

The Friendly Caller

May 2021

The Newsletter of Chehalis United Methodist Church

Pastor – Karla Fredericksen

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[Facebook.com/Chehalis United Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/ChehalisUnitedMethodistChurch)

Church Office Hours: Tue, Wed, Thu 10:00 AM—1:00 PM

Dates to Remember

WEEKLY:

Sundays WORSHIP
By 9 am. [online at http://chehalisumc.org](http://chehalisumc.org)
10:00 "Worship Watchers" group
11:00 Outdoor Service (Parking Lot)

Tuesdays Pastor Karla available for appointments in office ("Coffee Hour" cancelled indefinitely.)

Wednesdays Bible Study: "Acts" 6:30-7:30:30 via Zoom
<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/93573921173>

THIS MONTH:

May 2 **Vespers** 7:00 pm Evening Prayer with Communion <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/92992582756>
May 3 **Personnel Committee** 6:30 pm
May 6 **National Day of Prayer**
May 9 **Mother's Day**
May 13 **Ascension Day**
May 22 Brunch Casserole taken to Gospel Mission
May 23 **Pentecost Sunday**
May 27 **Property & Finance**, 6:00 PM
May 30 **Peace with Justice Sunday**

Looking Forward

May 31 *Memorial Day*
June 19 Juneteenth
June 20 Fathers' Day, First Day of Summer

Welcome back, Steve!

Starting on May 2, Steve O'Connor will be back with us, with **live worship music** at the 11:00 worship service (outdoors).

Steve was our choir accompanist for a year, before moving into another full-time job. Then, came a pandemic, and our choir director/worship accompanist, Marilyn, retired. Now Steve is retiring the FT job, and we've rehired him as our main musician!

He says he's excited to be back with a congregation he came to love! He brings to us talents on keyboards (piano, organ, etc.), guitar, voice, and possibly at times a little brass. We are so happy that he is available and back with us! *Praise God!*

Volunteers needed!

It's been a year of challenges both personally, and in our church. Our church family has been separated and isolated from each other and we are struggling to hold our family together. God is working in each of our lives and there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

The Personnel Committee is very optimistic about our future as a church. We have hired Steve O'Connor to provide live music. We have a new pastor and his family coming in July. We are not able, however, because of financial issues, to fill all of our paid staff positions at this time. We do however have a need for child care during the church service when we begin indoor worship. We are asking for volunteers to help with this need. If you feel called and are willing to help or want more information, please let Kathy Westergard know (360) 915-3390. Commitment is minimal with enough volunteers. Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve.

From the Pastor's Desk

*"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.
Behold, I am doing a new thing now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."
(Isaiah 43:18-19)*



God is always looking to do a new thing with us – to help redeem humankind and move this world in a new, more positive direction.

Often, I think we get stuck in believing that the last act of creation and redemption happened with Jesus' appearance on earth and his death. But, God's efforts to lure us into a positive direction did not end in first century Palestine. God today continues to work *through us* to achieve HOPE in this world.

We know, as the disciples most certainly did, how many times we have disappointed God. We betray and abandon God on a regular basis by our choices, and our actions (or inactions). And the world sometimes seems to conspire to keep us from doing what is most pleasing to God.

BUT, no matter how much we disappoint God, other people and even ourselves, we always have the opportunity to make things right – to repent – to do that 180-degree turnaround, if needed. For "with God, all things are possible" (Mark 10:27). God can use each of us to *make this a better world* and so breathes hope into the darkest corners of our existence to help make the *new thing* happen.

The most amazing thing about Easter, is that the GRACE and HOPE that it brings. God is always capable of resurrection, of "doing a new thing," helping us forget a painful past, and make for us "rivers in the desert" of our souls.

We celebrate Pentecost Sunday this year on May 23rd. A new thing happens that day, for sure! The coming of the Holy Spirit helps us turn the corner again into "something new!" With God on our side and living and breathing in our very bodies and souls, we can do many new things. As this pandemic comes to a very *longed for* end, we will be back to worship indoors soon. And we can celebrate being together in new ways, not just how it was before! Come and see what God is creating for *now* and into the future for worship!

