



# March 2026



## HAPPY St. Patrick's Day

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# A Message from Pastor Leslie

Dear Church,

On the liturgical calendar, there is a feast day in the Spring that often gets over-looked in the Protestant church. It falls on March 25<sup>th</sup>, exactly 9 months before Christmas Day and is known as the Feast of the Annunciation. On Christmas Day, we celebrate that Jesus has *come*. On the Annunciation of our Lord, we celebrate that Jesus is *coming*. I think it is fitting that it happens in the middle of Lent. Smack in the middle of our repenting and fasting, we get a reminder that the joy of new life is always wrapped in hard.

Creating new life is hard and it is often not pretty or beautiful at all. This month, my family is welcoming a new life. But for the past 9 months, there has been little beauty in the process. For me, there has been mood swings, back pain, front pain, swelling, stretch marks, exhaustion, and so much nausea. For my husband, there has been stress about taking care of us physically, bills, space, and re-entering the diaper era we fought so hard to exit. For Luca, there have been questions about whether we are replacing him (absolutely not), making sure we will always love him (always and forever), and why he's having a brother when he specifically requested a sister (sorry kid, we tried). Together, there have been doctor's appointments, and purging, and re-organizing, and so many decisions to be made. All the while, the new little joy of our life has just been hanging out – kicking around and causing all this chaos. Preparing for new life is hard – but it is worth it.

The kicker is that once the new life gets here, it's an adjustment as well. Birth is a starting line. During Christmas and Easter, we are reminded that everything has changed. Jesus has come, Jesus has conquered. But the in-between is remembering that we have to wait and prepare. The waiting is often not peaceful. It's hard, messy, physically uncomfortable. But the preparation is leading towards a joy that is worth it.

This month, I am headed on maternity leave. We are hoping to show up once or twice on a Sunday morning, but no promises. You will be well cared for in my absence!

Rev. Tom Tucker will be preaching on Sunday mornings.

My UMC pastoral colleagues are taking rotating shifts to provide pastoral care if you are in need of prayer, visitation, or guidance. Their contact information will be in the bulletin or you can contact the church office to know who is on-call that week.

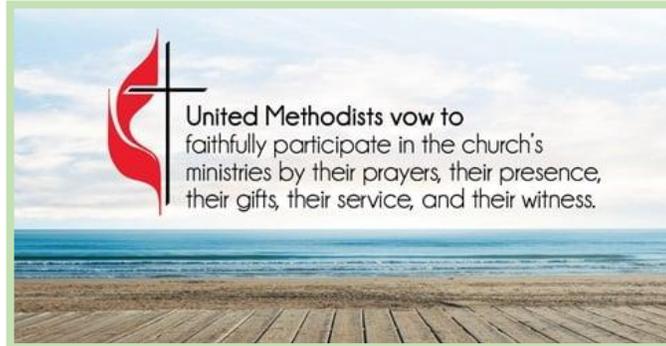
For general information, you can always reach out to Mona in the Church office. If she doesn't have the answer, she knows who to direct you to get it!

I will be back in June, probably sleep-deprived but excited to enter into the summer together.

It is an honor to be your pastor,

Pastor Leslie

# Welcome New Members



Linda McMahon Janet Orjala Teri Barclay Kathy Winters Rick Pero

**Be The Church** 



Judy Neblock Susi Nichols Grant Nichols

# Giving ~ January

## STATEMENT FOR MONTH ENDED JANUARY 31, 2026

### INCOME

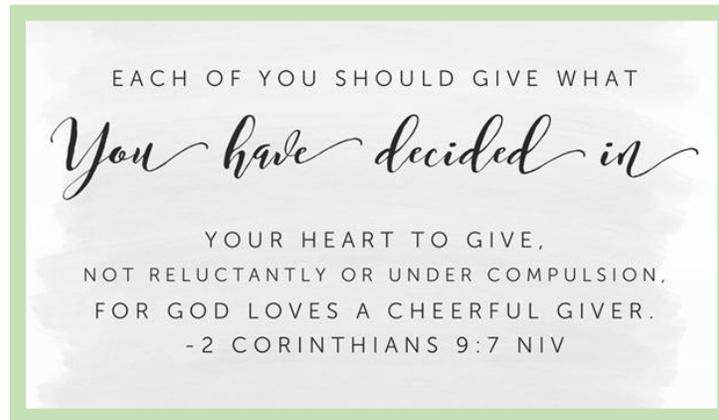
General Fund Giving	\$ 8,066.90
Endowment Transfer – Operations	909.00
Ministerial Housing Transfer	2,584.00
Non-Designated Donation	300.00
Designated Trustee Donation	300.00
Checking Interest	.92
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 12,160.82</b>

