



# GREAT SPIRIT

[www.greatspiritpdx.com](http://www.greatspiritpdx.com)

Great Spirit Newsletter August-September 2022

Issue 20

## From the Single Board

By Helen Stewart

July is having a very HOT ending! Welcome August!

Worship service continues in person with everyone masked and distanced. Every new variant causes concern for the community. Many thanks to the hospitality team of Karrie Young, Nellie, Ricky and Susan. They have lunches prepared for "to-Go" every week after Worship.

Great Spirit UMC welcomes all the "On Line" viewers and participants of the Sunday Worship. There are two prayers that are recited every week, at the Opening Ceremony and after the Pastoral Prayer. The newsletter team would like to share them with you:

### BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE (Voices 75)

Creator, Grandfather, Great Spirit, we offer this burning of sage as a purification, a reminder for all to cleanse our thoughts and hearts that we may

hear and be guided by your Spirit and direction. We thank you for all our relatives: the four-leggeds, the wingeds, the star people of the heavens, and all living things you have created to sustain this life.

Empower each of us through the bringer of Peace, Jesus Christ, to seek and make change for a better life for all people and all creation. Hear our prayers this day and every day. Accept our thanks for all the blessings we enjoy and for those yet to come to us. Aho – Amen

Unison Prayer: (a version of the Lord's Prayer)

Creator, whose home is everywhere, in heaven and earth, your name is most sacred of all. Let your holy intentions for all creation become reality here and everywhere. In gratitude, we honor your gift of bread each day. Accept our acts of reconciliation for the balancing of life. Keep us from foolish decisions that benefit only ourselves. Protect us from enemies that threaten the sacred balance. Teach us to respect your power in the universe that is revealed through all creation. Amen

### WORSHIP WITH US

Worship services are held each Sunday at 11:00 am for vaccinated, masked persons at 3917 NE Shaver ST 97212.

Worship includes smudging, drumming, and Native American prayer. To-go lunch provided following service.

Services can be viewed on Facebook or on our website [www.greatspiritpdx.com](http://www.greatspiritpdx.com)

There is a prayer request form on the front page of the website.

On-line viewers and participants might also be interested in the hymn used as the Doxology, a hymn in praise of God, on Sundays: Dakota 38 Song. This hymn was originally written in 1842 in the Dakota Native American language by Joseph R. Renville. (The Methodist Hymnal "Many and Great, O God")

Many and great, O God, are thy things, Maker of earth and sky: Thy hands have set the heavens with stars, Thy fingers spread the mountains and plains. Lo, at Thy word the waters were formed; Deep seas obey Thy voice.

Grant unto us communion with Thee, Thou star-

## Happy Birthday!

### AUGUST Birthdays

- August 2 Dean Wagner
- August 6 Jane Spencer
- August 15 David Allison
- August 19 Leslie Hall
- August 25 Tena Benedict
- August 27 Chisao Hata

### SEPTEMBER Birthdays

- September 8 Siale Edmo Cook
- September 9 Eva Johnson
- September 9 Louise Darling
- September 10 Lois Wagner
- September 20 Betty Lou Finch
- September 24 Tami Gallegos
- September 24 Skyler Morrison
- September 27 John Edmo

To add your name to the Birthday list, please let Helen Stewart know the important date. Anniversaries are important too!

### ANNIVERSARIES

- August 1 Craig and Kathy Lesley
- August 6 Patrick and Tena Benedict
- August 7 Ed and LeeAnn Wermey
- August 15 Joseph Chadborn and Jane Spencer

abiding One; Come unto us and dwell with us; With thee are found the gifts of life. Bless us with life that has no end, Eternal life with Thee.

**Finance / Trustee update:** Insurances have been paid. Wisdom of the Elders has been keeping the grass cut, spread mulch, planted, and pruned. Boy Scouts painted their room. Trustees are considering plans to add windows to the Sunday School room doors as is suggested in the Safe Sanctuary documents.

Donations, pledges, and tithes can be mailed to Great Spirit UMC at 3917 NE Shaver St. Portland, OR 97212.

Have new ideas for Great Spirit to express the Core Values of Love, Connection, Spirituality, Tradition? Join the Single Board to make it happen! Contact Pastor Allen.

Submitted, Helen Stewart

## MISSION

Clothing and toiletries leftover from the United Women in Faith yard sale went to Main Spring. Helen Iles delivered 224 lbs of items. She also took three infant playpen packs to Portland Adventist Community Services. Gently used clothing, in-date food products, and personal care items can be left on the table in the corner of the Fellowship Hall.

