

# CHRISTIAN VISITOR

September 2010

First United Methodist Church of Ellensburg, Washington  
Incorporated 1883

## *From the Pastor's Desk...*

"No amount of preaching shapes a soul as much as does the influence of a good Christian life." Ronald Rolheiser

For me, these words offer both criticism and comfort. No matter how great a sermon I preach; no matter the effort and the passion that go into it, it will not be the sole agent in deepening another's relationship with God.

On the other hand, even when a sermon falls flat and we (including the preacher) walk away barely inspired; it is the Christian life – the daily witness of average men and women – that will persist and convey the love, healing, and peace of God to all the nations.

Our first few months together have focused on welcome and hospitality. We have made great progress in "walking the walk" by making renovations in our lobby, opening up the Library, and cleaning out the office. New member classes will begin in a few weeks and opportunities to help in the Nursery and donate to the food bank abound.

As newcomers arrive however, what will cause them to stick around? What will compel someone to commit their life to Christ and share in this faith community? I am certain it will be the daily witness of folks such as yourselves, faithful men and women, young and old, who seek to live out what commitment to Christ entails. In sharing our faith stories, we will rediscover the Love that first loved us, be able to recognize God's activity in unexpected places, and be guided by it.

May the blessing of the Holy Spirit, the Author of our stories, fill our hearts and home always.

Shalom

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## August Church Council Highlights

1. The church will have a rummage sale on Oct. 2. Oct. 1st will be set-up. Please bring things to the church to be stored in the annex, baked goods on the day.
2. The Creative Auction will be on Oct. 31 right after church. Be thinking of what you can offer.
3. There will be an ad hoc finance committee to work on projects and borrowing money for repairs.
4. The Worship Committee is looking for more members - contact Pastor Shalom to help Kay, Greg, John and her.



## Food Bank Needs...

PEANUT BUTTER  
 Mac and Cheese  
 TUNA  
 Canned Meats  
 Cereal (cold or hot)  
 Fresh fruits and vegetables

the "Helpers"  
 Canned soups  
 Egg Cartons  
 18 count EGG CARTONS  
 Personal Hygiene Products

## Committee Meeting Schedule

**Church Council**  
**Tuesday, September 7th**  
 7:00 p.m.  
 Conference Room

**Trustees**  
**Sunday, September 19th**  
 After Worship  
 Conference Room

**Worship Committee**  
**Tuesday, September 21st**  
 7:00 p.m.  
 Pastor's Office



## United Methodist Women Circle Schedule

**UMW General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 8th**  
 11:30 a.m.  
 Bar 14 Restaurant

**Afternoon Circle**  
**Wednesday, September 22nd**  
 1:30 p.m.  
 Hostess: Trudi Johnson  
 Co-Hostess: Dorothy Cheshier  
 Place: 260 Lenex Rd.  
 925-6337

**Evening Circle**  
**Wednesday, September 22nd**  
 7:00 p.m.  
 Hostess info TBA




# September 2010

Intergenerational Sunday School, 9 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Service at 10 a.m.

Nursery is available

A Fellowship Coffee hour follows

*All Are Welcome*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible Study at Hearthstone 11 am every Wednesday	2 <b>Shalom will be on vacation 2nd-6th</b>	3	4
5 4 p.m. Iglesia Apostolica 	6  LABOR DAY	7 Faith Baptist Kids 7 pm	8 Iglesia Apostolica 6 pm every Wednesday	9	10	11 Memorial for Betty Lowther 2 p.m.
12 Methodism 101 After worship	13	14	15 Faith Baptist Bible Study 6 pm every Wednesday	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 	24	25 PEO Rummage Sale 8 a.m.—2 p.m.
26	27	28	29	30		

## Birthdays and Anniversaries for September 2010

4, Faye Christian  
5, Kathy Makus  
5, Julie Large

7, Diane Ota  
9, Bob Johnston  
12, Bob and Diane Ota (A)

