

# THE OLIVE PRESS

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2021

## **COUNCIL**

### **President:**

Ernie Butenschoen

### **Vice President:**

Dick Bemrose

### **Sec/Treas:**

Shar Giard

### **Properties:**

Philip Dochow

### **Lutheran Liaison:**

### **Evangelism:**

Rachel Coughlin

### **CYFF Formation:**

Edwina Krubo

### **Community:**

Mary Karter

### **Stewardship:**

Mary Starmont

### **Fellowship:**

Paulette Kelley

### **Worship:**

Brandee Liebrand

## **STAFF**

### **Pastor:**

TBD

### **Choir Director:**

Ben Schumacher

### **Custodians:**

Dale & Ann Van

Hom

### **CYFM:**

Jasmine Anderson

### **Nursery Attend:**

Maeson Dochow

### **Organist:**

Brooke Benfield

### **Church Admin.:**

Anna Lewis

## From the Pastor

Greetings, Gethsemane!

Thank you for our journey together. I've always appreciated that the ceremonies for graduation are called 'commencement:' a signal that in an ending, something new has begun. Time is taken to mark commencement, to celebrate achievements, to remember the days and the work shared together, and then to send the participants off with gifts and well-wishes.

And so I thank you for the commencement---the completion of my ministry here marked by the driveby farewell, and the many cards, notes, and phone calls with your memories and well-wishes. I thank you for the beautiful green, growing quilt that, like the many quilts given and shared, will keep me wrapped in your warmth and care and remembrance---ties that bind our stories together.

I thank you for the book fund offerings---what deep and abiding joy!

Thank you for inviting me into the life and mission of this congregation and the stories of your families. Thank you, with all my heart. May this moment of commencement, of ending and beginning, be wonder-full for us all. God bless and keep you, always.

With joy and thanksgiving, Pastor Suellen

### **February Anniversaries**

Roger & Roberta Vidlund 2/4

Irby Garrett 2/7

Nancy Carpenter 2/11

Carolyn Graf 2/14

Jack & Randi Bateman 2/15

Elizabeth Blohm 2/19

Brian & Paulette Kelley 2/24

### **February Birthdays**

Christina Wong 2/2

Priscilla Nelson 2/3

Lyle Johnson 2/7

Mary Starmont 2/11

Lois Boro 2/16

Brandee Leibrand 2/18

Kim Stoffregen 2/20

Bill Bahleda 2/23

Dru Natasia 2/23

Denise Johnson 2/26

## Council President

Greetings to my brothers and sisters in Christ:

As we move through the Epiphany of Our Lord in the early part of February, we finish with the Fourth and Fifth Sunday after Epiphany. There are a number of readings that I share with you that will carry you through to February 14th, The Transfiguration of Our Lord—Last Sunday after Epiphany. They are as follows:

Weds Feb 3rd—Jeremiah 29:1-14 and Mark 5: 1-20

Fri Feb 5th—Job 36: 1-23 and 1st Corinthians 9:1-16

Sat Feb 6th—Isaiah 46: 1-13 and Matthew 12: 9-14

Fri Feb 7th—Isaiah 40: 21-31 Psalm 147: 1-11,  
1 Corinthians 9: 16-23 and Mark 1:29-39

Prayer of the Day after these readings—Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the far ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. When we ask God to help us, he is always there for us and he listens. He already knows what we need before we even ask for it. It's important through these long days and months that we never waver by displaying or belief and faith in him. Be patient and continue praying for soon our Covid-19 world will disappear and we will rejoice and be back together to worship and praise him as a church family. It's funny because as I type this message to you, I have the biggest smile on my face—I guess I have lived long enough to know the power of God and Jesus and the way they shower us with grace and love and it's everlasting! More Bible readings to share:

Mon Feb 8th—2 Kings 4: 8-17 and Acts 14: 1-7

Tues Feb 9th—2nd Kings 8: 1-6 and Acts 15: 36-41

Fri Feb 12th—1 Kings 14:1-18 and 1 Timothy 1:12-20

Sat Feb 13th—1 Kings 16:1-7 and Luke 19: 14-44

This leads us up to The Transfiguration of our Lord—This is The Last Sunday after Epiphany. This is the event where Jesus transformed in appearance before Peter, James and John. He also stood with Moses and Elijah. You can read about this in Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8, Luke 9:28-36, Peter 1:16-18, 2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50: 1-6, and 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6.

I added in this message to you, to read a lot of scripture. There is so much to learn and amazing miracles that take place. I'm in awe and I love what the Trinity shares with us each and every day. We as believers are Blessed, Loved and Forgiven daily. I'm blessed to have you, brothers and sisters in my life—we will see better days ahead and just think how wonderful it will be to worship together in our sanctuary again.

