



United Church of Christ-Congregational  
**THE LIGHTED WINDOW**  
 Celebrating 154 years of faithful service for  
 Christ and the Church  
**December 2013**




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**Sunday Worship Time**

10:00am

Children's Class 10:15am

**Office Administrator** Sally Forster

secretary@uccthedalles.org

Hours: M-Th 9am-12:30pm

**Pastor**

The Rev. Dr. Deborah J. Allen

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Website- www.uccthedalles.org

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**Pastor's Pen**

I was setting up my crèche on Sunday, one that I have had for almost thirty years. I only have the one, but I know many of you have multiple nativities. I understand their allure. My crèche figures are molded plastic with the usual assortment; Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, one shepherd, three kings, and a couple of sheep. I set it up just the way it came for many years, then one year, decided it wasn't enough.

First, I added a rough hewn stable (very rough) made in Vietnam, of all places. Next, I added a wonderful camel that is really a child's toy. Later came more animals, baby donkeys, lambs, a serene cow, a black baby goat, and a wide variety of angels. Some of the angels are not to scale, but who knows what the proper scale of angels is? As I was assembling my tableau, I put the black baby goat right up next to the manger, maybe nibbling a little straw. It seemed to be the best spot for him.

When I stepped back to admire this little scene, I realized that these mismatched participants are closer to the very heart of the season. This babe in Bethlehem calls a disparate band of people to himself, not people whom we would select, but all the people loved by God. I think it is fitting that the black goat, who often gets a lot of bad

press, is close as breath to the baby. All of us, good, bad, lost, found, interested or apathetic are invited to come in closer. The lowly shepherds, the exotic kings, the angels, the stars, even the Roman census takers are all called to gather and be welcomed.

My crèche is not "perfect" as the manufacturers had in mind, but is aiming toward perfect the way God intends. God's word to us in Jesus Christ is a great big "Yes." Yes, that God will not abandon us, give up on us, is with us always, because Christ was born in Bethlehem. Jesus was given to us and for us, love, God. All the faces of the earth bear the image of God, every one. When we look to Christ and then look at our neighbors with compassion and mercy, we are living into the big yes of God.

Christmas is not perfect for anyone, but the news remains glad tidings. God came to be with us, gathering a strange assembly of the most unlikely people together to be the witnesses to Christ.

May God's own Spirit fill your hearts with mercy for one another this season. I think my crèche needs a horse or maybe chickens.

Merry Christmas.

*Deb*

Reminder- No Sunday School for children on December 29<sup>th</sup> and January 5<sup>th</sup>.



### December Birthdays

Sue Wilson	5
Lindsey Miles	9
Bruce Lavier	16
Bob Wilson	17
Carolyn Wilks	17
Julie Newton Brockman	19
Betty Dahlberg	20
Todd Miller	22
Dave Long	23
Edwina Bailey	29



R. J. and Denise Miles	3
Bruce and Annabelle Lavier	20
Bob and Joy Krein	27

To link to the website, click below  
<http://www.uccthedalles.org>

Pastor Deb will be out of the office  
 December 26 to  
 January 6<sup>th</sup>  
 recovering from foot  
 surgery.



### December Pantry donations

Baby products are to be collected in December. Toiletries like lotion, shampoo or wet wipes. Clothing such as onesies, sleepwear and bath towels. Disposable diapers are always a good choice. Please put your donation in the shopping cart located in the Robert's Room.



### Calendar of Events

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5:15pm Church Council meets
- 7<sup>th</sup> – 10am to 2pm Habitat for Humanity bazaar
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Women's Fellowship bazaar follows worship
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Noon Women's Fellowship luncheon and card signing
- 11<sup>th</sup> - 10:30am Finance Committee
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Mission Committee meets after worship
- 20<sup>th</sup> – 2-4pm Foster Kids party in Tenney Hall
- 21<sup>st</sup> – 7pm Longest Night service
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Christmas Fund Special Mission offering
- 24<sup>th</sup> - 7pm Christmas Eve service

### 3 Wednesdays

Join us at Noon for three Wednesdays in Advent for our book study by Henri Nowen Advent and Christmas. Pastor Drew Frisbie of First United Methodist Church will lead us in Advent reflections. There are still some books left. They are \$8.50 available in the church office. Remember the reason for the season...

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
**Tuesday December 24**  
**7:00p.m. Come All Ye Faithful**

### **Foster Children's Christmas Party**



Our Mission Committee is co-operating with local social services to host a party for foster children and their parents. Often kids in foster care spend Christmas away from their families. We want

to give them this celebration of fun, food, and family.

Our party will be in the Tenney room on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm. We need lots of volunteers.

- Greeter Table
- Gift table- wrappers and helpers
- Kitchen- cook, serve
- Clean-up Crew
- Music leaders, songsheets
- Ornament makers
- Cookie decorating helpers
- Decorations
- Microphone guru
- Santa

Please contact Pastor Deb or Sally if you want to join us. We are the church of the extravagant welcome. Let's show up with our warmest greetings. Helpers will get to wear reindeer antlers for the whole party. Pass it on.

