



Manito United Methodist Church

Spokane, Washington

Building and Maintenance Report

Even with the snow outside, there are projects happening in the church. Before Christmas, Pam's office was repainted and recarpeted. The Staff Parish Committee asked the team to replace the carpet in the office because it was a trip hazard. After speaking with Pam, we decided to do a paint upgrade, also.

There are other projects in the church that need doing while the weather keeps us from working outside.

The next time Pastor Tiffany goes out of town, we are going to paint her office. We have the paint but could use willing hands and backs to help. Also, to control the heat in the summer, new blinds will be installed on the windows. The carpet in her office is in good shape and does not need any work.

We have several old faucets that need replacing. Some of the rooms in the Education Wing may be original and have outlived their time. There are 3-4 that need completely new faucets installed.

The bathrooms on the ECEAP floor have not been upgraded. The team is going to talk to the ECEAP leadership and see if they have any special needs or ideas. That could take place on a weekend or if they take a Spring Break.

Currently, with the rise in COVID hospitalizations and the closing of the church building to worship and visitors, these projects will be on hold. If your committee or group has concerns that you want addressed by the Building Maintenance Team, this is the time. The team has been looking into new handrails for the stairs leading to the Sanctuary. The current ones do not meet ADA standards. That will complete the work in that area.

With the winter weather bringing snow and ice, keeping the sidewalks and walkways clear is of the utmost importance. The Building Maintenance Team must find a group of volunteers to shovel the entrance walkways at the doors on 33rd, the Fellowship Hall, and the doors that face Sacajawea. If we cannot find the volunteers, the Church will have to hire the work out at a cost from our Church funds. If interested, please contact John Blunt.

When we hit spring weather, there are many outside projects that will need to be worked on. These projects include finishing the painting of the Sanctuary, cleaning up the flower beds, trimming the trees, planting the new pollinator garden, painting stripes in the parking lot, and general clean up. We should all be ready for some outdoor time by then.



Inside This Issue:

Letter from the Pastor2

Birthdays2

Thoughts From the SALT3

Mission Trip to Mexico3

Advent Season of Giving4

2022 Leadership5

Contact Information6

Financial Report6

A Message from Our Pastor

Hello Manito Church Family,

I have been thinking a lot about Galatians 6:9 recently. It says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (NIV).

I don't know about you, but I am weary. We have had to pivot, and then pivot, and then pivot some more over the last few years, and all of that pivoting can make it so easy for us to become weary. And when we become weary and exhausted, we can often start to choose to make easy decisions, because we are just too tired to make the right ones. But friends, we must not grow weary in well doing.

As our worshipping community has had to pivot yet again, I want us all to remind us all why we are doing what we are doing, so that weariness doesn't get us stuck in an unhealthy place. As people of faith, we are committed to following the greatest commandments, to love God and love our neighbor. Additionally as United Methodists, we have long practiced our faith through these Three General rules, Do no harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love with God. So, as we press pause on in-person worship, let us remember that we are not pressing pause on our faith, but instead putting our faith into action.

By heeding our Health District's request to limit larger gatherings, we are striving to do no harm, and to do good by loving our neighbors and the medical health professionals in our region who have been stretched thin.

Manito family, I want to encourage you to take steps to make sure you are taking good care of yourself during this difficult season. That way you won't grow weary of loving God and loving others.

Pray

Drink more water

Feed yourself good food

Find ways to safely engage in things that bring you joy

Practice gratitude

Be kind to your body, exercise, go for a walk, do some stretches

Because God always has work for us to do, so let's make sure we don't grow weary in well doing!

Peace,

Pastor Tiffany DeTienne



Birthday Season!

Cecilia Lauder	1/10
Wendy Budge	1/14
Chris Bafus	1/16
Tom Eberle	1/18
Amy Branson	1/20
Patti Herbey	1/23
Walter Sauer	2/4
Pat McNally	2/14
Allison Bafus	2/20
George Chinn	2/22
Sarah Kuney	2/23
Tedd Swanson	2/25

Thoughts from the SALT

Just when we thought things were taking a turn for the better with the COVID situation, and that maybe we could begin steps for even more of a return to “normal,” out pops this thing called “omicron,” the latest in the string of COVID variants. It turns out that omicron is the most contagious variant yet, and spreads like wildfire. While it seems to be less likely to cause serious illness or death than the previous variants, you are much more likely to catch it. Even fully vaccinated and boosted people are catching it, masks or no masks, and while they are predominantly getting very mild cases, or have no symptoms at all, they still catch it. Unvaccinated people are really catching it and are most of the ones showing up in the hospitals and filling up the ICU beds. And occasionally dying.

This situation has caused us to not only pause our plans to further return towards a normal worship service, but to pause where we are now. We in the SALT decided that, given the sudden recent unbelievable spike in cases and hospitalizations, it was only prudent to pause our current in-service worship service and, for the time being, return to online worship only. Even though virtually everybody attending the in-person service on Sunday mornings has been fully vaccinated and boosted, and all wear masks, and we are at a limited capacity for attendance, we see that this is not enough to prevent infection. So, best to not take the chance of exposing others to somebody who may have it, and may not even know they have it.

In looking at how to tell when things have calmed down enough that it is safe to resume at least a limited capacity attendance, we decided to focus on the level of hospitalizations, particularly the ICU bed availability. Currently, at last report, ICU bed usage in the region is 100%, i.e., there are no more beds available. General bed usage is about 97%, bad enough, but having filled all of the ICU beds is pretty worrisome. This means, for whatever reason one may need an ICU bed, COVID or otherwise, there aren't any. We will keep tabs on the ICU status, and use this as a metric to guide us in our plans to resume. When ICU utilization drops to something like 90% or below, and particularly if it is in a downward trend, we can re-evaluate. Until then, though, we are being extra cautious.

