

November 2025

Bountiful Blessings

Hiking *Falling leaves*
crisp air - chilly nights

PUMPKIN Cinnamon

PATCH PIE Apples

Gathering with family & friends

GRATEFUL HEARTS

Hot Apple Cider

CANDY Thanksgiving

CORN FOOTBALL acorns

Autumn Caramel

In everything give thanks.

1 Thess. 5:18



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Pastor Leslie's Message

Dear Church,

I like being informed. The first time I got invested in politics was the Clinton vs. Dole election of 1996. I was in 2nd grade. Bless my mom's attempts to explain party platforms to her 7-year-old. I was the kid checking out literal textbooks from the library. Ken Burns introduced me to binge watching. A 9-hour documentary on the Civil War? Sign me up! Let none of this confuse you, I was a regular child who also loved cartoons and make-believe as much as the next kid. But ever since I can remember, information felt like a security blanket. As long as I could know enough, learn enough, have enough facts and data, I would be able to think myself out any problem.

Except that isn't how the world works. I've learned this lesson over and over in my life, but the times I have felt this most acutely has been while pregnant. I have researched pregnancy so much, I could probably write my own version of What to Expect While Expecting: Tales of a Google Search History. Here is the answer to almost everything terrible: there is no reason that explains why and there is nothing you can do to either cause or prevent this. Miscarriage, stillbirth, chromosomal abnormalities, bodily defects, placenta placement, gestational diabetes, birth weight, birth date, birth position, genetic traits, even a perfect outcome. There are a million things that are uncontrollable while growing a person. Yes, I can and should eat all the right things, sleep the right way, exercise, stay healthy, and yet - there are so many things that can happen at any moment and zero of them are in my control. There are people who have no prenatal care and deliver perfectly healthy babies. I have a friend who did everything right and her baby was born sleeping. The doctors told her there was no explanation for her baby's death, sometimes these things just happen.

There are so many things in our world that are simply out of our control. Author Sarah Stewart Holland calls it the Chaos Lottery – sometimes your number gets called. It is a concept that theologians have struggled with for all time. What do we do when we believe that God is in control and yet the world is out of control? I hate to disappoint anyone, but I don't have the answer for you.

Here is where I have landed: I don't know and I don't like it, but I'm called to be in it. I don't know why bad things happen and I don't know why good things happen, but I do believe that God calls us to build a new way of living. It doesn't make sense why I get to throw away uneaten food while innocent children starve to death, and it is deeply unfair. But as long as there are hungry people while I am full, I add extra to my Costco cart to give away. Not because I am a wonderful person, but because my faith tells me to "Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back." (Luke 6:30). It makes no sense to me why some prayers are answered with a "yes" and others get a "no." But I continue to light prayer candles as I whisper into the silence because my faith tells me to "pray without ceasing". (1 Thess. 5:16). I don't know why I get to celebrate, but my faith tells me to do so with gratitude (Phil. 4:4). When tragedy occurs, either to me or others, I will simply sit in the utter unfairness of the tragedy instead of trying to explain it away or move past the pain (Romans 12:15). God does not promise to take away suffering, God promises to be with us in that suffering (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). I don't know why, it isn't the way I would do it, but I do believe it to be true.

Pastor Leslie's Message

As we head into the holiday season in the midst of immense suffering in our world, know that you are allowed to feel without knowing why. The holidays are hard for so many for so many reasons. Grief, stress, loneliness, hopelessness, regret, and anger are often amplified during this time of the year. You are allowed to feel and express those emotions. But there are other feelings as well. Hope, joy, love, nostalgia, expectation, and wonder are also amplified. You are allowed to feel and express these emotions as well. Some of them, all of them, wrapped up together in some kind of weird gift called life. Know that Jesus felt all these conflicting emotions as well. But here is the real gift – you don't have to do it alone. The gift of the Church is that God's intention for us is to never be alone in this life. Sometimes that brings conflicting emotions as well! Whatever this holiday season holds for you, my prayer is that you keep yourself in community. Invite yourself over or add an extra seat at your table. Be vulnerable in sharing your pain, and rejoice in joy together.

