

Outreach

SEPTEMBER 2017



You nourish and water the land—
Greatly you have enriched it.

The streams of God are full of water;
you provide us with the grain you ordained.
Thus you have prepared the land:
drenching its furrows,
breaking up its clods, softening it with showers,
blessing its yield.

You have crowned the year with your bounty
and your paths overflow with a rich harvest;
the untilled meadows overflow with abundance,
and rejoicing clothes the hills.

The fields are covered with flocks
and the valleys are blanketed with grain.
They shout and sing for joy!

— Psalm 64:9-13

*The Inclusive Bible, The First
Egalitarian Translation*

montavilla



united methodist church

growing closer to God

Our Identity *Standing together hopeful, thankful, worshipful* • **Our Mission** *A loving, welcoming Christian community moving closer to God* • **Our Vision** *A Christ-centered, multi-generational family that values: Faith-filled worship, spiritual growth, mission outreach, celebrating individual's gifts*

open hearts, open minds, open doors



A Reconciling Congregation

Montavilla United Methodist Church

232 SE 80th Avenue • Portland, OR 97215 • 503.254.5529
montavillaumchurch@gmail.com • www.montavillaumc.org

Thoughts From Our Pastor

submitted by Reverend Tim Winslea

Friends,
In graduate school, our professor for systems theory said that he “loved conflict.” I remember how shocking that sounded. Who loves conflict? I had never met anyone before who “loved conflict,” and I sat with the other students, slack-jawed and confused. My childhood was not without conflict, and I had spent much of my life up until graduate school avoiding conflict whenever and however I could. I knew enough about my classmates to know that I was not alone in this response.

However, the longer we listened to our professor, the more we came to understand not just the dangers of conflict, but also the quiet gifts it can offer. On the one hand, conflict can tear a system apart. It makes people angry, and words are often said that one wishes one could take back. Conflict drives us down into our limbic system — our emotional brain — which responds to stress through gut reaction rather than careful reflection. But conflict also clarifies two things.

First, conflict reasserts the truth. In every system, be it a family, an office, or a church, individuals hold different beliefs and



perspectives. In our attempts to get along, we shape what we say so that those differences appear less pronounced. We swallow what we really believe and go along with the crowd. Conflict enables people to speak the truth that they have been hiding or minimizing in order to keep the peace.

Second, and even more important, conflict tests the strength of our relationships. If the conflict is great and the relationship is weak, conflict results in rupture. But if the relationship is stronger than the conflict, the system can actually be strengthened. In healthy systems, conflict teaches people that they can share what they really believe without fearing that others will respond poorly. In healthy systems people work creatively to find appropriate compromises, and conflicts can confirm their dedication to the relationship regardless of the outcome of the conflict.

When I came to Montavilla, I was warned that your church had experienced some painful conflicts in the past. People had left over certain situations, pastors had lashed out at times, and the church had struggled in the wake of this. The system, I was told, “was weak and had been traumatized.” But you are no

longer the church you were. Although small, you are strong and the system we have built together is healthy.

In two previous churches I served, pews had been removed, and we evolved toward worship conducted in the round, using moveable chairs. In both those churches, the move was resisted at first but universally applauded later. I have a right to my memories of those previous churches and to my continuing belief that worship here would be greatly improved if we reconfigured the sanctuary. But you also have a right to your memories. You have a right to voice how important it is to sit where you have sat with loved ones who are no longer here. You have a right to remember how hard it was to get these pews, and how useful they are when special services, like funerals, occur.

At our August 27th Church Council meeting, I introduced a motion to remove the last few rows of pews in the sanctuary, and it was unanimously voted down. Because the system

is healthy, I was able to speak my truth and still celebrate the Council's decision.

As I shared with the Church Council, I want to instill in this congregation three things. First, I want everyone to have the courage to say what they really believe, trusting that others will love them and treat them respectfully, even if they disagree. Second, I want everyone to have the discipline to be voted down when they do make courageous motions, and to accept the will of the community over their personal perspectives and desires. Third, I want everyone to have the confidence to know that we are a healthy church, and thus can encourage people to speak the truth, even if that may lead to moments of conflict.

I love this church and give thanks to God for the wisdom and courage of our Church Council.

Blessings,
Tim

A Memorial Service & Celebration of Life

will be held at MUMC for

Ed Nordstrom

on Sunday, September 17th at 1:00 p.m.





