



# GREAT SPIRIT

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

Great Spirit Newsletter December-January 2024

Issue 28

## From the Single Board

By Helen Stewart

By the time this newsletter comes to you we will have completed the Annual Charge Conference for 2023. There will have been meetings with District Superintendent Tim Overton-Harris and Elder Erin Martin, Pastor at Fremont Methodist Church on November 26th and December 3rd respectively. DS Tim Overton-Harris will hold a teaching conversation with the congregation centered on the M.I.L.E. Church Assessment from Bishop Cedric Bridgeforth. The discussion should help Great Spirit to develop plans for the future. Year end reports of the church, policies and procedures, nominations for the Single Board, salary and compensation govern the final business meeting with Pastor Erin Martin. Pastor Buck will hold a similar business meeting at Fremont UMC.

The Single Board continues the discussion of the future of the Childrens Ministry, aka, Sunday School. Erin Buck has stepped in as teacher but needs assistance. For several Sundays,

attendance has been 8-10 children, a welcome sign of growth. The current room is too small! Relocation to the "Choir Room" is a possibility or dividing the age groups. Pastor Allen is searching for Native leaders to develop the program.

In 2024 a new Church Directory will be available. If you would like to be included, send your name, address, phone number, email address, month & day of birth and ethnicity and/or tribal affiliation to Helen Stewart ([helkatstew@comcast.net](mailto:helkatstew@comcast.net)). Only include info you want to share-no requirements.

Forms will be available at church.

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

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

### BOTTLES AND CANS LADY (Helen Iles)

Bottle and Can recycling funds for November totaled \$350.00. That is 3,500 bottles or cans that Helen Iles has taken to the recycling bottle drop off station. For the Year, the total is \$4,000.

Money from bottle and cans recycling goes toward Great Spirit's Shared Giving Apportionment. Helen will gladly pick up bottles and cans at your home or business. Give her a call at 503-252-0026.



## Opportunities for Connection

- December 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am United Women in Faith gathering
- December 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:30 pm Christmas Eve-Eve Service
- December 24<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am Christmas Eve Service
- December 31<sup>st</sup> 11:00 am New Year Eve Service
- 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

## MISSION

Great Spirit UMC continues to donate gently used clothing, personal care items, and non-perishable in-date food to MainSpring. Donations can be left on the entry table in the Fellowship Hall. Winter is coming, hats, gloves, and warm coats are particularly requested. MainSpring serves people in the greater Portland area.

*And a Merry Christmas  
from the Board*

*A Christmas Prayer  
(by Robert Louis Stevenson)*

*Loving Father, help us remember the  
birth of Jesus, that we may share in  
the song of the angels, the gladness of  
the shepherds, and the worship of the  
wise men.*

*Close the door of hate and open the  
door of love all over the world.  
Let the kindness come with every gift  
and good desires over every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
which Christ brings, and teach us to  
be merry with clear hearts.*

*May the Christmas morning make us  
happy to be Thy children, and the  
Christmas evening bring us to our beds  
with grateful thoughts, forgiving and  
forgiven, for Jesus' sake.  
Amen!*

## HALLOWEEN HOSPITALITY

Helen Iles, Bodie Birch and friend Raoul, and Helen Stewart handed out 91 bags of candy to children and adults in costume on Halloween Night! Two gallons of Apple Cider warmed cold hands. We saw ghosts, ballerinas, dinosaurs, super heroes, and even a flamingo! Thanks to all who donated wrapped candy!



## Happy Birthday!

### DECEMBER Birthdays

- December 4 Claudia Long
- December 7 Thor Griffin
- December 11 Nicholas Wickliff
- December 13 LeeAnn Wermey
- December 13 Mandy Marple
- December 16 Laura Campos
- December 19 Ricky Bealer-Casias
- December 20 Robert Trimble
- December 21 LeeAnn Wermey, Jr.
- December 25 Carol Edmo
- December 31 Hasani Milton

### JANUARY Birthdays

- January 18 Sonya Owens
- January 25 Darlene Fields
- January 26 Brian Wagner

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

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- January 18 Aaron and Galey Morrison

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

The Historian Scrapbook Helen Iles chose to display in November memorialized 2005! Pictures included the first concert held at Wilshire United Methodist Native American Fellowship. An evening of Storytelling, Native American Flute music, and Dessert was held September 24th, 2005. Participants included Ed Edmo, Jan Michael Looking Wolf, Ray Buckley, and the Cascadia Flute Circle. Claudia Long introduced the program.

Another archived Scrapbook will be on view in December. Take a few minutes to view the events of the past!

## 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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