



GREAT SPIRIT

www.greatspiritpdx.com

Great Spirit Newsletter February-March 2024

Issue 29

Message to the Community

By Dr. Allen Buck

Greetings Relatives, how is your 2024 going so far? I always try to plan some "down" time after the Christmas holiday. I was sick for a week, only just starting to feel better, when the ice came. So, my down time wasn't as I had hoped or planned. I know I'm not alone in that. Our new year's beginning just didn't go exactly as we would have mapped it out. Oftentimes things don't. The adventures of life can be frustrating.

People respond in many different ways when, as life unfolds, their expectations aren't met, and difficulties come. We respond differently at different times. As we walk the path, there are always the unexpected twists and turns. I think this is one of the reasons we like to hear stories and watch movies. Sometimes things turn out better. We are often surprised. There are times when we need reminders of what is important. We meet friends and mentors to help guide us. We find encouragement there.

Spring is coming (March 19). Easter will be here soon too (March 31). We are surrounded by reminders and invitations to have faith. No, things will not always go as we plan, but we are not alone. We aren't alone in the journey of life. Physically and spiritually, we share the exciting and scary steps. How do you persevere? How do you keep going?

As we continue telling stories, singing songs, and sharing the adventure with you and many others, we invite you to join us. Thank you for sharing the journey with us at Great Spirit and everywhere you go.

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.

HISTORIAN NEWS

Helen Iles continues to archive church activities in a yearly scrapbook. She is completing 2023. She will continue to display a scrapbook from years past on Sunday mornings. The chosen book will change every month. If you would like to see a particular year, place a note in the big wooden box on the table near "the book of the month."



Opportunities for Connection

- Pi Nee Waus Elder's Meal, Tuesdays at 46th and Belmont from 5-7 pm.
- Volunteers Needed for Sunday Potluck, Hospitality, Children and Youth Ministry
- March 10th Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 24th Palm Sunday
- March 31st Easter
- 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

BOTTLES AND CANS LADY (Helen Iles)

WOW! The total collected for 2023 is \$4,280! Thank you everyone that has helped to make that possible and to Helen Iles for all her work. The money collected is designated for our Shared Giving apportioned by the United Methodist Church. Shared Giving supports missions, disaster relief, and other programs of the greater church. Helen will gladly pick up bottles and cans at your home or business. Give her a call at 503-252-0026.

NEWS FROM GREAT SPIRIT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

On December 16 the UWF unit gathered for prayer, fellowship and to prepare gifts for the children connected to Great Spirit Church. At least 15 gifts were purchased, wrapped, and distributed; thanks to all who participated in this project of joyful connection.

As we look forward to a new year, it is good to reflect on the passage of 2023. During last year our UWF met together 9 times and donated \$1075 to local and international humanitarian groups including Red Lodge Transition Services, Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Portland Backpack Project.

We are hoping you can join us for our next meeting (TBA) as we plan for the upcoming months. (The Jan. meeting was cancelled due to weather.) On February 24 the Fremont UWF will host the EMEE (Every Member Enrichment Event) at 2620 NE Fremont St., just down the street from Great Spirit. Folks from around the Columbia District will be attending, and it should be an uplifting time of fellowship.

Respectfully Submitted, Loretta Milton

FROM THE SINGLE BOARD

2024 has blasted in with Snow and Ice! Church Services were cancelled for January 14th. The following Sunday January 21st the congregation was encouraged to use extreme caution if they decided to venture out. The side streets in the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood and much of Portland were still a hazard. The parking lot at the church was a skating rink. Weather reports promised a change to milder temperatures and our usual rain. As it turned out about 25 brave congregants attended the service.

At the Charge Conference held in December, member Joseph Bull accepted a position on the Single Board. Welcome! The next board meeting has not been scheduled but will probably be in

February. Discussion will continue about the growing Sunday School, recruiting new leaders, needed repairs and improvements to the church and parsonage, and the list goes on. Great Spirit UMC is a strong community with a positive attitude and willing hands to get things done. The Single Board appreciates the support of the congregation.

Last call for inclusion in the new Church Directory. Before February 14th, send your Name, address, phone number, email address, month/day of birth and ethnicity and/or tribal affiliation to Helen Stewart (helkatstew@comcast.net). Only include info you want to share-no requirements. Forms will be available at church.

During the church service at Great Spirit UMC on Sunday mornings, the Unison Prayer that Pastor Allen has used is a variation of the Lord's Prayer. It comes from the latest edition of "First Nations Version, An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament" from InterVarsity Press, ivpress.com. For on-line listeners especially, here it is:

O Great Spirit, our parent above, we honor your name as sacred and holy. Bring your good road to us, where the beauty of your ways in the spirit-world above are reflected in the earth below. Provide for us day by day-the elk, buffalo, salmon, corn, squash, and the wild rice. All the things we need for each day. Release us from the things we have done wrong, in the same way we release others for the things they have done wrong to us. Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road, and set us free from worthless selfish ways. May it be so.

Submitted, Helen Stewart

MISSION

In December 2023, Helen Iles delivered 80 pounds of clothing to MainSpring. Warm clothing, hats, gloves, scarves, coats are especially needed this time of year. Leave your gently used donations in the bin at the entry to the Fellowship Hall. MainSpring also accepts personal care items and non-perishable in-date food.

TUNE IN

"Covenant of the Salmon People" features a portrait of the Nez Perce Tribe as they continue to carry out their ancient promise to protect the Chinook salmon. The film explores the intertwined fate of the Nimiipuu (Nez Perce) salmon and the landscape from which both evolved.

"Covenant of the Salmon People" (60 min.) can be viewed on PBS at various times and is available for streaming on PBS 12. It is rated TV-G 1. A three minute introduction is available on You Tube.

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 22 Bill Potts
- February 28 Mary Ann Wahwassuck

MARCH Birthdays

- March 2 Margaret Alby
- March 3 Karrie Young
- March 5 Joaquin Tobar
- March 11 Susan Towner
- March 13 Robert Kolln
- March 16 Ed Edmo
- March 17 Linda Meanus
- March 22 Jay Cacka
- March 25 Marlow Little Boy
- March 27 Tim Bealer-Casias

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- February 14 Lois and Dean Wagner
- March 18 David and Mandy Marple

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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