

**Fern Prairie United Methodist Church
September-October 2026 Newsletter**



“Spring is beautiful, and summer is perfect for vacations, but autumn brings a longing to get away from the unreal things of life, out into the forest at night with a campfire and the rustling leaves.”

~Margaret Elizabeth Sangster

Dear friends and family, we pray that your days are filled with the colors of faith and friendship in all their many forms. The days grow shorter, the nights colder, and yet we are blessed to bask in the glow of our Creator’s love and care. As we have been blessed, we go forth and become blessings to each other. Thank you for your prayerful support of our little white church on the hill!

In July we began our six week summer sessions that followed an informal approach to exploring and meeting God in new ways. We encouraged one another to experience worship through devotional readings, uplifting music, crafts, and other group activities. Our final session culminated in a church potluck hosted by Dick and Linda. Thank you both for opening your home and extending your hospitality!

It was a pleasure to see and hear from our covenant missionary, Katherine Parker. Her work in Nepal is truly inspiring. Please hold the victims of the severe flooding there in your prayers, as well as the victims of our wildfires close to home. We are so grateful to the frontline responders who put themselves so selflessly at risk to help others.

Please feel free to reach out if there are needs or prayer requests that our congregation can help with. You are important and loved!

Contact information: Church website: fernprairieunitedmethodistchurch.org
Online giving site: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZA35>

HEROES

I never met a really famous person. I've met a few local dignitaries and handful of national recording artists. But most folk I meet have never enjoyed much fame or notoriety. That probably suits them just fine. They can be spared the troubles of the paparazzi. They can also live their lives in relative anonymity and peaceful seclusion.

I am hardly famous. I don't aspire to be famous and can't imagine that I ever will be. I just don't have the looks, charisma, or personality of a movie star. I am just a fairly ordinary guy who serves a good Christian congregation. Consequently, nobody goes through my trash in an attempt to make salacious gossip or rifles through my closet to see what labels I wear. That's fine with me. I would prefer to be a relatively unknown minister who serves God's people with grace instead of glamour and goodness instead of glitz.

Fame, however, is quite alluring. Most hunger for recognition and thirst for affirmation. Some carefully cultivate reputations, control perceptions, and project personas to keep themselves in the spotlight. Quite a few will try to garner attention for their kindly deeds. In fact, most of us have probably tried to boost our own popularity through some kind of public display of goodness. But some have

wisely learned to be unconcerned about all that. These people merely give and serve because their hearts and faith compel them to.

I recently visited with a man who faithfully ministers to homeless people. His service is truly heroic but his ministry will probably get little publicity. I also know an elderly impoverished woman who quietly contributes more than 20 percent of her Social Security to help impoverished children in Africa. Her sacrifice has gone unrecognized by all but a handful of local people. Furthermore, I observed a middle-aged man who courageously confronted injustice even though he received no accolades for his honorable service.

There are countless unsung heroes in our midst. This area has an abundance of them. Though their faiths and causes may differ, they characteristically lack overdeveloped egos or superstar complexes that crave notoriety. Instead, they possess passionate hearts and exercise deep humility when helping others.

I believe humility is at the core of sincere service. True servants do not attempt to elevate their status but are compelled to lift our needy brothers and sisters out of hardship. They do not seek to have their countenances grace the covers of newsstand magazines but hope to put a smile on the faces of needy people.

Please find opportunities to humbly serve someone with loving goodness. You may not become internationally famous or fabulously wealthy, but those who serve are abundantly blessed through their honorable service. (— Pastor Don)

Calendar of upcoming events

September

6- Kathy

12- (Saturday) "Joy" Retreat at Battleground UMC led by Rev. Carol Davies- see attached flyer below

13- Guest speaker, Brook Aurich

20- Rev. Tom Tucker

27- Rev. Keith Hackett *Holy Communion * Council meeting after service

October

4- Marilyn

11- Marilyn

18- Music Connexions by Brenda

25- Rev. Keith Hackett *Holy Communion

Choosing Joy

**Finding God's Presence, Purpose, and
Peace in Every Season**

Join us

September 12, 2026

9:30am-3:00pm Includes lunch

Battleground UMC

10300 NE 199 th St. Battleground WA

Take a moment

to slow down and take time

to find joy in your

mind, body, and spirit

**Our retreat leader, Rev. Carol Davies, retired Elder pastored
Fern Prairie, St. Paul's, Stevenson, Lyle and Orchards UMCs
and is a strong supporter of United Women in Faith
Cost \$15 (no charge for children) payable to United Women
in Faith Crest to Coast District**

Childcare available if registered by September 1

Registration deadline September 1 (You may call and see if they can still accommodate you if you wish to attend.)

Sponsored by United Women in Faith, Crest to Coast District

Open to all Women

Questions, email rivera.slc@comcast.net or call at 801-557-4319

Choosing Joy Registration Form

September 12, 2026

Battleground UMC

10300 NE 199 th St. Battleground WA

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

Phone_____

Email_____

Church (optional)_____

List all Food Allergies and Dietary Restrictions:

If Childcare needed, please list names and ages:

Please send registration and payment to:

Teresa Rivera

5006 NW 137 th Way

Vancouver, WA 98685

Questions, email rivera.slc@comcast.net or call at 801-557-4319