

NEWSLETTER



August 17, 2023

**Join Us In-Person or
Livestream**

**OCUM Church starting at
10:00a.m.**

A place where we "Love Others and Value Everyone"!

Rev. Tom Orquiza-Renardo

Pastor

Cell: 503-888-5224

ocumcpastor@gmail.com

Christa Palmer

Secretary

Office: 503-656-3433

Office@oregoncityumc.com

Rick Wilson

Music Director



Greetings to you, family and friends of Oregon City UMC!

Some of you are probably looking at this week's graphic to the right here and wondering, "Ok, is this gonna be Pastor Tom making some political statement about global warming and climate change?" The answer is no. That is not my intention with this edition of "From the Pastor".

When I look around though and hear the reports of everything disastrous going on in the world, my heart breaks. I was devastated when I heard the news of the Maui wildfire, and the level of destruction Lahaina sustained. And that's just the most recent. There's wildfires on every continent, an increasing pattern of heat waves in the summer and extreme sub-zero vortexes in the winter, water shortages, melting permafrost, air quality concerns, oceans becoming too warm to hold oxygen to support sea life, the mere existence of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (a floating island of garbage in the middle of the Pacific Ocean two times larger than Texas), critical ocean currents waning and threatening to disappear altogether... the list could go on. I hear all of this, and I think, "What have we done?"



Then I think, "What can we do?" We may be a few in a vast sea of humanity, but we are not alone in wanting to preserve our home, this planet we call Earth. In our United Methodist denomination, our Social Principals begin with our responsibilities concerning the natural world.

All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect. ([The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016](#), pg 106.)

As children of God, and as United Methodists, we are called to care and protect our environment in all the ways we can; to take seriously our role as stewards of creation. We are called to the care of our water, air, soil, minerals, and plants. We are called to invest in and advocate for responsible utilization of natural resources and the creation of more clean energy options. We are called to hold sacred and protect all forms of life and to maintain the balances of life's cycles. We are called to engage and advocate for responsible global climate stewardship. We are called to consider our impact and advocate for neutrality in, and dewatering of, space. We are called to advocate for the life affirming use of science and technology as a gift from God to better understand creation and the human condition. And we are called to advocate for global food safety, justice, and curbing food waste when so many go hungry.

We are called to care for creation, and in so doing, care for one another. For more information on our Social Principals, visit:

<https://www.umc.org/en/who-we-are/what-we-believe/our-social-positions>.

For more information on how you can get involved in environmental advocacy, visit:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/earth-day-2021-resources-for-creation-care>.

Faithfully,

Pastor Tom

What's Happening This Week

Friday, August 18

Saturday, August 19

Sunday, August 20

8:30am – Searches Class
 10:00am – Worship Service
 11:15am – Church Council Meeting

Monday, August 21

Tuesday, August 22

Wednesday, August 23

1:00pm – HOPE Food Pantry
 5:00pm – Worship Design Team

Thursday, August 24

10:00am – Women's Study Group

Friday, August 25

6:00pm – Last Friday Suppers



Upcoming EVENTS

Church Council Meeting
 Sunday, August 20 @ 11:15am

Men's Night Out

Men's night out will be taking Monday off this month. We will be returning to our regular scheduled night out on September 18th. A reminder will be sent out before then as to where we will be meeting. Hope to see you then.

Last Friday Suppers / Dinner & Movie

Friday, August 25 @ 6:00pm
 Chicken Enchilada Casserole, Salad, and Dessert is on the Menu!
 Dinner will be followed by a showing of the faith-based movie "Facing the Giants".



Choir Practice

Wednesday, August 30 @ 6:30pm
 Join us in making a joyful noise to God above!

Labor Day

In observance of Labor Day, the church office will be closed on Monday, September 4. We will resume normal office hours on Tuesday, September 5.

Rally Day!

Sunday, September 10
 Join us for a celebration of our church's life and ministries!

- 8:30am - Searches Class
- 10:00am - Worship Service, Choir, Backpack Blessings
- 10:15am - FunZone Celebration for the kids
- 11:00am - Ministry Fair / Brunch Goodies!



Coming in September

Pastor Tom is inviting you to join him in reading

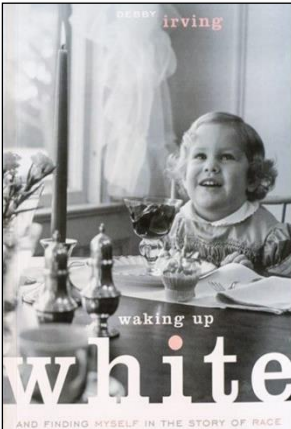
Waking Up White

and Finding Myself in the Story of Race



Racial Justice Educator and author, Debby Irving

This is an opportunity for informed casual conversation around Racial Justice.



