



# THE EPISTLE



## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

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### **Weekly Communion**

Sundays when we don't have communion in worship - in the Library 10:10 a.m.



### **Worship Schedule**

9:00 Celebration Worship  
10:30 Classic Worship

Nursery & Sunday School  
at both services  
(full Sunday School at 9)

We have several special December worship opportunities in addition to the Sunday morning worship services.

On Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m., we'll have a "Blue Christmas" service. This is a more meditative service, perhaps most meaningful for those who may not be feeling so merry at this time of year, those who may have lost loved ones or are feeling stressed.

Christmas Eve services (Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>) will all be held in the sanctuary.

5:00 p.m. This family friendly service will have our Guitar Ensemble providing special music and we'll sing favorite Christmas carols. Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will also share a special presentation. Child care for infants and toddlers will be provided.

7:30 p.m. The Youth Vocal Band will sing more contemporary Christmas anthems and lead the congregation in favorite carols. We will have Holy Communion and candlelighting.

10:00 p.m. The Chancel Choir will sing Christmas anthems and lead the congregation in favorite carols, as well as Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. We will have Holy Communion and candlelighting.

*On Christmas Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and New Year's Day, January 1<sup>st</sup>, we will have one service at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. On Christmas Morning Pastor Joyce will present a special Children's Time...Come at 9 a.m. for cinnamon rolls, coffee and hot chocolate.*





## Chasing the Wild Goose

By Pastor Joyce O'Connor-Magee

What was your childhood's "must have" toy for Christmas? A hula hoop, your first bike, a Chatty Cathie, Ferby, Cabbage Patch kids? What do you long for this Christmas? As we get older and our houses are full of things we turn to experiences - a day to play tourist in downtown Seattle - friends coming over for chili and cinnamon rolls on a cold night - moments of calm and peace.

This advent we will be focusing on the **TRUE GIFTS - faith, peace, new life and love.** These are the real gifts of this season - as we await Christmas. Over the years I have mellowed about Advent. Yes, it is the season of waiting. I still get frustrated with Christmas being sold before Halloween. But I must admit I too have an inner child who is ready to see the lights, shake the packages and listen to my favorite holiday playlist. In fact I am now waiting to even start opening my Advent Calendars - one on the fridge and one on the computer! While clergy tend to want us to focus on the coming of Jesus on December 25 we are also aware that Christmas comes when Christmas comes. Babies have a way of coming regardless of due dates...so too God breaks in when God breaks in! I believe deeply in both/and. That we celebrate both Advent - the waiting and Christmas - the arrival - all through the month.

So I invite you to step into the season in ways and at times that delight you, that remind you of the deeper meaning of the season. We learn of **faith** as we light the four advent candles - remembering God is faithful, trustworthy to those who wait. We are reminded of God's gift of **peace** on dark nights as we enjoy our neighbors twinkling holiday lights; we are reminded that even in our darkness the Light of Christ offers us a gift of peace. **New Life** is proclaimed through the programs offered by our children - on December 4th during the 2nd service and on Christmas Eve as the 5&6th graders present their program: *We've Got a Message*.

And finally, last yet certainly not least - we celebrate the gift of **Love** - God's love made real, with flesh put on through not only the gift of God in Jesus - but also Jesus made real in us and through us. Though Furbies have stopped talking, Cathie is no longer chatty and Elmo laughs only now and then - God's gifts are forever! This season is truly for waiting yet it is for discovering God born in us...today!



A Giving Tree in the narthex the Sunday following Thanksgiving has been our tradition for more than 20 years. In that time we have collected and given thousands of gifts to poor children and youth and to some homeless adults. The Tree will

be there again this year with tags. We hope you will take a tag or two. However, if you see something that you think a child or youth would enjoy while you are shopping, it would be great if you just put it under the Giving Tree. The gifts should be unwrapped and brought to the Church by Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> for distribution in time for holiday parties.

