



## March 2024 Newsletter

## A Word from Pastor David

Last week I read a timely article about church buildings as third spaces. In sociology, the third place or space refers to social surroundings that are separate from the two primary social environments of home ("first place") and the workplace ("second place"). Examples of third places include churches, cafes, bars, clubs, community centers, public libraries, gyms, bookstores, stoops and porches, parks, theaters, and opera houses and concert venues, among others. In his book *The Great Good Place* (1989), Ray Oldenburg argues that third places are important for civil society, democracy, civic engagement and establishing feelings of a sense of place.

Oldenburg calls one's "first place" the home and the people the person lives with. The "second place" is the workplace—where people may actually spend most of their time. Third places, then, are "anchors" of community life and facilitate and foster broader, more creative interaction. In other words, "your third place is where you relax in public, where you encounter familiar faces and make new acquaintances."

Other scholars have summarized Oldenburg's view of a third place with eight characteristics:

- Neutral ground- Occupants of third places have little to no obligation to be there. They are not tied down to the area financially, politically, legally, or otherwise and are free to come and go as they please.
- Leveler (a leveling place)- Third places put no importance on an individual's status in a society. One's socioeconomic status does not matter in a third place, allowing for a sense of commonality among its occupants. There are no prerequisites or requirements that would prevent acceptance or participation in the third place.
- Conversation is the main activity- Playful and happy conversation is the main focus of activity in third places, although it is not required to be the only activity. The tone

of conversation is usually light-hearted and humorous; wit and good-natured playfulness are highly valued.

- Accessibility and accommodation- Third places must be open and readily accessible to those who occupy them. They must also be accommodating, meaning they provide for the wants of their inhabitants, and all occupants feel their needs have been fulfilled.
- The regulars- Third places harbor “regulars” that help give the space its tone and help set the mood and characteristics of the area. Regulars to third places also attract newcomers and are there to help someone new to the space feel welcome and accommodated.
- A low profile- Third places are characteristically wholesome. The inside of a third place is without extravagance or grandiosity and has a cozy feel. Third places are never snobby or pretentious, and are accepting of all types of individuals, from various different walks of life.
- The mood is playful- The tone of conversation in third places is never marked with tension or hostility. Instead, third places have a playful nature, where witty conversation and frivolous banter are not only common, but highly valued.
- A home away from home- Occupants of third places will often have the same feelings of warmth, possession, and belonging as they would in their own homes. They feel a piece of themselves is rooted in the space and gain spiritual regeneration by spending time there.

The article I read addressed the increasing need for these spaces since the isolation of the Covid pandemic. Post-pandemic, we hear all the time about the importance of these “third spaces,” places that are neither our homes nor our workplaces.

Yet, as the author observed, “Church buildings are more than third spaces. We are not clubhouses or coffeehouses. That said, we are more than just a building so holy that it may only be opened one hour a week. *At our best, we are incubators of community that add value and meaning to our neighborhoods.*”

Are we stewards of our property in a way that will bless our neighbors and community?

Our buildings can be a blessing to us, and they can bless our neighborhoods. When it's time for the church to adapt to new realities, we have a chance to show our stewardship for God's house once again—in the way we show our love for our neighbors with the choices we make for it. Our Rose City Park UMC Collective intentionally seeks to serve as a third space to all our friends, members, and neighbors. As we continue our journey through Lent, I invite you to pray especially for our Collective, for all its' leaders, advisors, and participants, and for all whose lives are blessed through this community coalition.

Blessings,  
Pastor David



## Kitchen Cleanup

As part of the Church Renovations plan, bringing our kitchen up to date is on the list too. With the success of the Collective partners and the increased use of our building the kitchen in Youngson Hall has gotten a lot of use over the years and we have not updated the contents in decades. Currently the pots, pans and utensils are decades old, and in need of replacing. It is

time for us to clean out and upgrade!

Saturday **March 2<sup>nd</sup>** and Saturday **March 9<sup>th</sup>** from **9-Noon** we will be having a “Kitchen Clean Out” day. We will be cleaning out all the old kitchen wares in preparation for a thorough professional cleaning and our Kitchen Utensil Drive that will kick off in April.

If you have a few hours to spare, please join us on Saturday.

Questions contact Marchelle Paholsky (503) 866-5193 [marchellpaholsky@gmail.com](mailto:marchellpaholsky@gmail.com)

## Women in Faith

Women in Faith (formally UMW) will have a gathering at the home of Joanne Schilling on March 21 at 10:30 am. All are welcome to join us for discussion/sharing and treats. For questions or comments please contact Chris Dole, 503-287-8972, or text 503-964-1371.

## Greeting Cards Needed

We will be collecting cards, especially birthday, sympathy, and get-well cards. If you have unused greeting cards that you would like to donate, there will be a collection box in the Narthex.