So many new things happening: **New ways of worship, new music leader** starting May 2, **new Pastor** coming in July! Celebrate resurrection. **Happy Easter!** (The season lasts for 7 weeks.) Celebrate the indwelling Holy Spirit. **Happy Pentecost!**

Hoping to see you in worship every Sunday at 11 AM! (And on May 2, at 7 PM on zoom for the Vespers/communion.)

*In the love of God,
Pastor Karla*

Prayer Chain Information

If you would like to give and receive the power of prayer, join the prayer chain by emailing Sandy Cowart, sandycowart77@gmail.com or calling her at 360-999-9602.

Methodist Women's Fellowship

Monica Ferguson's special MWF calling is the **Students In Need project** and she is reaching out for our help to replenish her stock of supplies. She will do the shopping (and wow, does she know how to get the bargains!) for socks, underwear, Kleenex, and feminine hygiene products.

During this time of COVID, she has added hand sanitizer to her list. Aware that things can happen at school requiring a change in pants, she keeps a stock of gently used sweat pants on hand in all sizes.

Your donation for this project should be noted: MWF-students.

Box Tops for Education

Please don't forget about Box Tops for Education. We are approaching a time when we can physically return to our building and continue Sunday School for what we hope is a growing number. There are hundreds of products that qualify for Box Tops rewards and **every one is worth 10 cents**.

The process to receive those rewards has changed and that may discourage some of you. Instead of clipping, it now requires that an app be downloaded to your smart phone and your store receipt scanned to the program within 14 days of purchase.

This process is not for everybody, especially if you don't use a smart phone! To make it easy, **the church office can do it for you**...all you need to do is put your sales receipts in the outdoor drop box (located on the right side of the parking lot door) or drop by during office hours.

Besides the normal grocery items (Nestle, Nature Valley, a variety of cereals, Pillsbury, and Yoplait) there are other products such as Lysol, Ziploc, Scott, Reynolds, Paper Mate pens, Annie's organic foods, and more.

From our members



May

Mark Fredericksen	2
Jim Hill	3
Kathy Green	5
Larry Durham	7
Kathy Jane Kelley	7
Pat Brooks	11
Anita Hackett	13
Maureen Baker	16
Colette Van Ornum	27

Church Family:

Finally, after over a year of not feeling like I was in church, I attended the Sunday service outside in the parking lot. It was a beautiful day and some of our members were in attendance and I was so happy to be "in church" once again. I encourage you to attend our Sunday worship outside or even in the *Watchers Group* that is in the parlor at 10 a.m.

It's been a long time coming but the Lord is watching over us and I feel like it's time to join together for worship. Hope to see you folks on Sunday! Rain or shine, we can sit in our cars or use an umbrella if it's raining. Happy Days ahead!

Barb Perry

June

Matthew Durham	1
Debbie Campbell	8
Bob Knapp	9
Harlow Martinson	9
Monica Ferguson	21
Jean Long	23

In Appreciation

Thanks to Kathy Westergard and Monica Ferguson for baking and delivering the Saturday, April 24th Gospel Mission brunch food and casseroles.

The Missions & Outreach committee faithfully delivers brunch to the Gospel Mission on the fourth Saturday of each month. Between 45 & 60 people attend that brunch.

Sexual Assault Awareness

Part of the negative aspects of the pandemic has been the increase in sexual assault and domestic violence cases. Cascade Community Health Care has asked that we communicate to our members that Hope Alliance, their non-profit agency for Lewis County, is there to support survivors. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual assault or domestic violence, please reach out to them:

Call 24/7: 360-748-6601

Peer Support Specialist, Jonquil: 360-330-9044

National Sexual Assault Hotline: 800-656-4673

ACTS Bible Study: Wednesdays, 6:30 PM

“**Acts**” is the new Bible Study that began April 21st, but its never too late to join in! This is the study of the entire Book of Acts, beginning with the mission to the world and ending with Paul's journey to Rome. Some of the major ideas explored are: a Gospel that cannot be contained, divine initiative and human responsibility, the subtle work of the Holy Spirit, what holds us together, and the plight of theology in a cynical world. We are meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm on zoom.