As always,
It is a joy and honor to be your pastor!

Pastor Leslie

You can always reach me by phone/text at 626-340-5638
email at wumcpastorleslie@gmail.com ~ church office at 360-835-3494



Holiday Bazaar 2025



Holiday BAZAAR 2025

WASHOUGAL
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

360.835.3494

Friday 📅 November 7 📅 4-7 pm
Saturday 📅 November 8 📅 9-3 pm

It's the Church right across the street from Washougal High School
With the big sign that reads "Love One Another"

Grab your family & friends and let's go shopping!



Our Famous
Hamburger Soup
Delicious Sandwiches, too

*Whole & By-the-Slice
Homemade Pies*



Creative Handmade Gifts

Heartfelt Quilts ~ Gnomes ~ Snowmen
Santas ~ Cross Body Bags ~ Jewelry
Kitchen Towels & Table Runners
Stocking Hats & Scarves
Doll Clothes ~ Girls Dresses

*Gift Baskets
& Quilt*



Raffle Ticket Drawings

NEW TO YOU

Nifty Thrifty Shop Vibes

VISA

MasterCard



So many Sweet Treats for
Your Sweet Tooth

Ten Percent (10%) of all proceeds go straight to our Interfaith Treasure House Food Bank

Annual Pledge Campaign

What is a Pledge?

A pledge is your financial commitment for the next year to support the mission and ministry of the church. Pledging is a spiritual discipline that God uses to grow us into generous followers of Jesus. Deuteronomy 16:17 tells us “Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which he has given you.” Adjustments can be made to your pledge if your circumstances change.

Ways to Give

- ✓ Cash or Check
- ✓ Electronic giving online at
washougalunitedmethodistchurch.org/give
- ✓ Giving of your time
- ✓ Giving of your talent

Questions?

Contact LouAnn Wittler, Financial Secretary
(360) 606-2833
joeandlouann@comcast.net

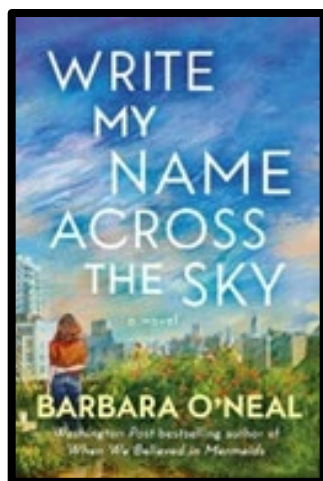


Page Turners

The Washougal United Methodist Church Book Club, **Hungry Page Turners Book Club**, meets on the **THIRD TUESDAY** of each month at **NOON** at **LEONARDO'S**.

Judy Whetzel 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.

Contact Judy at 360.835.5230 or maui.born62@gmail.com



November's Book

Write My Name Across the Sky

by Barbara O'Neal

The plot follows Lucy Cola as she returns to Earth after a transcendent experience in space, only to find herself losing touch with reality as her life unravels. Struggling to readjust to life on Earth, Lucy embarks on a dangerous emotional and psychological journey that tests her grip on sanity.

Birthdays

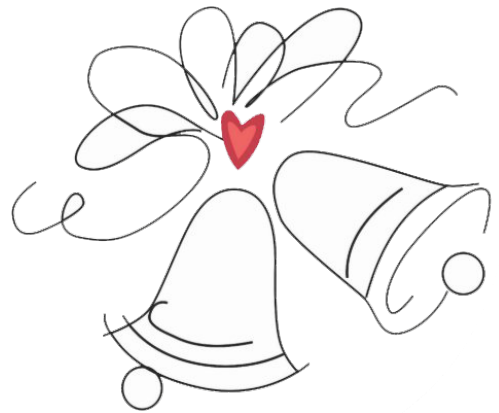


Shirlee Dedmore	November 01
Paula Wanska	November 04
Greg Hazen	November 11
Gene Cox	November 13
Mona Chisholm	November 16
Linda Lee Scharpf	November 22
Gus Havrelly	November 25

Anniversary



**Bob & Linn
Jacobs**



**November 25
1978**



Giving September 2025

INCOME

General Fund Giving	\$11,289.16
Endowment Transfer – Operations	895.98
Ministerial Housing Transfer	2,000.00
Donation	50.00
Lasana Kanneh Gift	592.00
Checking Interest	.73
TOTAL	<u>\$14,827.87</u>

EXPENSES

Personnel	\$10,275.26
Apportionments	1,501.02
Lasana Kanneh Gift	592.00
Other Expenses	4,117.74
TOTAL	<u>\$16,486.02</u>

NET DEFICIT

\$ 1,658.15

We invite you to continue to give according to your ability.

