

Cedar Crossings

February 12, 2019



We're on the web: www.cedarcross.net and Facebook: www.facebook.com/cedarcrossumc

News and Events

Thank you from the Interfaith Family Shelter “19 December 2019 Dear Cedar Cross Congregation, Thank you for your generous support of the Interfaith Family Shelter. We are very grateful for caring community members like you. Sincerely, Beth (Volunteer)”

A new flower chart has been hung in the Narthex. If you'd like to provide flowers for the altar for the 2020 church year you may sign up on the chart in the Narthex. If you are placing these on the altar in memory or appreciation of someone, you may make a note of that on the chart so it can be acknowledged in the weekly worship guide.

Cedar Cross UMC support continues for the Family Shelter in Everett (a program of the Interfaith Association of NW Washington). We have volunteered to accept donations from Costco and distribute them to the Family Shelter and other programs. The value of weekly donations averages several hundred dollars. We picked up a few extra days over the holidays and delivered 6 brand new twin mattresses and a full-size mattress, as well as many toys and craft supplies. These were immediately put to use. The donations include a variety of goods such as household goods, cleaning/laundry supplies, health/beauty products, hygiene supplies, diapers/wipes, clothing/shoes, and more.

We have a dedicated group of delivery drivers. Thank them when you see them! Ana Chirino, Kolleen Daly, Gordon Norris, Bob Wood, and Larry States.

Former drivers are Bob Refling and Roland Livingston

Our thanks also go to Joe Kulick who let us know about the donation program and is a great partner in this effort!

Special offering to support Alaska clergy attending joint UMC Seattle meeting: Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky is the spiritual leader for the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Church. Her area consists of three UMC annual conferences - Alaska, Oregon-Idaho and the Pacific Northwest - which includes Cedar Cross Church. Her responsibilities include chairing annual meetings held within the geographical area of the three Annual Conferences. This year the bishop has a very busy schedule with the UMC General Conference that will be held for two weeks in Minneapolis and the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation, which would provide for the separation of some United Methodist churches into a new traditionalist denomination. It was difficult for Bishop Stanovsky to find time to schedule and preside at three separate meetings, so the decision was made to have all three Conferences meet in Seattle in June.

The Alaska Conferences comprises 28 churches and ministries spread across more than 600,000 square miles. Many of the UMC clergy live in remote areas and it is costly for them just get to Anchorage, let alone Seattle. For this reason, Reverend Mark Galang, our District Superintendent, has asked for a special offering in his district churches to provide assistance for the travel expenses for those Alaska clergy who will attend the June Seattle joint conference. Please prayerfully consider giving to support the Alaskan clergy travel costs. On your check memo line. please note for Alaska clergy travel.

February 10, 2020

2020 Stewardship & Finance

Our 2020 Stewardship has finally wrapped up. Here are the statistics, for your review:

We received 108 pledged cards out of 166 sent out or 65.1% returned.

We consider a pledge as a family unit, whether that is one person or six or more.

We received pledges of \$270,320 out of our goal of \$293,400 or 91.1%.

We received 5 new pledges for \$16,060.

Out of the 108 pledge cards, 43 increased their pledge by \$15,788 from last year.

Out of the 108 pledge cards, 10 decreased their pledge by \$19,064 from last year.

Out of the 108 pledge cards, 50 pledged the same amount or \$219,064 as last year.

The average pledge was \$2,503 per family.

Here are some impacts to the 2020 Stewardship results:

- Four families no longer go to Cedar Cross

- Two families moved

- Three members passed away during 2019

- Two families were impacted due to Major Medical issues

- One family impact due to a job issue

- Two families went into retirement and were unsure of their income.

Now for the 2020 Financial update for your review:

Thank you to all the committee's for submitting their budgets on time in November. In addition, we noticed that more planning was involved putting forth their vision for improving the programs here at Cedar Cross.

Cedar Cross Income is set based on the Stewardship Campaign results.

In 2019 the proposed Income was \$398,283 and the actual at year end was \$419,616.

The proposed Income for 2020 is \$383,930 and the proposed Expenses are \$414,402, This is a shortfall of \$30,472.

The Committees are struggling now on how they can reduce programs and still be viable.

Pray for Cedar Cross committee as they make decisions on now to approve the 2020 budget.

The following article is our Financial Update as of February 10th. Please note that the 2020 budget number are proposed as to this time.

