

Dear friends and family of OCUMC:

At the end of summer, it's fun to see how the ol' garden came along. The strawberries are done, the lettuce long gone and eaten. We kept the beets in the ground too long, but the pumpkins and zucchini still have potential. My favorite part of gardening is putting seeds in the ground. Planting is the time of possibility, dreaming of a bountiful harvest. When winter is gone, warmer days beckon, and little green shoots are everywhere. I remember having everything planted in the ground back in May, and like God in creation, pat myself on the back and say, "It is good." And I went out the next day - it looked the same. And the next, and the next. I can relate to the sower in the Bible, throwing seeds and hoping that they'll take and find good soil. Just let it be, right? Give it water, give it sun, but most of all, give it time. Problem is, I hate waiting.

I feel like that's the season we are in. Waiting. Waiting for a pandemic to dissipate. Waiting for an election to be over. Waiting until we can gather again. We all wait for something. This is so much of what a spiritual journey is like. We all would like to be more spiritual and connected with God, but it is so hard to sit still and be quiet, to find the time in our busy lives, to understand words of scripture, it is so hard to wait for God to speak, and then wonder if we had heard correctly. It all seems so fragile, our prayers pop up like little sprouts, and you wonder how they will fare against storms and hungry rabbits. To pray and not be heard is like pounding barren dry soil for nothing. To pray and know that God is still speaking, is like pulling the strawberries from the patch and biting into it right there in the garden because you can't wait to get it inside.

Reminds me of Romans 5 that says, "Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." I hate waiting - but in waiting, I also grow.

This Sunday's sermon is called "In the Garden". Send me a pic or two of your garden and I'll try to get it into this week's online service!

Pastor Mike



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

July	Y-T-D
Income \$16,310	Income \$136,312
Expenses. . . . \$17,117	Expenses. . . . \$142,128
Total: (\$807)	Total: (\$5,817)



Praise the Lord, O my soul. And forget none of His acts of kindness.
~ Psalm 103:2

Thank you for your continued support of OCUMC in these troubling times. Since the pandemic began, we have fed many who are hungry, offered online programming in lieu of in-person gatherings, and have been able to keep our staff and volunteers in place - connecting with the community in their ministry roles. Your gift helps make all of this possible.

Next month, we will mail out pledge statements to everyone showing where we are 2/3 of the way through the year.

Thank you for your continued support of OCUMC!

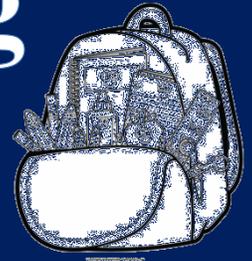


HOPE Garden Update
By Ron Schlosser

Well, I just set a new daily harvest total of 142 lbs., mainly because of my tomatoes, paste tomatoes at 30.4 and slicing at 60.6 for a total of 91 lbs. of tomatoes, which brings the harvest total for the month to 737 lbs. and year-to-date total of 1,976 lbs., 24 more to go to 2,000 and a few more harvest days to go in August with all of September to come.

Just an interesting note, I harvest mainly into RubberMaid dish pans, easy to move and easy to carry. I'd filled up 3 of those pans with my slicing tomatoes and when I went to weigh them, each one weighted in at 20.2 lbs., I've had a few times when that has happened with 2 containers but never 3.

Backpack Blessing 2020



In the past, on the first Sunday after Labor Day, we have had a backpack blessing. Just like everything else, things are going to be a bit different this year. Even though we won't be together we realize, this year especially, we will still be in need of a little blessing.

On September 13th we are planning 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. Details will be coming out as we get closer to the date.

We also would like to pair each student and teacher up with someone in the congregation who will be a prayer buddy for that individual. This "prayer buddy" will keep the student or teacher in their prayers throughout the school year. We will have a quick and easy sign-up online and get everyone paired up that would like to participate. If you are a student or teacher, you get signed up and you are off and running. If you want to be involved on the other side and adopt a student or teacher to pray for you will have a bit more to do. This is not a secret pal program but sending an occasional "thinking of you" card and keeping that person in prayer will be what you are signing up to do.

Please use the following link to sign up – students, teachers, prayer buddies

<https://forms.gle/LpE3rcmW2obHK9mK7>



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



A 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



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.



Here is how you can help. If you wish to purchase shoes, or have items needed by A 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