13, Susan Colwell  
20, Virginia and Bill Lipsky  
28, Linda Emerson

## Please remember these congregations in your prayers this month:

Sept 5 Ellensburg & Pastor Shalom Agtarap  
Sept 12 Pray for God's children of all Faiths  
Sept 19 Ephrata & Pastor Geoff Helton  
Sept 26 Goldendale & Pastor Patricia Beeman

## Worship and Service Details

### Upcoming Worship Highlights

#### Why do people need church?

"spiritual but not religious"- it's a term that gets used a lot these days. For those who believe they can get through life by being a good individual, what would cause them to join a church? Reflect on some reasons why you think people need church.

#### Why do people need our church?

If we have made the compelling argument that individuals were made for community, and that the church is one of the best kind - what makes this church so appealing? Why do you attend this church? What's kept you here?

#### Whose church is it?

It is easy to take ownership of a church community - in fact, as a member of the church, that's what you expect. But if we understand the church to be the body of Christ, there are certain implications for ministry, mission, and fellowship that must follow. Based on the activities in and around this church, the meetings we convene and where our money goes - who do you think this church belongs to?

### Ministry Opportunities

<b>September 5</b>	Liturgist	John Lasik
	Greeter	
	Usher	Bob Johnston
	Altar	Diane Ota
<b>September 12</b>	Coffee Hour	Karen Lasik
	Liturgist	Ruthi Erdman
	Greeter	
	Usher	Bob Johnston
<b>September 19</b>	Altar	David Cross
	Coffee Hour	Betty Holmes
	Liturgist	Larry Lowther
	Greeter	
<b>September 26</b>	Usher	Bob Johnston
	Altar	Betty Holmes
	Coffee Hour	Aeimee Chen-Stinson
	Liturgist	Larry Lowther
	Greeter	
	Usher	Bob Johnston
	Altar	Barbara Tate
	Coffee Hour	Karen Lasik

### Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking to establish official Greeter duties! If you are interested (or already Greet on a regular basis), let us know at the office so we can put together a regular rotation!

## Guidelines for Open Communication

I am encouraged by how well we are getting along, as I am still a very recent addition to the church family. I am certain we will continue to find beautiful treasures and surprises in our life together. As we discover and rediscover one another as individuals and as a community, we have the opportunity to practice clear, compassionate, Christ-centered communication.

I have adapted Bishop Greg Rickel's "10 Rules for Respectful Communication" of the Diocese of Olympia for our use here.

**If you have a problem with me, come to me (privately).**

**If I have a problem with you, I will come to you (privately).**

**If someone has a problem with me and comes to you, send them to me.**

**If someone consistently will not come to me, say, "Let's go to Shalom together. I am sure she will see us about this."** I will do the same for you.

**Be careful how you interpret me - I'd rather do that.**

**I will be careful how I interpret you.**

**If it's confidential, don't tell.**

[Unless a) the person is going to harm herself/himself, b) the person is going to physically harm someone else or c) a child has been physically or sexually abused.]

**I do not read unsigned letters or notes.**

**I do not manipulate; I will not be manipulated; do not let others manipulate you.**

**When in doubt, just say it.**

No such thing as a dumb question - just ask! Our relationships are too important, so if you have a concern, pray and then speak up.

# Our Informed Congregation

## UMC Social Principles

The following continues our series on our Social Principles dealing with the Natural World.

### Science and Technology.

We recognize science as a legitimate interpretation of God's natural world. We affirm the validity of the claims of science in describing the natural world and in determining what is scientific. We preclude science from making authoritative claims about theological issues and theology from making authoritative claims about scientific issues. We find that science's descriptions of cosmological, geological, and biological evolution are not in conflict with theology. We recognize medical, technical and scientific technologies as legitimate uses of God's natural world when such use enhances human life and enables all of God's children to develop their God-given creative potential without violating our ethical convictions about the relationship of humanity to the natural world. We reexamine our ethical convictions as our understanding of the natural world increases. We find that as science expands human understanding of the natural world, our understanding of the mysteries of God's creation and word are enhanced.

