



SHARING

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PASTOR

In God
We Trust

“Some Thoughts, Ideas, Quotes, & Insights about God’s Kin-dom”

JULY 2021

The mission of Seaside United Methodist Church is to reveal God in our living, loving and being by:

--PROCLAIMING the Gospel of God’s Grace and Mercy by service in our community and throughout the world.

--INVITING and WELCOMING others into our community of faith.

--PROVIDING opportunities for worship, fellowship and spiritual growth.

GOALS

- ❖ **Make our presence known in the community.**
- ❖ **Provide a place for children and youth where they feel they belong.**
- ❖ **Minister to each other.**
- ❖ **Make visitors feel welcome (to the church and community). Invite them to return.**

*“Lamps and debt. A friend in the night, and a sower of seeds. Wine, nets, pearls, weeds, and treasure. What is the kingdom of God like? It is like leaven, and it is like two sons, like bridesmaids and sheep, like workers and judges. **In the 37 times that Jesus describes the reign of God in the Gospels, not once is the kingdom of God like a kingdom of earth.** Thirty-seven times Jesus reshapes the imaginations of his followers. Thirty-seven times Jesus tells them a story to help them remake the only world they know.”*

“The world of the disciples was one of domination and violence. Their world was one in which the wealthy and powerful rule over the weak, take advantage of that weakness, crush it under the boot, and lash it with a whip. It is a world in which Caesar is both king and god, a cruel, irrational tyrant who takes vengeance against his enemies. There have been benevolent kings over time, but down to this day kingship is a word that signified inherited wealth and power, hierarchy, and the destruction of one’s enemies.”

At one point many years ago, the late Cuban American theologian Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz was visiting her friend, a Franciscan nun named Georgene Wilson. This is when she heard, for the first time, the word: **kin-dom** rather than **kingdom**. “The concept of Kin-dom describes the liberation of God at work among people, the good news for those who suffer at the oppressive hands of kings across history.”

The word, **“Kin-dom,”** itself, we learn has a meaning that is quite different than the word “kingdom, because instead of dominance and control, the word **kin-dom**” represents **“the full diversity and relationship of all of Gods children.”**

In the words of Dr. Raj Nadella, the message of the “kingdom” tends to be very exclusive. He writes, **“when shared by an orientation toward kingdoms, people may be excluded because of their race, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, or other factors. Such a worldview can breed mutual suspicion between different communities and engender violence, whereas the metaphor of God’s kin-dom allows us to envision an inclusive community, built on common humanity and shared values.**

God’s “kin-dom” is built on the spiritual foundation of **“mutual cooperation and solidarity, rather than the destructive forces of competition.”** People who grow and flourish as part of **“Gods kin-dom”** use their resources and privilege to advocate for others who are less privileged.” The modern-day message of **“God’s kin-dom”** is supported by Jesus’ life and teachings. Jesus criticized all power and political structures of his day in service of an inclusive and intentional fostering of unconditional acceptance and love for all people, which also included opening and broadening the definition of family to extend, like the family of God, beyond blood relationships.

(continued on page 2)



It is important to understand how *the idea of “kingdom” has left a legacy of actions that involve acquiring a state of political control and economic exploitation over other countries, which extends political and economic access, power, and control, including the use of military power.*

This focus on “kingdom” thinking also includes discrimination and prejudice based on gender, where one gender or sex is intrinsically superior to another. Then, there is the undeniable unequivocal evil called racism. This is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioral traits corresponding to physical appearance and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another.

These views can take the form of social actions, practices or beliefs, or political systems in which different races are ranked as inherently superior or inferior to each other. All of these expressions of the spirit of “kingdom” thinking “demean and destroy God’s people and God’s creation.” One author writes, “people have participated in fostering the harm of building God’s world through the dominance and exclusion brought on by building of oppressive kingdoms.

As a people of the resurrection, and as a church, we need to re-claim **the sacred kinship we share with one another.** We remain in connection and relationship with everyone as we are all part of the human family. In the present day, we are **called to a kin-dom**, which, once again, is defined as **“embracing, accepting, and welcoming the full diversity and relationship of all of God’s children.”**

With that in mind, we need to *leverage our perilous road of white privilege* by efforts, not simply make room at the table for excluded and marginalized groups, as well as for those who are immigrants from the Global South; non-Christians, especially Muslims; and people of color, especially African Americans, but instead **“coming together with one another in building a new table, transformed by the unwavering and incalculable love of God. A world in which none are excluded, and where all are welcome, always!”** This is God’s Kin-dom, where we embrace the full and complete diversity of all God’s beloved children, in whom God is well-pleased and delighted, and upon whom God’s favor rests.

