



280 E Stillwater  
Fallon NV 89406

775.423.4714

[www.epworthfallon.org](http://www.epworthfallon.org)

Rev Dawn Blundell  
Senior Pastor

[pastor@eumcfallon.org](mailto:pastor@eumcfallon.org)

775.671.5553

Laura Butcher  
Administrative Ministries

Grant Mills  
Church Council Chair

Steve Russell  
Board of Trustees

Doug Coval &  
Kathy Fraker  
Lay Leaders

May 11, 2021

Hello church family and friends near and far!

As I sit today in the chemo chair, I am thinking of all of you and our ministry together. I pray that, wherever you are and whatever life is bringing you, that you know yourself surrounded by the love and power of God. I pray that the Holy Spirit is giving you all kinds of things to see, and hear, and touch, and taste, and do, and know that bring you peace, hope, and joy.

In the course of preparing my sermon for last week, I ran across the story of a woman named Karen Armstrong, a former Catholic nun and academic who speaks and writes about the importance of compassion. She is deeply respected around the world, has spoken in several countries including three times at the White House, and has written several books on compassion and comparative religion. I found her when I stumbled across an initiative she started in 2008, called the Charter of Compassion.

I didn't get to include her story, or the Charter, in my sermon on Sunday. But it is she who reminded me of the story of Rabbi Hillel, who (as the story goes) was once approached by a nonbeliever who said, "I will convert to your religion if you can recite its teachings while standing on one leg." Hillel stood on one leg and said, "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. All else is commentary. Go and study it." (Incidentally, the apostle Paul was a student of Gamaliel, Hillel's grandson. Gamaliel is mentioned in Acts 5 at the Council of Jerusalem, and is the one who convinces the Sanhedrin to stop persecuting Peter and Paul and the rest, saying that they might well be opposing God himself!) Hillel and other rabbis in the Mishna affirmed that compassion is the heart of God, and the heart of the law, and that if in our study of scripture we do not find grace and compassion, then our study is incomplete and our interpretation is wrong.

The Charter of Compassion evolved and expanded a lot after Karen Armstrong proposed it in 2008. From its beginnings in Seattle, people from over 100 countries participated in writing it, and it has now been signed by over 2 million people around the world, including the Dalai Lama, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Queen Noor of Jordan. From the Charter, community action groups have emerged around the world to foster the value of compassion, as part of an initiative called the Campaign for Compassionate Community. It sounds incredible, and includes a 4 step "toolbox" that teaches how to...well, how to change the world starting with your own neighborhood. If you'd like to read more about it, like I plan to do, we can start with their website: [charterforcompassion.org](http://charterforcompassion.org). If you look, tell me what you think. Who knows, maybe it will inspire us with new ways to share the Gospel right here in Fallon. ☺

*Pastor Dawn*

# Worship Any and Everywhere!

## Listening to God's Whispers

This week, worship will be led by Ron Evans, who will share a wonderful message about the quiet but powerful ways God shows up in our life and gives us his love and guidance. Join us, and bring a friend!



After worship, we will share in-person coffee and fellowship! After more than a year of Covid restrictions it will be good to enjoy each other's company in person once again. We are so thankful that almost all of us have received our vaccinations, to make this possible! As we

continue to observe Covid protocols, we will have masked and gloved servers to give you your refreshments, and we encourage everyone to keep as much distance as makes you feel most comfortable. The rules are a bit vague right now, so let's grant each other an extra measure of grace and kindness as we navigate it all.

**"Speak, for  
your servant is  
listening."**

1 Samuel 3:10b

## News and Fun Stuff

### United Methodist Women Meets Twice Per Month and You are Invited!

The first Thursday of each month is a business meeting, and the third Thursday of each month is a "Pricilla Circle", with an educational or inspiring program and conversation. Both meetings are in the Fireside Room at 1:00pm. For more info on these meetings, call Judy Pritchard at 775-217-5611 or check out

[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org).



### Alzheimer's Association Summer Education Events

The Alzheimer's Association is offering a 4-part webinar series to teach about Alzheimer's Disease. You can also attend the classes in person 111 Sheckler Road, though space is limited. Click or copy the links below to register, or call 775-423-5121 for more information. We'll put the flyer that Linda Brown sent us in your email, too...the links in the original might work better.

