



Welcome Back

BY MELISSA SNIPES

The journey was longer than any of us anticipated. A year after Covid started and we are starting to feel a sense of normal again. Maybe the normal will never quite be the same that we remember, but maybe that is the point.

Families are spending more time together, people are keeping an eye on their neighbor to make sure they are well. Our commitment to community wellbeing has been reignited.

Neighbors are watching out for each other. Kids are riding bikes with the kids in the neighborhood that they were to busy to join before.

So what now? We worship, we sing Him praises, we pray for this stronger community to flourish. We do more outreach for those longing to belong, to know God's love by the kindness we are sharing. We welcome all, old and new. We continue our ministries in a new way. We pray.

While we aren't yet in our beloved Sanctuary, we are together. While we are not mask free, we are singing loud for all to hear. While the children are still carefully distanced, they get to share in love and laughter. So for today, this is our new normal, it's a beautiful gift to be given.

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Fun, Events, Note Worthy

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

1410 S. Hillhurst Road
Ridgefield, WA. 98642

360-887-8312

Ridgefieldmethodist@gmail.com

RidfgefieldUMC.com

WORSHIP

Sunday's
10:00am



Welcome Back, Ridgefield Community United Methodist Parishiners!
It is so good to have you here!

A letter from the Pastor

by Pastor Jo Ann

Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start.

I was born at the end of March and baptized at the end of May in a beautiful three-story Lutheran Church in downtown Akron, Ohio. As lifelong Methodists would say, "Here my call began." By the fall I was suddenly in a coma. My young parents were terrified. My Church prayed.

Key memories of growing up involved helping my grandmother prepare for Sunday School, offering hospitality to the pastor and sitting beside large quilting frames as the ladies shared their lives. Almost every Sunday, I colored on bulletins as the sermon seemed to escape my mind and tire my body. Sometimes I would help to light candles, fold bulletins, fill tiny communion cups and tidy the sanctuary before the lights went out.

The church sanctuary with all its music and liturgy offered structure to the rest of my life. As a young adult who traveled, I found comfort in exploring a variety of churches. As a seminary student, I spent a summer in a Russian Orthodox Monastery - part of a group within a group that worshipped and shared meals on schedule and then did what we could to refurbish a holy space.

Speaking of refurbishments, it is not unusual to start a new church with building projects. Be not afraid of the plural "projects".

Our Raise the Roof campaign is quickly gaining traction and will most likely be completed this fall. At the same time, we have the projects of building relationships and ministry and hopefully returning to our sanctuary.

This is a good time to offer thanks to our transition team. Despite a very sudden and late appointment process, we were determined that we would be successful together and we are. Much appreciation to Roger and Bob especially but also Mike, Lance and Dean for helping to relocate Sara and I to our apartment in the sky. Also, to Carolyn, Jan, Meghan and Lauri for key conversations and to Dean and Tim for early visitations. Amid much chaos, it was truly special to be embraced by our new community in such practical ways. As Sara prepares for her next chapter in Seattle, she is glad there are good people to keep me grounded.

In September, I look forward to beginning a new book study and preparing for indoor worship. Perhaps, I will join the quilting group! Always I will give thanks for new beginnings and for God's presence as experienced in Christian Community.

With Love and Blessings,
Jo Ann



Raise the Roof

CONTRIBUTORS: BOB SOUTHARD, MEGHAN GREEN, PASTOR JOANN AND MELISSA SNIPES

Raise The Roof, literally! The challenge was to find a way to add HVAC for both air circulation and keeping us cool in the unbearably warm summer months without taking away the sightline of our beautiful stained glass windows. With years of planning behind them, the Capital Fund Committee has come to the parish with a wonderful plan to add the HVAC while keeping this gorgeous element. Along with the HVAC, the roof will be completely reroofed and there will no longer be anyone having to carefully maneuver their seating so that they are not underneath one of the many drip spots. We appreciate all the prayers and contributions to make this possible.



Photograph Courtesy of Meghan Green



Raise the Roof Meeting (August 24, 2021)

1. The Scope of the Project - we are in the third of a four phase project. Efforts to address a leaking roof and then the advantage of also proactively negotiating a heating and cooling system began in the late fall of 2019.

The need for a new roof is likely obvious both by the appearance of our existing roof and the drip pans around the sanctuary. In addition, the Trustees have been aware that the heating elements in the church are beyond their lifespan. Last fall the contractors presented a proposal to adjust the roof line and include an HVAC system. This would allow the addition of air scrubbers. At the time we knew this would help during summer wildfires. Now we know we will also be safer in addressing Covid variables.

