

*Our Vision: Here at the heart of Beaverton, Christ calls us to feed our community, body, mind and Spirit.*



*Our Mission: Knowing that our works change our community and ourselves; we seek to ensure that no one in the Beaverton area goes hungry, investigate the teachings of Christ through research and communion with others, and respectfully share the love of God with all.*

# The Witness

April 2016

## Pastor's Message

 ***Thinking, Loving Praying.*** Those words are everywhere at Beaverton First these days. They are on our new T-Shirts, at the top of every Sunday's bulletin and you see them all over our newly redesigned web site (check it out at [www.beavertonumc.org](http://www.beavertonumc.org)). What do they mean? They are "short-hand" for our Mission and Vision statements. About a year ago, your leadership spent a lot of time asking you, in many different ways, what was important to you about the church you call home and family. You responded and those responses became our Mission and Vision Statements.

Our Vision: Here at the heart of Beaverton, Christ calls us to feed our community; body, mind and Spirit.

Our Mission: Knowing that our works change our community and ourselves; we seek to ensure that no one in the Beaverton area goes hungry, investigate the teachings of Christ through research and communion with others, and respectfully share the love of God with all.

***Thinking, Loving Praying.*** Thinking – we are a Christian, Protestant, United Methodist faith community. We, first and foremost, follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, a human/Divine person who challenged all of the preconceived notions of his time. We are also influenced by all of the great protestant teachers; people like Martin Luther who risked his life to say that no one human organization

should be all powerful – only God should have that job! And, we choose to be led by the theological understanding of John Wesley, another rebel who said **“But as to all opinions which do not strike at the root of Christianity, we think and let think.”** We practice our faith in a long line of people who believed that God gave us a mind for a reason, and that part of our journey of faith is to be in dialogue with God. Here, every Bible study, small group and class, every sermon and prayer will invite you to think, question and talk about God, Jesus, faith, and your place in the scheme of this vast universe God has created.

***Thinking, Loving Praying.*** Loving – In answer to those testing him, Jesus affirmed that the greatest commandments are these... "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27) The obvious take-away from that simple verse is that we were put on this earth to care for one another. Feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, visit the imprisoned. (adapted from Matthew 25:31) This is Jesus' definition of love, *agape* love, the love of God for all God's people. When we love like this we are truly doing God's work – truly sharing Christ's love with all.

***Thinking, Loving Praying.*** Praying – Sometimes we treat God as if God were Santa Claus and prayer were the way to get what we want. Praying for God to bring you material wealth is rarely fruitful. Yet prayer is strong and powerful. We pray for others when we know they are in need, we pray for ourselves, our family, friends, neighbors, world. We pray for situations in our

control and out of our control. We pray knowing that God hears every prayer, but also knowing that God's answer may not be exactly what we wanted. We pray and all our prayers are added to the prayers of others and that strength is made whole and holy by God's strength. We are God's partners when we pray. Prayer is strong and powerful. It can change lives. Maybe yours.

As you can see ***Thinking, Loving Praying*** is just a quick way of saying that we're going to ensure that no one in the Beaverton area goes hungry, investigate the teachings of Christ through research and communion with others, and respectfully share the love of God with all. When you see those three words you can think to yourself, "What can I do to help?" "What's my part in ***Thinking, Loving Praying?***" Because Jesus calls all of us, not just a few, to give whatever we can, whenever we can of our heart, soul, mind and strength to His work here in Beaverton.

***Thinking, Loving Praying.*** It's just what we do!

On The Path Together,  
Pastor Kathy

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**Ruth Circle** will meet Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am at The Village Inn on Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway. All women are invited to share in lunch and a time of fellowship. Please contact Edie Flaming (503-590-2331) if you plan to attend.

**The Men** will meet on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the Fireside Room. Please contact Dan Gray (503-372-9449) with questions.