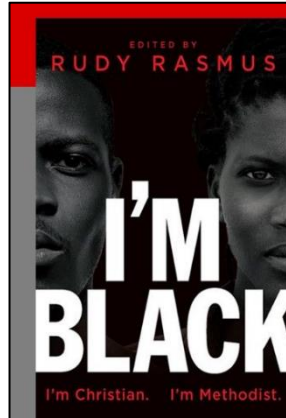
Starting September 13

We will begin reading the book **I'm Black. I'm Christian.**

I'm Methodist.

a collection of stories offering perspectives and experiences beyond our own.

Wednesdays @ 10:00am
 Thursdays @ 7:00pm
 Hybrid option available



You can order these books through Amazon.com or your local bookstore. If you are unable to purchase a book, please let Pastor Tom know and we can make some copies available.



WHITEHEAD, VINCENT	08/02
MARGESON, SANDEE	08/10
PALMER, CHRISTA	08/10
STERLE, DENISE	08/10
JOHNSON, SHARI	08/11
FERGUSON, DICK	08/13
SPAINHOWER, KATHY	08/16
WARD, GAIL	08/18
ENGEL, DAWN	08/31

Fellowship Conversations: This Thing Called Reconciling

This past Sunday, the congregation was able to meet for a conversation around our commitment to be a Reconciling Congregation and what that means. Members were able to ask their questions and voice their concerns. Over-all, it was a positive and affirming conversation. I thank all who stayed after worship and participated. Yet, I know not everyone was able to participate or ask their questions. I invite anyone who continues to have questions and concerns about this thing called Reconciling to have a conversation with me. Give me a call, make an appointment, send an email, drop a note in my box. Anything you ask or want to talk about will be received in all gentleness and held in all confidentiality. This conversation is ongoing, and it is open for all voices to be heard.

Challenge the Preacher Sermon Series

Pastor Tom asked you to submit your hard questions about Scripture and faith. You all did not disappoint! Pastor Tom will be preaching on your questions through the Summer. Here is the line-up of sermons to come through the next five weeks. If you submitted a sermon suggestion, you can check here, or on our website (click or hover over *Worship*, then go to *This Week & Beyond*) to see when Pastor Tom will preach on your question.

Some submissions have been combined due to similarity of topic.



Sunday, August 20

Vanity of Vanities
Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

Original question: "I have trouble with Ecclesiastes 1:2. It seems rather negative."

Sunday, August 27

Created in the Image
Genesis 1:26-28a, 2:7-8, 15-20a

Original question: "How do we understand the image of God? How are we created in the image of God?"

Sunday, September 3

What Did God Say?
2 Peter 1:12-21

Original question: "What is the best version of the Bible? How accurate is the translation?"

Sunday, September 10

What Did God Say?
2 Peter 1:12-21

Original question: "What is the best version of the Bible? How accurate is the translation?"

Sunday, September 17

Conversations on the Afterlife
Revelation 20:11-15

Original question: "What happens when we die? Can you speak on the "glimpses" Scripture has given?"

"Compare the Biblical references to an afterlife to the current attitudes of everyone will go to heaven."

Upper Room



September/October issue of the Upper Room Devotional is now available. If you are not able to pick up a copy at the church, you may request to have a copy mailed to you.

Our Weekly Giving Moment

World Service Fund General Commission on the Status and Role of Women



Thanks to generous support of the World Service Fund, the [General Commission on the Status and Role of Women](#) develops and strengthens women for leadership in The United Methodist Church. Reflect on this Bible study produced by GCSRW that connects the experience of the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28 with insider/outsider experiences we face today.

Imagine that you are the Canaanite woman. What might you feel as you see the crowd, and someone tells you that the crowd is gathered around a man who is called the Son of David? (Pause) How do you feel when Jesus ignores you? (Pause)

When the man's disciples try to send you away and you hear Jesus say that he was sent only for the people of Israel you almost give up hope, but then you have a new wave of courage. Can you convince him to help? (Pause)

How are your emotions now? (Pause)

Now, leave the land of your imagination and think about your life. When have you had a similar experience where you were an outsider? (Pause)

Did you feel that God didn't even have time for you? How did you overcome that feeling? (Pause)

The Canaanite woman did not miss this opportunity. Have you ever missed an opportunity to constructively challenge the "insider-outsider" paradigm? The woman's persistence had constructive results. Sometimes we need an opener that enables us to see and name elements that are destructive, such as an exclusively sexist, colonial and racist interpretation of mission. The woman got her heart's desire by pushing the issue. How has that happened in your life?

[Download "Women Called to Ministry,"](#) a six-session study exploring our understanding of women's roles in The United Methodist Church, produced by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.