### EXPENSES

Personnel	\$ 11,538.58
Apportionments	2,051.45
Designated Trustee Donation	300.00
Other Expenses	2,393.48
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$16,283.51</b>

<b>TOTAL LOSS</b>	<b>\$ (4,122.69)</b>
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**NOTE:** *Bazaar Expenses were paid by General Fund instead of by Designated Funds in error.*



You may drop your tithe in the Offering Plate on Sunday **OR**  
 You may remit your Offering to

Post Office Box 12, Washougal, Washington 98671 **OR**

You can go online to:  
[www.washougalunitedmethodistchurch.org](http://www.washougalunitedmethodistchurch.org)  
 to give online.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact  
 Lou Ann Wittler~ Financial Secretary at 360.834.5677.

# Happy March Birthday !

Luca Kollreno  
March 3

Deena Godwin  
March 4

Martin Kollreno  
March 12

Robin Gould  
March 19



David Steinke  
March 24

Linda Christensen  
March 25

Gladys Dole  
March 25

Martha Kelly  
March 25

## Page Turners

The Washougal United Methodist Church Book Club

### Page Turners

Meets every Third Tuesday of every month ~ Noon at Leonardo's Pizzeria

### Judy Whetzel ~ Coordinator

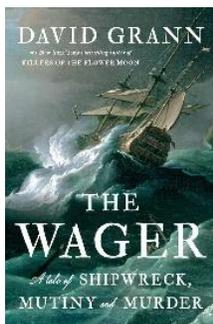
Leads the group and welcomes everyone to join the Club

Contact Judy at 360.600.9796 - [maui.born62@gmail.com](mailto:maui.born62@gmail.com) for more information

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### March ~ The Wager

by David Grann



A rousing story of a maritime scandal...Drawing on a trove of firsthand accounts—logbooks, correspondence, diaries, court-martial testimony, and Admiralty and government records—Grann mounts a chilling, vibrant narrative...recounting the tumultuous events in tense detail...A brisk, absorbing history and a no-brainer for fans of the author's suspenseful historical thrillers.

# 👗 Dress 📌 A 👗 Girl 👗

The Dress ♥ A ♥ Girl Workshops were held at Cleta's Shoppe on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. There were whirring machines, straight pins a pinning, buttons being strategically placed and decorative rickrack abounding. Lunch, treats, laughter and smiles were served.

Last Year was well attended in the Church Fellowship Hall. Here are few 'memories' of the 2025 seamstresses hard at work.

## The Dress ♥ A ♥ Girl Girls

Cleta Gilman      Eula Spanier      Jody Lown      LouAnn Wittler  
Sharon Carmichael      Shirlee Dedmore      Sandy Havrelly      Chuckie Smiley



# WeCompost



By Cathy Morton-Greenlee

As the Washougal United Methodist Church representative for We Compost, I attended the End Of Year Celebration Luncheon February 12<sup>th</sup> at the Real Life Foursquare Church in Vancouver. One Life Food Pantry hosted the event. It was a very well attended event filled with an upbeat spirit regarding the We Compost program.

When our compost is picked up, it eventually goes by truck to Dirt Hugger where they have a large compost facility. I thought the whole thing was fascinating. From there, the finished product goes to a lot of different places including Yard and Garden Land in Hazel Dell for purchase. Because of their location, Dirt Hugger is collecting and composting lots of farm material (think pears, cherries, grapes) as well as green yard debris that is picked up and sent their way.



As a bit of history on Dirt Hugger, who made a presentation at the luncheon. It was co-founded in 2010 by Pierce Louis, Co-founder and CEO, often referred to as the “Swiss Army Knife” for his involvement in business development, marketing and operations and Tyler Miller, Co-founder, often focused on Operations.

Based in Dallesport, Washington, the duo established the composting facility to process organic waste in the Pacific Northwest, later reacquiring the company in September 2023 after a brief sale to Atlas Organics.