- June 3 at 1:00pm Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Tips from the Latest Research. Register: <http://bit.ly/AlzHealthyLiving>
- July 1 at 1:00pm 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Register: <http://bit.ly/Alz10WarningSigns>
- August 5 at 1:00pm Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia Register: <http://bit.ly/AlzUnderstanding>
- September 2 at 1:00pm Dementia Conversations (Doctor Visits, Legal and Financial Planning, & Driving) Register: <http://bit.ly/AlzConversations>

## May Birthdays!

Bailey  
Stritenberger, 5/13  
Ailene Brown, 5/18  
Jeanie Fahl, 5/20  
Judy Lafferty, 5/23  
Kate Pinder, 5/23  
Ernie DeCoux, 5/24  
Margaret Knox, 5/30  
Diana Greer, 5/31  
Maggie Neidigh,  
5/31

## Worship meeting on Saturday, May 15 at 9:00am in the Fireside Room

Join us to dream and plan themes, art, music, and other aspects of our worship together. All are welcome!

## Church Council Meeting on May 16

All are welcome and encouraged to join us for our regularly scheduled Church Council meeting after worship on Sunday, May 16. We will talk about where we are financially, hear about what's happening in our various ministries, and talk together about worship, education, and outreach this summer. We need your thoughts and ideas! Hope to see you there.

## Food Pantry and HeLP Ministry Closed on Memorial Day

Epworth Community Food Pantry and our laundry and shower ministry will be closed on May 31 for the holiday.

## June Special Communion Offering

On the first Sunday of every month, we take a special offering for different special projects or needs. In June our special offering will go toward paying the costs of our adult and youth delegates to Annual Conference. This year our adult delegates are Margaret Knox and Barbara McGarity, and Kenny Coval is our youth delegate. Together with Pastor Dawn, these folks lend their voice and vote to very important regional, national, and global church matters, and represent the interests and uniqueness of Fallon and Epworth in lots of important ways. Usually Conference is held in June, but this year it will be the last weekend in October, in Sacramento. Costs can be significant for travel, hotel rooms, and meals, so your help is greatly appreciated! Thank you in advance for your giving; it is YOU who enables us to be in ministry.

## Classes and Groups to Grow and Learn together!

It is so good to have our classes and groups meeting again! We all wear masks and keep to the Covid protocols. Call the church office for more info about any of these great groups! 775-423-4714.

- Women's Bible Study on Mondays at 3pm in the Good News Room. We are studying "Follow" by Andy Stanley.
- Men's Fellowship meets every Monday morning at 6:30am in the Wolf Center dining room to talk and pray together.
- Adult Sunday School meets after worship on Sundays in the Wolf Center. We are studying the parables of Jesus.
- TOPS (Taking off Pounds Sensibly) meets every Friday morning at 8am for fun, info, and mutual support and friendship.
- Grief support group meets at Trinity Episcopal Church on Wednesday evenings from 5:30pm-8pm
- Al Anon, a 12 step group for the family and friends of alcoholics or addicts, meets on Wednesday mornings at 10am in the Wolf Center dining room.
- United Methodist Women meets the first Thursday of every month at 1pm in the Fireside Room

## Shared Resources and the Blessings of Connection

As part of the global United Methodist Church, we are extraordinarily blessed by connection with cultures and languages and expressions of faithfulness of over 12 million Christians around the world. As part of that blessing, every local church is asked to give 10% of its income each month to the global church (called “apportionments” or the Conference tithe), to fund administration, mission and ministries around the world. Every 4 years, at General Conference, we vote on the budget that details how all of our apportionment dollars are spent. That document is REALLY long, and we weren’t able to find a link to it to make it easier, but the UMC.org website is full of information about worldwide ministries that we fund together.

“United Methodists know apportionments by many names, such as “a portion meant for others” or various types of covenants — connectional, ministry share, missional giving, shared ministry and tithe.

Through the apportionments, essentially shared mission, each local church contributes a small portion of its tithes and offerings to support vital international, national and regional missions and ministries.

At any given time, this funding helps build churches, support missionaries, advocate for the underserved and marginalized, improve global health, educate leaders, resource ministries with youth, women and men, provide communication and outreach tools for local churches, and so much more. This shared giving also funds conference mission work engaged by leaders and partners within each annual conference.”