**Art Court** is back in business!! Thank you Charlotte Jackson for taking on this huge



Tuesday April 12 will be our church's day to volunteer for Meals on Wheels People at Elsie Stuhr Senior Center. Drivers should be at the Elsie Stuhr Center at 10:00 AM. Please call Pat Tervooren at 503-644-7475 for information regarding this program

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**My Hat's Off To You BFUMC**

.... **And a BIG THANK YOU** for all the generous donations of food, clothes and gift cards for the mission, "Backpack Buddies". During the past three years, BFUMC partnered with Merlo Station High School to help feed the students that needed assistance with hunger, small monetary donations (gift cards) and gifts of needed warm clothing. To serve more students the "Backpack" was turned into Merlo Station Food Pantry. It is now time to turn over all the remaining food items in our Mission pantry to Merlo Station and say "good-bye" to this endeavor. A prayer of thanks goes out to all those that helped organize, shop, donate, pack and drive to meet the goal of this mission, feeding the HUNGRY.

**From our Finance Committee:**

Great News!! We currently have a fully staffed (and functioning) Finance Committee ☺ Our new team includes; Chair Bill Butler, Financial Secretary Patti Gupta, Treasurer Jeanne Fast, Business Manager Michael Wild & Bank Signer Joan Goldhammer. Thank you to all who stepped up and also a huge thank you to all of our weekly Counters. It's wonderful to have a full committee once again.

**HOMEPLATE YOUTH DINNER**

BFUMC will be serving dinner at Merlo Station High School for the Homeplate Youth Services on **Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016**. If you would like to join this great Mission, look for the sign-up sheets in the Fireside Room on the Bulletin Board.

We will need;

Two volunteers to help with the grocery shopping (a list will be provided, with ideas of where the best prices can be found) You will be reimbursed for the amount of monies spent, or you may donate these items to this mission.

Six to eight volunteers to assist with the prep-work done in our BFUMC kitchen. Time allowed for the prep-work depends on the menu, but generally 2 hours. Those transporting the food to Merlo Station will be from this group of volunteers.

Six to eight volunteers will be of great value to help set-up, serve and clean-up. This section of our mission is the most heartwarming, since you are face to face with the youth we are feeding. This is the longest session, since it is from 5:15pm -8:15pm approximately. If your time is limited, please specify when you sign-up, so we can accommodate your schedule.

If you know someone that would like to join us, PLEASE invite them to do so. The one requirement is to wear non-skid, closed toed shoes while working in Merlo Station Cafeteria.

Homeplate Youth Service is Washington County's only non-profit provider of drop-in centers and street outreach for young people experiencing homelessness. Please volunteer in some capacity to help shop, prepare, transport, set-up, serve, clean-up, as well as donation of funds for this mission we will be providing our community.

**SHELTER US BEAVERTON**  
April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 2016

Shelter US Beaverton is inviting Church Leaders, Community Leaders, Business Leaders and Elected Officials to discuss the need for a sheltering system for the Beaverton School District's homeless students and their families.

Participants will be sleeping in tents on the grass of the Beaverton City Library and the Fountain Park. There will also be a simulated warming shelter in **BFUMC Wesley Hall**. In the morning the conversation will continue and with the Beaverton Farmer's Market-goers about the experience.

Shelter Us Beaverton is a group of concerned community members who are working to bring an emergency shelter to Beaverton's homeless families.

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We will need about a dozen or so volunteers to assist in various areas as well as represent our Church. If you are interests in Volunteering, please contact the Church office (503-646-7107).

Opportunities to serve .....

There are signup sheets on the bulletin boards in the Fireside Room for various events/activities in need of your help ...

they include:

- **Child Care Attendants (during Worship hour)**
- **Yard/Grounds Care Providers**
- **Rebuilding It Together Sandwich Preparers**
- **Witness Editor ☺**
- **Office Volunteer**

# FAQ's about the State of **BFUMC**

Church Council members have heard lots of people talking with great concern about what's happening at our church. You are asking, so here are answers to some of the frequently asked questions...