God Bless You All,  
Ernie

## Notes

- ⇒ We now have a **sign-in sheet on the front counter for Covid-19 contact tracing**. If you're a member, all we need is your name, time in/out, and a phone number. Outside visitors who don't have contact info on file will need to provide an address and email as well. Please don't forget to sign it if/when you come in.
- ⇒ **As for the Rummage Sale**, we really don't know how or when that's going to happen. If you have donations, please keep them stored at home for a while yet!
- ⇒ **SnowCap's winter needs** include the following food items: canned fruit, hearty soups/chili/stew; canned tuna, peanut butter, ground coffee, can openers. They are also collecting stocking/gift bag items for children, including hot chocolate packets, art supplies, socks, and card games. The donation drive-through is open Monday-Friday between 9 am - 3 pm at 17788 SE Pine Street.
- ⇒ **If you come into the church for any reason, please remember to wear a mask!**

Hey everyone! Could you please take a moment to **update your email addresses?** Either go to the website at **www.GLCPortland.org** and go to the contact page to drop us a note, or call Jasmine's desk (**503-256-1835x103**), or mail it into the church?

## GLC Community Action

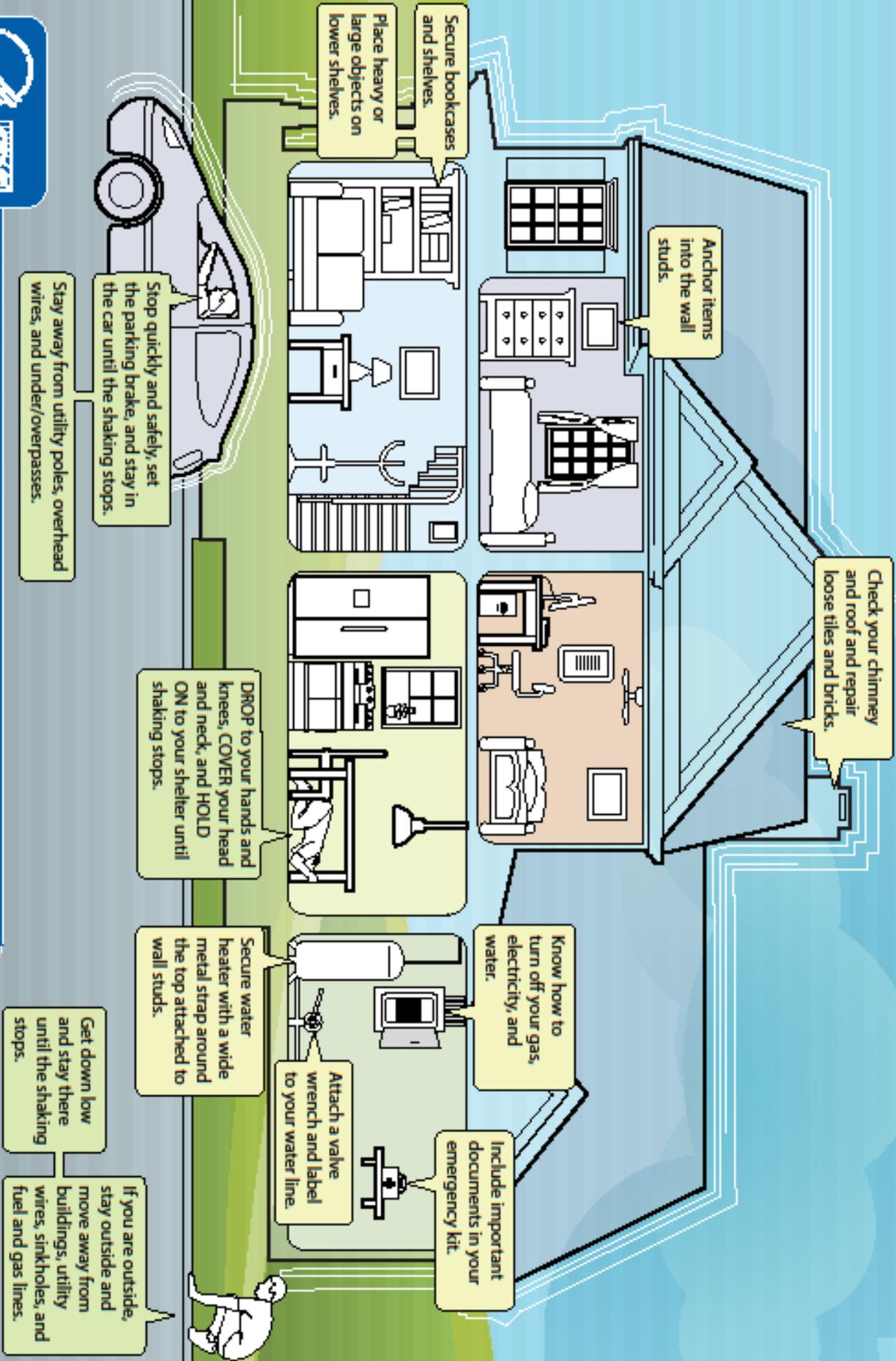
**For disaster preparedness, let's consider getting ready for an earthquake! See the full-page infographic enclosed in this Olive Press!**

Is your home and living space ready for the shaking of an earthquake? What if you are in your car or in a store if such an event occurs?