SEPTEMBER 2017

MONTAVILLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 <i>Communion Sunday</i> Adult Sunday School (9:00am) Worship; Children's Sunday School; Youth Group (10:30am) Church Life Meeting (12:00pm)	4 <i>Happy Labor Day!</i>	5	6 Mary Circle (10:00am)	7 Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm)	8 XYZ Group (12:00pm)	9 <i>M&Ms trip to Thompson Mountain House</i>
10 <i>All Out Sunday</i> Adult Sunday School (9:00am) Worship; Children's Sunday School (10:30am) Second Sunday Lunch (12:00pm) Finance Committee (12:00pm)	11 <i>Normal church office hours resume: Mon-Thu, 10am-2pm</i> Trustees Meeting (7:00pm)	12	13 UMW General Meeting (10:00am) Mission Committee Meeting (6:30pm)	14 Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm)	15 Open Hearts Food Pantry (3:00pm – 6:00pm)	16 Open Hearts Food Pantry (10:00am – 12:00pm) <i>Tea for Tacoma (1:00pm-3:00pm)</i>
17 Adult Sunday School (9:00am) Worship; Children's Sunday School; Youth Group (10:30am) SPRC Meeting (12:00pm) <i>Memorial for Ed Nordstrom 1:00pm</i>	18	19 Simple Gifts (6:00pm)	20 <i>OUTREACH submission deadline, 10:00am</i> UMW Board Meeting (10:00am) UMW Book Group (1:15pm)	21 Lincoln Circle (5:30pm) Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm)	22	23
24 Adult Sunday School (9:00am) Worship; Children's Sunday School (10:30am) Church Council Meeting (12:00pm)	25	26 UMW Field Trip to the Tacoma Community House (8:15am, registration required)	27	28 Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm)	29	30 <i>Registration Deadline for Family Camp</i>

Welcome to this place of rest, laughter, and growth.



We come here because our questions are respected, our insights are encouraged, and our hunger for mission is shared.



Members of this community — who include people of various ethnic groups, income levels, levels of ability, religious backgrounds, sexual orientations, and gender identities — invite you to make this your home.

Please check the church website (www.montavillaumc.org) for the most up-to-date information, as well as event descriptions and locations.

If you would like to add an event to the church calendar, please email montavillaumchurch@gmail.com, or leave an "office note" in the box outside the church office.

UMW Corner



UMW Book Group

The UMW Book Group's next meeting will be Wednesday, September 20th, 2017 in the church library. Meetings will continue on the third Wednesday of each month. In September, we have chosen a book to discuss from the social action category: *The White Umbrella: Walking with Survivors of Sex Trafficking*, by Mary Francis Bowley. All are welcome to join us!

UMW Columbia District Meeting

This year the youth of Lake Oswego United Methodist Church spent a week in San Francisco working with two homes for abused and homeless women and children: the Gum Moon Women's Residence and Mary Elizabeth Inn. Both residences have their roots in the United Methodist

Tea for Tacoma

United Methodist Women's "Tea for Tacoma" will tantalize your taste buds while raising funds for Tacoma Community House in South Seattle.

Tacoma Community House (TCH) is one of 97 National Mission Institutions supported by United Methodist Women. Founded in 1910 with the mission to work with children of Italian immigrants, TCH now works primarily with newcomers from Africa and Russia. Helping immigrants learn English remains a priority but other services are provided, including housing assistance, job placement, referrals to specialized re-credentialing programs, and serving as a "listening ear" when newcomers find life in the U.S. a challenge. Mark your calendars to help us support this important ministry!

We have filled the available seats for this event. You may add your name to the waiting list in the fellowship hall after worship on September 3rd and 10th. Thank you to everyone who has purchased a ticket!



Saturday, September 16th

1:00pm – 3:00pm

**Montavilla UMC
Fellowship Hall**

submitted by Becky Warren

Women, continuing their legacy for almost 150 years. Join us on September 23, 2017 at Christ United Methodist Church, 12755 NW Dogwood St., Portland, Oregon to hear the youth talk about their trip. Also join us for the meeting where our own Janice Stevens will

be installed as Columbia District President. Lunch will be a salad potluck. Please bring a salad to share. If you would like to carpool contact Janice Stevens to make arrangements. We will be leaving the church that morning at 8:30 a.m.

Announcements

XYZ

XYZ will begin again on Friday, September 8th at noon. This is a group of older folks who meet on the second Friday of the month for conversation and lunch. Bring your own sack lunch; dessert is provided. We have a great time — come and join us!

*Normal church office hours will resume
the week of Monday, September 11th*

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*Monday – Thursday
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.*

Communications Survey Results

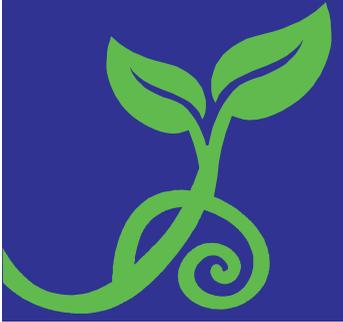
Thank you to everyone who participated in the communications survey earlier this year. While it's impossible to satisfy every individual preference, we will of course do our best to account for all the feedback we received as we develop an updated communication plan for MUMC. On the whole members reported appreciating variety in both content and medium. Bearing that in mind, we are exploring ways to maintain that variety while making the best use of staff time.

Beginning in mid-September, the weekly bulletin insert will be available in both print and via email, so that the announcements appearing there will be available to members who miss a Sunday worship service.

Stay tuned for more updates later this fall!

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Office Hours

Monday – Thursday, 10AM - 2PM

Pastor available other hours by appointment

Church Staff

Pastor, Rev. Timothy Winslea

Office Manager, Emily Garcia

Director of Music, Barton Rippe

Director of Children's Ministries, Holly Dolan

Youth Group (grades 6-12), Jennifer Greenley

Nursery Care, JoAnna Taylor

Outreach Editor, Emily Garcia

growing closer to God

Outreach is published monthly from September to June. Please contact the church office to submit an article or announcement. *The deadline for inclusion in the following month's newsletter is the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:00am.*