



Newsletter

Notes from Pastor Anna:

I'm reflecting on the message I spoke on February 18 titled, "Why White Christians Should Care." Talk about confronting racism on the nose. Did you notice I was suited up and a bit scattered? Because I was. I tried to appear more credible! When BIPOC speaks on racism, there's always a risk of being discounted and dismissed; similarly, Christian teachings have been misused to teach that God favors one group over another. I know in my head that none of you would walk out in the middle of the message, but I have shared with you that I frequently gauge "how will they receive it?" Despite knowing that I would have shared the same message, even if someone chose to walk out of the service, I still wonder, Will it sit? Will it challenge? Will it distance them? But I think that's the problem. No BIPOC entering any space considered to be inclusive, especially in the name of God, should have to second guess whether they are genuinely received and heard wholeheartedly or that they belong.

This past month, I returned from San Diego after an in-person meeting with the Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team (WJLT, oh, a new UMC acronym!) as the team's co-chair. A large group of leaders, Bishops, clergy, and laity across the West with positional power met to "organize our shared work, identify shared values and missional priorities, and continue planning for a busy year of conferencing." (Patrick Scriven, Director of Communications, Pacific Northwest Conference)

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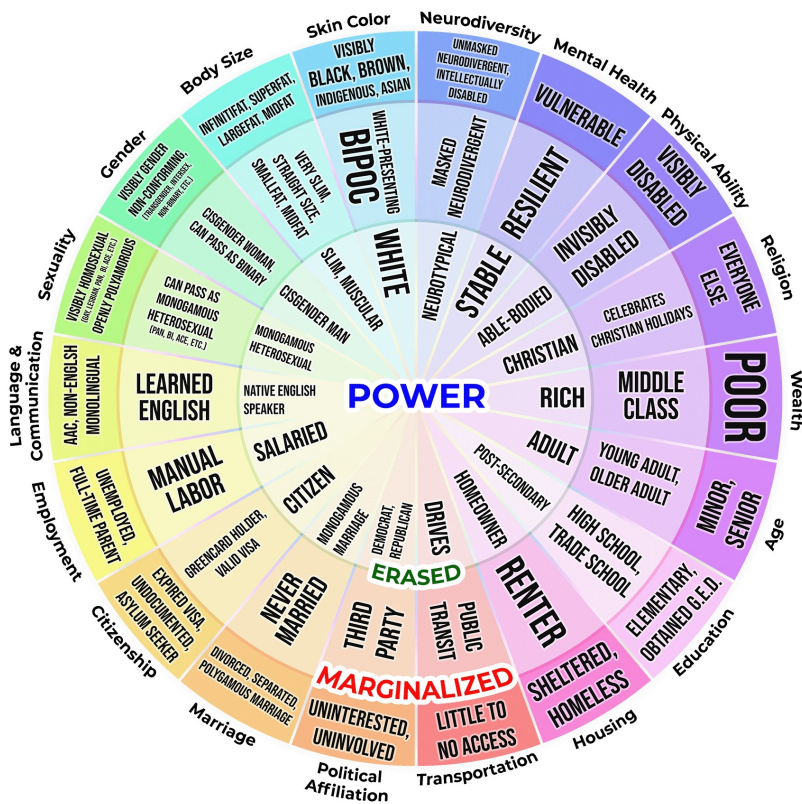
Notes from Pastor Anna (continued)

The group prioritized initiatives such as Permeable Boundaries, Immigration and Border Ministries, Dismantling Racism, and Finances. But isn't it funny that racism intersects with all matters of ministry that we deeply care about? How is racism showing up in our ministry at the border? How is racism showing up in how we prioritize money? How is racism showing up in our collective efforts to be more kin-dom-like and inclusive?

We cannot move forward when we are not willing to acknowledge the harm done against Indigenous people, the land, and, as non-native people, our role in colonization and decolonization. The work is deep and wide. But what a relief and breath of fresh air that I, for one, as a person of color, can reflect this with my beloved community called Vermont Hills as a ground to learn and grow together. It'll take our collective effort and hearts. For ways you continue to engage in Adult Sunday School on *See No Stranger*, extend your arms a bit further to reach those on the outskirts, and most of all, for continually showing up, I give you thanks. I pray that during this season of Lent, we reflect internally—a bit more intimately—as a spiritual practice of how the Spirit is calling us to go deep and wide. What death and birth might you find?

