



GREAT SPIRIT

www.greatspiritpdx.com

Great Spirit Newsletter February-March 2023

Issue 23

From the Single Board

By Helen Stewart

The Season of Lent

At the annual All-Church Charge Conference on December 18th the Single Board welcomed three new members, Frank Alby, Beverly Towner, and Caroline Underwood. Charge Conference reports were submitted and approved for 2022. The Single Board will be meeting on Sundays in person, after church service and community meal. The Single Board will discuss all aspects of business for Great Spirit UMC.

Unfortunately, our December 23rd, Christmas Eve-Eve Service, was cancelled due to snow and ice blanketing Portland. Christmas Day worship and hymn sing, brought about 25 celebrants to church.

Sunday January 22nd our new Bishop, Cedrick Bridgeforth will be visiting Great Spirit. Bishop Bridgeforth is assigned to

the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Church, encompassing Alaska, Oregon-Idaho, and Pacific Northwest Conferences. He comes from the California-Pacific Conference leading congregations that were multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-lingual, in the inner-city and suburban sectors of Santa Ana. Bishop Bridgeforth is a native of Decatur, Alabama. Great Spirit welcomes the opportunity to greet Bishop Bridgeforth and introduce our congregation.

In a few weeks we will start the Season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd, Palm Sunday on April 2nd and Easter Sunday on April 9th. A reminder to everyone from the Church Trustees, if you would like to be on our inclement weather call list, please give your name and contact information to Helen Stewart. Church service may be cancelled for snow or ice as a matter of safety.

Donations, pledges and tithes can be mailed to Great

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.

Services can be viewed on Facebook or on our website www.greatspiritpdx.com

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

Spirit UMC at 3917 NE Shaver St. Portland, OR
97212.

BOTTLES AND CANS LADY (Helen Iles)

The Total is in for 2022!! \$4,232!! Fantastic! That is a lot of bottles and cans turned in to cash for the church. Thank You to Helen and everyone that brought cans and bottles to church and to those on Helen's collecting route. 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.

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

January 2023. We gathered together (9 of us) at an alternative meeting space in the church basement on Saturday, Jan. 21. Despite the cold temperature, there was warm discussion. Tea and snacks were provided by Helen Iles.

Beginning our meeting, we focused on the "Voices of the River" recent publication by Confluence, which features an article by Linda Meanus called "Celilo Falls & the Power of Water." We were each invited to recall memories of waterways in our past. After a time of community prayers, we reviewed minutes from our last gathering on Dec. 3, and briefly reviewed our treasury report; Great Spirit UWF's donation total for 2022 was \$1050.

The Columbia District UWF provides a newsletter, *The Columbia Explorer*, which we reviewed. Some of the highlights for the January edition include: An invitation to the annual EMEE (Every Member Enrichment Event) on February 25, 2023, 9:30 – noon (on zoom), an invitation to action from our Social Action Mission Coordinator, and a description of the UWF Reading Program. (Some examples of the current quality list of books one can read to earn a certificate included *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson.)

Thinking about the year ahead, we reviewed calendar dates and decided to gather together at

Happy Birthday!

FEBRUARY Birthdays

- February 5 Frank Alby
- February 6 Nanci Shaughnessy
- February 8 Beverly Towner
- February 14 Janell Collier
- February 16 Rosa Alby
- February 16 Beth Fleisher
- February 22 William (Bill) Potts

MARCH Birthdays

- March 2 Margaret Alby
- March 3 Karrie Young
- March 6 Ashley Gregg
- March 10 Kira Lesley
- March 16 Ed Edmo
- March 17 Linda Meanus
- March 18 Elena Lesley
- March 22 Jay Cacka
- March 25 Marlow Little Boy

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

the church on February 25 to connect on zoom with the EMEE which will focus on Celebrating Our Sisterhood.

A "Response Moment" featuring the national UWF magazine was given by Paulette Meyer. Everyone signed a copy of "On This Spirit Walk, The Voices of Native American and Indigenous Peoples" by Henrietta Mann & Anita Phillips, as a gift for our new Bishop, Cedrick Bridgeforth. A closing prayer was given by Pastor Buck.

Respectfully Submitted, Loretta Milton

HISTORIAN NEWS – Let's Keep in Touch!

Helen has displayed scrapbook albums from 2017 the past few Sundays. It has been a joy to review the first year that the Buck Family joined our community. See her with a request for a particular

gone-by year. Helen includes the weekly bulletins (programs) and the newsletters in the scrapbooks.

MISSION

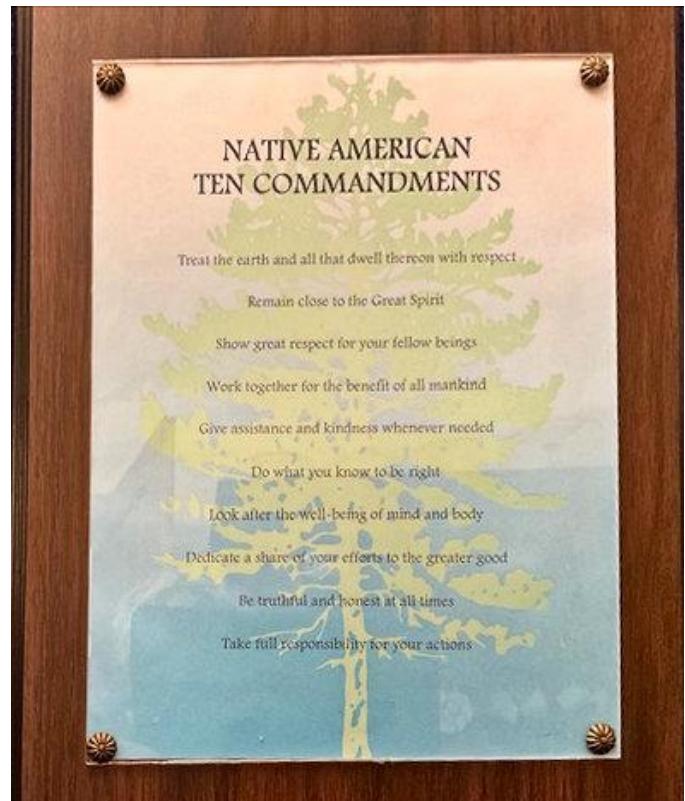
The owners of Bosk on 42nd Ave. have graciously donated used coats and blankets collected at their store for distribution to Natives on a reservation. Bosk can be your destination for plants, skin care and wellness products, interior design and home décor. Assistance to distribute the coats and blankets would be valuable.

Gently used clothing, in-date non-perishable food products, and personal care items can be left on the table in the corner of the Fellowship Hall. Donations are delivered to MainSpring. MainSpring Portland was formed in the 1960's as the East Central Church Community Action Program. Thirteen eastside churches, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, and Episcopal joined to provide food and clothing for families and seniors in need.



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 or on Facebook at Great Spirit Native American
- Anyone interested in joining the Single Board should speak to Pastor Allen.



NATIVE AMERICAN TEN COMMANDMENTS

Some time ago Victor Sheidler, a regular attendee at Great Spirit UMC donated a beautifully framed plaque titled "Native American Ten Commandments." The plaque tells all you need to know to live a good life. They are:

- Treat the earth and all that dwell thereon with respect
- Remain close to the Great Spirit
- Show great respect for your fellow beings
- Work together for the benefit of all mankind
- Give assistance and kindness whenever needed
- Do what you know to be right
- Look after the well-being of mind and body
- Dedicate a share of your efforts to the greater good
- Be truthful and honest at all times
- Take full responsibility for your actions

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.

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