**Longest Night Service**  
**Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**7:00 p.m.**



Let me just say, the service is one hour long on the evening of the longest night of the year. The 21<sup>st</sup> falls on Saturday this year.

The Longest Night service is a gentle candlelight service that acknowledges all is not merry and bright for many during the holidays. Grief, separation from loved ones, estrangement, job loss, many things contribute to melancholy rather than joy.

In this service, we proclaim the Christmas message, Christ with us, softly, at a slower pace, in quiet joy: For Christ has come for all people, in all circumstances. Come and join us. Leave the cacophony of the secular holiday and find the holy, sacred presence this season.

**Handel's Messiah Community Concert**

**Sunday, December 22**  
**7:00pm**

**St. Peter's Landmark**  
**West 3<sup>rd</sup> and Lincoln, The Dalles**  
**To participate or for more information, contact Chloris Mullins at 541-296-6406**

#### HAVEN Request

Many of you in the throes of moving have asked who can use your, still-in-good shape large items. Haven has a list of large items they are seeking:

- 4 full/twin beds
- queen bed
- couch
- vacuum
- table/chairs
- microwave television

If you can help, please contact Tara Koch at 541- 296-1662.



*Holiday Office Hours:  
Mon 23 and Tues 24  
9:00am – 12:30pm  
Closed Wed 25 and Thurs 26*

*Mon 30 and Tues 31  
9:00 am- 12:30pm  
Closed Jan 1  
Open Thurs 2 9:00am- 12:30pm*

## Women's Fellowship

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, following church, Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar will be held. As you enjoy Coffee Hour browse around and enjoy the opportunity to purchase baked goods, novelty items and gift coupons.

Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at NOON, will be the annual Christmas luncheon for the women of Women's Fellowship held in Tenney Fellowship Hall. It is hoped that all members can attend. Joy Krein and Yvonne Hartung are the hostesses. Yvonne Hartung will provide the prayer. Soups will be made by Caroline Homer and Judy Dinnell. Louanne Starr will provide rolls. Joy Krein will provide the dessert. Faithfully over the years, during the Christmas Season, Women Fellowship has sent Christmas cards to church members and friends who no longer are able to attend church. The card signing will be the special activity after lunch.

**Miller's Christmas Party  
December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.  
Please bring an appetizer to share  
and a white elephant gift.**



**2236 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street**

## Families adopted for Holiday



These are the two families that we have adopted from the Salvation Army to buy Christmas gifts for. It looks like the only item we have to worry about duplication will be

the scooter so if any of you would like to buy one – let me know so we won't have 2.

If we have duplication or overabundance of clothing or toys, I'm sure the Salvation Army could distribute to other families. They have over 100 families needing assistance.

Boxes for each family will be in the narthex on Sunday. Last day to turn in items will be Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please do not wrap.

## CHRISTMAS FAMILIES

### Family #1:

#### **11 month female**

Clothes size: 12 months

Shoe size: 5 infant

Gifts: rocking horse, Minnie mouse, dolls

#### **5 year old male**

Clothes size: 6

Shoe size: 11 boys

Gifts: spiderman, beybaled, scooter

#### **Mom**

Bath towels, sheets-queen, twin, full and crib

### Family #2:

#### **12 year old male**

Coat-16, shirt-14, pant-18,

Shoe-9

Gifts: yugo cards, books (fantasy)

#### **7 year old female**

Coat-10, shirt-9, pant-9

Shoe-4

Gifts: coloring books, crayons, barbies, my little pony

## 65 YEARS of CRÈCHE HISTORY

Family representing 3 generations of Irving Nathaniel Wiley, who was born on Christmas Day 1892, gathered to set up the Crèche on Saturday, November 30, 2013, in the Narthex of the church. Irving had died of a sudden heart attack on April 4, 1948. That Christmas the Crèche was given to the First Congregational Church by the Wiley family as a memorial to Irving and his love for the Christmas holiday.

For the past 65 years the Crèche has been set up during Advent by family members. Irving and his family were active members of the First Congregational Church soon after he and his family moved to The Dalles in 1923. He also was a teacher and administrator for School District 12.

At the time of his death his family included his wife Margie, his sons, Gib and Dick, and his daughters, Gina, Peg, Rosalie and Marilyn and his grandchildren, Cynthia Wiley, Terry Kelly, Connie Kelly, Peter Kelly, Richard Kelly, Raymond Kelly, Ginny Kelly, Lonna Hattenhauer, Marilyn Hattenhauer, Don Wiley, Candace Todd, Bill Todd and Carol Todd. Since then the family has continued to grow with 104 surviving descendants encompassing 4 generations. Irving's wife and their six children are deceased. His only surviving daughter-in-law is UCCC member, Dorothy Wiley, who was married to Irving's son, Dick. Dick passed away in 2002.

Irving's grand daughters, Marilyn Fisk and Joy Krein and Marilyn's daughter, Dawn Vincic, Irving's great grand daughter and her son, Luka, Irving's great -great grandson, helped set up the Crèche. A delightful collection of photos have been taken over the years.

