



The Grapevine



Prosser United Methodist Church – February 2010

824 Sixth Street, Prosser, WA 99350 – 509-786-1097 – www.prosserumc.org
Office Hours: M – Th. 9 AM to Noon E-mail: prosserumc@bentonrea.com

February Homilies and Scripture

February 07 – Fishers of Men
Luke 5:1-11
Scout Sunday

February 14 – Mountaintops
Luke 9:28-36
Transfiguration Sunday

February 21 – Remembering God
Luke 4:1-13

February 28 – Promises, Promises
Luke 13:31-35

Nursery Care Available: Nursery care is available during our worship services provided by Tanya and Katie Cone. Children up through 1st Grade may be dropped off at the nursery, down the first floor hall of the education wing of the church.

Those in 2nd Grade through High School will be excused from the worship service after the youth time to go to our Crossroads Sunday School program.

SPECIAL OFFERING FEBRUARY 21ST

This month's special offering will be for Bread For the World, which is committed to ending hunger in God's world. They provide education about hunger, advocate for legislation to end hunger, and work to feed the hungry around the world. Please give generously to this cause.

COMMUNION - FEBRUARY 7TH

On Sunday, February 7th, we will celebrate the sacrament of communion.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

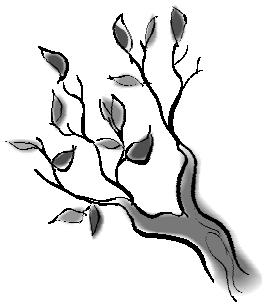
February 3rd – UMW, Noon
February 3rd – Finance, 7 PM
February 6th – Men's Group, 8 AM
February 14th – Nursing Home Service, 4 PM
February 15th – President's Day, Office Closed
February 15th – Jubilee Food Bagging, 9:30 AM
February 17th – Ash Wednesday Service, 7 PM
Lent begins
February 24th – Ad Council, 7 PM

JUBILEE FOOD BASKET

This month please continue to bring in cans of soup for our Jubilee Food Basket. The donations go to Jubilee Ministries, which provides food for those in need in our community. The basket is located at the back of the sanctuary, and has been noticeably fuller the past few months. Thanks for your generous donations.

SIN BRAVELY IN LENT

Our lenten study this year will be a book entitled "Sin Bravely: A Joyful Alternative to Purpose-Driven Life" by Mark Ellingson. The book takes a look at two of the contemporary movements in Christainity today--Rick Warren's "Purpose-Driven Life," and Joel Osteen's "Prosperity Gospel." Ellingson notes the theological downside of these movements, particularly in relation to sin and grace, and how these traditional doctrines of the Protestant Reformation free us from ourselves and lead us to more joyful relationships with God and others. The class will meet on Thursday evenings at 7 PM for 6 weeks beginning Feb. 18th. Please pick up a copy of the book at the church office before the class begins, as the first session will deal with material in the first chapter.



Bo's Blog

This is the time of year when I've learned that I have to make a choice. The short daylight hours, the day after day of cold, often overcast, and even rainy, days can get a person down. There's even a diagnosis for it—Seasonal

Affective Disorder, or SAD (I'm not making that up). So, if I begin to feel down at this time of year, I've realized that I have to make a choice. Do I focus on all the cold and dark of the past weeks and months, or do I look forward to the warm sunny days that are getting closer. It's kind of like the glass half empty, glass half full choice, only in this case the glass is continually getting more full (or more empty, whichever works better for you). Do I look forward to the positive, or stay stuck in the negative?

Looking forward this month, we begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. Lent has a reputation that's kind of on the negative, or down, side. For one thing, we often talk about giving something up for Lent, usually something we like that's bad for our health like chocolate or ice cream. But there's also another way of looking at Lent. Lent is based on the story of Jesus spending 40 days in the wilderness. That's why Lent begins 40 days (not including Sundays) before Easter. We often refer to this story as the temptation of Jesus. But what Jesus talks about in his responses to the temptations, is the importance of God in our lives. He takes the negatives of his situation—his hunger and the temptations offered him—and instead responds with the positive of the importance of God in his life.

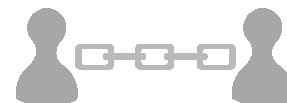
Perhaps this year, instead of giving something up for Lent, we might consider the positive response of adding something to our life, something that helps remind us more of God's presence in our life. The Upper Room is one way to do that. Reading the brief scripture passage, story, and prayer brings our relationship to God to the forefront of our daily routine for a moment more each day than we may usually experience it. Or if you're already doing that, try adding a brief prayer or scripture reading to your morning or evening routine each day. The idea is to add something that brings God more to the forefront of your life and your thoughts. Choosing the positive. Looking forward.

The daffodils will be coming up soon.

Shalom,
Bo

PRAYER CHAIN

The PUMC Prayer Chain is being revised to add new members. If you aren't already on the prayer chain and would like to be please contact Peggy Edom either by phone, 786-6996, or by e-mail, edom@bentonrea.com and you will be added to the list.



The prayer chain will use either the phone or e-mail to pass a prayer request. So if you don't have e-mail the message will be phoned to you.

If you have a prayer request that you would like to have on the prayer chain contact Bo Bryan, Peggy Edom or Pam Serrano.

CARING FOR SOMEONE WITH MEMORY LOSS?