*Blessings,
Pastor Michael*



“REIMAGINING LIFE TOGETHER” is now “STEPPING FORWARD IN LOVE AND TRUST”

With the new phase in our in-person worship status, we are allowed to have 50 people in the church at any one time so that is how many can be at the Sunday Worship Service. Our worship time is 9:30 am and a ZOOM link will be sent a couple days before Sunday. A reservation needs to be made and when you come, you will be checked off of the reservation list. You must be masked and social distancing is to be observed. There is no singing at this time, and no coffee hours in the church. Alvis Porter is providing her home, 725 2nd Ave., as a place to gather in fellowship after the worship service.



JULY WORSHIP SERVICES

9:30 AM



July 4: Pastor Michael Avila
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Gospel Lesson **Mark 6:1-13**
HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY



July 11: Pastor Michael Avila
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Gospel Lesson **Mark 6:14-29**



July 18: Pastor Michael Avila
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Gospel Lesson **Mark 6:53-56**



July 25: Pastor Michael Avila
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Gospel Lesson **John 6:1-21**



Pastor Contact Information:

If you have a pastoral emergency after office hours, Pastor Michael Avila's cell phone number is
1-(541) 499 9703
 This number is also his home phone.

More about grandparents:.....I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what color it was. She would tell me, and she was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I think you should try figuring out some of this stuff for yourself!.....When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use, Grandpa, now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."....."Give me a sentence about a public servant," instructed the teacher during a lesson. One small boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder pregnant." The teacher took the lad aside to correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant means?" she asked. "Sure," said the young boy confidently, "it means carrying a child.".....a Six year old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

OK, LET'S ALL GET A PENCIL OUT AND START MAKING OUR CALENDARS FOR THE UP COMING MEETNGS

FINANCE--None Scheduled tba
 N.O.W.W—No meeting in July
 SPRC—— None scheduled/tba



TRUSTEES—No meeting in July
 COUNCIL—Wed., July 21 @ 2:00 pm
 (Meet in the Fireside Room)



As we continue to enjoy the stories from the "Little Book of Miracles" I hope you enjoy:

SMALL ENOUGH

Theodore Roosevelt and C.William Beebe were great friends. Beebe—a naturalist, explorer, scholar, and writer—had traveled extensively through Asia and South America. Roosevelt shared Beebe's love of nature, exploration, and the solar system. Beebe was often a guest at Sagamore Hill, Roosevelt's private residence.

After dinner, the two men would go outside, scanning the sky to see who could first locate the constellation of Pegasus. When that challenge was met, they focused in on a tiny smudge within the constellation. Then, as legend has it, either Beebe or Roosevelt would exclaim, "That is the spiral galaxy of Andromeda. It is as large as our Milky Way. It is one of a hundred million galaxies. It is 750,000 light-years away. It consists of one hundred billion suns, and each one is larger than our sun."

The two men would ponder the implications of these thoughts, comparing their accomplishments with the greatness of the universe, recognizing that God set it all in place with a single command. Then Roosevelt would smile his toothy grin at Beebe and remark, "Now I think we are small enough."

Another perspective: A boy asked his father, "Dad, how big is God? The father looked up in the sky and saw a plane. He asked his son how big is the plane? The boy replied "It's very small. I can hardly see it. " The father took his son to the airport and showed him a plane. How big in this plane? The boy replied "Wow dad, it's huge!" The father told him "God's size depends how close or far you are to Him. The closer you are to Him, the greater He will be in your life!"

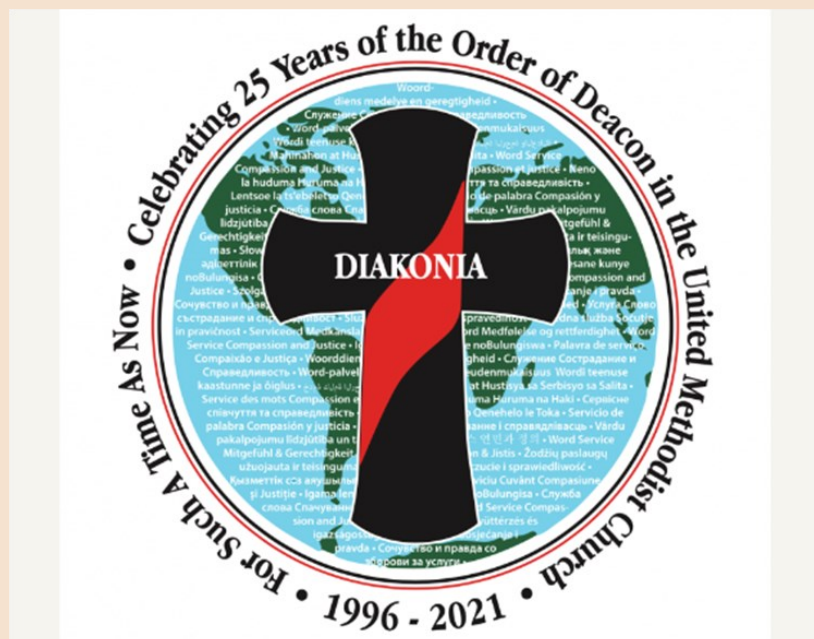
HE COUNTS THE NUMBER OF THE STARS; HE GIVES NAMES TO ALL OF THEM. GREAT IS OUR LORD AND ABUNDANT IN STRENGTH;
 HIS UNDERSTANDING IS INFINITE.....Psalm 147:4-5