In acknowledging the important roles of science and technology, however, we also believe that theological understandings of human experience are crucial to a full understanding of the place of humanity in the universe. Science and theology are complementary rather than mutually incompatible. We therefore encourage dialogue between the scientific and theological communities and seek the kind of participation that will enable humanity to sustain life on earth and, by God's grace, increase the quality of our common lives together.



## Wesley United Methodist Women's Retreat

September 18, 2010  
14 N. 48th Avenue  
Yakima, WA 98908  
(509) 966-2370  
Cost: \$15.00

### Event Schedule

8:30 a.m.—Gathering  
9:00 a.m.—Program Begins  
12:00 p.m.—Lunch  
3:00 p.m.—Closing Remarks

### Guest Speaker: Joy Carol

Joy Carol is an author, international speaker, spiritual director, workshop and retreat leader at seminaries, churches, medical schools, retreat centers, schools and other locations. *For more information visit her website at [www.joycarol.com](http://www.joycarol.com).*

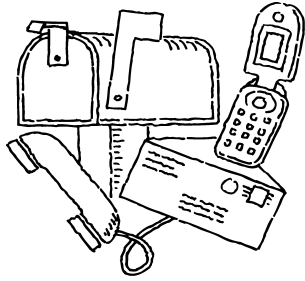
## Rummage Sale Info!

Hi all! The United Methodist Church will be hosting two rummage sales in the near future! The first will be the PEO Rummage sale on Saturday, September 25th from 8 am to 2 pm, and the second will be the UMW-sponsored Rummage Sale on October 2nd from 9 am to 2 pm. Check it out if you can!



If you have donations for either event, bring them by the church office. Be sure to specify which sale the items go to, so we know how to organize leading up to the aforementioned dates!

## This and That



### Keeping in Touch!

The following information was given by members of the congregation or those close to the church who have recently moved and wish to keep in touch with the church family.

Barbara and Tim Olexy  
208 S. Sprague St.  
Ellensburg, WA 98926  
(509) 859-3733

If you have recently moved, or wish to share contact information with our congregation, send us an email at [eburg\\_umc@fairpoint.net](mailto:eburg_umc@fairpoint.net) or phone us at (509) 962-9257.

Needed per week to meet our obligations  
\$2,606

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
July 4	53	3083
July 11	54	1400
July 18	49	4230
July 25	51	2700
August 1	63	3696
August 8	49	2455
August 15	52	3080
August 22	63	2460

### Deadline Announcement

In response to some potential confusion regarding the deadline for articles in the Christian Visitor, a more exact standard will be used.



The Two Day Rule: New articles and announcements for the Christian Visitor will be accepted through the third-to-last day of the month. This means that July's deadline, for instance, is the 29th, 11:59 p.m. If submissions are sent in after that point, I will include them in the following month's

### Going Green!

Do you want to make the Christian Visitor greener? If you receive your copy of the Christian Visitor by traditional mail and want to get it on your computer instead, send a request to [eburg\\_umc@fairpoint.net](mailto:eburg_umc@fairpoint.net) along with your email address. See the CV in color and save a few trees in the process!



Also, if you are a member of the church or a regular attender, send your birth date (but not your age unless you *really* want to) or anniversary date to the church office email if you'd like to see it appear in the Worship Bulletin!

## *Mission Statement*

The Ellensburg First United Methodist Church welcomes all and serves as a beacon of love and justice in the community. We seek to discern and act upon God's will through worship, service and study.



### **First United Methodist Church**

210 N. Ruby Street  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Phone: 509-962-9257

Church e-mail: [eburgumc@fairpoint.net](mailto:eburgumc@fairpoint.net)

Shalom's e-mail: TBA

Rev. Shalom Agtarap, Pastor  
Josh Munroe, Secretary



a Reconciling Congregation