



OCUMC Newsletter

September 17, 2020

From our Bishop...

Responding to Wildfires across the Greater Northwest Area

Friends in the Greater Northwest Area,

United Methodist leaders from across our area have been meeting to monitor and respond to the wildfires ravaging our land and threatening many communities across Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. People in many areas have evacuated or are preparing to evacuate from their homes. If you are not in immediate danger, you may be like many others who see and taste these wildfires in smoke-filled skies and with every breath we take.

As we seek to respond to these wildfires, I acknowledge how weary everyone is right now from these demands, on top of coronavirus, on top of dismantling racism, on top of escalating partisanship that is eroding our ability to work together for the common good. Amazing disaster response teams in the Greater Northwest Area act as the hands and feet of Jesus in communities across the area and in partnership with local churches. When a disaster strikes, survivors often lose so much – the roof over their heads and other property, livelihoods, even loved ones. These wildfires show how devastating these disasters can be. Yet this year it seems like one crisis erupts on top of the next.

And so, we call out to God, seeking mercy. Seeking relief. Seeking just one day when we do not feel danger near at hand and it doesn't feel like the weight of the world is on each of our shoulders.

Join me in praying for the safety of our friends and neighbors and for those who have already suffered loss of life. Join me in praying for the first responders and wildland firefighters putting themselves in harm's way to help others seek shelter, save homes and property. Join me in praying for God's good creation, that we may tend to her more carefully.

Join me, also, in a call to action through our gifts of financial resources. We know some of our communities have already been decimated by fire and know there are others in potential danger.

I am grateful to report that the Pacific Northwest and Oregon-Idaho Conferences have each received emergency grants of \$10,000 from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to support response efforts. But it's just a drop in the bucket of what will be needed.

You can also give to the OR-ID Conference's Disaster Fund (Fund #260) through your local church or by sending a check made out to the Oregon-Idaho Conference Treasurer with Conference Advance #260 on the memo line to:

Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference Center
c/o Conference Treasurer
1505 SW 18th Avenue
Portland, Oregon, 97201-2524

Stay safe my friends, and know the steadfast love of God each day.

Bishop Elaine Stanovsky

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays

CRUIKSHANK, KENDRA	09/01
JOHNSTON, CAT	09/01
RONFELD, SUSAN	09/02
CRONRATH, RALEIGH	09/04
LARSON, CHRIS	09/10
MARPEV, JANICE	09/12
BEVENS, TRIGGER	09/17
MALLEN, LAUREN	09/17
SPRAGUE, CONNOR	09/17
MCGRAW, LAURA	09/20
OLIVAS, SHEENA	09/22
WERBER, BETH	09/25
QUEVEDO, ELIANA	09/26
ENZ, JONATHAN	09/27
WICKLIFFE, MARTHA	09/27
FLINT, SOPHIE	09/30

Let's try this again...

Backpack Blessing 2020! September 20th

On September 20th we are **having** a drive through backpack/electronics blessing to start you off on the right foot and get you prepared for the upcoming school year. This year it is available to all who are attending school, students and teachers, all ages are welcome. Just arrive at the church anytime between 10am and 11am to receive your blessing.

Feel free to text me if you have questions:
Lesli Magee 541-390-1302



Space Available

If you've been evacuated due to any of the wildfires in Oregon we have RV space available in the church parking lot. Access to the building is currently unavailable. Contact the church office for more information (503) 656-3433.



Gladstone Campgrounds Fire Evacuation Site

There are 130 – 160 RV's camped out at the 7th Day Adventist Gladstone Conference Center, 19500 Oatfield Road, Gladstone OR 97027.

The security folks there could use some help staffing the front and back gate. The task would be simply to be at the gates for 3 hour shifts. Greet people, direct them, monitor who arrives to be sure they have the appropriate passes. A big part of this assignment is just to be a friendly caring face during a time of stress and uncertainty.

If you or anyone you know can fill some of these slots
let Lynne know at 503-880-8949
Volunteer times: Tuesday through Sat. 9/26

8AM-11AM
11AM-2PM
2PM-5PM



Oak Grove UMC transforms into wildfire shelter for homeless

Oak Grove United Methodist Church is hosting a smoke shelter for the homeless to get them out of the smoke. About 20 folks are there. Oak Grove UMC is at 14700 SE Rupert Dr. in Oak Grove.

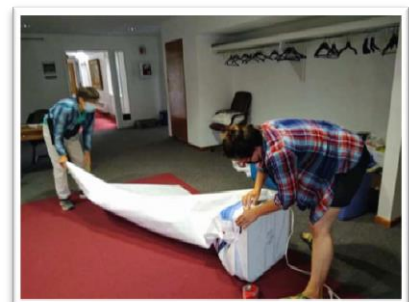
They have some volunteer needs:

Currently here are their updated shift needs:

Thursday 4-6pm (1 person but 2 would be fine.... completing a partially filled shift)
Thursday 6-midnight (1 person but 2 would be fine... it gets pretty quiet after 10pm)
Friday 6pm- midnight (1 person but 2 would be fine)

There is always a staff member from Do Good or Providence on shift and a pastor on call.

To volunteer, or for more information, please call
Pastor Sara at 503 367-7439.



ACCEPTING DONATION THROUGH SEPTEMBER



Father's Heart

September Backpack Drive



Father's Heart Street Ministry is collecting gently used and new backpacks this month. Durable **ADULT** sizes only. Backpacks are essential for those navigating homelessness. You need a secure way to keep your belongings with you to appointments, to job interviews, and wherever you travel by bus, bike or walking.

Mission Possibilities for YOU

While we are all striving to do our best in difficult times there are those around us who are struggling. Our Mission Team is promoting 3 possibilities which would allow those of us who can to share our resources and help provide for others.

Shoe Drive with Love, INC.

- Men's size 14 & 15
- Women's size 9.5
- Kid's shoe size 5 to 13.5
- Girl's size 11 and 12



Oregon City "lunch lady"

- Bread
- Chunky peanut butter
- Jam (raspberry or strawberry preferred)
- Individual chip bags (Costco)
- Apples, bananas or grapes
- Cookies
- Sandwich bags
- Brown lunch bags



Father's Heart street ministry in Oregon City

- Men's & Women's T-shirts
- Jeans (38x32, 30x32, 28x32)
- Shorts
- Walking shoes (new or gently used)
- Disposable masks or homemade fabric masks
- Socks and underwear must be new
- Bottled water is always a need
- All clothing items must be new or gently used and laundered
- They post specific needs on their facebook page as they come up



Here is how you can help. If you wish to purchase shoes, or have items needed by Father's Heart or the OC lunch lady you can bring items to the church. Donation hours are 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Monday-Thursday. If you would prefer to donate financially please mark your donation with the mission you wish to support. The monies collected will be used to purchase needed items for the mission you select. If you have questions you can contact Jane Myers 503-656-0117 or Chris Larson 503-655-4080.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I needed clothes and you clothed me Matt 25:35-36a