If you want to attend, but don't have internet or a good connection at home, Mary Dahlstrom will meet you at church and she'll Zoom to everyone else from there. Please let her know if you want to be there. She'll stay home otherwise.

Here is the zoom link to use to join the BIBLE STUDY on an internet enabled device or computer – <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/93573921173> – or (for sound only) Dial on any regular phone (landline) +1 253 215 8782 (Tacoma), then enter when prompted: Meeting ID: 935 7392 1173

When can we go to INDOOR Worship?

Answer: Once we have come to a time when we've reached the **2.1 Stage/Phase** of re-opening the building! – that is after 3 weeks of continuously being in the yellow or green zone. At that point you'll receive notices on Thursday as to whether we'll be able to have worship (up to 25 persons each service) **inside the building!**

The website to check for color zone of the pandemic that is referred to and pictured here is at this link: [Covidactnow.org/us/washington-wa/county/lewis-county/?s=1758679](https://covidactnow.org/us/washington-wa/county/lewis-county/?s=1758679). When reaching this site, scrolling down gives information and graphs about how our County is doing! If we get in, *and stay in*, the green or yellow zone, that's GOOD for getting back to worship in person! (Green is best!)



New event-going and mask-wearing guidelines tell us that large mixed-groups (mix of both vaccinated and not vaccinated) meeting indoors is ill-advised. Fully vaccinated persons can probably safely participate in more venues, even they ought to be wearing masks when in indoor settings with more than just a small group.

We do NOT want to have a segregated/*exclusive* worship service - separating the vaccinated from the unvaccinated. We will not be checking vaccination cards! For now, then, let's wait until more people are vaccinated, and the numbers of new cases subside, making it safer for *everyone*.

Outdoor worship is still worship! The church is not a building, the church is a people. Come for outdoor worship **every Sunday at 11:00** until further notice. For those who have more difficulty on folding chairs, or in the outdoor setting, an **online service can still be viewed** at <http://chehalisumc.org> every Sunday, either *at home*, or in a “*watchers group*” in the Parlor at the church (for this group reservations are needed to control the numbers in attendance at any one time).

Bishop Stanovsky has promised newest guidelines around May 5.

FIND THE HIGHLIGHTED WORDS

PENTECOST
BELIEVERS
WIND
JERUSALEM

HOLY SPIRIT
GALILEANS
LANGUAGES
GENTILES

NOISE
CROWD
EXCITED

ROME
JEWS

A	L	Z	S	P	O	D	W	O	R	C	W
K	N	U	R	D	T	Q	R	G	B	U	T
F	J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	S	I
G	O	U	H	I	O	U	L	R	K	W	R
A	N	J	E	X	C	I	T	E	D	E	I
L	F	R	Y	W	E	S	I	O	N	C	P
I	I	N	O	V	T	G	C	V	I	Z	S
L	R	K	E	M	N	U	J	E	W	S	Y
E	E	R	G	G	E	N	T	Y	K	T	L
A	S	B	T	V	P	V	P	L	X	Q	O
N	S	E	G	A	U	G	N	A	L	E	H
S	G	E	N	T	I	L	E	S	W	O	J

—>> EACH WEEK <<—

Virtual Worship available online by 9 AM Sunday at <http://ChehalisUMC.org>

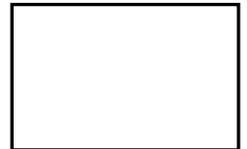
Watchers Group at 10 AM on Sundays

Outdoor Worship at 11 AM on Sundays

(If you are unable to attend any of these venues, ask for a hard copy of the sermon!)

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.— Bible Study (via zoom)

Chehalis United Methodist Church
PO Box 417
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

May 2021