At one point we were approached by the city to be a cooling center if need be. They were able to use the RACC but we want to be able to provide a cooling center and a scrubbed safe air space during the fire season if needed.

1. The Finances of the Project -total bids come to \$310,000. A few years ago we increased our mortgage payment to approximately what our loan payment would be on the roof project.. We were able to pay our mortgage off early. This shows that we have the ability to afford the increased amount going forward.

Raise the Roof - Cont.

Raise the Roof Meeting (August 24, 2021) Continued

The Northwest Foundation (of the United Methodist Church) would like 1/3 from us. We have \$52,000 pledged and \$48,000 in the bank. We have savings of about \$50,000 undesignated that could be used for the loan. We had our charge conference on August 31st in which we were formally approved the submission of the loan.

(Thank you to those who have already contributed and yes we will always accept more.)

- The Timing of the project - We are in the process of submitting the loan to the Northwest Foundation. This group meets as needed by zoom and is aware of our work. Once the loan has officially been approved, we can proceed with construction.

We currently have a permit for the roof and one for the HVAC system. We have been in conversation with the city and are still waiting for final approval. The roofers would like to begin as soon as possible.

The committee for long-term project development includes: Kent Landerholm, Kurt Stonex, Roger Green and Bob Southard. The specific project coordinator for the roof will be Roger Green. Roger will be the one person who communicates with the contractors and updates us on progress.

In Our Prayers

Prayers of Healing

For the Family of Wanita Kennedy

Sandra Graeber's Daughter

Joyce Woodward

Cora Brown and her Brother

Lisa and Jeff Detchman's Family

Kurt Stoner's Cousin

Phill Hodapp's Mother

Laura Nelson's Mom

Tim and Sandi Winn

In Memory of

Prayers of Peace

Wanita Kennedy

Grant Johnson's Brother-in-law

Barb Pfiefer's sister Bonnie

August

CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday

Ann Siegmund, 1st
Linda Boothby, 5th
Joe Landerholm, 8th
Beth Marshal, 10th
Kent Landerholm, 14th

Happy Anniversary

Dean and Cora Brown, 21st
Bill and Susan Yadoff, 24th

September

CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday

Carol Tinney, 1st
Meredith Schledorn, 4th
Mike Loring, 3rd
Kelly Schlegel, 8th
Tim Winn, 11th
Sarah Yadoff, 15th
Sandi Winn, 16th
Ossie Osmundson, 17th
Cora Brown, 18th
Lily Schlegel, 21st
Kristal Mathis, 21st

Happy Anniversary

Tyler and Heather
Brinkman, 4th
Kelly and Megan
Schlegel, 7th

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS



So many young ones were able to join us for the Blessing of the Backpacks. Jo Ann and Megan made sure that the children knew how much they are cared for and loved.



Sending our children back to school with God's armor around them and God's love in their hearts.

Farewell to Pastor Meredith

Coming from outside of the Church Family and hearing about Pastor Meredith, one could tell how much she was loved. Meredith shared her message with RUMC for over seven years. As everyone watched her grow in her calling, they watched her family grow as well. So, I feel it safe to say that many feel like their family members have moved away. Going through pictures, it's very evident with all the smiles, that many good times were had. May every new venture Meredith and family take be blessed with wonderful new memories like the ones she made here.



Top: Pastor Meredith with congregation.
Bottom Left: Sidewalk Ministry
Bottom Right: Playground Blessing



Feed My Sheep Backpack Ministries



This program was started about 10 years ago and is for the school age children that get free breakfast and lunch weekdays. This leaves them hungry on the weekend. We collect food and money in order to provide these meals. Mary Matney (in the picture with me) and I pack these bags on Wednesday morning. I try to vary the menu and include some nutrition. I take them to the various Ridgefield schools on Thursday and the counselors hand them to the children on Friday afternoons.

This program is one of the best and neediest things I think our church can do.. We didn't have our shortcake fundraiser since the 4th of July parade was canceled and would appreciate whatever you can give.

Thanks and may God Bless you, Margie

In the Gospel of John, Jesus asks Peter "Do you love me?" When Peter responds "yes" then Jesus tells him "Feed my sheep."

Our congregation was giving a lot of thought to ways we could support children in our community. We heard of something called a "backpack" program where kids would come by the school office with their backpacks before they went home for the weekend and receive a bag of food to help them through until Monday. No one has a bigger heart for children than Margie Stoner. I remember talking about this idea with her at an Ad Council meeting. I was convinced that she could create a backpack program. Sure enough. That night was the beginning of Feed My Sheep ministry.

