follows the stories of Raina and Gerda Olsen, two sisters, both schoolteachers—one becomes a hero of the storm and the other finds herself ostracized in the aftermath. At its heart, this is a story of courage, of children forced to grow up too soon, tied to the land because of their parents' choices. It is a story of love taking root in the hard prairie ground, and of families being torn asunder by a ferocious storm that is little remembered today.

Our next book is: "Becoming" by Michelle Obama. In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America, she was the first African American to serve in that role. She helped create a welcoming and inclusive White House, while also establishing herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls in the U.S. and around the world. In her memoir, a work of reflection and storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent in the White House. With honesty and wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms. Warm, wise, and revelatory, *Becoming* is the personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations.

We will meet in the church Fireside room at 2 pm on Sunday, May 15, 2022 to discuss "The Children's Blizzard". If you would like to join virtually by Zoom, just email irenemarchbanks@aol.com by the Saturday before.

If you plan to attend in-person, please bring a small snack to share. Everyone is welcome to join us for one discussion or several. If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Hardee or Irene Marchbanks.



Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6: 19-21 (NRSV)

ONE MORE MORNING

The other day I heard a song that was new to me. The lyrics spoke to me in a personal and powerful way. A sample:

We all want one more morning just to feel it all again
Just to have this day and life starting all over, for all it may bring
A blessing on everything and one more song I can sing*

Yes, I realized, I always want one more day. But when God gives it to me, how do I handle it? Do I live it with an appropriate amount of appreciation? Do I display joy over receiving it? Do I use it to bring blessings to others, to everything?

The greatest treasures of our mortal lives are the days we are given. The ways in which we receive and live in them are treasures we store up in heaven. Yes, circumstances can limit our options, but the important thing is how we exercise the choices we have. As Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

A good prayer: Lord, let me embrace each morning you give me with the joy such a gift deserves. Empower me, please, to within my circumstances be a blessing to all I encounter. And let me with my being sing the unique song of life you have given me.

*Lyrics by Steve Winwood & Will Jennings

In joyful thanksgiving,
Don Robinson

United Methodist Women 2022 Budget and Donations

On April 10th, the United Methodist Women (UMW) met after church to discuss and approve our 2022 budget, which includes our 2021 Bazaar funds. A big thank you to all the women who came to the meeting! Since we approved the budget, our treasurer has given out the following:

\$800 to the Church Camp Fund: We support our all-church effort to raise money to help send our church youth to United Methodist summer camps.

\$1000 to Stayton Community Food Bank: The Stayton Community Food Bank provides food assistance to individuals and families in the eastern Marion County area, including Stayton, Aumsville, Sublimity, Mehama, Lyons, and surrounding areas. Stayton Community Food Bank relies on volunteers and donations from people who don't want anyone in need to go hungry.

\$1000 to Canyon Crisis and Resource Center in Mill City: The Canyon Crisis and Resource Center provides services and programs to victims of crime and violence and to persons in need in our area. They serve North Santiam Canyon in Mill City, Gates, Detroit, Idanha, Lyons, Stayton, Sublimity, Aumsville, Mehama and other small cities and communities in our rural area. They also operate a 24-hour crisis hotline.

\$1000 to Service Integration Team - Santiam Hospital: The Service Integration Team (SIT) is designed to coordinate community providers and services to identify needs, find solutions, and avoid duplication of services. They actively seek partners to include local school districts, law enforcement, local and state governments, faith communities, businesses, non-profits, early childhood providers, community volunteers, and other interested parties. Together, they share resources and work efficiently and effectively to benefit those most in need. A UMW representative sometimes sits in on these SIT meetings. Our gift has been designated for the Stayton-Sublimity area.

\$1500 Mid-Valley Literacy Center: The Mid-Valley Literacy Center offers language, literacy, GED and Citizenship classes to help people increase economic stability and overall quality of family life. This organization supports the ESL, GED and Citizenship ministry in our church.

\$2000 to UMCOR - Global Ministries - \$1000 to the Ukraine Fund. UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery provides humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country. This fund provides direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.

\$1000 to Solar Oven Partners UMC for Dominican Republic, Sierra Leone & the northwestern land of the Navaho Nation: Solar ovens empower people to use solar power to meet their cooking needs. The project's goal is to improve the quality of life for families, including more discretionary income resulting from the savings from cooking meals without a cost for cooking fuel. Solar ovens have health benefits from pasteurizing drinking water and avoiding smoke inhalation from cooking fires. The solar ovens also help to stem the tide of deforestation.

\$1000 to UMW Missions: UMW mission funds support domestic and international programs and projects aimed at improving the special needs of women because of their refugee statuses, their immigration statuses, situations in which they are abused, their high illiteracy rate in some countries, their economic dependence, their educational disparities, and

much more.

\$25 to UMW missions were donated in memory of Marilyn Strout.:

\$200 to UMW's Gertrude Boyd Crane Scholarship: The Gertrude Boyd Crane Scholarship is intended for women in the Oregon- Idaho Conference who are pursuing post-graduate studies toward a vocation in the church.

\$200 to the Santiam Teen Center - The **Santiam Teen Center** is an after-school program open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays, from 3:00 until 6:00 pm. The Teen Center provides students between the ages of 13 and 18 (7th -12th grade) with a safe, enjoyable environment where any teenager can engage in constructive, educational, and social activities with the help of trained volunteers. The Center is run by New Growth Ministries.

\$200 to the Santiam Youth Peer Court - This program works with first time youth offenders with low status crimes. It is a voluntary program for students between the ages of 8-18 who admit guilt, understand what they did was wrong and are ready to hold themselves accountable. They are supervised by the program coordinator, Sharon Goodwin. Students are given the opportunity to hold themselves accountable by doing such things as community service, writing essays or apologies to people that their offence has affected. The participants are subject to drug and alcohol assessments which sometimes lead to counseling and classes.

\$400 Project Graduation – we sent \$200 each to the Stayton High School Boosters and to Cascade High School for their safe All Night Senior Parties.

Please contact Irene Marchbanks, UMW Treasurer, if you have any questions. Your UMW Officers: Diane McDermott (Pres), Mary Kruger (VP), Roma Stewart (Sec.) and Irene Marchbanks (Treas).

UMW Call to Prayer and Self Denial - Update

Every year, women in our church are invited to donate to "A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial"; Organized by United Methodist Women (UMW), the Call to Prayer and Self Denial is a time of selfless giving and spiritual communion with God. This is a special offering for Deaconesses and Home Missioners who give their life to service and make such a difference in the lives of women and children throughout the country and the world. The women in our church generously donated \$522 to support this important UMW ministry.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

United Methodist Women Crafters will meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month 9:30 AM -12:00 PM, beginning in May. In May, this will be the 1st and the 18th. This will give us six months to get ready for the November Bazaar. Please join the group for crafting, fun, and socializing! No special skills needed.



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 is a monthly publication of the Stayton United Methodist Church. Articles and items should be submitted prior to the 23rd of the month.

Editor: Angel Miller
Support Staff: Kyle Rumley
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