This year gifts will be given to Atlantic Street Center and the Renton Salvation Army. Atlantic Street Center, our United Methodist mission agency, serves disadvantaged and minority children and youth in Seattle. ASC suggests some other ways we could help with their Holiday Assistance "toy store". Make festive stockings for parents to fill with goodies. Donate gift wrap, ribbons, bows and scotch tape. Volunteers are needed to help at the Event on Wednesday, December 14, or with preparations or cleanup. For more information talk to Vera Zimmerman.

### Kent Area Council (KAC)PTSA Clothing Bank in Need of Used Clothes

KAC serves families in the Kent School District. This fall they have served a record number of families and their racks are almost bare. They are in need of gently used, clean clothes for all sizes, both male and female. Here is a short list of items needed:

- ◆ Shirts – Long and Short sleeve
- ◆ Pants and Jeans for all ages
- ◆ Sweatshirts
- ◆ Jackets, hats, gloves and scarves
- ◆ They are also looking for NEW socks and underwear

If you have any of these items to donate, there will be a box in the Narthex for donations through December 11<sup>th</sup>. I will be taking them to the clothing bank, which is located at the Kent Phoenix Academy, 11000 SE 264<sup>th</sup> St in Kent. Questions? Ask Kathy Porter at [bkporter@comcast.net](mailto:bkporter@comcast.net).



### Pizza with the Pastor December 18 @ 12:00 noon

Roundtable Pizza @ Fairwood Shopping Center  
No Host Lunch

Join with new and long time members to eat and get to know the pastor & each other!



**Youth Groups meet three times in December**

Both Jr and Sr high youth groups will be meeting on three Sundays in December. We will not meet on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. We will go

caroling on Sunday, December 11. Exact times are still being worked. The groups decided that our annual Christmas celebration will be a "Christmas Pajama Dinner" and white elephant gift exchange, which will be held on Sunday, December 18 at 6:30pm.



**Youth Vocal Band:**

The Youth Vocal Band has been doing a terrific job this year! We will have our final rehearsal for the "Joy to You and Me" Christmas program on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm during the Parent's Night Out. This is a dress rehearsal for all youth and children in this program! We will present the program on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 service, and they will need to be at church by 9:45 am that morning in the adult choir room to warm-up our voices! The Youth will again be singing at the 7:30 pm Christmas Eve service. We welcome any youth who would like to join us for the Christmas Eve service (even if you don't normally sing with us) and we would love to have some more male voices! Please mark your calendars with the following rehearsal dates/times:

- Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 - 6:30 pm
- Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> – 11:45 am - 1:00 pm (before we go caroling at Wesley Homes)
- Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 - 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> – 5:30 – 7:00 pm
- Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – 6:15 pm arrival to warm-up for the 7:30 pm service

If you have any questions about the Youth Vocal Band Choir or the Christmas program, please call Bill & Lori McEwen at 425-255-4527, or email us at [bill.mcewen@comcast.net](mailto:bill.mcewen@comcast.net).

**Special Youth Instrumental Ensemble – Preparing for Christmas Eve:**

All youth who play an instrument are invited to be part of an ensemble for the 7:30 pm Christmas Eve service. Please let Lori & Bill McEwen know if you would like to participate in this group by December 7<sup>th</sup> so we can prepare the music for you. We will decide on our rehearsal dates/times based on the groups availability. Instrumentalists should plan on arriving at church on Christmas Eve by 6:00 pm. Please contact Bill & Lori McEwen at 425-255-4527 if you have any questions , or email us at [bill.mcewen@comcast.net](mailto:bill.mcewen@comcast.net).

**Adopt-a-Family Gifts Due December 4**

The youth group is again sponsoring a family with two children and will be providing gifts for the holidays. Desean is age 15 and Rylie, age 13. Please bring the item you signed up for to youth group on Sunday, December 4.

**Breakfast Club Meets in November**

Senior High Breakfast Club will be meeting on Dec. 4, 11 and

18. Junior High Breakfast Club will meet on just Dec. 11 and 18 – on the 4<sup>th</sup> we will watch the Children's Christmas Pageant. Don't forget the holiday Breakfast Feast on Dec. 18 – bring a dish to share. Senior High will continue to explore questions about our faith. Junior High will study the themes of Shepherds, Majestic, and Advent. Volunteers are still needed to bring food items. Sign up lists are posted in the youth rooms. Remember, without food, it is just "Club".