Here is a little blurb from the We Compost website about their growth

*This program is unique to Clark County and the hope is that it spreads to more of Washington state.*

*The We Compost program has experienced significant growth this year. With the establishment of four new hub sites in just twelve months, the program plans to continue to increase convenient, free food scrap drop-off options for all residents of Clark County. In 2025, hub users successfully diverted over 180,000 pounds of food scraps, tripling the total amount diverted in 2024. Next year, the program aims to redirect 250,000 pounds of food scraps, transforming them into nutrient-rich compost. Pierce Louis and Tyler Miller are the co-founders of Dirt Hugger, a Dallesport, Washington-based composting company established in 2010. They successfully grew the company to process ~60,000 tons of organic waste annually before reacquiring it in 2023 after a brief sale to Atlas Organics.*

# We Compost ~ The Columbian



Clark County's community composting program collects 186,000 pounds of food waste.

by Shari Phiel, Columbian Staff Reporter  
*Originally published in The Columbian, February 17, 2026*

"Every year, we've been able to add hubs and do more community outreach to get more people using those hubs," said Mary Hurley, senior outreach specialist for We Compost. "It's been a real beautiful community effort, and we are definitely seeing the results of everyone coming together to make this happen."

The cities of Vancouver and Ridgefield offer curbside pickup of food waste. We Compost gives other county residents a place to drop food waste so it stays out of landfills, thereby reducing greenhouse gases, Hurley said.

"When food is landfilled, it gets covered over and over with layers, and it doesn't have access to oxygen. Instead of breaking down into compost, it just produces methane gas, which is a very potent greenhouse gas," Hurley said.

The program has come a long way since it began four years ago, she said. The first year ended with just over 1,000 pounds of waste collected. By 2024, the program was collecting 50,000 pounds of food scraps each year. That number more than tripled in 2025.

The collection bins accept any food, including bones, meat, seafood, baked goods, coffee grounds, dairy products and produce. The material is then hauled to Dirt Hugger, a composting and landscape supply business in Dallesport.

"I'm just so impressed with how much material you've been able to divert and also the quality of material," Dirt Hugger co-founder Pierce Louis told those gathered for the celebration.

Of the 57,000 tons of compost materials Dirt Hugger processed in 2025, Louis said around 15,000 tons came from the Vancouver area, with about 5 percent of that being food waste.

"Food waste is the No. 1 thing that has environmental impacts. Your brush debris is OK, but food waste is really where the leverage happens," he said.

We Compost is planning to add an 18th community hub sometime this year. While an exact opening date or location hasn't been decided yet, Hurley said We Compost expects to announce the new hub within the next couple of months.



# Saint Patrick's Day



Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at 16 years of age. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people.

In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well-known legend of St. Patrick is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock.

Christians may also attend church services, and the Lenten restrictions on eating and drinking alcohol are lifted for the day. Perhaps because of this, drinking alcohol – particularly Irish whiskey, beer, or cider – has become an integral part of the celebrations.

The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

On Saint Patrick's Day, it is customary to wear shamrocks, green clothing or green accessories. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17, the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. This year it is celebrated on Monday, March 17.

More than 100 St. Patrick's Day parades are held across the United States; New York City and Boston are home to the largest celebrations.

## Seven fun facts about St. Patty's Day

- 1) The real St. Patrick was born in Britain
- 2) There were no snakes around for St. Patrick to Banish from Ireland
- 3) Leprechauns Are Likely Based on Celtic Fairies
- 4) The Shamrock Was Considered a Sacred Plant
- 5) The First St. Patrick's Day Parade Was Held in America
- 6) The Irish Were Once Scorned in America
- 7) Corned Beef and Cabbage Was an American Innovation



# March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Worship 10 Holy Communion Coffee Hour 11	Men's Coffee 9 Allen Room  Dress♥A♥Girl 10-2 Cleta's Shoppe	Luca Kollreno BD	Deena Godwin BD		World Day of Prayer 	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship 10 Coffee Hour 11	Men's Coffee 9 Allen Room  Dress♥A♥Girl 10-2 Cleta's Shoppe			Martin Kollreno BD		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Pastor Tom Tucker Worship 10  Potluck Sunday 11	Men's Coffee 9 Allen Room  Dress♥A♥Girl 10-2 Cleta's Shoppe	 St Patty's Day Page Turners Book Club Noon Leonardo's Pizzeria		Robin Gould BD  Church Council 3		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Pastor Tom Tucker Worship 10 Coffee Hour 11	Men's Coffee 9 Allen Room  Dress♥A♥Girl 10-2 Cleta's Shoppe	Dave Steinke BD	Linda Christensen Gladys Dole Martha Kelly Birthdays			
29	30	31	 <b>Women's History Month</b>			
PALM SUNDAY Pastor Tom Tucker Worship 10 Coffee Hour 11	Men's Coffee 9 Allen Room  <b>LAST</b> Dress♥A♥Girl 10-2 Cleta's Shoppe					