- *Is the Church Closing?* – Not at this time. Every effort is being made to keep our doors open.
- *Are we merging with another church?* – No.
- *Should I be looking for a new church?* – We hope you won't do that right now. We need all of God's faithful stewards to stay at BFUMC and help us bring this church to health and vitality.
- *Are we going to a part-time pastor?* - Yes. July 1, 2016 we will go to having a ½ time pastor.
- *Are we losing our Pastor?* - Yes. Pastor Kathy will be leaving BFUMC on June 30, 2016.
- *What is happening to keep our Church alive?* - Church Council is meeting every Thursday during the month of March, working on a plan for BFUMC's future health and vitality.
- *How can I help?* – Pray. Become as active as you can. Call the office or Pastor Kathy or Ted Sedler (Council chair) and ask “where can I serve right now?” Be ready and accepting of change, even though you may not like it.
- *What is the timeline for getting solid answers on closure, Pastor, etc?* – We should know the answers to most of these questions by May.

Please email or call anyone of them anytime if you have questions, concerns or comments. God bless us all!

Church Council Chair: Ted Sedler  
Lay Leader: Ivan McCormick  
Lay Member to AC: **not filled**  
Pastor/Nominations: Rev Kathy Boyes  
Trustees: Wyn Ward & Charlene VanCleeef  
SPRC: Melanie Sedler/Bill Wendt  
Finance: Bill Butler  
Treasurer: Jeanne Fast  
Bookkeeper (temporary): Michael Wild  
Financial Secretary: Patti Guptill  
Passionate Worship: Dondrea Warner  
Risk Taking Missions Linda Bunga & Mary Ann Axelson  
Radical Hospitality: Edie Flaming  
Intentional Faith Development: **not filled**  
Memorial Committee Chair: Joan Goldhammer

*These persons are your church leaders. They are working very hard to develop a plan that will keep Beaverton First open, relevant, healthy and growing. If you have a question, comment or concern, contact any one of these persons. If you would like to volunteer for any of these committees or teams to help with this process, call Pastor Kathy or Ted Sedler. God bless all of us in the work ahead.*

**Don't Forget to pray for each other ...**

**April Birthdays**

Happy Birthday to all who are celebrating Birthdays in April.

**April Anniversaries**

To all celebrating Anniversaries in April – Congratulations!!

