



Orting United Methodist Church

The Messenger



A neighborhood church in the heart of the community

Our Mission is to serve God, the Church, and the Community by raising the Christian awareness of every individual by caring and sharing God's Love.

June/July 2009

It took me a long time to figure out what I wanted to do with my life, but there are things I knew from the beginning that I did not want to do. One of them was to work hundreds of feet below the surface of the earth in a salt mine. Sulmo and I went to visit Wieliczka Salt Mine when we were in Krakow for Sonia's graduation. We walked 380 steps down into the earth to a level of about 500 feet. I have to admit that I felt claustrophobic at the beginning and had to talk myself out of it. This mine has been in continuous operation since the 1200's and attests to the high value of salt for human living. We did not go into the part that is in operation now, but into the part designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

Now, I can only imagine that if I had to work in the salt mine, my most pressing thought when I was done with my day's work would be to get out into light and fresh air. But that was not the case for some of the mine workers. They actually spent extra time there making artistic sculptures in the rooms from which they had removed the blocks of salt. In fact, at the level we descended to there was a huge cavern which had been transformed into a cathedral. There are carvings on all the walls, an altar carved in the front, chandeliers made out of salt crystal. There is a carving of the Last Supper, of the Nativity, the Flight to

Egypt of the Holy Family. There are several sculptures of Jesus and of Mary. It was amazing to see! To think that people spent so much time and effort transforming their cruel surroundings into a place of beauty! Would that we had such foresight, such fortitude, such incredible faith. For isn't that what our faith asks of us? to take the problems, the pains, the fears, the distresses, the challenges that life gives us and, with the help of God, through the grace of God, to transform them into something beautiful, something good. Continuing Story of Love...

Shalom,

Pastor Carol

Pastor to go on Study Leave

Pastor Carol will be away on study leave for much of June and July to work on a Doctor of Ministry degree through the San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo. During her absence Peggy DeMent, who served as a local pastor in the Oklahoma Conference and has now transferred into our Conference, will be preaching and spending one day in the office each week, driving here from Spanaway to be available for OUMC needs. Her office hours will be Tuesday from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Handbells

We have been blessed by the short term loan of handbells from St. Paul's UMC in Tacoma. We heard them played on Easter with the choir anthem, and then on May 24, choir members played "Amazing Grace." We have a handbell fund that has \$3000 in it. We need \$2000 more. If you would like to contribute to a set of handbells for our church, please make a check to Orting UMC and mark it for handbells.

Jubilate Summer Festival of Worship and the Arts

For a wonderful experience of bringing together worship and the arts, why not attend Jubilate this summer, July 20-25, at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center in Spokane. Go to website www.gbgm-umc.org/jubilate/ or look for the bright pink card on the bulletin board.

Church Yard Sale

Although the UMW group voted not to do the yard sale this year, there are many in our church who do not want to let go of this great tradition, so we are looking for ways and for people to help make it happen. Talk to Greta Gleydura or Janet Bjork if you would like to support the church yard sale this year with your time and effort and donations.

Missions

Our mission dinners have ended for this season and will resume in the fall. Thank you to all who cooked or supported our mission program through this avenue. And thank you to Greta Gleydura for being in charge of scheduling.

School of Missions: Together at the Table

July 24-27 at Central Washington University, Ellensburg

You might like to consider going to the Cooperative School of Christian Mission, put on by our PNW Conference United Methodist Women. All ages, lay and clergy, men and women, are invited.

Paul Jeffrey, clergy member of the PNW Conference and Missionary with the General Board of Global Missions since 1985, will be teaching "The Beauty and Courage of Sudan." Paul brings his skills as a journalist, his passion for justice, and his compassion for the people of the world to everything he does, and his personal experiences in the Sudan will bring up to date information on the harsh realities of life in Darfur. Learn about the history of this region, from the impact of colonialism on a people with a rich history, to the struggles of living in a country at war.

A study on "Food and Faith," will be taught by Tanya Barnett, Nancy Yount and Phil Harrington. This class will examine how our faith is nurtured, strengthened and enhanced by food and all the ways food touches our lives. It will consider how hospitality, feasting, and fasting impact our spiritual life, connecting us to God and one another.

"Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival," taught by JaNet'Crouse and Dean Smith, teaches how Native people have been affected by old understandings of the church and how we now recognize the interconnectedness of life together in how we engage in mission today.

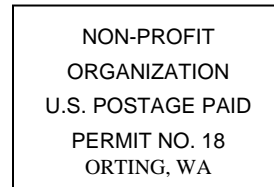
Summer Schedule Change

Last summer we started having church one hour earlier for the summer and we found that we liked it. So, on June 7 and throughout the summer, worship will begin at 10:00 am. We hope you will like the earlier summer worship time.

Summer Vacation Bible School

Marketplace 29 AD: The Great Commandment is the theme for VBS this year, August 24-28. We hope many of you will sign up to be a part of this great experience in bringing the Bible alive for the children and youth in our community. Please sign up on the forms in the fellowship hall or talk to Jamie Roden or Nancy Lillie.

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PRESORTED STANDARD

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