INTERSECTIONALITY WHEEL OF PRIVILEGE

As Observed in the USA



TessaWatkins.com/wheel-of-privilege

Adapted from Sylvia Duckworth, Canadian Council for Refugees, and Olena Hankivsky, PhD

God, our maker,
 We honor the sacred multitude that
 resides in you.
 May the guardian in you protect us
 May the child in you delight in us.
 May the friend in you challenge us.
 May your ashes resurrect us.
 May your sky shelter us.
 May the mystery of you liberate us.
 Provide abundance and healing in all
 forms to those who need it today,
 And deliver us from shame, hatred,
 and the chains that bind us. For you
 have made us – glory- and we are
 still being made.
 (Black Liturgies, Cole Arthur Riley)

P.S. Easter is March 31. New members (by profession or baptism) will be welcomed during the service. It's a celebration for all. An egg hunt for the kids will follow the service.

Auction 2024

It's official!

Auction 2024 will be on the evening of Saturday, May 11. The theme is "Sweet Dreams."



This year will include both silent and live auctions, pre-event online bidding opportunities, and food (did someone mention *candy*?) Our goal is to raise \$7000, which is possible with everyone's help!

There are many ways that you can participate to make this year's auction a success:

- Donate new items or gift cards
- Solicit donations from businesses (in-person, or we have letters you can mail!)
- Invite friends and family to join the fun through our online auction or here at the church on May 11
- Volunteer to help with food, decorations, set-up and/or clean-up; contact Virginia C with any questions

Many more details will become available in the next few months. Keep an eye on your weekly email to learn more.

Intergenerational Worship

Intergenerational Service – of at least 3 generations– is not just a new trend but it's a way of "being" in a healthy community. The younger need older and the older need the younger.

We live in digital and physical diaspora. This type of worship can be a time of paying attention to the differing needs of the community; moving away from a top-down approach to relational participation where we become both learners and teachers.

Our next intergenerational worship service will be on March 24 (Palm Sunday.) Bring your children, bring your parents, bring your neighbor, bring someone who is open to new ways of being.

(Watch for our April service, with Mr. David's Film of School!)

How to Stay Informed

Online Gatherings

[Sun 10:30 am](#)

Worship

[Tue 1:00 pm](#)

Talk N Thought

[Wed 6:30 pm](#)

ImBible Study

Visit our website

vermonthillsUMC.org

Staying Connected, church calendar, and more

Read Weekly Emails

Email the church office at officeVHUMC@gmail.com to receive these

Use Social Media

Follow us on Facebook:

Facebook.com/

VermontHillsUMC

And Instagram:

www.instagram.com/

vermonthillschurch/

Watch videos of online

gatherings: YouTube.com/

@vermonthillsumc

Sign-up for Summer!

Our lovely campus will host several camps this summer. Our long-time partner, Southwest Parent-Child Collective, will have one week camps each month for their students. In between these weeks, Fellowship Hall will be transformed into a Lego wonderland! Mr. David's School of Film is perfect for kids aged 5-14 who love stop motion, Lego animation, and movie making. Receive a discount by entering code VHUM. Find out more at mrdavidfilm.com.

Adventures in Spanish (AdventuresInSpanish.org) will be utilizing our campus for two weeks in July. Their children's program "combines interactive language lessons, exciting cultural activities, and hands-on experiences, promising an unforgettable and enlightening adventure." VHUMC members receive 10% off!

Did you know that our UMC conference has six camps throughout the state? The summer programs for children and youth are now open. They include camps for elementary through high school ages, with different themes and activities. Register by May 5 to save \$25. Visit gocamping.org to learn all about the fun opportunities!



For the teenagers, Mending Wings, a native faith-based non-profit organization, invites youth grades 7-12 and their youth leaders and chaperones to Wapato, Washington, for a week-long S.L.A.M. (Students Learning About Mission) Trip. Youth will have the unique

opportunity to visit the Yakama reservation to learn about Native American culture, serve elders through work projects, and build friendships. To learn more, please visit <https://greaternw.org/news/youth-s-l-a-m-trip-dates-announced-for-summer-2024/>

Schedule

Your church council chair, Aaron Cripps, and Staff Parish Relations chair, Linda Miller, recently received Pastor Anna's schedule for the next quarter. It was eye-opening. She is heavily involved in district and conference matters while loving and shepherding our congregation.

She has been selected as a delegate to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church in North Carolina, April 22 through May 4. On April 28, Rev. Carly Hodge from Park Rose UMC will be our guest speaker. Rev Hodge also serves as a full-time Hospice chaplain.

Pastor Anna is also a driving force in multiple events, both in our community and conference-wide, and attends multiple meetings on a regular basis.

To survive all this, Pastor Anna will be joining other ethnic leaders from across the Greater Northwest Area for a time of retreat and renewal, April 1 to 3, at the Alton L. Collins Retreat Center.

Thank you, Pastor Anna, for all you do!

