



GREAT SPIRIT

www.greatspiritpdx.com

Great Spirit Newsletter June-July 2023

Issue 25

Message to the Community

By Dr. Allen Buck

Greetings Great Spirit Family

It is almost Summer. Almost. There have already been a few days that felt like it. Are you making plans? Our family is making plans for the season. We got the portable AC out. Our boys had a few hairs cut. The lawn has been trimmed a couple times. I've started to travel more frequently. We are planning to go camping. We have put the powwows in our calendars. And there are many things to do, like fix our van's AC. Are you planting? Are you planning? Are you camping, fishing, or going to the powwows?

One of the things that struck me in the height of the Covid pandemic was how strange it was to sort of stop making so many plans. Did that happen for everyone? We were freed up. It was frustrating to keep trying to make plans just to have them swept away. It was a hard time, but I found some joy

and peace in slowing down. I felt like I was liberated to focus on some things that I had taken for granted or overlooked or forgot to notice for a while.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 is a favorite that comes to mind when I think about seasons, plans, and the need for balance.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

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.

Solomon's poem about the seasons and paradoxes of life shows God's timing and sovereignty in all things. It invites us into a perspective of balance and trust in the Creator of all. Making plans is a good thing, but like most good things, we need to find balance. Let's not get so busy or planning to be busy that we forget God and lose balance.

Summer Blessings, Allen

FROM THE SINGLE BOARD

The Single Board will be meeting in the library on Sunday May 28th during/after Potluck.

Single Board members are Pastor Buck, Loretta Milton, Frank Alby, Caroline Underwood, Beverly Towner, Helen Stewart, Carol and Ed Edmo, and Karrie Young.

Maryl Smith has provided the Sermon for Pastor Buck on April 30th and May 21st while he travels to Alaska. Maryl related the scripture in John 17 to the Cherokee custom of exchanging each other's clothing to show we are all are loved by God as Jesus was loved by God the Father.

In May, 2022, Great Spirit UMC received a donation of an original oil painting from the artist, Brian McNicholas. The oil painting, "Red Shirt, Ogalla Sioux", is hanging in the Sanctuary on the East wall. Brian McNicholas lives in the Beaumont-Wilshire area. Brian studies his subjects closely and cares about the animals and people he draws and paints. Brian has an extensive interest in Native American History. More of Brian McNicholas work can be seen at www.thorngallery.com.

Potlucks have resumed! Everyone has enjoyed sharing their favorite recipe. Great Spirit (with help from Nellie and Karrie) has provided Spiral Baked Ham one Sunday and Fried Chicken the next. Every Sunday, there is plenty of food to share, so do not worry if you have not brought food to the table! Amazing variety of dishes, too! Mashed Potatoes were a hit!

Reminders: Store bought food or home prepared are acceptable. Bring your dish ready to serve. Please take your empty dish home. And please, do not leave leftovers at the church.



Happy Birthday!

JUNE Birthdays

- June 7 Raleigh Marple
- June 7 Adam Johnston
- June 13 Meg Vogt
- June 20 Ricardo Gallegos

JULY Birthdays

- July 5 Craig Leslie
- July 11 Todd Deutchman
- July 11 Helen Stewart
- July 15 Galey Morrison
- July 18 Leila Ann Wermey
- July 23 Earlene (Buttons) Gillette
- July 26 Paul Darling

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

June 1 David and Janell Collier
June 2 Raleigh and Gloria Marple
June 6 Paul and Louise Darling
June 20 Ricardo and Tami Gallegos



Opportunities for Connection

- June 8 Portland Elders Picnic at Blue Lake Park 10am-2pm
- June 16-18 Delta Park Powwow
- June 24 Great Spirit UMC United Women in Faith 10am
- July 22 Pi Nee Waus Elders Picnic at Wilshire Park
- 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

HISTORIAN NEWS – Let's Keep in Touch!

The historian scrapbook on display for May spans the years 1947 through 1967. It was interesting to read about the early years of Wilshire United Methodist Church. The parsonage, now home to Pastor Allen and family was dedicated in September of 1953. Pictures in the scrapbook illustrated the building of the Sanctuary addition to the original structure, breaking ground in 1960, and a crane to raise the copper steeple in 1961.

Next month another scrapbook will be selected for viewing.

BOTTLES AND CANS LADY (Helen Iles)

Money from bottle and cans recycling goes toward Great Spirit's Shared Giving Apportionment. So far this year Helen has turned in \$1350. She expects to add \$300-\$350 at the end of May. Helen gathers the bottles and cans from Great Spirit members, friends, and her neighbors. She will gladly pick up bottles and cans at your home or business. Give her a call at 503-252-0026.

VISIT US AT THE POW WOW

Great Spirit UMC will be having a table at the Delta Park Powwow, June 16-18, 2023, with church information, connectional material, and children's crafts. Grand Entries at Delta Park Powwow will be Friday 7PM, Saturday 1PM and 7PM, and Sunday 12PM.

Volunteers are needed to staff the booth. Please be thinking if you might be able to volunteer for a few hours to greet people, hand out flyers, etc. There is need for help transporting and setting up the booth also. Sign-up sheets will be available at church beginning June 4th or call Helen Stewart at 503-282-6431 to volunteer.

CHILDCARE

As the Great Spirit Church Community continues to live into our core values of Love, Connection, Spirituality & Tradition we are met with need in two areas: Childcare and Delta Park PowWow set up & maintenance.

The Single Board is recommending that we establish a comfortable place for parents with babies & toddlers to use during the Sunday Church Service and beyond. It would be nice to have a paid person with experience with young kids as well as volunteers to monitor this area. It may take some time to revamp the library area in the back of the fellowship hall for this purpose or another cordoned off area close by. If you would like to volunteer to help with this process, or know of another person that could, please let someone from the Board know.

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.

MISSION

For the Month of May, 2023, MainSpring was the recipient of 41 lbs. of clothing and 4 lbs. of Health products. MainSpring distributes non-perishable

in-date food, gently used clothing, and personal care items to persons in need. MainSpring is located on the Northeast corner of 82nd and Fremont St.

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