Mission Trip to Mexico

Last fall our church raised enough funds to build two homes in the small Mexican community of Tlancualpican. A relationship between Manito United Methodist Church and this community began when five of our members — Jamie Potter, Kim Potter, Polly Thosath, Pat Nash, and Liz West — volunteered there in Fall 2019. Construction will begin on the first home this month; the second home will follow. We are building a new missions team to travel to Tlancualpican to work on that construction (as well as other projects in that community) in the next year. At this point, we are hoping to go some time between November 2022 and February 2023. It says something for the experience that at least three of the original team members plan to return. Please contact Liz West for an informational brochure or ask questions. We need to gather potential names as soon as possible in order to pick dates for our travel. Expressing interest does not commit you!

Advent Season Of Giving

This Advent, the people of the church were offered four ways to participate in a Season of Giving. The response was overwhelming. Manito reached out to members of the community who would not have had much of a Christmas.

HEART Gift Cards

Manito provided \$810 in gift cards and donations to the HEART program. The Spokane Public Schools' HEART program serves students and families experiencing homelessness. About 175 homeless teens received gift cards to brighten up their Christmas.



Socks

Each year Manito collects socks for the homeless in the community. This January, 185 pairs of socks were taken to the warming center collection site. They were a welcome blessing in the time of bitter cold that hit the region. Because there is such a great need, the collection of socks is still going on. Socks collected will be taken to Shalom Ministries.

North Central High School Adopt A Family

Manito adopted two families from North Central High School. We collaborated with the Communities in Schools Coordinator, but things got a little confused, and we were left with a small window of time to get the gifts. One of the families (a family of five) only wanted gift cards to Walmart. The second family (a family of eight) really wanted matching pajamas for Christmas day. A Missions team member bought the gift cards and ordered the pajamas. Your donations, along with money left over from the United Methodist Women, was more than enough to cover the costs of the gifts.

Christmas Eve Offering

In the last few years, the Christmas Eve offering has been given to a designated charity. The Missions Committee chose Crosswalk this year. Crosswalk is a shelter and center for teens who live on the streets of Spokane. Crosswalk is currently raising funds to build a new building that will allow them to better serve this unseen and forgotten group in our community. With the generosity of the service attendees, we raised \$2,218.55 to help them in their building for the future.

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously. We were able to make a difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable in our community.

2022 Leadership Committees

We are so thankful for all the individuals who served on our Leadership teams and committees during 2021. Want to know who is serving in 2022? Take a peek at the 2022 Leadership Teams and Committees list below.

Spiritual Administrative Leadership Team

Chair: John Barber

Members: Patti Herbey, Evelyn Torkelson, Ann Reinhart, Maureen Miller & Rod Pennebaker

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Chair: Evelyn Torkelson

Members: Bob Herbey, Dave Reynolds, Pat McNalley, Tedd Swanson & Jim Prock

Nominating/Lay Leadership Committee

Chair: Pastor Tiffany

SALT Rep: TBD

Members: Chris Rundquist, Jill Longmeier & Wendy Budge

Finance

Leader of Finance Work Team: Chris Bafus

Treasurer: Liz West

Assistant Treasurers: Pat Nash, Bob Mead & Greg Plummer

Financial Secretary: Sindy Barber

Secretary: Evelyn Torkelson

Memorials: Chris Bafus, Shelly Kuney & Pat Nash

NW UM Foundation: Chris Bafus

Members: Mark Longmeier & Pat McNally

Additional Teams

Building Use & Maintenance Team: John Blunt, Ann Reinhart, Bryan Branson & Rod Pennabaker

Leader of Mission Work Team: Liz West

Leader of Hospitality Team: Patti Herbey

Member to Annual Conference: Liz West

Need to Contact Manito UMC?

Phone: (509) 747-4755

Email: manitoumc@gmail.com

Office hours: M-Th 10am-2pm

Mailing address: P.O. Box 8656 Spokane, WA
99203

Clickable Links:

Website: manitoumc.org

Facebook: Manito United Methodist Church

Instagram: @manitoumc

YouTube: Manito United Methodist church

Finance Committee Report

2022 Annual Operating Budget: \$264,101

Fortunately, your finance team was able to put together a balanced budget for 2022. It is an increase of almost 5% from a year ago. The cost of everything is going up as you know, and we had to make adjustments here and there and tighten up the belt a bit to make up for these increases in order to balance the budget.

With the vision and hard work on the part of many in our congregation, our building has continued to serve the community more and more. Due to this, our building-use donations have continued to increase. When I first started on the finance team almost 20 years ago, this was a much smaller portion of the funds that we were able to utilize in order to help balance the budget than it is today. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful building and a great location in order to serve the community and help balance the budget.

The market has continued to be volatile and that has impacted our investment accounts; however, they are still very strong and well diversified with the foundation. I expect more volatility throughout this year and more modest returns than we have had in previous years. However, we are still positioned well, and we couldn't have picked a better time to take out funds to put a large down payment on the boiler project that will be starting in the spring.

As of January 1st, here are the account balances on our 3 accounts with the foundation

Parsonage-\$144,712

Maintenance Endowment-\$161,812

Centennial-\$9,281

If you have any questions about the 2022 budget or the accounts we have with the foundation, please don't hesitate to make outreach to me.

Please continue to support Manito through your tithes and gifts. Checks can be mailed to the office, or you may also choose to give through the Donate tab on Manito's website which will allow you to use a bank account or credit/debit card. Also, giving can be done directly from your financial institution to Manito.

Chris Bafus
Chair, Finance Committee



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®