



GREAT SPIRIT

www.greatspiritpdx.com

Great Spirit Newsletter April-May 2024

Issue 30

News From Great Spirit United Women in Faith

By Loretta Milton

Our March 16th Gathering was focused on connecting, prayer, reporting and planning. Sending prayers out for community members is an important part of our time together as well as checking in with each other. Communications Director, Helen Iles, makes individual phone calls the week before scheduled meetings, helping us to stay in touch. (Check in with her to be put in the directory.)

We had a good discussion of future fundraising ideas as well as plans for an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. There was time for signing greeting cards for mailing out to community members and time for placing events on our calendars. Strawberries with sponge cake was an added treat!

2024 can be a year of positive change in how meetings are organized, how we encourage new leadership, how we do fundraising, and how we can connect to the broader community. Come and join us at

our next scheduled gathering on Saturday, April 27th at 10:00 am.

AN INVITATION

Wisdom of the Elders is presenting MMIP (Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons) EARTHDAY event on Sunday April 21st from 2pm to 5pm at Great Spirit UMC. Seedballs will be made with Showy Milkweed seeds to disperse in memorial of our missing or murdered indigenous peoples. There will be guest speakers. Come and be with the community! All are Welcome!

WORSHIP WITH US

Worship services are held each Sunday at 11:00 am at 3917 NE Shaver ST 97212. Masks are optional. 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

The Scrapbook for 2023 was completed and was the chosen displayed book for March. A new archived book will be chosen for April and one for display in May. Helen Iles took pictures of the Easter Egg Hunt held after Potluck on Easter. Those pictures will be in the yearbook for 2024. It's

always fun to look back on events from years past, how much we have changed, remembering friends, fond recollections!

BOTTLES AND CANS LADY (Helen Iles)

The first quarter of 2024 Helen Iles has collected 8,500 bottles and cans and turned them in to the collection depot. In other mathematics, \$850.00 returned to the church. 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.

MISSION

Great Spirit continues to gather clothing for Mainspring Portland. MainSpring assists families in

Happy Birthday!

APRIL Birthdays

- April 4 Ramzees Gallegos
- April 6 Gloria Marple
- April 7 Laurie Leong
- April 17 AnnaBelle Scott
- April 21 Helen Iles
- April 21 Richard Sanchez
- April 26 Birdie Wermey
- April 28 Maryl Smith

MAY Birthdays

- May 5 David Collier
- May 12 Kathy Lesley
- May 16 Shadow Rose
- May 17 Rebecca Satter

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

the Portland area. Their facility is located at 82nd and Fremont. 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.

FROM THE SINGLE BOARD

Spring is Here! Hope everyone had a Happy Easter. The Single Board will be meeting this 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
- April 21st Sunday at 2:00-5:00 pm – MMIP EARTHDAY Wisdom of the Elders Event
- April 27th Saturday at 10:00 am – Great Spirit United Women in Faith
- 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

to discuss a full agenda of concerns including the growing Sunday School, recruiting new leaders, needed repairs and improvements to the church and parsonage, preparing for an Audit and meeting Safe Sanctuary guidelines. 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.

Thanks to Thor Griffin for sending an Audio Engineer from Ascend Audio to assess and improve our sound system. The improvements were very evident on Sunday morning and should be noted as well for listeners on Facebook.

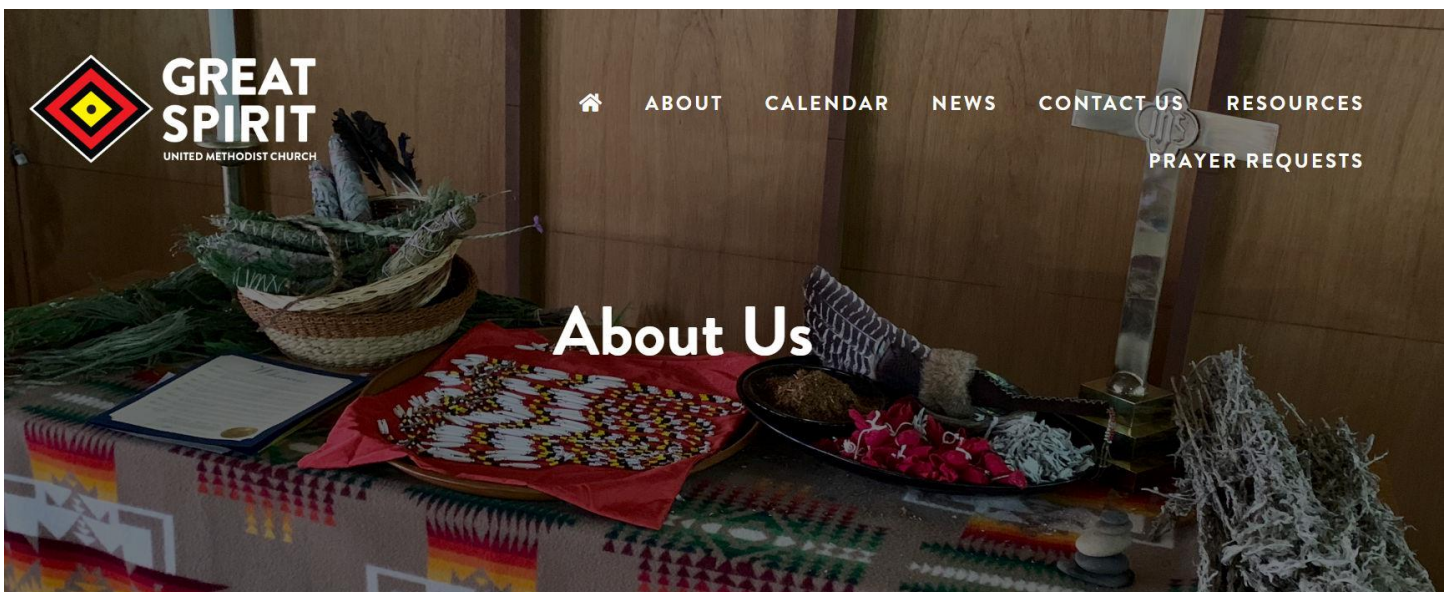
Wisdom of the Elders has hung one of the masks made and donated to Great Spirit UMC by Marcia Wessitsh. Next time you are in the Sanctuary, look for the mask. The Board appreciates the assistance of Wisdom of the Elders to safely hang the masks so everyone can see and understand their significance to our Native culture.



Our website <http://www.greatspiritpdx.com> is maintained by John Kochanowski. John posts the Newsletter, Sunday worships, Calendar, and Resources. The Board appreciates his knowledge and ability to always have the website available and current. Take a few minutes when you are “surfing the internet” to look at our site.

For a copy of the new Church Directory, see Helen Stewart on Sunday morning. (helkatstew@comcast.net).

Submitted, Helen Stewart



We are a Native American Fellowship and a United Methodist Church. We are a spiritual family, reaching out to serve our community, especially Indigenous peoples. We welcome all here -- not just to attend, but to be fully engaged and vitally involved in this faith community.

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.

greatspiritpdx@gmail.com

greatspiritpdx.com

**3917 NE Shaver ST
Portland, OR 97212**