

WASHOUGAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

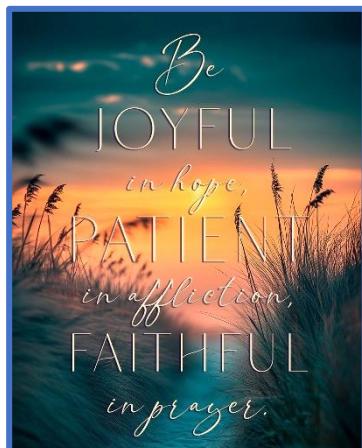


January 2026

Happy New Year

A bright, shiny new year,
Empty, neat, pristine,
Waiting, ready
For us to get it right.
Another chance
To love and forgive.

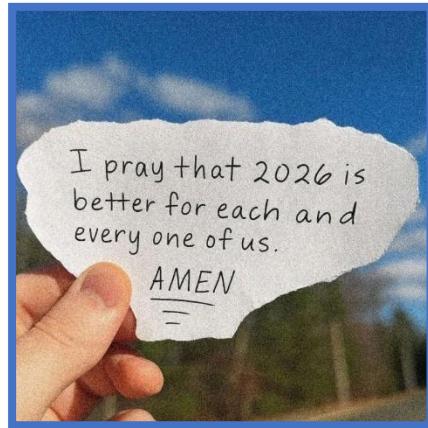
Another chance to make a real effort
To give more than we get.
Another chance
To make a difference.
A good new year.
A Happy New Year!



Be joyful in HOPE,
PATIENT in tribulation,
Be constant in PRAYER

Romans 12:12

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Pastor Leslie's Message

Dear Church,

There are two main ideas I see when it comes to turning the calendar page for a new year. The first is a nostalgic look back at year behind us. A popular social media trend right now is a short video that quickly flips through several photos while the soundbite is an announcer saying “And that’s a wrap on the 2025 season.” The second is a hearty “good riddance!” I see this one a lot as well. To be fair, I’ve used it. The years where everything falls apart or the pain came crashing in like waves, unable to be tamed. Some years you get to celebrate all the things that were accomplished. Some years you get to celebrate that you simply got through.

The more complicated truth is that years are always a mixture of both. I had lots of hard moments in 2025, but I had wonderful ones as well! Even inside singular days there was both struggle and triumph. When I was young, the start of a new year felt like a clean start. This was the year everything would be different. But humans don’t work that way and we never have. One of my favorite (and least favorite) sayings is attributed to Confucius. “Wherever you go, there you are.” In some ways it’s comforting, if you like who you are. In other ways, it is aggravating beyond measure. What do you mean I can’t just wake up and be a completely different person?! One step at a time is so slow!

For Methodists, salvation is a journey of your entire life. We call this journey “sanctification.” The goal of sanctification is to become so full of God’s love that you stop sinning, known as “Christian Perfection.” This doesn’t mean you stop making mistakes, even Jesus made mistakes. It means that you stop sinning. For example, answering a question wrong on a test is not sinful, it is simply a mistake. However, angrily deciding it is your friend’s fault for keeping you out later than expected, so you didn’t have enough time to study, “what a jerk,” is sinful. On this salvation journey of learning to fully love both God and others, we often take two steps forward and one step back. Some of us step off the path completely for decades at a time. Regardless of where we are, we are surrounded by God’s love of grace. It is in front of us – leading the way, behind us – protecting us if we fall back, and surrounding us on all sides – even if we veer off track completely. Up in the mountains and down in the valleys. Furthermore, we also walk with each other.

My prayer for us is that 2026 would be a year that holds more joy than tears, more triumph than failure, and more growth than stagnation. But even if it doesn’t – I am convinced that through it all, God will be with us and we will be with each other. I don’t know what the next year holds, but I know I don’t have to do it alone and neither do you.

Pastor Leslie's Message

Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night',
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

Psalm 139:7-12 (NRSV)

I am praying for you in this new year! The winter can be a dark time, both literally and emotionally. Please reach out if you are in need of prayer, support, or simply someone to drink a cup of coffee with and chat.



It is a joy and honor to be your pastor,

Pastor Leslie

wumcpastorleslie@gmail.com
626.340.5638

Church Council Chair Column

Happy New Year to All from your Church Council!
2026

For you who may be unfamiliar with how the “business side” of your church is managed, it is the Church Council that makes many of the decisions at monthly meetings. It functions in a similar way to a board of directors. Currently, these are the WUMC Church Council Members:



Rev. Leslie Kollreno ~ Pastor
Judy Barber ~ Social Justice Contact
Gene Cox ~ Endowment Chair
Barb Crozier ~ Church Council Chair
Tom Crozier ~ Treasurer
Gladys Dole ~ Memorials Chair
Cleta Gilman ~ SPRC Chair
Sandy Havrelly ~ Congregational Chair
Kathy McKinley ~ Worship Chair
LouAnn Wittler ~ Financial Secretary
Joe Wittler ~ Trustees Chair

The Final 2025 Holiday Bazaar Report
This year's bazaar was very successful again!