The Ministry of a Deacon

Deacons:

- are called by God to a lifetime of service
- authorized by the church
- ordained by the bishop
- set apart for the ministry of Word, Service, Justice and Compassion
- connect the church and the world
- embody, articulate and lead the whole people of God in servant ministry
- give leadership to the church in teaching and proclamation
- assist Elders in administering the Sacraments
- nurture faith formation and discipleship
- lead the church to recognize and serve the needs of the community
- create opportunities for discipleship

The call to leadership is within the ministry of all Christians through the settings of service, local church and annual conference.



Jane Hill
Diaconal Minister

As strands from Lay Ministry and Mediation Services were braided with previous retirement from Educational Administration, my re-connection to the heartbeat of community and in dance with Holy Spirit has drawn together more tightly. In addition to learning to "be singular" in my house and surrounding yard, surprising and affirming opportunities to serve quietly keep popping up.

Providing service to lay congregations, participation in small groups and church musicianship are opportunities to make God's grace and care visible everyday.

I give thanks for my physical capacity to enjoy my two great-grandsons, Sawyer (6) and Sven (5), my connection in the Order of Deacons and to be curious about the next turn on God's pathway.

Jane is co-chair of the Order of Deacons in the Oregon-Idaho Conference.

JULY**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS****2021****LITURGISTS:**

07/04 Alvis Porter
 07/11 Ron Crandall
 07/18 Bill Berg
 07/25 Debbie Vail

USHER: Bob Kaul**GREETERS:**

MEDIA OPER: Ron Crandall,
 Dave Kinman, Clarke Powers, Kathy
 Floyd

**FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:**

Alvis Porter opens her home at
 725 2nd Ave for coffee and
 fellowship after the worship
 service

COMMUNION HOST:**FLOWERS:****July Birthdays**

07/01 Carey Buerk	07/19 Tommy Johnson
07/10 Carol Reynolds	07/29 Judy Parish-Swift
07/14 Kindle Dunaway	07/30 Nancy Taggard
07/14 Otto Stamschror	07/31 Kristi Culver
07/16 Kive Dahlberg	07/31 Jeremy & Terrence Sanders
07/17 Ed Gearhart	

**July Anniversaries**

07/28 Sean & Bethany Stamschror
 07/30 Larry & Kathy Floyd

So let's communicate about other things happening in our church family:
THERE ARE UPDATED 2021 CHURCH MEMBER AND FRIENDS DIRECTORY AVAILABLE
THEY WILL BE LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX

Fridays at 9:00 am **FOOD FOR KIDS** is asking for volunteers to come to
 Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and help pack food.

CRAFTERS, start your glue-guns! Yes, it's time to prepare items for SUMC's Fall/Winter Bazaar. Join us on Tuesday
 mornings at 11:30 am to work on projects, trade ideas, and enjoy the fellowship. .

Questions?. Check w/Jean Newton 503 861-1887

We who were able to attend Leila Vernor's Memorial Service shared in the reading of the 23rd Psalm. Following is a another sharing of the Psalm.:

There was once a Shakespearean actor who was known everywhere for his one-man shows of readings and recitations from the classics. He would end his performance with a dramatic reading of Psalm 23. But one night, a young man from the audience spoke up. "Sir, do you mind if tonight I recite Psalm 23?" The actor was quite taken back by this unusual request, but he allowed the young man to come forward and stand front and center on the stage to recite the Psalm, knowing that the ability of this unskilled youth would be no match for his own talent.