**Mystery Lock-in Returns January 13-14; Sign-up now**

We will hold another Mystery Lock-in Friday-Saturday, January 13-14. Roles will be announced in early January. Sign-up now to reserve your place at this fun event. This is a combined event for all senior and junior high youth.

**Jr. High Mission Trip to McDermitt, NV, July 29 – August 3**

The junior high youth will be heading to McDermitt, NV, to work with the residents of Fort McDermitt Reservation for their summer 2012 mission trip. Trip applications and \$50 registration deposits are due now. Mission team meeting dates and fundraising activities are still being planned.

**December Calendar**

- 12/3 Saturday**
  - 5:30 Parents Night Out (youth at 5:00)
  - 5:30 Youth Vocal Band Dress Rehearsal
- 12/4 Sunday**
  - 10:30 Youth Vocal Band sings at Christmas Program
  - 10:30 Sr. High Breakfast Club
  - 5:30 Youth Vocal Band
  - 6:30 Youth Groups
  - Adopt-a-Family gifts due
- 12/11 Saturday**
  - 10:30 Jr. and Sr. High Breakfast Club
  - 11:45 Youth Vocal Band Rehearsal
  - Caroling at Wesley Homes
- 12/18 Sunday**
  - 10:30 Jr. and Sr. High Breakfast Club
  - 5:30 Youth Vocal Band
  - 6:30 Youth Groups – Christmas Pajama Dinner and white elephant gift exchange
- 12/21 Wednesday**
  - 5:30 Youth Vocal Band Rehearsal
- 12/24 Saturday**
  - 6:00 Youth instrumentalist Rehearsal
  - 6:15 Youth Vocal Band Rehearsal
- 12/25 Sunday**
  - NO Jr. and Sr. High Breakfast Club
  - NO Youth Vocal Band
  - NO Youth Groups
- 1/1/2012 Sunday**
  - NO Jr. and Sr. High Breakfast Club
  - NO Youth Vocal Band
  - NO Youth Groups



**NEWS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

We are doing very well on our budget so far this year. Our income is coming in strong and our expenses are under what we had planned. However, our spending will likely increase as we go into Fall so hopefully we will stay strong on our giving.

Our Church's Financial Snapshot  
Financial Summary  
January - October 2011

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income	\$ 302,578	\$ 296,099	\$ 6,479
Expense	<u>\$(286,224)</u>	<u>\$(305,215)</u>	\$18,991
	<u>\$ 16,354</u>	<u>\$ (9,116)</u>	
General Fund Cash	<u>\$ 28,665</u>		

**Did you know** that there are many different ways to give financially to our Church? Of course we can give our cash and checks in the offering plate on Sunday and we can give electronically through our partnership with Vanco Services. However, we can also give stock through the Church's brokerage account. Giving appreciated assets enables you to avoid paying capital gains taxes while simultaneously getting a tax deduction. This tax move is most beneficial if you donate stock you've owned for more than a few years and its value has increased substantially. If you sell the appreciated stock, you'll have to pay taxes at the 15-percent long-term capital gains rate on your profit. Even if you give the cash you make from the sale of the stock to the Church, you'll still have to pay the taxes. But if you give the stock directly to the Church, you can claim a deduction for the full value of the stock at the time you donated it and escape the capital gains bill. As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 206-617-0693 or [Julleen@jjco.com](mailto:Julleen@jjco.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
Julleen Snyder, Finance Chair



**Preventing Choking in Children**

Our church has been blessed with a lot of families with young children and we have an active pre-school of 3 and 4 year olds. In the October issue of *Nursing 2011*, there was a helpful article on recognizing common choking hazards and how to prevent them. Many of the suggestions are common sense, but it never hurts to restate them.

Never leave a small child alone when eating. Limiting distractions to both the child and the adult watching the child is important. The article goes on to say that small children should not eat when walking, lying down, riding in a car, or playing.

