



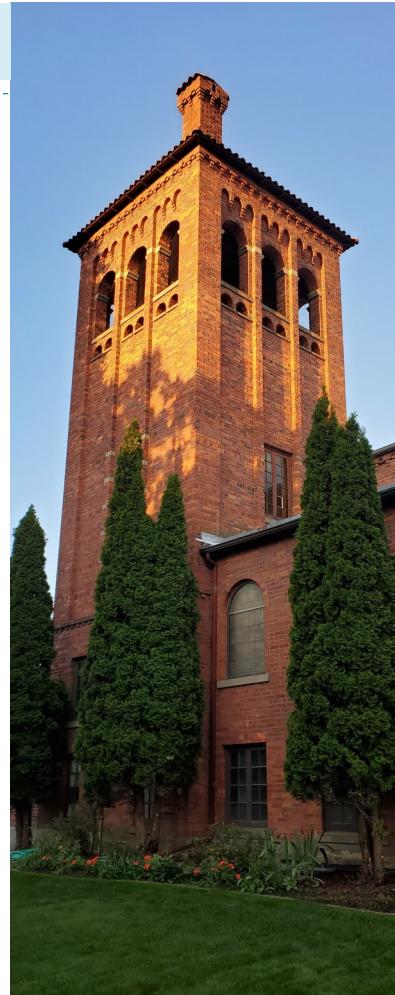
Manito United Methodist Church

Spokane, Washington

Starting the School Year off Right



This year, like in years past, Manito United Methodist collected school supplies for students at our neighboring schools who don't have the means to gather all of the items on their lists. We also baked cookies for the schools' faculty and staff. Volunteers had a great time sorting the supplies, making cookie trays, and then delivering them to Sacajawea Middle School and Jefferson Elementary School. See more photos on page 2 and 3!



Blitz Work Party

The Blitz Work Party is happening this September 11-19, where we will repaint the trim and fix the windows in the sanctuary. With such a big project, there is room for all levels of experience to contribute. We need people throughout the week to prepare, sand, putty, and re-glaze the windows. We will also be replacing the window frames and painting both the frames and the trim in the sanctuary. If you are willing to work but lack the experience, someone will be there to help you. We are also looking for project managers to help oversee the repairs on each day.

Please contact John Blunt or Ann Reinhart to sign up to help. The more people we have at the party, the faster we can get it all done!



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A Message from Our Pastor

Hello Manito Church Family,

The beginning of the school year is upon us, and with the new school year comes new school supply shopping lists. Many of you are seasoned school supply shoppers, you have a system, you know where you are going to get what, and you know what your student definitely needs as well as the stuff on the list that they will never use. You are prepared. And once the school supplies have been purchased, then the school clothing procurement begins--your kids are growing like weeds, and the clothes they wore for the last year are too short or too tight for this year, or if you have a tween or teen, they might have just grown out of the fashion from the year before. They've moved on, and now they are experimenting with a new fashion expression. I have a friend whose child is going to school for the first time this fall and she was a little shocked when she saw the school supply shopping list for her kindergartener. "What does my kid need 12 glue sticks for!?" she asked "I don't have enough fridge space for all that artwork!" But you know what, my friend bought the glue sticks and everything else on that list—and you know why? Because she wants her child to have everything they need to grow, create, and flourish in school.

And this got me thinking about us adults, I mean, how many of us actually sit down once a year to really think about the supplies that we may need to flourish in the coming year? Manito family, what do you need to grow, create, and flourish in your life? What does your body need? How about your spiritual life? What do you need to grow, create, and flourish in your relationships with others, your profession, or in regard to your future goals? Do you have what you need? And what might you need to get rid of? Are there things in your life that you've outgrown? Things that don't fit the person you want to become? These are all important questions and ones that I hope we will ask ourselves in the coming months.

So as we head into a new school year and into a new season, I pray that we will each take stock of what we may need—to grow, create, and flourish in the coming year.

Peace,

Pastor Tiffany DeTienne



School staff and MUMC volunteers gather around the donated school supplies and cookies





Delicious homemade cookies
delivered to teachers and staff
by MUMC volunteers



Thoughts From the Salt

A big topic of discussion for the Spiritual and Administrative Leadership Team (SALT) recently has been how we return to “normal” worship, whatever that is (or will be). For a while, it looked like we were on a glide path to something more like things were before the Covid-19 outbreak. Rules at the State level were being relaxed, groups could meet again, occupancy restrictions were eased, etc. Effective vaccines became available, and the eligible age groups for receiving the vaccines extended further and further into the population. The only ones remaining ineligible were the younger children, and the expectation was that they too would soon be able to receive the vaccine for protection. However, a substantial portion of the population refrained from getting vaccinated, and we haven’t come close to the long-sought-after herd immunity. Then, along comes the variant D version of the virus, exceedingly more infectious than what we had seen earlier. While the vaccines still provided good protection against it, those who are unvaccinated are sitting ducks in the face of it. The variant is rampaging through that group, and now accounts for nearly all the new cases being reported. Hospitalizations are rising again as a result, and sadly, so are the deaths. To help stem this tide, restrictions are being put back into place, at least temporarily. So, planning for a return to normal has hit a big road bump. Quite simply, we don’t know what “normal” is, and when it will appear.