Worship Schedule

February 16, 2020 <i>6th Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	1 Corinthians 3:2-9, Matthew 5:13-16	"A House Divided" Divisions in Corinth
February 23, 2020 <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i>	Exodus 24:12-18 Matthew 17:1-9	"Higher Ground"
March 1, 2020 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i>	Genesis 2:15-17 Matthew 4:1-11	"Regarding Ourselves"
March 8, 2020 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent Camp Fire/Girl Scout Sunday</i>	John 3:1-15	"Let's Think About It"
March 15, 2020 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i>	Romans 2:1-11	"Even Undersides Have Undersides"
March 22, 2020 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i>	John 9:1-41	"God Works Through Disabilities"
March 29, 2020 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i>	Romans 8:6-11	"Brother Sun, Sister Moon"

2020 Cedar Cross Financial Update Jan 1st thru Feb 10th

<u>Income</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Balance to Go</u>	<u>% used</u>
Pledged	\$ 267,560.00	\$ 18,003.00	\$ 249,557.00	6.7%
Unpledged	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 365.00	\$ 10,635.00	3.3%
Loose Plate	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 503.00	\$ 6,497.00	7.2%
VBS/Admin/Education	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 5,270.00	0.6%
Trustee (4)	\$ 13,690.00	\$ 2,352.00	\$ 11,338.00	17.2%
Pre School Income	\$ 79,380.00	\$ 8,140.00	\$ 71,240.00	10.3%
(2)(3) Budgeted Income	\$ 383,930.00	\$ 29,292.00	\$ 354,638.00	7.6%
(1) Unbudgeted Items		\$ 1,400.00		
Overall Income		\$ 30,792.00		8.0%

<u>Expenses</u>				
Administrative	\$ 10,650.00	\$ 984.00		
Programs	\$ 35,005.00	\$ 1,283.00		
Apportionments	\$ 46,806.00	\$ 7,976.00		
Trustee	\$ 63,636.00	\$ 8,962.00		
Pastor Compensation	\$ 96,085.00	\$ 6,036.00		
Staff Compensation	\$ 83,845.00	\$ 7,142.00		
Pre School Expenses	\$ 78,375.00	\$ 8,318.00		
Budgeted Expense	\$ 414,402.00	\$ 40,209.00		
(1) Unbudgeted Items		\$ 1,566.00		
Overall Expenses		\$ 41,775.00		

Notes:

(1) Unbudgeted Items are monies that are designated and flows thru the budget or holding accounts.

(2) Deposits are current thru 1/3: Offering \$11,103, Pre School \$3,621, Vanco \$3,328 Total \$18,052

(3) **We are .008 % ahead in giving or \$3,071**

(4) Pre School Building Usage of \$0 included in the Trustee account.

Please note that Cedar Cross 2020 Budget has not been approved as of this date.

February Birthdays

02/01 Paige Miller
Bob Wood
Josh Versdahl
02/02 Elizabeth Mills
Mikayla Ann Bowman
02/03 Brayden Bowman
02/04 Janet Church
Alex Berg
02/05 Mary Case
02/06 Dustin Smith
02/09 Louise Norris
02/10 Bonnie Eriksen
Leah Ferguson
Camille Williams
02/11 Ardeth Overbay
Janice Alexander
02/15 Amanda Keller
James Clarke
02/16 Violet Dorr
02/17 Megan Miller
02/18 Paula Wehrman
Jane Dean
02/21 Lawrence Allen
02/24 Melissa Hinze
Andrew Cunningham
02/26 Joan Pearson
02/27 Phyllis Tjepkes
02/28 Ashley Ballenger
Shari Smith

March Birthdays

03/01 Lee Ruck
Michele Versdahl
03/04 Amelia Calderon
03/10 Tina Salmon
03/12 Linda States
03/13 Marcus Meisner
03/14 Shirley Kirkendorfer
03/15 Owen Livingston
Mark Matheny
03/16 Amy Boober
03/17 Kelly Berg
03/18 Katelyn Versdahl
03/20 Mark Glover
03/24 Ruth Christensen
03/25 Matthew Cruz
Georgia Davisson
03/28 Karen Wiley
Mark Wilder
Thomas Therriault
Alana Davis
03/30 Claire Calderon
03/31 Bette Brown
Florence Rider

God Can't

One of our greater sins is the desire to be in control; things would all be better if we could control everything. Imagine if we could control our children, making sure they get to school every day and don't do anything stupid; we wouldn't have to worry all the time. And if we could control our spouses.... Ooops better to stop right here. It's one thing to talk about controlling our children, we're the adults, but we have a visceral reaction to our spouses trying to control us. We know it just doesn't work!

Over a decade ago Zen teacher, Kenneth Leong wrote a book entitled, The Zen Teachings of Jesus, in which he says that we have missed the spiritual side of Jesus; *The Sayings of Jesus are spiritual poetry*. In our lust for reason we have ignored the address of the gospel to our inner workings: Jesus was a lover, not simply a moralist. And he says this:

The core of enlightenment is the simple recognition that we are not omnipotent, that there are many things we cannot control or avoid: aging, illness, accidents, job insecurity, human foibles. Although these are often problems that we would rather not face, a sincere acceptance of them paves the way to real liberation.

The acceptance of our powerlessness – that “I cannot do”, is vital to any and every kind of spiritual awakening. And it's more than just our inabilities; it is about the idea of “control” itself. If we cannot be in control then we want someone to be, right? Who wants to live in an uncontrolled totally random universe? So, we imagine God to be in control. We create God as omnipotent. This was important especially for John Calvin because having left the surety of salvation from the Roman Catholic Church he needed to feel that God was I control, fully in control for him to feel secure in his salvation. Subsequently and logically Calvin imagined God as fully omniscient as well, so that God knows whether one is saved or damned when one is born: this is the doctrine of predestination. Logically Calvin imagined God as fully omniscient as well, so that God knows whether one is saved or damned when one is born: this is the doctrine of predestination. John Wesley abhorred predestination because if God was responsible for a person being damned when he/she was born that could not be a God of love.