International ShakeOut Day is October 21, 2021 (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of October). Earthquake drills at home, at work and during daily life are pretty simple: **Drop, Cover & Hold On!** Gethsemane, let's plan that we will participate this year. We encourage members to sign up and report back. You can check it out at: <https://www.shakeout.org/oregon/>.

What do you think about this? Contact any of our team to share your thoughts: Mary Karter, Carolyn Graf, Gabriel Sprague, Sharon Magnuson, Rod Hills, Sharon Lee and Jay Rector.

# Be Ready! Earthquakes



Public Health Preparedness and Response  
Office of the Director

## Gethsemane Youth Happenings

Church families,

It has been an entire church year of Zoom Sunday school. I've included coloring pages, science experiments, books, rocks, mints, and more for Sunday school activity packets for each month to keep the kiddos engaged, much like the adult versions we send out to everyone. As we come back around to Lent and ***what's next*** for us, I ask that we all take a moment to pause and be thankful for what we do have.

- \* We do have a vibrant, ever growing, always learning church community.
- \* We do have a wonderful staff (I'm not just talking about myself); Ben has coordinated music from a distance longer than he ever did inside our building, Dale and Ann have continued to come into the building and keep surfaces clean during a pandemic, Maesen has taken on side projects that were not listed in their job description, and Anna came into the office admin position already three months behind and has worked wonders with what is.
- \* We do have a cohort of wonderful Synodically Authorized Lay Ministers who have offered their time and energy to ensure we have a sermon every Sunday still!
- \* We do have a healthy, engaged, and informed congregation who has continued to stay connected over this last church year.

It's really easy to think about all of the things we have missed this last year, and hearing that we will be out of our church building for another Easter is a hard blow. Being together-apart has been hard work but has had its own perks and we're working hard to root out the bugs for you all.

If you have not been receiving phone calls at least monthly from a council member, please call me! If you haven't been receiving the sermon and you would like to, please call me! If you feel like you would like to have a Zoom book club, or bible study, or coffee hour...or something else that I haven't thought of yet; shoot me an email or call me! I know hearing that we can't be together in our church building for two more months is tough—but it's important work too. Keeping us healthy, keeping us safe, and keeping us connected is not easy work; but it's important work. If you would like to be a part of that work; you want to make phone calls and be a part of the phone tree, you'd like to write emails, or Facebook posts, or Bible studies, any part of the work of Gethsemane Lutheran Church as it is right now, please also reach out.

You are all so wonderful, so missed, so special!!! I can't wait to see you all in person and give you all big, giant, I missed you so much hugs!!! Until that day this is our work and #WhatsNext for Gethsemane. I do hope you'll all enjoy the February packets. One of you put it together and did the hard work; I think it is wonderful!

Until next time,

(Psalm 61) Jasmine CYFM@GLCPDX

## Homebound

Wynn Stafford, Virginia Haacke, Virginia Karin, Harvey/Carol Steele, Carol Law, Jo Nelson.

**Concerns—Ongoing:** Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers: Wynn Stafford; Ginny Barton's friend Golda; Linda Babcock's grandson Josiah; Aiden Lindstrom; Sharon Lee's relatives Connie and Terri; Matthew Green; Virginia Haacke, Randy Treanor.

**Urgent:** *Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:* Peter Kruegler, Harvey Steele, Colleen Barnett and her niece Linda; Shirla Rapp's cousin Julie; Kim Butenschoen's sister-in-law Rita and friend Randy; Virginia McCormick's son Gary and relative Veronica; Becky Keiper and her daughter-in-law Becky; Michelle McBride; Kim Stoffregen's niece Lona; Marion Burgess' daughter Vo; Carol Law; Jo Nelson's friend's son, Jeff; Jack Bateman; Jan Brown's daughter Elizabeth; Kim and Ernie's relatives Glen and Sherry Butenschoen who lost their house in the fires; and Roberta Vidlund's friends Jim and Sue.

*Those who are grieving:* Friends and family of Shirley Treanor.

### February Lectionary

#### **Sun. Feb. 7 — Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c (3)  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

#### **Sun. Feb. 14 — Transfiguration of Our Lord Last Sunday after Epiphany**

2 Kings 2:1-12  
Psalm 50:1-6 (2)  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

#### **Wed. Feb. 17 — Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12  
Psalm 51:1-17 (1)  
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

#### **Sun. Feb. 21 — First Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25:1-10 (10)  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15

#### **Sun. Feb. 28 — Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31 (27)  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38

# February Olive Press



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Church Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 8a-3p