

Pastoral News

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

Hello Friends, and Merry Christmas...

I know that many of you know I am not the biggest fan of Christmas, and I have my reasons...I also know that for a pastor to admit that fact might raise a few eyebrows, I get that. So, in this note I am not trying to convince anybody to my side, but rather I would like to remind you why Christmas may still be important to the world.

In one word...Hope

Hope is unforeseen type of faith that gives us strength, so that we do not give up, give in but rather push on.

Hope is so very important in our lives because it gives us the strength and the courage and positivity towards every aspect of life. It helps us to get out of bed, it helps us to take our medicine, to go to work, to forgive, to share to love...this is because when you have Hope, you have a reason to believe...

Christmas and Jesus give us that hope...

Here is what Google thinks about Christmas.

Christmas remains also important today because it serves as a significant cultural and religious holiday for many people, providing a time for family, community, giving gifts, and reflecting on spiritual values, even if the focus on its religious aspects varies depending on individuals and cultures; it also holds significant economic importance due to widespread gift-giving traditions and retail activity during the season.

- Caritas Challenge
- Prayers Needed
- Birthdays
- United Women of Faith

December Calendar

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th
Worship @ 10:30

3rd, 10th, 17, & 31st
Tops @ 9
Prayer Group @ 10:30
Bible Study @ 11:00

5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th
Crafting Group 9 till noon

19th
Men's Group @ 10:30

Key reasons why Christmas is still important:

Religious Significance:

For Christians, Christmas is the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth, a central tenet of their faith, and a time for religious services and reflection.

Family and Community Bonding:

Christmas often brings families and communities together, providing an opportunity for gatherings, shared meals, and quality time with loved ones.

Giving and Generosity:

The tradition of gift-giving is a core aspect of Christmas, fostering a sense of giving back and sharing with others.

Cultural Traditions:

Many non-religious people still participate in Christmas festivities due to its deeply ingrained cultural traditions, including decorating homes, singing carols, and watching holiday movies.

Economic Impact:

The holiday season is a major economic driver, with increased spending on gifts, food, and decorations, benefiting retailers and businesses.

So whatever you might think about Christmas...there may be hope for you after all, maybe even for me, lol

Merry Christmas, pastor René

December Birthdays

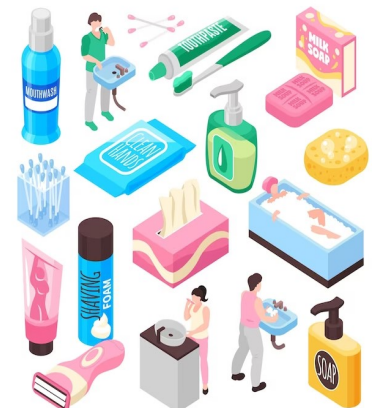
29th - Janet Abernathy



Caritas Challenge

Hygiene Products and Cleaning Products!

Tooth Brush, Tooth Paste, Soap, Razor, Shampoo, Feminine pads, Mouth Wash, Q tips, Tissue, Windex, Clorox, etc. . .





P R A Y E R

Hand of God to Touch

Peace on Earth
Our Church
All Caregivers
Peace for the Middle East and Israel
Our Country
Decisions made at special session of
Annual Conference
Budget
Bosses to not play favorites
Elderly being scammed

Health and Healing

Elena Strobeck
Blake Strobeck in NICU

Continued Prayers

Roxy
Hawk
Jean
Granddaughter Brandy
Sindie Price
All those suffering from cancer
All those recovering from Surgery

Prayers of Gratitude

For friends and our church family

“Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you’re in trouble and devote yourselves to prayer...”

Romans 12:12



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

From General Secretary: Bishop Julius C. Trimble

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 4:6-7.

As Christians and United Methodists, we seek to center our lives and witness on God. Confident that nothing can separate us from God’s grace, we are equally confident that the social witness of the Church is a testimony to that grace.

As the United States 118th Congress concludes its work for 2024, we implore our elected leaders to adopt a budget that retains maximum support for food security and social safety net programs that address the needs of the most vulnerable among us.

We raise our voices as followers of Jesus to denounce all manner of hate speech and messaging that promotes racist attitudes and bigotry toward any part of the human family.

Capturing the Wesleyan spirit of social holiness and ethical action as United Methodists, we step prayerfully and thankfully into this holiday season knowing we can always give thanks for something, remembering who we are as Christians and our global call to social action.



United
Women
in Faith

Good News from United Women in Faith!

At the annual meeting of the Inland Missional District and the Pacific Northwest Conference. Both groups voted on their pledges for the 2025 fiscal year. Even though giving has been down in the Inland District, the pledge to mission will remain at \$20,000.

The PNWC giving has been up in 2024, we were able to give over our pledge. At the annual meeting in October, it was proposed and we voted to give an increase from \$45,000 in 2024 to \$60,000 in 2025. This means more women and children will receive life giving services through the mission work of the United Methodist Church.

Our local unit of three meets with the unit at Audubon Park UMC. In the same spirit of giving out of our abundance, we voted to raise our pledge to \$1000.

But just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in this grace of giving. II Corinthians 8:7.

Fowler United Methodist Church

3928 N. Howard Street
Spokane, WA 99205
Fowlerumc@yahoo.com
509-325-3242

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**Fowler United Methodist
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3928 N. Howard St.
Spokane, WA 99205
(509) 325-3242

Facebook: [FowlerUnited
MethodistChurch](#)
fowlerumc@yahoo.com

Fowlerumc.org

Pastor:

Rev. René Devantier
Editor: Diane Strobeck
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COME AND CRAFT WITH US!



The 2nd and fourth Thursday
at 9am