SW Hope

Neighborhood House's annual food and fund drive has begun!

This year, the goal is to collect \$75,000, enough for a 3-month food supply for the 750 households who rely on Neighborhood House for assistance with their basic food needs each month. Helping neighbors with ever-increasing food costs allows them to focus on paying rent, buying medicine, and other necessities. There are multiple ways to participate, including:

Dine Out to Donate

Enjoy a meal at any of these fine local restaurants, and a percentage of your meal price will be donated to SW Hope. Get a group together and make a night of it! 10% of all proceeds at these restaurants on these dates go to SW HOPE!

- March 4th: Mediterranean Exploration Company
- March 5th: Shalom Y'all
- March 6th: Lil' Shalom
- March 11th: Yalla
- March 12th: Dolly Olive
- March 13th: Icarus



Empty Bowls

Join us at Empty Bowls, where you can savor soups and hearty bread from SW Portland's finest restaurants, and take home your own hand-crafted bowl, all while supporting our Free Food Market. For just \$5 you'll get a tasting flight of soup and breads. Then, purchase your favorite bowl and soup to take home. On Saturday, March 16, 11am-2pm at their new location, 8959 SW Barbur Blvd.

5K Run/Walk

We will have a team walking on the morning of Saturday, April 6, at the Oregon Episcopal School. The cost is \$27.50 without the optional t-shirt. Sign up on the website and join the Vermont Hills UMC Ramblers team. Contact Katie S with any questions.

And, as always, monetary donations are the most effective way to support Neighborhood House, because every \$1 buys 4 pounds of food, enough for a full day's worth of food for a household, thanks to their partnership with the Oregon Food Bank.

Need more information? Please visit the website at nhpdx.org/sw-hope.



Birthdays

Dori Killion	Mar-05
Crystal Carlson	Mar-07
Tristan Holmes	Mar-08
Lise Shearer	Mar-08
Donna Benjamin	Mar-13
Will Mitchell	Mar-31
Avery Cripps	Apr-11
Joan Wall	Apr-25
Natalie Peterson	Apr-27
Krista Harper	Apr-30
Jessica Karman	May-02
Kay Petersen	May-04
Joy Wegner	May-15
Pam Yuzon	May-22
Bonnie Kingston	May-24
Marilyn Christie	May-26
Lorraine Crawford	May-28
Allison Chilgren	May-31
Elizabeth Stelle	May-31

Upcoming Events

- Mar 9 All Church Work Party; kids planting flowers
- Mar 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Mar 24 Intergenerational Worship / Palm Sunday
- Mar 31 Easter!
Egg Hunt after worship
- Apr 6 SW Hope 5K run/walk
- Apr 13 All Church Work Party
- Apr 20 Family Earth Day Event
- Apr 22 - General Conference of the UMC, NC (Pastor Anna is a delegate)
- May 4 All Church Work Party

- May 11 "Sweet Dreams" Auction
- May 17 Family Movie Night
- May 27 Memorial Day

Ongoing (all in Fireside unless noted):

2nd Sundays @ 9:30 & 3:00: Spiritual Practices (vermonthillsumc.org/sssp)

3rd Sundays @ 4:00: Game Night

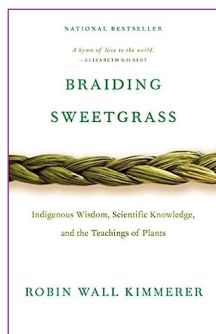
1st & 3rd Mondays @ 5:00: Fireside Friends Quilting Group in the studio

Tuesdays @ 1:00 pm: Talk 'n' Thought

Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm: ImBible Study

Connection Points

The VHUMC Ramblers walk on Monday mornings at 9:00 am. We walk for about an hour at different parks and neighborhoods in SW Portland. If you would like to be put on the mailing list and join us for some exercise and good company, contact Katie Simpson or Susan Zotter.



Talk & Thought (TnT) is a women's book group that gathers on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the church. This group was begun over 40 years ago by a group of intergenerational women using books to explore and share their understanding of life and belief. We continue today using a book to spark dialogue. Contact Linda Miller for more info.

Fireside Friends, a sewing group dedicated to making two quilts per year, is meeting on the 1st and 3rd Mondays from 5:00 - 7:00 pm in the quilting studio (downstairs from the sanctuary). Newbies are welcome!



Whether you prefer hand-sewing, machine-sewing, or working the long arm quilting machine, you'll have fun with this group! Contact Elizabeth Brown with any questions.



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*"Vermont Hills UMC is a Reconciling Congregation where
Our Hearts and Minds and Doors are truly open."*

VERMONT HILLS CHURCH
————— *A Spiritual Oasis* —————