Theologians call this quagmire “theodicy” or the problem of evil: If God is all powerful how can God be all loving? Reasonably it doesn't work - something has to give; and because we American Christians are all to some degree descendant's of John Calvin we stick with God being omnipotent. But what if we didn't? Can we imagine that our problem with this dilemma is our stubbornness about God being all powerful? Why can't God be extremely powerful but not “all” powerful? What if God's power as rooted in love is not coercive but persuasive?

We will be exploring these ideas during Lent when we read a book entitled, God Can't: How to Believe in God and Love after Tragedy, Abuse and other Evils, by Thomas Jay Oord. The class will be held on Sunday evenings (6-7:30) during Lent, beginning on March 1st. I will be leaving a sign up in the narthex. Please let me know if you want a book ordered for you and whether you would like childcare. Blessings. P.Jim



Pastor Jim
Clarke



Many of you know that my email was hacked recently. The result was an invitation from hackers to buy an emergency google card for my niece. Well, I don't have a niece. I apologize to all for the hassle. The problem persisted and could not be remedied; the only choice was to get a new email. Apparently pastors in particular are being targeted for at least two reasons: we tend to have large address books; it is assumed that a request from a pastor is more likely to get a response. We live in a wicked world indeed. The new address is:

osujim040@gmail.com. P.Jim

Other Meetings and Events

Tuesday, February 11
Cedar Crossings Articles Due by Two

Wednesday, February 12
Cedar Crossings

Thursday, February 13
7:00pm: Social Justice Committee Meeting [13]

Saturday, February 15
6:00pm: Men's Club Valentine's Dinner [C]

Sunday, February 16
6th Sunday after the Epiphany
11:00am: Children's Ministry Meeting [13]

Monday, February 17
President's Day—Preschool and Office Closed

Tuesday, February 18
12:45 Soccer On-Site [Outside]

Wednesday, February 19
9:00am: Mission Quilters [12]
7:00pm: Finance Meeting [13]

Thursday, February 20
7:00pm: Salish Sea BSA Leadership Meeting [13]

Saturday, February 22
6:00pm: Kids Night In [EF]

Sunday, February 23
Transfiguration Sunday
1:00pm: Pack 21 Blue and Gold Banquet [C]

Monday, February 24
7:00pm: Church Council Meeting [13]

Tuesday, February 25
12:00pm: Noontimers [C]
12:45pm: Soccer On-Site [Outside]

Thursday, February 27
4:30pm: Preschool Pre-K Potluck

Sunday, March 1
31st Sunday in Lent

Tuesday, March 3
11:30am: Friends in Transition [OS]
12:45 pm: Soccer on-Site [Outside]

Wednesday, March 4
9:00am Mission Quilters [12]

Saturday, March 7
9:00am: Men's Group
10:00am: Pack 21 Pinewood Derby [C]
1:00pm: Susan Sutton Anniversary Party [12 and 13]

Sunday, March 8
2nd Sunday in Lent
Daylight Savings

Tuesday, March 10
Cedar Crossings Articles Due by Two

Wednesday, March 11
Cedar Crossings

Recurring Meetings and Events

Sunday
8:45am: Worship Service [C]
10:00am: Sunday School for all [VR]
11:00am: Worship Service [C]
6:00pm: Youth Group [C]

Monday
10:00am: Caring Committee [13]
BellCanto! [C]

Tuesday
7:00pm: Boy Scout Troop #221 [C]

Wednesday
9:30am: Wednesday Bible Study [13]
7:00pm: S Anon [12]
7:30pm: Chancel Choir Rehearsal [C]

Friday
5:30pm: Serenity - Alanon [13]

Saturday
8:00am: S Anon [13]

 [EF]: Entire Facility,
 [OS]: Offsite, [number]: specific room, [C]: Centrum, [N]: Nursery, [PO]: Pastor's Office.

The Cedar Cross Statment of Inclusion

We the people of Cedar Cross United Methodist Church regard the love of God to be the foundation of our life and ministry.

We believe in the ever present love of God as witnessed through Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

We believe that each person is loved by God and is of sacred worth. Therefore, by God's grace:

We welcome all persons to our Church without regard to race, ethnic or cultural background, social status, gender, sexual orientation, age, theological perspective, political affiliation, or other means people use to categorize and discriminate against others.

We express God's hospitality by creating a safe, healing and transforming place for all to enter.

We celebrate the gifts of all who come seeking God, Christian community and justice in our world, and we welcome all into the life and ministry of our church.

We declare that we grow in grace and in the knowledge of God when we embrace diversity.

We uphold the motto of our denomination: OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS.



Cedar Cross United Methodist Church

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