Cut food into small pieces and remove seeds or pits. Hot dogs are one of the most common choking hazards, so remember to cut them lengthwise and widthwise before giving it to a child. Teach the child to chew his or her food carefully before swallowing and give liquids in between bites making sure that food and liquids aren't being swallowed at the same time. Infants should not be given food that needs to be chewed.



Christmas is coming soon and gifts for children will need to be carefully examined for potential dangers. While many toy manufacturers put choking hazard warnings on their toys, some do not. To easily determine if a choking hazard exists, put a small part or toy into an empty toilet paper roll. If it fits into the roll, it is too small and should be kept away from children.

Get rid of toys with broken parts that can be swallowed. Since choking on a latex balloon is a leading cause of choking deaths in children, clean up immediately after celebrations. While most of the time batteries will pass through the gastrointestinal system without a problem, the small disc shaped ones are very easy to swallow and can be very dangerous, especially if they get lodged in the esophagus. Batteries can cause injury within an hour of ingestion and can cause full thickness burns within 4 hours of ingestion.

We will put laminated book marks in the narthex of common food and non-food choking hazards that you can pick up for yourself or others. And lastly, become familiar with CPR and how to do the Heimlich maneuver in children. You may be glad you did.

In health,  
Janet Wildeboor, Chair  
Health Ministries Committee

**Invitation to Joy Singers & Youth Vocal Band Advent/Christmas program "Joy to You and Me" December 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am:**



Everyone is invited to a special musical presentation during the 10:30 worship service on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The Joy Singers and Youth Vocal Band will combine to bring a message through music of the true meaning of Christmas joy. There will be a regular Celebration service at 9:00 am, and the musical will be presented at the 10:30 worship hour. Come join us for an inspirational morning!

**Joy Singers Children's Choir and Christmas Program information:**

The Joy Singers choir will have a final dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30 to 6:45 pm during the Parent's Night Out. Parents are welcome to sign their children in at the Parents Night Out, then bring them to the Sanctuary for the rehearsal. Manger Scene children will need to be at this rehearsal by 6:00 pm. We will present the Christmas program "Joy to You and Me" the following morning at the 10:30 am service on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Please have the children at church dressed for the program in the adult choir room by 9:45 that morning.

Please mark your calendars for our **Joy Singers Christmas Party** on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:15 to 7:30 pm. More details to come! If you have any questions call Bill & Lori McEwen at 425-255-4527, or email us at [bill.mcewen@comcast.net](mailto:bill.mcewen@comcast.net).

**PARENTS NIGHT OUT RETURNS DECEMBER 3 5:30pm-10:30pm**



Youth will be available to watch your children for Parents Night Out on Saturday, December 3, from 5:30pm until 10:30pm. This is a great opportunity to get away for some personal or "us" time. Planned activities include gym play, arts and crafts, board games and movies. Pre-registration is not necessary. Free will offering. All proceeds support summer mission trip activities. Future planned dates are 2/11/12 and 5/5/12. For more details contact Curt Stock, 425-226-9023.



**Holiday Wreaths and Swags**

The youth will be selling wreaths and swags on December 4<sup>th</sup> between services and after the second service in the MPR. Price is \$22 for both wreaths and swags. All proceeds will go to support youth missions.

**Safeway Club Card supports Youth Missions**



If you shop at Safeway and have a club card, consider registering it with Escrip at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com). Safeway donates a percentage of your spending each month to schools, youth groups and other non-profits. We currently earn about \$30 a month, and it does not cost the club card holder anything. Our Group ID # is 163941651. You may register yourself, or fill out a form at the table outside the Parlor where the Entertainment books are being sold. This easy fundraiser also helps support youth mission trips.



**THANKSGIVING DONATIONS-**  
Thank you everyone for your generous donations of food and money for eggs, cheese and butter. And a Big Thanks to Carol Colborne's 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade class for

helping sort about 800 lbs. of food for the Salvation Army Food Bank!!!

