



September 2017 Newsletter

# Fremont United Methodist Church

*We seek to share the joy of God's love so that all might live with dignity and purpose.*

Rally Day:

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, at 10 am

## Christian or Christ-ian?

When our youth group was asked recently, “What makes us Christian?” one youth responded with “Isn’t everyone Christian who isn’t Jewish or Muslim?”

Well, no, not quite. A person might identify themselves as Christian but not *be* Christian.

There’s a lot of religious talk these days--a lot of people waiving a banner of one faith or another elbowing their way to the public forum, trying to out-demonstrate, out-tweet, and in some cases, out-yell those they perceive to be their opponents.

And, on the other hand, there is evidence that people of all walks and circumstances long for a spirituality that can answer their anxiety--they’re seeking something authentic--something that resonates with their inner knowing. A whispering Truth that can cut through the din.

This week I came across this sentence in a little book titled *The Gladness of God* by H.V. Miller: *We should constantly seek to keep a freshness and a fullness in our religious life so that the overflow will show to a world of heartaches that after all we have an internal something that they need.* (I would perhaps say: that they *are seeking*)

So, how do we cultivate that freshness and maintain that fullness--that holy abundance that can be recognized as the answer to heartaches and spiritual longings?

We’re going to explore this question this fall season. Our launching point and guiding verse will be Romans 12:2

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Society presses upon you to copy  
dress and manner, thought and value,  
what will anger or attract you.  
Ignore it. It's fear whining for company.  
It's a shield against celestial radiation.  
Tune out the market's frantic clatter.  
Be changed by a new way of thinking:  
not thinking; an opened awareness,  
a mind of wonder and gratitude  
and the strangeness of being loved.  
Conform to nothing but the grace of God.  
Each moment the Mysterious Blessing

dawns in you, allows a newness,  
sings a song their ears can't hear.  
Let the Great Love in you make harmony.  
The tune is already there,  
the ear and the voice.  
Let it meld in perfect harmony.  
Passersby will hear songs from your door,

from the woods rises music  
that's lovely, good and beautiful,  
the delight of God.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes *Unfolding Light*  
[www.unfoldinglight.net](http://www.unfoldinglight.net)

It's my prayer that we all will be drawn to step back from the marketplace and the clatter and orient instead to the inviting, shaping, transforming grace of God.



## WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL FORMATION



### Let Us Rally

on Rally Sunday, Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am. Each year we call ourselves back from our summer doings and turn our hearts and minds toward to the more regulated, routine and important matters of the rest of the year. This year's service is going to be particularly celebratory with the **introduction of our new Director** of Children, Youth and Family Ministries, the **blessing of our children**, and the **recognition and blessing of the youth** including those moving from Sunday school to the youth group. Please join in this, our community's, hallmark service.

### Choir & Bells

Choir rehearsals start Wednesday, September 6 at 6:00 pm. Bell choir will start the following week, Wednesday September 13 at 7:15 pm.

### Blessing of the Animals is September 24th

Another wonderful, joy-filled service to celebrate all God's great creatures. Bring all your wonderful companion animals of whatever species to be blessed. We will be worshipping on the front lawn again this year, weather permitting.

### What Does the Bible Say About Sexuality?

Pastor Q will lead a four-week study focusing on the texts that have historically informed our religious mores regarding sexual identity. The purpose of the study is to provide us some framework (and perhaps a fresh perspective) as we watch and respond to the deliberations the United Methodist Church is undertaking to try to resolve the church's long-standing conflict over inclusion. Join her at 6:30 pm on Oct 8, 15, 22 and 29.

### New Approach to Adult Education

The Education Team will experiment with a new approach to adult spiritual formation. We've held a pre-worship adult Sunday school session for years and we might return to that but we'd like to offer an alternative---moving to a book-club type of model. Claudia Roberts will be announcing a book for interested folks to read in advance of a once-a-month conversation. So watch for details as to the title and meeting times.

