Whitney Quarterly

Fall Edition 2026

Whitney United Methodist Church



Contact Us

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WORSHIP!

Worship Sundays at 10:00AM

In-person or live streamed on our YouTube channel, @Whitney UMC Boise

SATURDAY LUNCH

Sack lunch for the whole family - Offered every Saturday!

10:30AM - 12PM

COMMUNITY DINNER

Every 3rd Friday of each month.

5PM - 6PM

3315 W. Overland Rd. Boise, ID 83705
Phone: (208) 343-2892 | Website: www.WhitneyUMC.org

Pastor's Note

The boy grew and stopped nursing. On the day he stopped nursing, Abraham prepared a huge banquet. Sarah saw Hagar's son laughing, the one Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham. So she said to Abraham, "Send this servant away with her son! This servant's son won't share the inheritance with my son Isaac." This upset Abraham terribly because the boy was his son. God said to Abraham, "Don't be upset about the boy and your servant. Do everything Sarah tells you to do because your descendants will be traced through Isaac. But I will make of your servant's son a great nation too, because he is also your descendant. Abraham got up early in the morning, took some bread and a flask of water, and gave it to Hagar. He put the boy in her shoulder sling and sent her away. She left and wandered through the desert near Beer-sheba. Finally the water in the flask ran out, and she put the boy down under one of the desert shrubs. She walked away from him about as far as a bow shot and sat down, telling herself, I can't bear to see the boy die. She sat at a distance, cried out in grief, and wept. God heard the boy's cries, and God's messenger called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "Hagar! What's wrong? Don't be afraid. God has heard the boy's cries over there. Get up, pick up the boy, and take him by the hand because I will make of him a great nation." Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well. She went over, filled the water flask, and gave the boy a drink. God remained with the boy; he grew up, lived in the desert, and became an expert archer. He lived in the Paran desert, and his mother found him an Egyptian wife.

Genesis 21:8-21 (CEB)

Throughout this fall, we have been bombarded with horrific news of sexual violence across the nation – first with news of the Cornell Jane Doe lawsuit, alleging a violent encounter with a number of fraternity members in 2024; and shortly thereafter, with the news of a Timberline football group message, threatening

violence toward at least one classmate. News like this lands differently depending on our own experiences. For survivors of sexual harm, there is real pain, grief, and trauma that has been triggered by these reports of abuse and institutional failures to respond.

Collectively, we cannot stay where we are, mired in a culture of tolerating abuses of power, where too many people may not be the perpetrators of violence but remain passive bystanders who fail to interrupt harm. At Cornell, and at Timberline – and undoubtedly in communities across the U.S. – dozens of individuals were made aware of abusive and threatening language, and actions, in a group chat, and not one of them did anything to stop it.

As people of faith, we have to ask: Are we actually cultivating practices that equip us to actively resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? Will we be a Church that stays silent in the face of harassment and violence, or one that speaks a prophetic voice?

Most of us would quickly say we do not condone abuse, but how do we make that real? How do we ensure our stated values become our lived practices?

The Church has not been innocent throughout history, there is much to repent and account for, and the United Methodist Church is not exempt from that reality. Because of the systemic injustices and the individual injustices and harms that have long been allowed to fester and, often thrive, in individual churches and congregations across the connection, brave clergy and laity for years and years have been calling the denomination to account. And every shift culturally or in polity has brought a shift in what those voices have called our attention to – from systems

that protect abusive clergy; to musicians and hymn-writers whose works we are encouraged to avoid utilizing and promoting in worship; to individuals who have been protected through our itinerant system, moved from congregation to congregation, community to community, every couple of years to keep the church from engaging in their duties of disciplinary action of involving law enforcement for appropriate situations and response.

The sacredness of safety – physical, mental, emotional, spiritual – can be found throughout the stories that build our faith, even if they don't seem to be there upon first reading. The story of Hagar in Genesis is one of those stories that sometimes feels like God has left someone behind. At the direction of Sarah – jealous or envious or angry, whatever motivations she may have had – Abraham equips Hagar and their son – his son – with this small portion of rations, some bread and a flask full of water, and sends her off into the wilderness. Her own desert to navigate, with a vulnerable child she needs to protect.

And here, in the desert, when God shows up at the sounds of the crying child, God's attention is not immediately on resolving the boy's issue of safety, there is care and attention first to where Hagar finds herself. "Hagar, what is wrong?"

This story of Hagar reveals to us a truth about God's nature: that God cares very deeply about the safety of God's creation. That God cares very deeply about every part of the story of God's people and every person who is a part of that grand, unyielding story.