You may remit your Offerings to WUMC * PO Box 12 * Washougal, Washington 9867

Or

Online at our website * www.washougalunitedmethodistchurch.org

Or

Drop in the Offering Plate on Sunday Morning

If you have any questions, feel free to contact

LouAnn Wittler

Financial Secretary

joeandlouann@comcast.net ~ 360.606.2833



"A good steward understands money, not for the money, but for the possibilities".

We Compost

Say



to landfills

Let's make spooky season sustainable! 🎃 ♻️ 🎃

Give your Halloween pumpkins a second life. Instead of throwing them in the garbage and sending them to the landfill, compost them to reduce food waste and nourish the earth.

Here are some easy ways to compost pumpkins in Clark County:

- **Free Drop-Off:** We Compost Community Hubs are available to all Clark County residents. These hubs provide the community with a free and easy way to compost all food waste (not just pumpkins).
- **Curbside Compost:** In Clark County (except Camas and Washougal), pumpkins are accepted in @wasteconnectionsWA Yard Debris and Organics cart.
- **Backyard Compost:** If you have a home compost system, chop up pumpkins into smaller pieces and place into your compost pile or worm bin.

Remember to prep pumpkins for compost – this means that all candles, wax, glitter, paint and decorations should be removed. Tip for painted pumpkins: try washing off paint or peeling off with a vegetable peeler.



Compost your Halloween pumpkins!

Curbside:
Place pumpkins in your yard debris or organics cart

Drop-off:
All residents can drop off pumpkins, and all other food waste, for free at a We Compost Community Hub location:
clarkgreenneighbors.org/we-compost



Washougal High School

The WHS Green Team is a student-led organization at Washougal High School committed to environmental sustainability and education within the school and community.

The WHS Green Team is dedicated to promoting good stewardship and sustainability on the WHS campus. The courtyard replanting project will focus on making the school's courtyard into a more welcoming space that also provides educational opportunities about native ecosystems and supports local biodiversity.

“Nature calms us down, and even on the gloomy days, it will be a beautiful place to hang out during lunch,” said Kaylee Depoppe, Green Team Secretary. “We are doing this project with native plants to help reconnect Washougal with Washington,” said Green Team member, Zion Norton.

The plant sale will feature a variety of native plants from Nature's Haven plant nursery. The plans are suitable for local gardens and landscapes. Proceeds will directly fund the courtyard project, with the nursery keeping proceeds in an account students can use to purchase plans for the project.



Community members are invited to attend the plant sale, support a great cause, and learn more about the benefits of native plants.

Native American Heritage Month

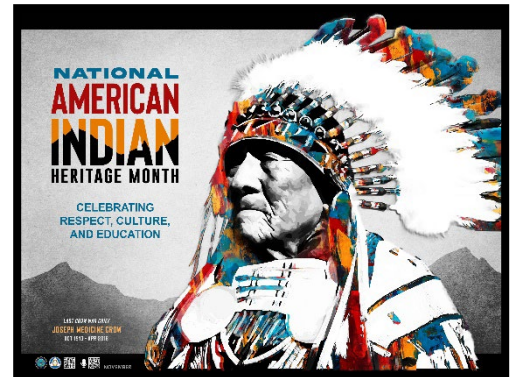
What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States, has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose ... November 1-30.