### What's all this about Baptism?

Most of us are baptized as infants which some of us confirm when we come of age. We make affirmations when we are baptized or when we baptize our children and we reflect in those moments on the meaning of those affirmations. But then what? Do we recognize that those affirmations are really vow we make as to how we are going to live--or how we hope our children will live? How deeply do we reflect on those promises? How integrated are they in our daily lives? What difference does our making these promises really make in our relationship to God? We're offering an invitation to any and all who feel called to explore these questions to sign up for a special engagement we're calling Sacramental Living. If you're intrigued and want to know more, please enter your name in the signup sheet in the Narthex. We'll organize a Tell Me More session.

## Meet Tanner

We are so pleased to introduce you to Tanner Morton who will be assuming the position of Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries. Tanner has grown up in the United Methodist Church and has been active in his home church of Pocatello First UMC and in the Sage District since his own teen years. He has worked as both a volunteer and staff person with the camp and retreat ministries for the past five years; his most recent engagement as a staff person at Camp Macgruder.



Tanner will soon complete his BFA at Idaho State University where he has taken an emphasis in acting (which included experience in improv theater). His professor there describes him as someone with “effervescent energy and personality, with a wonderful ability to fill a room with this positive presence.” This is what we who interviewed him experienced and others who have worked with him have affirmed.

Tanner will be able to forward the work of Fremont’s former youth leaders. He values building up a sense of self-esteem in children and youth even as he leads them to value the interdependence of community. He also plans to implement tools for families to experience God together and facilitate their spiritual vitality.

Accompanying Tanner is his fiancé Emma who is also a very gifted person. We are very privileged to welcome this wonderful couple to Fremont!

Please introduce yourselves to him. And, we ask, be ready to support him in this important work.

## SERVICE & MISSION



### **Northeast Emergency Food Bank**

Thank you to several dedicated food bank volunteers who stepped up for Fremont Youth for a very busy August session at the food house. Kathy Elliot and her son, Cameron, Trina and Allen Leschber, Marilyn Karr, Janet and Bill Edwards and our new volunteer, Sally Edmiston helped provide 1 week's worth of food to 85 families at the end of a long month. Next up for September 23rd are Kathy & Robert (again!), Susan Helms-Peyer, Donna Leslie, Peter Robinson, and Wiki Smith (and friends?).

**Fremont Trip to the Hold Land, May 2018 - Team Meeting Sunday, September 3**

The Fremont Holy Land Team is planning to meet Sunday, September 3, after worship. We'll discuss the details of our trip: dates, itinerary, and fundraising. Please join us if you are interested in participating in the trip or supporting our group.

**Thank you, Patio Hosts**

After a summer of enjoying fellowship and treats each Sunday after worship, it is a great time to thank all the people who hosted each week. Patio coffee and treats is a long-time tradition at Fremont, and this summer we had several special Sundays with music on the patio. It is such a special way to spend time with guests and family who are visiting in the summer. Thank you to all those who made it happen this summer! In September, we will return to our coffee time with “Bread for the Journey”, a simple and symbolic nourishment to send us out into the world each week.

**Hurricane Harvey relief**

Before Harvey even made landfall last week, UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) was working with United Methodist Church conferences to ready resources and volunteers for the relief and recovery efforts. UMC volunteers from these conferences are UMCOR’s feet on the ground, and they are actively responding to this ongoing and developing disaster.

If you’d like to donate to UMCOR’s work in providing relief efforts to those affected by Harvey, please write a check to Fremont and designate it “UMCOR Harvey.”

**Sunday ushers sought!**

We have four openings that we would like to fill on our Usher Teams for the fall. We rotate every five weeks and in case of travel or emergencies we can arrange for substitutes when necessary. One of the teams has 2 open spots that could work for a couple. All of the teams have a captain and experienced ushers to help guide you.