Our responsibility, in response to God's care for the marginalized, the most harmed, the most cast-aside, the most vulnerable, is to center their safety in our own time, our own community, our own age.

We know just how real gender-based violence is in the United States and throughout the world, in the U.S. alone, more than one in three women experiences sexual violence in her lifetime. And when sexual violence dominates the news, the people around us, people you know and love, may be reliving their own experience, even if you've never known about it.

If these last few weeks of September and early October have been difficult for you because of the events of recent news, please know you are not alone. And there are resources available to you, including these few local organizations:

- Faces of Hope (facesofhopeidaho.org)
  208.986.4357
- Women's and Children's Alliance (wcaboise.org)
  208.343.7025
- Ada County Victim Services (adacounty.id.gov/victimservices/)
  208.577.4400
- ROSE Advocates (roseadvocates.org)
  208.414.0740
- Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (healthandwelfare.idaho.gov)
  800.656.4673
- Lutheran Community Services (findhelp.org)
  509.624-7273

Whatever you may have experienced, it is not your fault and I believe you. And you are not alone in reacting to recent events in our world and in our neighborhoods, however you are reacting to them. And there is help available to you as you need.

Rev. Hannah J. Andres

United Women in Faith

What We Have Been Up to....

Faces of Hope

In September we enjoyed an excellent program provided by Faces of Hope CEO, Paige Dinger. Faces of Hope provides free, immediate and confidential support for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, stalking, and human trafficking. They have locations in Boise and Meridian. Prior to her visit Whitney attenders provided boxes of diapers and a donation of $380 to be used for gift cards. We are hoping to visit their facility in downtown Boise later in the year.

Pictured: Donations collected for Faces of Hope

FACES of HOPE



United Women in Faith

Sage District Meeting

On Sept. 26 we hosted the Sage District Annual Meeting. The theme was “We are Unstoppable” and the program followed the theme. After a business meeting, we heard Diane McChesney, our Social Action chair, talk about her amazing volunteer trip to Ukraine this summer and the camp they provided for teenagers. Boise 1st women provided a hearty breakfast and Whitney women provided a delicious lunch.

Pictured: The set-up and decorations for the meeting

“We Are Unstoppable”

Want to learn more?
Watch the full UWF Sage District Annual Meeting here by scanning the QR code below:





United Women in Faith

PROJECT HAITI
helping · healing · hoping

Learn more about Project Haiti and their history by scanning the QR code below:



Project Haiti Presentation

In October, we enjoyed a presentation from Linda Martin about Project Haiti. She has been involved with this project since 2005 and supports Father Rick Frechette in advancing education, empowerment and sustainability to ensure that the people of Haiti thrive and lead their own future.

Yard Sale

In early August, our successful yard sale yielded money for our Scholarship Fund as well as other mission projects in our community.

Neighborhood Block Party

Hundreds of students and parents gathered at Whitney Elementary on August 27 for the Neighborhood Block Party. Whitney women provided nearly 1000 home baked cookies for the event. We greeted all and handed out flyers detailing our Saturday Lunch and Joseph's Closet ministries. The weather was perfect and everyone had a great time.

Joseph's Closet

It's getting cold out, which means...

Joseph's closet opened on Friday evening, October 16!
If you would like to volunteer to work at the Closet from October - January, please contact Lory Neser.

If you have clothes or items you would like to donate, please bring them to the office. We appreciate all of you for participating in this important Whitney outreach!



Joseph's Closet Hours

Tuesday
10:30 - 12:00

Saturday
10:30 - 12:00

3rd Friday
4:30 - 6:00

JOSEPH'S CLOSET

October 16th 2026 - January 16th 2027





FREE

Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. - noon
Saturdays 10:30 a.m. - noon
3rd Fridays 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



WHITNEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A SCHOOL OF LOVE

Whitney United Methodist Church
3315 W. Overland Road, Boise, ID 83705

2026 Advent Series: Written in the Stars



Picture 1: The Carina Nebula: nasa.gov/webbfirstimages/

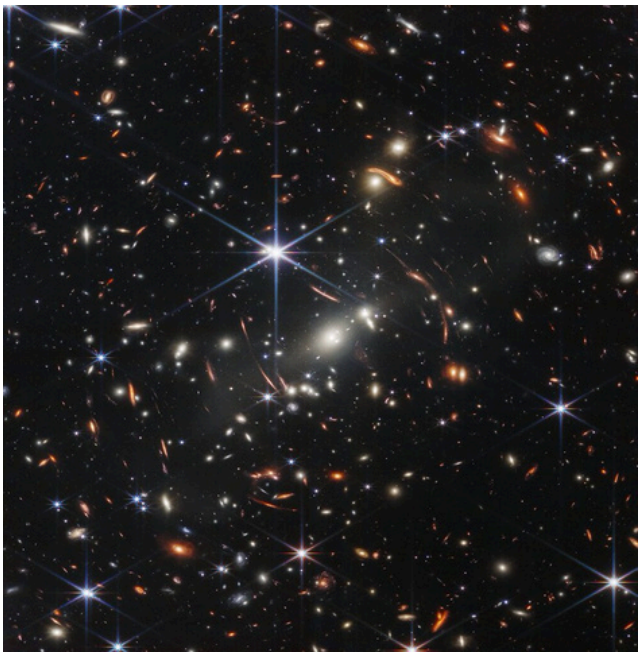
Our Advent series this year, "Written In the Stars," was written and developed by my friends Rev. Alexa Eisenbarth and Rev. Kellen Head-Corliss who were inspired and awed by the images published a few years ago from the James Webb Telescope, and they couldn't help but connect those incredible photos with the Advent scriptures and symbolism of this season in the life of the church.

Their hope with this series is to encourage congregations to be in awe of God's creation, of scientific progress, and be encouraged by their place in the universe rather than stressed by it.

Recent developments in satellite imagery have expanded our ability to observe and track the movement of stars, galaxies, gas giants, novas, and planets. It's captivating to see these tools at work and inspiring to see the vast nature of our universe. It's also daunting. What does it mean to be this small part of something bigger? Does any of our research about space matter when our own tiny existence on earth is so busy, fraught, and threatened?

As we prepare ourselves for another Advent season, we can look to the cosmos to learn something about how Christ is coming to us anew.

Just like we use tools like telescopes, satellites, and cameras to capture, observe, and participate in interstellar life, we can use our spiritual tools to anticipate, seek, and witness Christ's coming in our own neighborhoods.



Our acts of devotion and worship in community, ministry and mission, justice and advocacy, mutual caring and ally-ship are some of those tools that help us see Christ in our midst; written into the stars of our hearts and our neighborhoods.

As we enter a time of waiting, anticipation, and preparation, let's look for God's glory as we look to the stars, explore the 'tools' of Advent, and come together as people of God heralding Jesus' birth in our settings.

Rev. Hannah J. Andres



Picture 2: Webb's First Deep Field - Sharpest and Deepest Infrared Picture of the Early Universe: nasa.gov/webbfirstimages/

Picture 3: Pillars of Creation - Eagle Nebula: nasa.gov/webbfirstimages/

Whitney UMC CROP Walk





On October 11th, folks from Whitney UMC joined walkers from other Ada County churches and communities at Julia Davis Park for the 2026 Crop Hunger Walk!

Our team, dressed in bright green “Got Food” shirts, walked together to support the fight against hunger and poverty, both in our local community and around the world.

This year’s Crop Hunger Walk set a fundraising goal of $25,000, with 75% of donations supporting the Church World Service’s global hunger-relief efforts and 25% benefiting The Idaho Foodbank.

Thank you to everyone who represented Whitney UMC as the community came together to support our neighbors, both near and far!

Announcements



Our UWF Indoor Yard Sale raised $1,000 for scholarships!

Well done, all who helped or purchased treasures!

WEDNESDAY CAFE AT WHITNEY

Take a break from errands!



Invite a friend!

SIP & CHAT!

10 - 11 a.m.
Every Wednesday except the first!

This is a FREE gathering & all are welcome!

Are you on our list?

Don't miss our Mid-week e-mails featuring news, events, updates, invitations, reminders, calendars...

Call the office to add your name to our Mid-week e-mail recipients!

Phone: 208-343-2892

The Celia Cowan Circle will not be continuing, as the addition of the Whitney Wednesday Cafe has created another space to gather and connect. Please join us at the Wednesday Cafe as another opportunity to connect with others, share conversation and enjoy fellowship together. We would love to see you there!



Whitney United Methodist Church
3315 W. Overland Rd.
Boise, ID 83705

Upcoming Events at Whitney UMC:

November 18: Wednesday Cafe; 10am
November 19: Shawlers; 2pm
November 20: Community Dinner; 5pm
November 25: Wednesday Cafe; 10am
November 29: Youth Group; 6pm
December 2: United Women in Faith; 12pm

A link to our full Calendar of Events can be viewed on our webpage at
www.whitneyumc.org