



The Grapevine

Prosser United Methodist Church – February 2012

824 Sixth Street, Prosser, WA 99350 – 509-786-1097 – www.prosserumc.org

Office Hours: M – Th. 9 AM to Noon E-mail: prosserumc@centurylink.net

FEBRUARY HOMILIES AND SCRIPTURE

- Feb. 5** Gospel—Mark 1:29-39
 Homily—“Fueling Up”
- Feb. 12** Scout Sunday
 Gospel—Mark 1:40-45
 Homily—“Healing”
- Feb. 19** Transfiguration Sunday
 Gospel—Mark 9:2-9
 Homily—“Being There”
- Feb. 26** Gospel—Mark 1:9-15
 Homily—“Testing, Testing”

Head Usher for February is Jim Raney.

Nursery Care Available: Nursery care is available during our worship services provided by Tanya and Katie Cone. Children up through Kindergarten can be dropped off at the nursery, down the first floor hall of the education wing of the church.

Ash Wednesday Service February 22nd

Lent begins this year on Wednesday, February 22nd. We will have an Ash Wednesday service at 7 PM to commemorate this change in our church season, and to prepare ourselves for these weeks of reflection, repentance, and preparation for Easter.



Special Offerings

On February 12th we will take up a special offering for Bread For the World. Bread For the World provides food for those who are hungry around the world. They also provide education for people to learn about world hunger, and education in poor communities on how to grow their own food. Help feed the world, and help the world feed itself by giving generously to this offering!

JANUARY EVENTS

- February 1— UMW lunch & meeting, Noon
- February 1—Staff-Parish Relations, 7 PM
- February 4— Men’s Group, 8 AM
- February 18—Lenten Book Study begins, 10 AM
- February 20—Presidents Day, Office Closed
- February 20—Jubilee Food Bagging, 9:30 AM
- February 22—Ash Wednesday Service, 7 PM
- February 23—Lifeline Screening
- February 29—Ad Council, 7 PM

MEN’S GROUP



The Men’s Group will meet on Saturday February 4th, at 8 AM. We will begin our day with coffee, cocoa, juice, and doughnuts. Fully fortified, we will go around the church to perform our regular monthly checks, as well as a special job or two. All men of any age are welcome to attend, so come join us!



BO'S BLOG

Grace is here!

I've written before, in February, that I like this month. It's a hope-full month, because it's the beginning of Spring Training for baseball. Every player on the team is going to have a great year! This year we're going to win the World Series! This hope, this optimism, springs from grace, because what happened in past years doesn't necessarily count for this year. Everyone gets a start-over. Everyone gets a clean slate.

Everyone needs grace. Grace is Christianity's unique message. Undeserved forgiveness! We all mess up. We all do things we wish we didn't do. We all need grace—from others, and for ourselves.

When we see others mess up, and then sincerely acknowledge that they messed up and ask for forgiveness, we need to step up and give them the grace that they need. I don't know how many times I have needed grace, and I know I will continue to need it many more times. Making mistakes is part of being human. Giving grace is what we need to do to be a friend, to be married, to be a family, to be a community.

We also need to be able to give grace to ourselves. There are some people who simply cannot forgive themselves, even though all those around them forgive them. We need to be able to let go of our mistakes—to learn from them, but to let them go. If we cannot do that, then we cannot truly accept the grace that others offer us, nor can we accept God's grace. And what we end up doing is isolating ourselves from everyone else.

Behind it all there's God's grace, always there for us. Which is a good thing, because we need that most of all. Because for us human beings, Spring Training doesn't just start in February. It also starts in March, and April, and every month of the year. And every day of every month. We are always getting distracted from our relationship with God, and forever having to turn back and start again. And each time we need to do that, God is there, waiting for us, inviting us back, 24/7/365.

Grace is here! We get a clean slate!

Shalom,

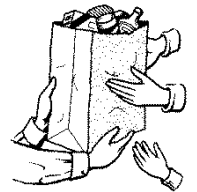
Bo

FOOD BAGGING AT JUBILEE FOOD BANK

Monday February 20th is our turn to break down large 50 lb. bags of beans, rice, or oats at the Jubilee Food Bank. We put them into smaller bags that are handed out to families in need during the week. Please come to the Food Bank at 1429 Stacey in Prosser at 9:30 AM that morning for a bit of work and some good fellowship too!

JUBILEE FOOD BASKET

For the months of January and February please bring in cans of soup, any variety, to donate to the Jubilee Food Bank. The donation basket is located at the back of the sanctuary. All donations go to those in need in our community. Thanks!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have a Sunday School class for 1st through 4th graders that meets during the worship service. Led by Donna Barr, the class meets from about 11:30 (i.e., after the Youth Time), until noon. Please bring your children, or grandchildren(!), with you to church, so that they may enjoy this great opportunity for Christian education! Also, anyone who would like to help with this class, please contact Donna at 786-1176.