The general outline of the plan we at SALT had developed, and have been generally following for the past several weeks, is this: Once indoor gatherings became allowed, with limits on numbers, Sunday services in the sanctuary resumed. Limits on seating, and spacing, would be observed. If we had an attendance above the allowed seating levels in the sanctuary, we would set up chairs in the Fellowship Hall for the overflow.

Continued...



Birthday Season!

David Lauder	09/05
Craig Potter	09/08
Gavin Branson	09/14
Jim Glass	09/20
Jill Longmeier	09/25



The new sound/video system being installed in the sanctuary would allow us to transmit the service live down to those in the Fellowship Hall, as well as live stream it to YouTube for those who chose to remain at home and watch the services that way. Masks would be required inside, and no singing would be allowed, both for the foreseeable future. Two things have gotten in the way of exactly following that: it is too hot in the Sanctuary to be in there with masks on for any extended period of time; and the new sound/video system is still in the midst of being installed (close, but not quite there yet). So, we have moved everything down to the Fellowship Hall, setting up chairs in 2's and 3's there, spaced appropriately. When a larger group or family came, we would gather chairs together for them (there have been several times so far when this was needed).

Still wearing masks and not singing. Pastor Tiffany would prerecord the service, as she has been doing the past year-and-a-half, and it would be shown in the Fellowship Hall at the same time as those at home would tune into YouTube to watch it. After the service, there would be a mass chair-put-away exercise, and many of us would go outside afterwards for a bit of fellowship time (i.e., chit chat and what have you), masks optional. Those watching the service at home still were doing the post-service Zoom fellowship time, as before. This has been the pattern for the past several weeks. We are proceeding ahead, cautiously, in this fashion until we can either go forward, or are required to go backwards, who knows? But for the time being, that is how things are going.

SALT recently sent out a survey questionnaire to you all, to get a feel for what you are comfortable with, and what you aren't. We have been reviewing the results of these, and using them to begin formulating a plan for going ahead, including Sunday services, classes and small groups, and other events and activities. Once things begin to clarify a bit more, we can start to put them into action.

Fiesta de la Casa Community Event—A House in Mexico

Finally, after a year and a half, we will be gathering as a community again. Fiesta de la Casa will be outdoors on September 25, 4-6 pm in the backyard of the church. There will be dinner, conversation, yard games, bingo, and a limited auction to raise \$6200 to support building a house in Tlancualpican, Mexico.



As we raise money to build a new home in Tlancualpican, it is helpful to put a face on the people who receive homes through this program sponsored by Give Ye Them to Eat (GYTTE). Pat Nash, Polly Carlson, Kim and Jamie Potter, and Liz West visited Tlancualpican in late 2019 and spent one day working on the construction of the new home for Antonio Flores. (Quote from Pat Nash: "I have never worked so hard in my life.") We visited several other families who have received homes through this program. While they are very humble dwellings, they are a vast improvement over these families' previous circumstances. Here is Antonio's story:



Antonio Truclos Flores is from Tlancualpican, Puebla, Mexico. He earns his living by digging and delivering sand and gravel from the river with the help of his mule and donkey. He is a well-known and colorful figure in town (and quite a flirt). He plays the guitar and sings and entertained during the lunch break when the Manito VIM team helped with the house construction. Antonio had a stroke a few years ago and has suffered other health problems. He has no children to help him. Antonio lost his home in the 2017 earthquake. The government helped some people to rebuild their homes, but unfortunately, Antonio did not receive this help. For two years he lived in a room made with cardboard and reeds and used a hole he dug as a toilet.



Antonio and his old house



Antonio entertaining volunteers over lunch

With donations from United Methodist churches in the United States in 2019, GYTTE helped him build a new home. Methodists from six churches, including Manito, helped build his home. It is made from a sustainable technique taught by GYTTE called Pajarcilla (compacted clay with straw, covered by stucco). Also built were a composting toilet inside the house and a wood efficient stove for cooking.

During the time it took to build the new home, Antonio learned about the importance of basic hygiene and other help tips to improve his life. The home is very high up with a beautiful view. Antonio couldn't be happier and more appreciative! If we raise \$6200 in our September fund-raiser, another family will receive a home with composting toilet and wood-efficient cooking stove.

In order for this event to happen, we need your help. As part of the limited item auction, we are focusing on gifts of the community. Our community is made up of some very talented people with the skills and creativity needed to make this a success. Your contributions will go a long way in helping people like Antonio get into better housing.

If you are wondering what to donate to the auction, here are a few suggestions for what you can do: knitting, sewing (doll clothes, quilts, etc.), baking, jewelry making, painting, pottery, gardening, entertaining, Christmas ornaments, etc. Large ticket auction items are also needed. Each donation needs to have a completed donation form submitted by September 19. These forms can be emailed or mailed to you upon request. All donations must be at the church by September 24. In addition to auction items, we are also looking to borrow the following items: pop up shelters, bocce ball game, ladder game, corn hole game, bingo game, and stools.

If you have questions or would like a donation form, please contact Ann Reinhart or the church office. To sign up to attend Fiesta de la Casa, register [HERE](#), on our website, or through the church office. Spaces are limited.



Antonio's new house with a view



Construction of Antonio's house 12/2019