Family Caregiver Support Groups provide a consistent and caring place for caregivers to learn, share, and gain emotional support from others who are also on a unique journey of providing care to a person with dementia. Meetings are free and open to all care partners, family members, and friends of individuals with dementia. Support groups are led by trained volunteers who receive ongoing technical support and training. A group meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 10:30 AM to Noon at the Goldendale Senior Center. Contact group facilitator Virginia Falter or Jackie Canoy at 509-773-3757.

Men's Group--YES!!



The Men's group will be meeting on Saturday morning, February 6th, at 8 AM. We'll start off with some coffee, cocoa, and doughnuts (yum!) and some fellowship time as we prepare to work on some projects around the church. When the time is right (i.e., in man-time), we will disperse to our work. All men, of any age, are invited to join us.

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." Charles Wesley

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Prosser UMW Unit Meeting February 3rd at Noon

February 3, 2010, at noon in the Friendship Room
Program – The Love of God by Bo Bryan
Hostesses – Pam Serrano & Peggy Edom

UMW Reading Program

Take a few moments to look at the new selections available for the Reading Program. Several new books have been added to the table in the Narthex. A charming children's book by Kate DiCamillo called Great Joy is standing at the top of the table. This book is a touching Christmas story about sharing that is compelling at any season. The period illustrations evoke a traditional holiday; lovely for any of us to pick up and enjoy.

Another new book is Send Me: The Story of Salkehatchio Summer Service. This book is a series of observations, stories, poems, songs, reflections of mission service to the poor communities along the Southeastern sea coast. They are often amusing, personal, and thought provoking from both sides of the experiences. The area itself is very interesting and it is a window into a part of the U.S. that most of us have not seen. This is a great read for anyone interested in a mission trip and gives valuable insight into what to expect from others and prepares you to understand your personal reactions to circumstances that often far different than your own.

The current conference selection is They Take Our Jobs from the Social Action category, an excellent book about immigration which I strongly recommend. The next book will be Caring For Mother: A Daughter's Long Goodbye by Virginia Stem Owens from Nurturing for Community.

UMW ASSEMBLY April 30th – May 2nd 2010 St. Louis, Missouri

It's not too early to register. The earlier you register the more time you have to apply for scholarships to help pay for the trip. There are local, district, conference, and Endowment fund scholarships available. How could you think of missing out on the opportunity to learn about today's pressing issues from national leaders? These are real women with real faith and real world encouragement. If you would like more information about the UMW Assembly, contact Pam Serrano, 788-0728.



WANT TO GO ON A MISSION TRIP?



The youth are looking at the possibility of going on mission trips the next two summers and need adults who can go with them. They will be doing the fundraising and will be involved in the planning of it as well. If you have always wanted to go work for a week on a mission project, please contact Bo and let him know. It could be the best experience of your life . . . or it could just be really fun and fulfilling!

FOOD BAGGING FEBRUARY 15, 2010

A reminder that Monday, February 15th, is our turn to bag food at Jubilee Food bank. Come out at 9:30 AM. to the food bank at 1429 Stacey to help break down 50 lb. bags into smaller amounts to be handed out to families in our community.

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." Charles Wesley

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR 2010

The scholarship committee of PUMC is happy to announce that they have \$1,000 available this year for post-secondary scholarships. Graduating high school seniors and those already attending college or trade school may apply. Applications are available in the church office, and need to be completed and returned by March 31st. Applicants will be evaluated by their participation in The United Methodist Church, past and current participation in school activities, academic grade-point average, and service to their community. The scholarship award will be announced by May 1st, and payment made to your educational institution by the beginning of the fall quarter/semester. Contact the church office for more information.

THIRD SUNDAY POTLUCK

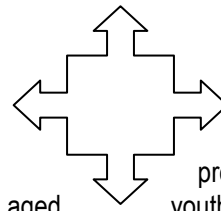
This month our third Sunday potluck, which is usually dedicated to our youth program, will be slightly different. We will still have a Soup/Salad potluck after church on February 21st, and all those attending church that week are still invited to bring a soup or salad to share. This month, however, the proceeds from our donation basket will be going to support United Methodist young adult ministries at the University of Washington and Washington State University. Campus ministries are being hit by cut-backs in educational funding too, so lets step up and help our young adults. Thanks!

MORE POTLUCK!!!!

Spend some time after church on February 7th enjoying some tasty treats and enjoyable company. Bring a dish to share if you wish!



MEETING AT THE CROSSROADS



Crossroads is our Sunday school program for 2nd grade through high school aged youth. It meets during the worship service, beginning after the youth time in the service. Each week we look at scriptures and Bible stories through various mediums, including drama, crafts, movies, maps, and other fun activities. If you wish to help with cooking, crafts, etc, please see the signup sheet on the table in the foyer. We appreciate your help! Please contact Christine or Scott Cromar at ccromar@embarqmail.com or 786-4622, if you have any questions, comments or want to dedicate some of your talents and time to the Prosser UMC Crossroads program.

PUMC FINANCIAL REPORT

December Income	\$10,093
Year-to Date Income	\$123,284
December Expenses	\$15,331
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$119,407
Difference for the Month	\$(5,238)
Difference Year-to-Date.....	\$3,877

THANKS!

Your generous contributions in November and December made it possible for us to end 2009 with all bills and apportionments paid and with some money in the bank with which to start 2010. Your commitment to the ministry of PUMC, amongst ourselves and to the world, is truly wonderful! Thank you!

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." Charles Wesley