With a soft voice, the young man began to recite the words of
 There was no standing ovation. All that could be heard was
 the young man's recitation that every eye was full of tears.
 have been performing Psalm 23 for years. I have a lifetime of experience and training...but I have never been able to move an audi-
 ence as you have tonight. Tell me, what is your secret? The young man quietly replied, "Well, sir, you know the Psalm....



the Psalm. When he was finished, there was no applause.
 the sound of weeping. The audience had been so moved by
 Amazed, the actor said to the youth, "I don't understand. I
 I know the Shepherd."

I know the Shepherd."

SHARED GIVING UPDATE:**Total due to Conference for 2021**

\$13.797= \$1149.75 mo

Given as of June 2021:

\$6900.00



DVD OF SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE will still be available through the church media center when we return to church. They are \$5.00 a copy and can be ordered thru the office or speak to Rich on Sunday morning.

AT THIS TIME, THE NEXT UMW NOON POTLUCK GENERAL MEETING WILL HAVE TO BE ON A "TO BE ANNOUNCED" EVENT. UNTIL THEN, ENJOY YOUR DAYS AND BE READY TO COME BACK FOR THE UMW NOON MEETING WHEN ANNOUNCED.

**YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL POSITION**

Checking account balance: \$ 38,979.66 INCOME YTD: \$47,132.11
Savings account balance: \$ 28,874.02 EXPENSES YTD: \$42,936.46



ATTENDANCE: With reservation, 50 people each Sunday
THERE WILL BE A PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT POSTED EACH MONTH ON THE BULLETIN BOARD

South County Food Bank

Please continue bringing items for the Food Bank even though we are not using the church Pastor Michael has volunteered to make sure all donations get to the Food Pantry weekly. You can drop any donations off at the church on Wed and Thurs mornings from 9:00 to 11:00. Thank you.

OUR GIFTS OF MONEY YEAR-TO-DATE: \$
OUR GIFTS OF POUNDS YEAR-TO-DATE: \$
(Formula: # @ \$20.00/#)

**PER JENNY KNIGHT OF THE FOOD PANTRY
THE CURRENT ITEMS MOST NEEDED INCLUDE:**

Sugar,
Ground Coffee (not Instant),
Canned meats, including (a)Spam, (b) Chicken, and © Tuna,
Pancake Mix.

BASIC ITEMS ALWAYS NEEDED INCLUDE:

Maxi Pads, Tampons,
Shaving Cream,
Disposable Razors, T
Toothbrush and Toothpaste,
Bars of Soap

NOTE: The Food Bank can't accept any homemade canned items or soaps including bar, dish, laundry, Paper Products, or Personal items. However, they can accept food in bulk/large packaging that will be broken down into smaller portions. If possible, though, donations in smaller packaging makes it easier to hand out. THANK YOU.

FAMILY ASSISTANCE**Year-to-date:****Donations: \$ 220.00****Assistance: \$ 295.00**

At this time, if you wish to donate to the Family Assistance Fund, you can send a check to the church and just write "Family Assistance" on your check. It will be deposited until needed.

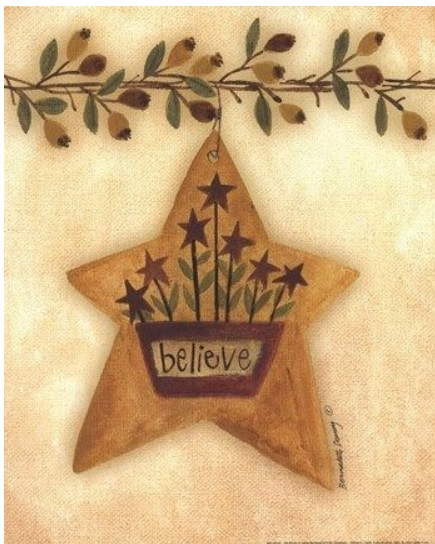
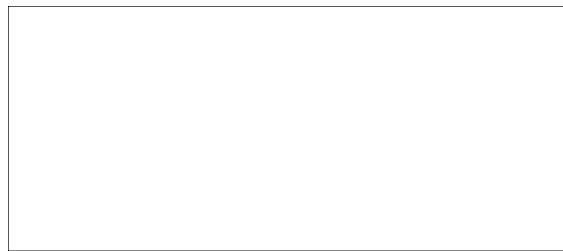


SEASIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 503-738-7562
Email: seasideunitedmethodist@gmail.com
www.seasideoregonumc.org



Inclusive...

Holy One, our Mother and Father
Let your name be revered.
Let your kin-dom come,
Let your will be done on earth
As it is in the heavens.

Give us today the bread we need for today,
And forgive our sins as we
Forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kin-dom, the power,
And the glory
Now and forever.

AMEN