## Holy Week

I for one am eagerly awaiting the beauty of spring, and the arrival of the Easter season—a time of reflection, renewal, and rejoicing in the spirit of rebirth. At Rose City Park United Methodist Church, we are delighted to invite you to join us on a profound and sacred journey during this upcoming Easter season.

### Good Friday Service: The Fourteen Stations of the Cross

On Good Friday, March 29th, at 6:30pm our community will gather in Youngson Hall for a simple meal of soup and bread and a special service that focuses on the fourteen Stations of the Cross. This meaningful observance allows us to pause and reflect on the profound moments in Jesus' journey to Calvary, inviting us to connect deeply with the significance of His sacrifice.



The Stations of the Cross guide us through the pivotal moments of Jesus' last steps, each station offering a unique opportunity for meditation and prayer. As we travel our own version of this spiritual path, we seek to understand the profound love and sacrifice that Easter represents. The fourteen stations serve as a visual and contemplative guide, encouraging participants to immerse themselves in the events leading up to Christ's crucifixion. Through scripture readings, reflections, and moments of silence, we will collectively and individually delve into the emotions and meaning behind each station.

### Community Participation

We invite members of our community to actively engage in this powerful experience. If you feel called, consider volunteering to set up one of the stations (you will be provided with

everything you need). Your involvement adds a personal touch to our observance, creating a shared journey towards spiritual growth and understanding. Please contact Kay Pettygrove if you are interested at [kayp1024@gmail.com](mailto:kayp1024@gmail.com).

### Easter Celebrations Ahead

As we meditate on the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, we also look forward to the joyous celebration of Easter Sunday. Our Easter service will be filled with hope, music, and a shared sense of renewal. Join us for a special time of worship as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am in the Sanctuary.

### Join Us on the Sacred Path

This Easter season, we invite you to embark on a sacred journey with us. Whether you are a long-time member of our community or someone seeking spiritual connection, our doors are open to all. Let us come together, reflect, and rejoice as we embrace the profound significance of the Easter season.

May this season of rebirth and renewal bring you peace, joy, and a deeper connection to the divine.

Blessings,  
Kay Pettygrove, Lay Leader



## Congregation News

If you have any joys or concerns you want shared, or a birthday you want included, please contact Patricia Holman at:

[plholman1025@gmail.com](mailto:plholman1025@gmail.com)

### **BIRTHDAYS OF THE MONTH**

If you have any joys or concerns you want shared, or a birthday you want included, please contact Patricia Holman at: [plholman1025@gmail.com](mailto:plholman1025@gmail.com).

## BIRTHDAYS OF THE MONTH

We rejoice with those who celebrate birthdays in March:

3/3 **Ruthanne Bennett, Raleigh Sapp**

3/4 **Adrian Brunkow**

3/5 **Brian Larson**

3/9 **Lita Quilban**

3/11 **O'Dell Sagoo**

3/14 **Marlene Muchow**

3/16 **Jeanne Sagoo**

3/24 **Melanie Corson**

3/31 **Susi Bromley**

## Boy Scout Sunday 2024



Sunday, February 25th's worship service was led by the Scouts from Troop 5117, who meet in Youngson Hall every Wednesday night. Various Scouts led the congregation in the call to worship, prayers, scriptures, and offertory music. During the service, a \$2,188.82 check was presented to Scoutmaster Liz Koopman as a thank you to the many scouts and their parents who worked at the Christmas tree sale in early December. With assistance from the Scouts, a tree sale is once again being planned for Christmas 2024.

Next month the Scouts will be taking orders for spring flowers and bedding plants. If you enjoy summer gardening, please plan to fill out an order sheet. The plants are beautiful and very

reasonably priced.



## Helpful Resources

### Pictorial Directory

If you have any changes to your contact information, please contact Patricia Holman at [plholman1025@gmail.com](mailto:plholman1025@gmail.com). Copies of the directory can be emailed to you by contacting Patricia, or a printed copy is available in the Narthex.

### E-mail Version of the Sermon

Would you like to receive an email version of the sermon? If so, please contact Deborah Weekley at [axismundi.dw@gmail.com](mailto:axismundi.dw@gmail.com). We are also planning to provide printed copies available at church on Sunday morning soon.

### Prayer Chain

Just as a reminder, the prayer chain is available to those that would like to request prayers. Also, if someone would like to join the prayer chain all they need to do is send a request to be added to the email address below. [rcpumcprayer@gmail.com](mailto:rcpumcprayer@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Deadline

All newsletter submissions are due on the first of every month. Please email your articles to Patricia Holman at [plholman1025@gmail.com](mailto:plholman1025@gmail.com).





# Rose City Park

## United Methodist Church

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