Ushering is a wonderful way to serve our church family, especially those who have time restraints during the week. If you have questions and want to know more please get in touch with Susan Harwell.

**FUN & FELLOWSHIP**

**Make Our Garden Grow**

Last Spring a good crew of hardy souls pulled weeds and cut down invasive shrubs and did a major clean-up of our outdoor areas. Now it’s time to plant, but we need your help to fill in our now vacant spaces. Our landscaping team is organizing an All Church Yard Day for Sept 30, between 9 am and noon. So we need to purchase plants and we need your help. Below is an idea of what we need and we’re looking for gifts of cash (checks accepted). The prices we’ve affixed are estimates to give you an idea what is required. And join us for our work day on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

<i>New Planter Boxes</i>		
6 perennial shrubs (\$20 each)		\$120
12 perennial flowering plants (\$15 each)		\$180
<i>Big Square flat area off office door:</i>		
12 ornamental grasses (\$15 each)		\$180
6 flag grasses (\$12 each)		\$ 72
<i>Compost</i>		\$150
<i>Japanese Maple</i> (mounding) behind bench		\$90

Paul Karr or Diane Rheos can walk you through the plans, contact one of us and we will take you on a tour!



**Reading Group**

Fremont’s Book Group is next reading *Orhan’s Inheritance* by Aline Ohanesian. “A book with a mission, giving voice to history’s silent victims. It is itself a lament disguised as a romance, a narrative in which the reclamation of a family



home, the weaves of carpets, even the scent of a handkerchief come to represent a private version of a much larger historical tragedy.” --*The NY Times Book Review*  
We meet next at Sharon Lannigan’s home, on September 11 at 7 pm.

**Brewpub Discussion: Change is Afoot!**

We're changing the day and changing the venue to try something new! Save the date:  
\*Thursday\* October 5th. We're looking for a quieter venue for better discussion. Pastor Q will choose a current events topic for us. We'll gather at 6:30 for dinner, start the discussion by 7:00 and finish by 8:00. If you'd like an email with details, or would like to suggest a topic or venue, please contact Michele Bernstein and she'll add you to the brew pub mailing list. Dinner and discussion: Let's Brew It!

**United Methodist Women of Fremont**

The Fremont UMW will meet on Wednesday, September 20th at 10 am, at the home of Jan Plummer. The program will be "Having Hard Conversations," presented by Claudia Roberts. All church women are welcome to attend.

**Stone Soup Meet 'n Eat** will be meeting on Saturday, September 30th at 5:30 pm. We are meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Our plan will to plan our meetings for the next nine months. All are welcome. Just bring a dish to share. For more information, contact Claudia Roberts.

**OTHER THINGS OF NOTE**

Trustees meet Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm.  
Our Worship Team will have a meeting on Sunday, October 15 following worship.

**Giving Counts. . . A word from Finance**

Fremont has received a generous gift of four burial plots at Skyline Memorial Gardens. If you are interested in acquiring one or more of the plots, please contact the church office.  
Thank you to those folks who responded to the giving statements sent in July by bringing their pledge payments current. Your pledges and giving are important!

**Sundays at Fremont:**

- Worship, 10 am
- Sunday School for children, beginning at 10 am
- Youth group, 4-6 pm, most Sundays. Contact the youth director at [youth@fremontumc.org](mailto:youth@fremontumc.org) for upcoming event details
- Nursery care is available during worship, as well as private space for nursing or quiet time

**FREMONT UMC MINISTRY TEAM**

Ministers	All the People
Pastor	Linda Quanstrom
Director of Music	Lynn Rognsvoog
Children & Youth Program Director	Tanner Morton
Music Assistant	Janet Orjala
Childcare	Béatrice Kanyandekwe
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper	Alan Silver
Custodian	Patricia Bailey
Office Hours: 11:00am - 5:00pm Monday through Thursday	
Monday is the pastor’s scheduled day off.	