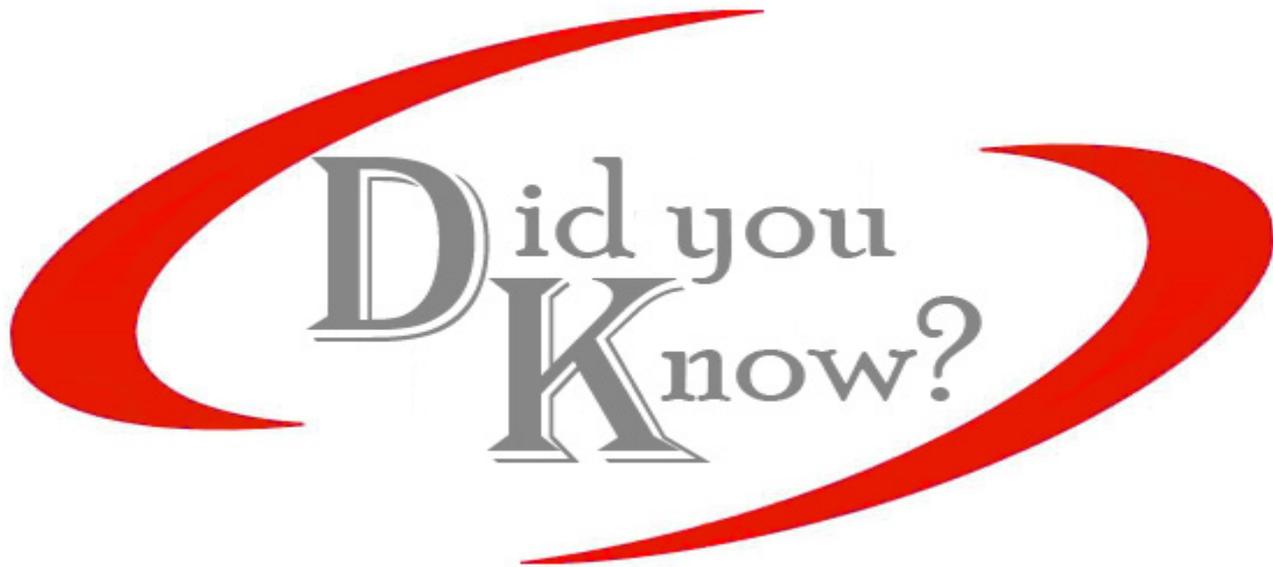


**Beaverton First UMC Church Council**

# Thinking Loving Praying

## April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> <a href="#">Pastor Kathy's Sabbath</a>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 10:30 AM <a href="#">Sunday Worship</a>	<b>4</b> 4:00 PM <a href="#">Monday Bible Study</a>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 2:00 PM <a href="#">Missions &amp; Hospitality Teams Meeting</a> 7:00 PM <a href="#">Praise Band Rehearsal</a> 7:30 PM <a href="#">Te Deum Choir Practice</a>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <a href="#">Pastor Kathy's Sabbath</a>	<b>9</b> 9:00 AM <a href="#">Men's Breakfast</a>
<b>10</b> 10:30 AM <a href="#">Sunday Worship</a> 11:45 AM <a href="#">Worship Committee Meeting</a>	<b>11</b> 4:00 PM <a href="#">Monday Bible Study</a>	<b>12</b> 10:00 AM <a href="#">Meals on Wheels</a> 6:30 PM <a href="#">Administrative Teams Meeting</a>	<b>13</b> 11:30 AM <a href="#">Ruth Circle</a> 7:00 PM <a href="#">Praise Band Rehearsal</a> 7:30 PM <a href="#">Te Deum Choir Practice</a>	<b>14</b> 7:00 PM <a href="#">Theology Pub</a>	<b>15</b> <a href="#">Pastor Kathy's Sabbath</a> <a href="#">Shelter Us Beaverton - Sleep Out</a>	<b>16</b> <a href="#">Shelter Us Beaverton - Sleep Out</a>
<b>17</b> 9:15 AM <a href="#">Bible Study - Old Testament</a> 10:30 AM <a href="#">Sunday Worship</a>	<b>18</b> 4:00 PM <a href="#">Monday Bible Study</a>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:00 PM <a href="#">Praise Band Rehearsal</a> 7:30 PM <a href="#">Te Deum Choir Practice</a>	<b>21</b> 7:00 PM <a href="#">Church Council</a>	<b>22</b> <a href="#">Pastor Kathy's Sabbath</a>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:15 AM <a href="#">Bible Study - Old Testament</a> 10:30 AM <a href="#">Sunday Worship</a>	<b>25</b> 4:00 PM <a href="#">Monday Bible Study</a>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 3:00 PM <a href="#">HomePlate Youth Dinner</a> 7:00 PM <a href="#">Praise Band Rehearsal</a> 7:30 PM <a href="#">Te Deum Choir Practice</a>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <a href="#">Pastor Kathy's Sabbath</a>	<b>30</b>



This First United Methodist Church of Beaverton Is Run By Volunteers??

The opportunities are endless and we seriously need you!

Don't wait for to be personally invited – the invitation is in the air – positions are available for every talent you have, and some you didn't know you had.

Chat with any member of our Church Council, or call the office.

**Beaverton First United Methodist Church**  
**12555 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Beaverton, OR 97005**