One of the very proponents of an American Indian Day was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y. He persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the "First Americans" and for three years they adopted such a day. In 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, formally approved a plan concerning American Indian Day. It directed its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to observe such a day. Coolidge issued a proclamation on September 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

The year before this proclamation was issued, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state to state seeking approval for a day to honor Indians. On December 14, 1915, he presented the endorsements of 24 state governments at the White House. There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

The first American Indian Day in a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916 by the governor of New York. Several states celebrate the fourth Friday in September. In Illinois, for example, legislators enacted such a day in 1919. Presently, several states have designated Columbus Day as Native American Day, but it continues to be a day we observe without any recognition as a national legal holiday.

In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including "Native American Heritage Month" and "National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month") have been issued each year since 1994.



Thanksgiving Holiday

The Church Offices will be closed November 26-28.



Hanging of The Greens



Saturday ❄ November 29 ❄ 9:00 am

Christmas is such a special time of year ... a time of celebration, family, friends, and the birth of our Lord.

You are ALL invited to join us as we prepare the House of our Lord to celebrate His birth. There are jobs for every skill level, so EVERYONE can help.

For more information about how you can participate,

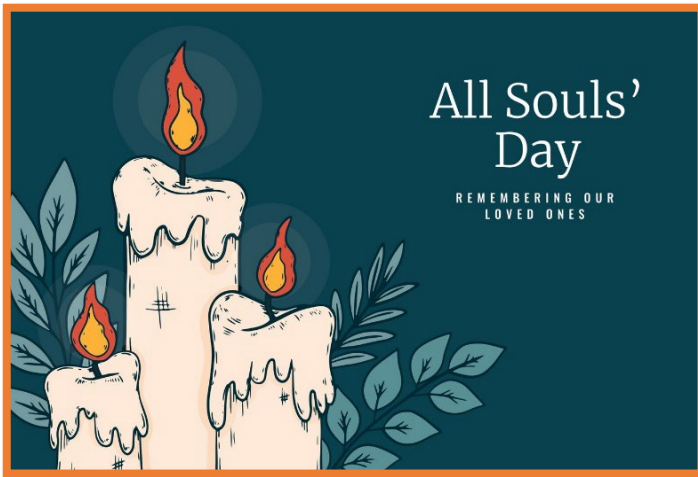
❄ Contact Linda Christensen ❄
503.703.6356

Daylight Savings Ends



Sunday
November 2nd
2:00 am

All Souls' Sunday



SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 2, 2025

To honor and give thanks for the saints in our lives – family or friends – who are now in the arms of our loving creator, we name them as part of our worship. On this day, we pray that all those who have died — our loved ones, and also those people around the world who we will never meet; through the mercy of God, will rest in peace.

Grant eternal rest, O Lord

Eric Montgomery Chisholm
Rahel Mae Faler
Thomas Jarrell
Mark Juenemann
Richard Charles 'Carl' Manriquez
Skyler Murphy

Timothy Neil Riley
Dale Steinke
Karen Steinke
Kathey Barber Saunders
Verna Smits
Shirley Jean Stevens

And all whose names are remembered by God

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 All Saints Day Happy BD Shirlee Dedmore
All Saints Day2	3	Election Day 4	5	6	7	8
Worship 10 Coffee Hour 11  Daylight Savings Ends WHS Green Team Plant Sale	Holiday Bazaar Prep	Holiday Bazaar Prep Happy BD Paula Wanska	Holiday Bazaar Prep	Holiday Bazaar Prep	HOLIDAY BAZAAR 4 – 7 PM World Community Day	HOLIDAY BAZAAR 9 – 3 PM
9	10	Veterans Day11	12	13	14	15
Worship 10 Coffee Hour 11	Office Closed 	Happy BD Greg Hazen		Happy BD Gene Cox World Kindness Day		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship 10 Potluck Sunday 11 Happy BD Mona ❤️	Men's Coffee 9 Allen Room	Page Turners 12 Leonardo's Church Council 3				Happy BD Linda Lee Scharpf
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship 10 Coffee Hour 11	Men's Coffee 9 Allen Room	Happy BD Gus Havrelly Bob & Linn Jacobs Anniversary				
30						
1st Sunday of Advent Worship 10 Coffee Hour 11	❤️ Community Outreach – Renting Space at WUMC ❤️ Six Child Home CO-OP – Monday-Thursday – 8:30 am to 2:30 pm Sunday School Room Beginning November 10 					