Cash Sales: \$8,166.05 ~ Credit Card Sales: \$10,910.50 (Less Square Fees < \$317.63>)
Donations: \$777.63 (includes \$477.63 for signs)

TOTAL SALES AND DONATIONS **\$19,536.55**

Replenish Expense Account: \$1,294.18

TOTAL SALES AFTER EXPENSES **\$18,242.37**
10% donated to The Interfaith Treasure House **\$ 2,000.00**

Church Council Chair Column



Our preliminary 2026 Pledge Report from November shows 23 pledges received for a total of \$76,152.12.

The details:

- ♥ No new pledges.
- ♥ Pledge increases equal \$3,200.
- ♥ Pledge decreases equal \$1,200.
- ♥ Six (6) Pledge losses from 2025 equaling \$22,260 (*sadly, including one death*).

Recap of Recent Church Council Decisions

The purchase of a keyboard for use by our new Music Director, Janet Orjala, which will enhance our musical experience, including a pipe organ option and the ability to easily transpose music into musical keys that are more suitable for our choir was approved.

Janet's proposal to invite a special choir, the "Joyful Noise Singers," to perform alongside our own Joyful Noise Ensemble at our Christmas Eve service was joyfully approved.

Trustee Chair Joe Wittler is looking into possibilities to repair the deteriorating "Love One Another" sign on the west side of our building.

The Sunnyside School Co-op request to rent the old Sunday School Room/Bazaar Bakery Room, as well as the kitchen, dining area and restrooms for the remainder of the school year, beginning November 10 while they await the finalization of The Outpost building was approved. Their monthly payment will be \$600, to be split between the Trustee Fund, which actively addresses concerns regarding our building condition, and the General Fund. All current church uses of the basement area should not be affected, and there will be no tax consequences because the school is a registered non-profit. A formal rental agreement has been signed.

The Christmas Eve collection will be designated for a new "Amazing Kids" Project. This project will give a \$10 Jack in the Box gift card to each child between the ages of 1 and 17 living in the subsidized Gateway Garden and Towne Square complexes in Washougal during March, with a greeting card from WUMC simply saying that every child is special and amazing.

Giving ~ November 2025

INCOME STATEMENT FOR MONTH ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2025

INCOME

General Fund Giving	\$ 9,816.16
Endowment Transfer - Operations	895.98
Ministerial Housing Transfer	2,000.00
Bazaar Receipts & Donations	19,285.05
Sunnyside School Rental Income	600.00
Keyboard Donations	500.00
The Treasure House	100.00
<u>Checking Interest</u>	1.04
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>\$ 33,198.23</u>

EXPENSES

Personnel	\$10,617.97
Apportionments	1,590.00
Bazaar Expenses & Donations	3,611.81
Gas Card Donations	600.00
Keyboard Donation	500.00
The Treasure House	100.00
<u>Other Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 1,764.20</u>
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$18,783.98</u>

NET PROFIT \$14,414.25

2025 FINAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR SALES REPORT

(as of December 19, 2025)

TOTAL SALES & DONATIONS	\$20,171.81
Expenses	(\$1,611.81)
The Interfaith Treasure House Donation	<u>(\$2,000.00)</u>
NET PROFIT	<u>\$16,560.00</u>

Happy Birthday



Cathy Cox

January 20

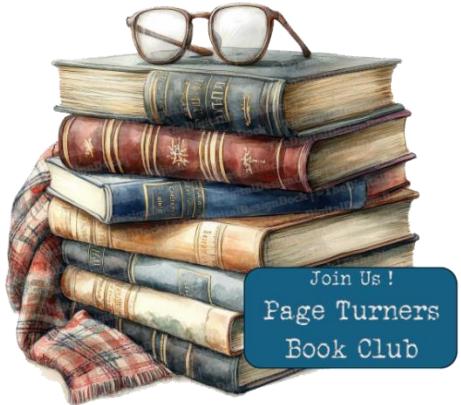
Happy Anniversary



Tom & Barb Crozier
January 31, 1970



Page Turners



The Washougal United Methodist Church Book Club, **Page Turners**, meets on the **THIRD TUESDAY** of each month at **NOON** at **Leonardo's Pizzeria** in Vancouver.

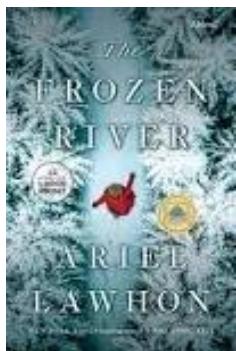
Judy Whetzel – 360.600.9796 - maui.born62@gmail.com leads the group and welcomes everyone to join the Club. Why? Because it's a wonderful way to establish a sense of community with other readers, discussing the wider themes and character arcs of a story can give you a new perspective on reading and actually allows you to gain more out of books than you did before.