Lenten Book Study

This year's Lenten book study will be "The Practice of the Presence of God" by Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection. Brother Lawrence was a Carmelite monk in France during the 17th century. In his "conversations" and letters, he shares his simple method of intimacy with God. The class will be held at 10 AM on Saturdays, beginning February 18th, and will consist of 6 sessions. Please contact Pastor Bo if you are interested in the class so that he can order books ahead of time.

UMW EVENTS AND NEWS

The Prosser United Methodist Women invite all the ladies of the church to the next UMW meeting on Wednesday, February 1, 2012. We will start off at 12:00 noon with lunch. The main dish will be provided by our hostess, Marilyn Knight, and the rest of the meal is potluck. A business meeting will follow the meal. We will be discussing the upcoming Pacific NW Conference of UMW's Spiritual Day Apart to be hosted by our unit on Saturday, March 24, 2012.

It was decided at our last meeting to join efforts with the members of the Pasco Riverview UMW to provide needed items for My Friend's Place, a teen shelter in the Tri-Cities. See the Mission Opportunity article below for their needs.

This month's program will be led by Pastor Bo. Please invite your friends. Any questions, please contact Linda Key- 509-882-3110.

SPR Meeting in February

SPR committee will meet at 7 PM on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 in the Friendship Room. Items for discussion will be: Covenant and Pastor's goals for 2012, schedule for quarterly meetings, and interviews with paid staff. All committee members are encouraged to attend, we need your input.
Linda Key-Chair

Mission Opportunity

UMW is collecting supplies for My Friend's Place, a teen shelter in the Tri-Cities. They need clothing, especially underclothes and large winter coats (XL and bigger), movies (PG-13 and under), and educational materials (for ages 13-17), especially computer programs. See Lethe McGavran for more information, or call her at (509)-308-9914.

UMW BOOK TABLE

Although the book table in the narthex is supplied and maintained by the UMW, the books are available to everyone. Just sign your name on the card found inside the front cover and put it in the box provided.



Getting to the Heart of Interfaith is authored by three friends – a Christian pastor, a Jewish rabbi, and a Muslim sheikh. Their common religious background, of course, is that their respective faiths are all traced back to Abraham. They all worship the same God. Each arrives at an interest in other faiths via a different route. Throughout the book, each shares his view on various beliefs, traditions and spiritual practice. Especially interesting is their joint visit to Israel and Palestine. For those not afraid to face a challenge to pre-conceived notions about the other Abrahamic faiths, this is recommended reading.

You can also browse the table and choose something that fits your interests. Contact Marilyn Knight, Pam Serrano, or Carolyn Hart about other books.

News from the Wolfers

Many of you already know that Gary Wolfer, former pastor of Prosser UMC, was diagnosed just before Christmas with Stage 4 lung cancer. The good news is that the doctors have determined that he is a good fit for genetic treatment of the cancer, and Gary has been feeling much better since starting that treatment. A CaringBridge website for Gary has been created to share health news and leave messages of support for Gary & Janet. The website is www.caringbridge.org/visit/garywolfer.

To visit from a mobile device go to m.caringbridge.org/visit/garywolfer.

You have to create an account with CaringBridge, but it's free.

YOUTH CORNER



UMY T-shirt Design Contest

The 2012 UMY T-shirt Design Contest starts now! If you are between the ages of 10 and 19, you are encouraged to participate! Here are the requirements and guidelines:

- Include "Prosser United Methodist Church" or "Prosser UMC" and "United Methodist Youth" or "UMY" in the design.
- Include a statement, quote, or artwork that reflects what being a part of the Methodist church and/or UMY means to you.
- If your design relies on a specific t-shirt color, be sure to communicate that in your design submission.
- Be expressive – what does the church signify to you? Create a visual representation of faith. Incorporate symbols.
- Submit your design in .pdf format to Alison Bryan at wandabryan@charter.net
- Submission deadline is February 29, 2012.
- All entries will be judged by the church congregation.
- The winner will be announced in March.
- The winning design will be used for the Prosser UMY 2012 t-shirts. Ordering information will be available in March.



If you have any questions, contact Alison at 509-438-0360, or email wandabryan@charter.net.

Scholarships Available

Once again, Prosser UMC is seeking applicants for post-secondary scholarship(s). If you will be attending vocational or technical training, college, or university next year, then stop by the church office to pick up a form, or call (786-1097) or e-mail us (prosserumc@centurylink.net) to get an application sent to you. Applications are due March 31, 2012, and scholarship(s) will be announced by the end of April.

Soup/Salad Potluck Change

The third Sunday of each month will be temporarily reverting back to a regular coffee hour at the request of the youth. Once we have more of them to share the cleanup load each month, the Soup/Salad potluck will return. You can still make donations to the campership fund, or the youth mission trip fund, if you desire, by designating your contribution for that fund.

Community Seminar

Take advantage of the upcoming free community service presentation: "Coping with Adolescent Stress and Depression." The Benton Franklin Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Kristi Haynes, will share her expertise on Thursday, February 16th at the Prosser Fire Department from 7-8 PM. Show our young people that you love them by educating yourself on how to help them overcome the trials of adolescence. The Prosser PTA has arranged for the speaker and free child care. If you have any questions, please contact Mikki Symonds at 786-2460.