



Sherwood United Methodist Church

Reaching out to the hungry: in body or spirit

November 2015

The United Methodist Church is called to be a community, diverse and united in God's saving love, sent out in vital life-giving ministry for and with Jesus Christ.

Time and Pressure

Church cannot be accomplished in an hour on Sunday morning. Or two hours. Or three. Or four. Becoming the beloved community requires time. Lots and lots of time.

There is no worship style which can overcome the time deficit. There are no programs you can implement which will turn discipleship into a process efficient enough to fit into a few hours. There is no church organizational strategy which will turn church as extra-curricular activity into the real thing only faster.

I also do not think that church can be turned into homework. It

doesn't matter how many books we write, or spiritual disciplines we encourage, private, individualized piety will never get us to the kingdom. A million people thinking holy thoughts in their own houses will never be the beloved community.

The reason for this is very basic: to love you I have to know you. I can and should cultivate a compassionate disposition so that I treat even strangers with kindness, but truly loving a person requires spending time

with them. I have to know your past and your range of moods so I can better interpret your expressions and your behavior. We have to have shared memories, a foundation on which to build intimacy. I have to learn the specific nuances required to be kind to you as a unique creature. We have to develop a love language that is our own so that we no longer resort to clichés with each other.

**To Love You
I Have To
Know You**

This cannot be accomplished with less than dozens and dozens of hours spent paying attention to each other.

There is no ceiling on the amount of time that could be invested either. Every individual is an infinite mystery we can only approach in finite steps.

Time isn't the only ingredient in community-building. Pressure is also required.

It isn't good enough to invest hundreds of hours into a person, but in one hour per week increments over the span of years. It's true you might learn a lot about someone

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that way, eventually, but it will be a shallow kind of knowledge, like a stone skipping across the surface of a frozen lake. The stone might travel a good distance across the lake, but it will never get below the surface.

To know a person requires spending time together in private, at times when masks come off and walls come down. It requires being around each other enough to see each other cry. For you to know what I look like exhausted and for me to be the target of your irritability. To love you I've got to smell your farts, and you've got to smell mine.

Have you ever noticed that people who come back from a week-long mission trip, even if they were total strangers before hand, often have stronger relationships than people who have attended the same church together for decades? First of all, spending 24 hours a day together for a week is just a good chunk of time: over three years worth of faithful worship attendance.

More important than the quantity of those hours, though, is the quality of them. People on a mission trip are under enough pressure to facilitate getting past the polite acquaintance stage of relationship.

They experience physical exhaustion and emotional highs and lows which are a necessary part of intimacy.

People sometimes ask me if I think worship attendance is necessary to being a Christian. My answer is that I don't think you can be a Christian by yourself and an hour a week is nowhere near enough to build any kind of community. Even less so an hour where you mainly sit beside people without interacting with them. As most churches operate I'm not sure worship is really serving any purpose.

However, if you were to worship together with people you live with, sweat with, cry with, bleed with; people who know your flaws and hidden beauty; people who fight together against the inhumanity of this world; and the hours of worship you spent together were vastly outnumbered by the hours of labor you share? That kind of worship would be worth your time.

- Rev. Aric Clark

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



3 Lois Boleen

13 Duane Owens

3 Barbara

22 Joanna Owens

Maplethorpe

28 Nancy Ellingson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH: Night Strike

The Youth Group of Sherwood United Methodist invites you to join them in serving people experiencing homelessness throughout the Portland metro area on Thursday, November 19th. We will be participating in Night Strike, a dynamic and fascinating ministry under the Burnside Bridge in downtown. No previous experience or skills required. We will depart the church parking lot at 6pm that Thursday. Please contact Lana Cole by November 12th to inform her of your desire to participate.



ALL CHURCH: Annual Charge Conference

Monday November 30th at 7pm we will hold our Annual Charge Conference. There are several items of business we will do at this meeting. Equally important will be the conversation our District Supervisor Peg Lofsvold will lead us in about our Spiritual Growth. All are welcome to attend.

Important
DATE!

UMW: November Meeting

The Sherwood United Methodist Women will meet at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, November 18, at the Sherwood Center. We will start the meeting with devotions, have a short business meeting, and then enjoy lunch in the dining room for a nominal charge. Hope to see a large group of women!



Cindy Souza and the Sherwood Renaissance Singers shared special music on October 11.

Hanging the Greens

Sunday November 22nd will be a very special day at Sherwood United Methodist. It is our **mission Sunday** which means there will be a **potluck meal** to conclude our worship including celebration of the sacrament of Communion. Pastor Aric will be providing the main course of beef stroganoff and the Leadership Team will be providing the side dishes.

Following the meal everyone is invited to stay and help with the **decorating of the church for the Advent and Christmas liturgical season.**

There will be Hot Cider and everyone is encouraged to **bring a seasonal treat** of their own making. Help us start the season off with joyful celebration.



**SHERWOOD UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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PO Box 127

22280 SW Washington Street

Sherwood, Oregon

97140

Tel: 503-625-7115

E-mail: hollysherwoodumc@gmail.com

www.sherwoodumc.com



CALENDAR

At a Glance for November 2015

Sunday, Nov 1 at 10:00AM—**Worship**

Monday, Nov 2 at 7:00PM—**Leadership Meeting**

Sunday, Nov 8 at 10:00AM—**Worship**

Sunday, Nov 15 at 10:00AM—**Worship**

Wednesday, Nov 18 at 11AM—**UMW**

Thursday, Nov 19 at 6PM—**Youth @ Night Strike**

Saturday, Nov 21 at 9:30-10:30AM— **Helping
Hands Food Box Distribution**

Sunday, Nov 22 at 10:00AM—**Mission Sunday &
Hanging the Greens**

Monday, Nov 23 at 7:00PM—**Leadership Meeting**

Sunday, Nov 29 at 10:00AM— **Worship**

Monday, Nov 30 at 7:00PM—**Charge Conference**

Church Staff

Pastor

Aric Clark

aricclark33@gmail.com

Youth Director

Lana Painter

lcoble@rcinv.com

Pianist

Cindy Souza

armza2@yahoo.com

Worship Leader

Eden Francis

ms.edenf@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Holly Dhynes

hollysherwoodumc@gmail.com