## BOTTLES AND CANS LADY (Helen Iles)

Helen appreciates all the bottles and cans left at church. Her neighbors save bottles and cans especially for her. In July she will turn in \$400+ giving a total for the year to date of \$2,400. The money collected goes to Great Spirit's Shared Ministries Apportionments. Helen will provide pick-up service of bottles and cans from your location. Please give her a call at 503-252-0026.

Bottles and cans for recycling can be left at the church on Sunday morning or during the week at the ramp door to the Sanctuary.

## DONATE

Great Spirit accepts donations. You can designate something specific, like outreach or women only. We also have a general fund, which is what keeps our lights on, the heat on, and the doors open, as well as emergency food services. On the website at [greatspiritpdx.com](http://greatspiritpdx.com) scroll to the bottom of the page and click the DONATE button.

### HISTORIAN NEWS – Let’s Keep in Touch!

Photographs from the yard sale and other events are being placed in the scrapbook Helen Iles is assembling. Helen includes the weekly bulletins (programs) and the newsletters in the scrapbook.

### NEWS FROM UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (formerly United Methodist Women)

Our June 25th meeting included reading from *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. We discovered that the Alaskan Native Brotherhood and the Alaskan Native Sisterhood is “recognized as the oldest Native American civil rights organization in the U.S. They secured voting rights for Native Alaskans in 1922.”

Because of the diligent effort by our Communications Director, Helen Iles, we were able to connect with and pray with people for health and other concerns. Helen reported making 37 phone calls of outreach to those on her list. Please see or contact Helen to be placed on our UWF contact list.

It was reported that our Great Spirit UWF unit has donated funds to both local and international service agencies for 2021. A total of \$560 was given locally to organizations such



### Opportunities for Connection

- Pastor Allen has posted sermons and “Pause and Pray” on the website and Facebook. Watch at 11:00 am on Sundays at: [www.greatspiritpdx.org](http://www.greatspiritpdx.org) or on Facebook at Great Spirit Native American
- August 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> – Indigenous Marketplace. 432 NE 74<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland. 11:00am-4:00pm
- August 28<sup>th</sup> – Great Spirit UMC Worship at Medicine Gathering-Oxbow Park. 8:00am (Pacific Northwest Council of Water Protectors)
- September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> – Indigenous Marketplace. 432 NE 74<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland. 11:00am-4:00pm
- September 24<sup>th</sup> – Eena (Beaver) Festival (Third Annual). Noon-3:00pm. Free. Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 SW Capitol Highway, Portland. Celebration of indigenous culture and ecosystems.
- Anyone interested in joining the Single Board should speak to Pastor Allen.

## OUR CORE VALUES

LOVE – Love is the way.

CONNECTION – All of creation is connected by Spirit. That spark of the Divine connects with all humanity and the rest of creation.

SPIRITUALITY – Without cultivation of the spiritual life, we become unbalanced. Active participation in the development of one's spirituality is critical for a whole life. We believe this happens best in community.

TRADITION – Those who have gone on before us leave legacies of the old ways and wisdom with those who become elders. We encourage, value, and listen to them, so our tradition(s) may continue to help shape and guide us, informing who we are and what we will become.

We seek to become and embody these values every single day.

as Red Lodge Transition Services, Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and the Back Pack Food Program. \$530 went to global entities including Heifer International and the UWF National Mission Institutions. As reported in the Response Magazine (a UWF publication) the Nome Community Center in Nome, Alaska, receives funding support from the UWF national missions. Our Great Spirit UWF approved a budget for 2022 similar to previous years, continuing this community support.

On Thursday, July 14, a group of dedicated people met at the church to prepare for our UWF Yard Sale. Organizing the donated items and moving them up from the basement was accomplished - this is what "behind the scenes" work looks like. Early Saturday morning, heavy lifting of tables was on the agenda: A big Thank You to Gus & Zander Buck for their help!! It seems like a miracle that all the items

found a place out on the church lawn, and that the weather was comfortably cool.

These benefits were evident: 1. Connecting with a wide array of people from the community; 2. Helping everyone to "de-clutter"; 3. Providing an opportunity for artisans to display and sell their work; 4. Leftover items are donated to local service agencies such as Main Spring; 5. Having items priced low helps families "make ends meet" (purchasing a book for \$1 feels good). The fact that the UWF now has more dollars (\$351.55) to donate is an added benefit!

Here is an open invitation to attend our next Great Spirit UWF meeting on Saturday August 20, 2022. We will gather in-person, masked, at the Church Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. for fellowship, prayer, learning and imagining.

Submitted by Loretta Milton

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