And if that's not enough to convince you, here are seven (7) more reasons to contemplate:

1. It forces you to actually read
2. You can make new friends — not just the fictional ones, either
3. It gives you a different perspective
4. It broadens your horizons
5. It improves your own writing skills
6. They usually involve snacks
7. It gives you a break amidst the madness of life

January ~ The Frozen River

by Ariel Lawton



The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon is a historical mystery novel set in 1789 Maine, centered on midwife Martha Ballard as she investigates the death of a man pulled from the frozen Kennebec River, uncovering a scandal that involves a respected town gentleman accused of rape. As Martha, using her professional skills and detailed diary, seeks the truth amidst a prejudiced and patriarchal community, she must navigate the complexities of a sparse early justice system and decide where her loyalties lie.

Molly 's Celebration of Life

The Washougal Community to Celebrate the Life of Beloved Washougal Leader Molly Coston

The Washougal community continues to grieve the loss of Molly Coston, a beloved leader who was deeply involved in many aspects of Washougal life.



A Celebration of Life will be held on
SATURDAY ~ JANUARY 24, 2026 ~
11:00 am
WASHBURN CENTER
Washougal High School

The online obituary for Molly is now available and can be viewed and shared here:
<https://everloved.com/life-of/molly-coston/obituary/>

To honor Molly in a lasting way, the Mayor has appointed an ad hoc committee to develop a recommendation for how the City can recognize her contributions. The committee members are:

- Councilmember Ernie Suggs, Chair
- Mayor Pro Tem David Fritz
- Councilmember Wagner
- Chuck Carpenter (Washougal Arts and Culture Alliance Board Member)
- Barb Crozier (dear friend and member of the Camas-Washougal Rotary Club)

New Members Class

Are you interested in becoming a member of our church? Ever wondered what United Methodists believe? Already a member and want a refresher on what that even means?



A New (and Current) Members Class
is being offered after Coffee Hour on

Sunday ~ January 18 ~ 11:45 (ish)
The Allen Room

Any questions?

Contact Pastor Leslie at wumcpastorleslie@gmail.com or text
or call 626.340.5638

New 2026 Resolutions

The TOP 2026 Resolutions Focus is on

- ✓ Sustainable Health
- ✓ Financial Wellness
- ✓ Digital Detoxes
- ✓ Mental Well-Being

With popular goals including exercising more, saving money, reading, and learning new skills Key, achievable ideas for 2026 involve small, consistent changes rather than large, restrictive overhauls to promote long-term success and improved quality of life.

Health and Wellness

- **Move for Joy:** Exercise to feel good rather than solely for weight loss, such as taking the stairs, daily walks, or Zumba.
- **Prioritize Sleep:** Establish a consistent sleep schedule to improve quality of rest.
- **Mindful Nutrition:** Drink more water and reduce sugar/processed food intake.

Mental Health and Growth

- **Digital Detox:** Turn off the phone one night a week or limit social media to 30 minutes daily.
- **Daily Gratitude:** Write down one thing you are grateful for every morning or night.
- **Journaling:** Spend 3 minutes each evening journaling.
- **Set Boundaries:** Learn to say "no" without guilt to protect your energy.

Financial and Career Goals

- **Automate Savings:** Put a portion of each paycheck into savings or investments and set bills to autopay.
- **Smart Spending:** Avoid unnecessary purchases and pay off credit cards monthly.
- **Skill Development:** Take an online course, learn a new language, or find a mentor.

Lifestyle and Habits

- **Read More:** Aim to read one book per month.
- **Clear Clutter:** Declutter your home room-by-room or clean out your car.
- **Sustainable Choices:** Reduce waste and buy fewer plastic items.
- **Acts of Kindness:** Perform random acts of kindness, such as giving one compliment per day.

Achievable "Micro" Habits for 2026

- Read one page of a book daily.
- Meditate for 1 minute daily.
- Call a friend instead of texting.
- Listen to one inspiring podcast episode weekly.

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Office Closed 1	2	3
				New Years Day		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship - 10	Men's Coffee 9 – Allen Room					
Coffee Hour 11	Dress A Girl 10-2 Cleta's Shoppe					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship - 10	Men's Coffee 9 – Allen Room			Church Council 3 Fellowship Hall		Removal of the Greens Contact Linda 503.703.6356
Coffee Hour 11	Dress A Girl 10-2 Cleta's Shoppe					
18	OFFICE CLOSED 19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship - 10		Page Turners Noon Happy Birthday Cathy Cox				Molly Coston Celebration of Life Washburn Center 11:00 am
Potluck - 11						
New Members Class – 11:45 Allen Room						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Worship - 10	Men's Coffee 9 – Allen Room					Tom & Barb Crozier 55 th Year Anniversary
Coffee Hour 11	Dress A Girl 10-2 Cleta's Shoppe					

Sunday ~ January 18th

Human Relations Day calls United Methodists to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with one another.