**Thank you everyone for your help this year in caring for God's Creation, making our church such a great Greening Congregation.**



**Have a wonderful Christmas Season, taking time to enjoy God's Creation.**

**Merry Christmas from the Greening Task Force**

**HOME REPAIRS GROUP**



The second meeting of the Home Repairs group will be Sunday, December 4th at 6:00 pm. Men, women and youth are all invited. If you can teach others, want to learn more about home repairs or just want to learn more about your house, please join us. The topic for the December

meeting will be "Home Electric - It is easier than you might think".



**OFFICE CLOSED  
DECEMBER 26-  
JANUARY 2**

The church office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's Day - as we give both Pastor Joyce and Joletta well deserved vacation days! Pastor will be in town and available for emergencies - cell: 509-389-1406



**January UMW  
January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10am!**

We will learn about how you can learn the personality of a writer by his/her handwriting. The session will be led by our own Pastor Joyce and her mom, Claris O'Connor. Claris is a Master Certified Graphoanalyst - who has taught classes on understanding personality through handwriting since 1974. She has assisted HR departments in hiring with handwriting analysis as one part of the process. Pastor Joyce is also a certified analyst through the International Graphoanalysis Society (IGAS) . Come and find out what your handwriting says about your personality!

Also, there will be lots of information about the upcoming retreat!

**WOMEN OF FAIRWOOD - Retreat is Coming**

Save the dates of January 20 and 21 to join with other women of our church as we gather for our annual FCUMC Women's Retreat to Rainbow Lodge in North Bend WA. We start with Friday night dinner at 6:30 and conclude on Saturday about 3:30 pm. The cost is only \$70 (same as past 2 yrs) for the lodging and 3 chef-cooked meals. All the fun, fellowship and discussions are free! Our theme, *Finding Resting Places*, will be lead by our own Maureen McCarthy-Koth.

Printed brochures are enclosed in this Epistle and will soon be available in the Narthex. After December 1<sup>st</sup> the brochure will be available on the United Methodist Women webpage (under the Programs and Ministry tab) at [www.fairwoodumc.org/](http://www.fairwoodumc.org/)








**UMW BOOK CLUB MEETING  
DECEMBER 8 - 7 p.m.**

"Major Pettigrew's Last Stand" by Helen Simonson.

January 8: "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot - For questions, contact Kathy Porter, 425-254-0620.