Children from grades K through 12 are assisted by this ministry. The school counselor gives us a request for certain number of bags. The children remain anonymous. If there are siblings, then each of them receives a bag. With the help of the UMW ladies, especially Mary Matney, and the support of the congregation, 10 backpacks a week were provided the first year. That was 10 years ago. In 2019 the number was up to 47 per week at a cost of about \$2500. Margie anticipates at least 50 per week this year. In the past we were able to fund raise with a Strawberry Shortcake booth during the 4th of July celebration in Ridgefield. We look forward to that opportunity reoccurring next summer. In the meantime, we rely on donations of food and money from our congregation to meet this need.

Before Margie took charge of filling the bags, a different resource with very limited means handled the program. The contents were pretty much just a package of spaghetti noodles and a can of sauce. Under Margie's leadership each bag includes a good variety chosen from kid friendly items such as breakfast bars, instant oatmeal, fruit cups, granola bars, juice boxes, peanut butter, tuna, canned soup, canned spaghetti, canned ravioli. Fresh fruit like tangerines or apples are included when available. Everything needs to be individually wrapped or packaged, but no glass containers of course. Some of the Health Department rules are kind of kookie. My favorite is "The Sandwich". We may not make a sandwich and put it in a baggy. But we are OK to put slices of bread in one baggy and slices of baloney in another!

Each week brown bags are lined up on the kitchen counters. Each one is thoughtfully and prayerfully filled with food for two breakfasts, two lunches and a treat. Something else is put in that cannot be seen, but hopefully each child will feel. "Do you love me?" Jesus asks. We do. And so we will feed His sheep.

by: Jan Southard

Margie Stoner with Chris Poppert (in charge of the Family Resource Center) in the pantry where the food is kept until the children in need receive it.



Right: Mary Matney and Margie Stoner Packing Bags for Feed My Sheep.



August 7th,
2021

Camp Hillhurst

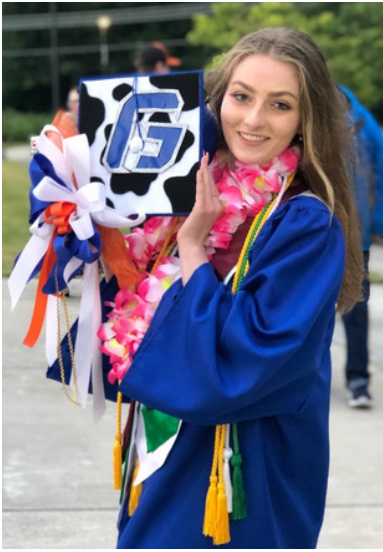


A day of togetherness

It was such a beautiful day, seeing the smiles on everyone. The young and the young hearted alike joyed in play, song, friendship and just being together.



Congratulations Graduates of 2021



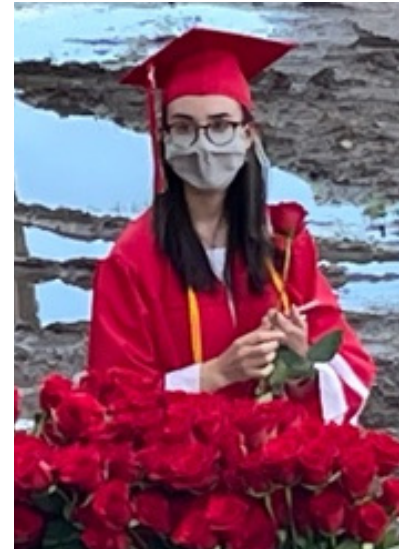
Lydia Wainwright

Daughter of Jodie Speropulos, graduated from Ridgefield High School. Lydia will be attending George Fox University in Newberg, OR where she plans to major in nursing and minor in psychology.



Joseph Landerholm

Son of Kent and Lauri Landerholm, graduated from Ridgefield High School. Joe will be attending University of Washington in the fall. undecided major



**Sara Schaadt
Patterson**

Daughter of Pastor Jo Ann Schaadt, graduated from Fort Vancouver High School. Sara will be attending University of Washington in Seattle.

Angela Price

Angela graduated from George Fox University with her Masters of Arts and Teaching Degree.

God of Love,
You are with us in every transition and change.
As we enter into this new era with
excitement and even some anxiety,
we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love.
We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills
with which you have blessed us.
We thank you for the experiences
that have brought us to this moment.
We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and
depth to our own work.
Be with us as we move forward,
rejoicing with you and supporting one another.
We ask this in your Holy Name.





Ladie's Tea

Hosted by Margie Stoner and the UMW



It was a beautiful day full of beautiful hearted women.



Sunday Service 10:00am

Newsletter August 2021

JOURNEYS

Ridgefield United Methodist Church

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PO BOX 446
1410 S HILLHURST RD
RIDGEFIELD, WA 986**

WELCOME BACK!