# DECEMBER 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 <p><b>HAVE A MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS!</b></p> <p><b>YOUTH SCHEDULE ON P. 3</b></p>				<p>1 5:45 Yoga - Narthex</p> <p>7 AA - M7</p> <p>7 UMW Christmas Party—parlor </p> <p>7 Trustees - N-5 7:15 Yoga for the Rest of Us - Narthex</p>	<p>2 Pastor's Day Off</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Nonprofit bldg use - MPR, kitchen, parlor</div>	<p>3</p> <p>10:20 Vocal rehearsals - sanctuary</p> <p><b>5:30-10:30 PARENTS NIGHT OUT - MPR</b></p>
<p><b>4 2nd Sunday Advent</b></p> <p>9 Celebration Worship 10:10 Communion-library <b>10:30 Children &amp; Youth Christmas Program "Joy to You and Me"</b> <b>Wreaths &amp; Swags for sale</b></p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:30 ESL class - M7</p> <p>7 Scouts - sanc. narthex, M-7 7 Den meeting - N-2, N-5</p> <p>7 Worship Committee - parlor</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study - parlor</p> <p>7 AA - M7 7 Eagle Scout Board of Review - N-5</p> <p>7:00 Vespers Study - parlor</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:30 ESL class - M7</p> <p>6:30-7:15 Joy Singers - sanctuary</p> <p>7 Chancel Choir practice - sanctuary</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7 Church Council - parlor</p> <p>7 Recital - sanctuary, narthex</p> <p>7 AA - M7</p> <p>7 UMW Book Club - N-4</p>	<p>9 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>10</p> <p>12 Voice Recital - sanctuary, narthex</p> <p><b>7 Bells of the Sound Concert - sanctuary</b></p>
<p><b>11 3rd Sunday Advent</b></p> <p>9 Celebration Worship 10:10 Communion-library 10:30 Classic Worship 10:30 Jr. &amp; Sr. High Breakfast Club - MPB 11:45 Youth Council 4 Tween Time - MPR</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5 Renton Community supper - Salvation Army</p> <p>5:30 ESL class - M7 7 Scouts - sanc. narthex, M-7 7 Den mtg - N-2, N-5</p> <p>7 Visioning Team - Pastor's office</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study - parlor</p> <p>6:15 Daisies - N-5</p> <p>7 AA - M7</p> <p>7 Vespers Study - parlor</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:30 ESL class - M7 6:30 Cub Pack 455 - MPR</p> <p>6:30 SPRC w/ Pat Simpson - Pastor's office 7 Chancel Choir practice - sanctuary</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7 AA - M7</p>	<p>16</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>7:30 Blue Christmas Service - sanctuary</b></p> </div>	<p>17</p>
<p><b>18 4th Sunday Advent</b></p> <p>9 Celebration Worship 10:10 Communion-library 10:30 Classic Worship 10:30 Jr. &amp; Sr. High Breakfast Club - MPB 12 Pizza &amp; Pastor - Roundtable Pizza</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:30 ESL class - M7</p> <p>7 Scouts - sanc. narthex, M-7</p> <p>6:30 Woodside HOA - N2</p> <p>7 Membership &amp; Evangelism - parlor</p>	<p><b>20 Epistle Deadline</b></p> <p>9:30 Bible Study - parlor</p> <p>6:15 Daisies - N-5</p> <p>7 AA - M7</p> <p>7 Vespers Study - parlor</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:30 ESL class - M7</p> <p>7 Chancel Choir practice - sanctuary</p>	<p>22</p> <p>4-5:30 Dress Rehearsal (5th &amp; 6th gr.)-sanctuary</p> <p>7 AA - M7</p>	<p>23 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p><b>24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES</b></p> <p><b>5 Service - sanctuary (Guitar Ensemble)</b> <b>7:30 Candlelight &amp; Communion Service - sanctuary (Youth Vocal Band)</b> <b>10 Candlelight &amp; Communion Service - sanctuary (Chancel Choir)</b></p>
<p><b>25 Christmas Sunday Communion 9:30 Worship Service</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>26</p> <p>5:30 ESL class - M7</p> <p>7 Scouts - sanc. narthex, M-7 7 Den mtg - N-2, N-5</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5 Renton Community supper - Salvation Army</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7 AA - M7</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>
<p>Church Office Closed</p> 						

Fairwood Community  
United Methodist Church  
15255 SE Fairwood Blvd.  
Renton, WA 98058-8645

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

December 2011



*Join Us for Worship at 9:00 or 10:30 am*

Nursery & Sunday School for Children during Services

**Blue Christmas Service**  
**Friday, December 16th**  
**7:30 p.m.**

A quiet service for those needing a break from the holiday, those missing loved ones or any who struggle during the season

There will be time to light candles of remembering and to hold the light of God against the dark.



### **Communications**

Phone 425-228-4577 Fax 425-228-5922 Web site: [www.fairwoodumc.org](http://www.fairwoodumc.org)

Pastor Joyce O'Connor-Magee [pastorjoyce@fairwoodumc.org](mailto:pastorjoyce@fairwoodumc.org)

Church Administrator/Epistle Editor Joletta Holman [joletta@fairwoodumc.org](mailto:joletta@fairwoodumc.org)

Joyful Hearts Preschool Director, Robin Foster [joyfulhearts@fairwoodumc.org](mailto:joyfulhearts@fairwoodumc.org)

The Epistle is published monthly by Fairwood Community United Methodist Church, 15255 SE Fairwood Blvd, Renton, Washington 98058, Phone: 425-228-4577, E-mail: [joletta@fairwoodumc.org](mailto:joletta@fairwoodumc.org), Web site: [www.fairwoodumc.org](http://www.fairwoodumc.org), Pastor: Joyce O'Connor-Magee, Webmaster: Mike Sharp, Newsletter Editor: Joletta Holman. **Deadline for copy:** 20th day of each month for the following month's news.