



United Church of Christ-Congregational  
**THE LIGHTED WINDOW**  
 Celebrating 154 years of faithful service for  
 Christ and the Church  
**January 2014**




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**Sunday Worship Time**

10:00am

Children's Class 10:15am

**Pastor**

The Rev. Dr. Deborah J. Allen

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

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**Pastor's Pen**

I have some years experience with church annual meetings, bet you do, too. There is always food of some sort (Jesus started that, the faithful gathered around breaking bread together); the annual reports are passed out and people thumb through them, few are actually read; the budget is studied with more interest; a few questions are asked; the slate of officers is read and appeals for some of the blanks to be filled, a vote is taken; prayer said; all rise to head home. Have I missed any of the highlights? Let me suggest some tweaks to this time honored agenda. The annual report that summarizes our ministries for the past year is a document that is required by our covenant with all other UCC churches and our own bylaws. It records, not just the dollars spent, but where our hearts have been in serving God this past year. This is important. Did we engage in activities that build up the body and minister to our community that best reflects our faith and our God? Are the use of our energies and resources a statement about the character of our congregation's heart? Were there events and ministries that engaged your own spiritual fire, as a Christian? Where are the gaps in our ministries that we could fill in, if we intentionally named them as mission? This is the agenda of an annual meeting of spirit.

None of us want to just go to another meeting. Most retiring pastors, of my acquaintance, declare that they aren't going to another meeting for at least a year or more after retirement. Bet you feel the same way, unless you just come for the food. We can do it differently. We will have the annual reports and the proposed budget the week before the meeting. Please read them. Spend some time pondering gifts you have been putting off using, but could use them with help from this body of the faithful. Name, one each, how you would like us to play together and serve together. Identify one task you can offer to God, that you have not offered, yet. I promise you, if each of us spends some time on this, our meeting will be renewed by grace.

There is one bulletin: POTLUCK ALERT: Every year some folk get stuck in the kitchen during the meeting. This year we are requesting finger food only (veggie platters, sandwiches, cookies, hotdogs wrapped in crescent rolls, cheese doodles). No one is going to do dishes; we are using paper plates and cups.

Let's join our good cheer and thoughtful generous ways in an annual meeting that will be one for the books. It will be our gift to each other. Ready, set, ponder.

*Grace and peace to you,  
 Deb*

Happy New Year and Greetings from the Children's Corner:

I would like to extend a warm and heartfelt thank you to Paula Christy and Jeff Minnick for their help with last year's Christmas program. You both made it a success and the kids loved it.

This month the kids will be following Jesus from his visit to the temple at age 12. This is the only story of Jesus as a child. And the kids will learn that even at their age they are preparing for the future. Then they will go with Jesus to be baptized. The kids will see and learn that Jesus is getting ready to start his ministry. They will learn that by being baptized they are claimed as children of God. After Jesus returns from the wilderness He goes to the Synagogue. The kids will learn what a Synagogue is and why it is important to the Jewish people. They will also learn how Jesus was rejected in His hometown and that they are still preparing for the future.

*Angie Schultze, Children's Ministry*



**THIS MONTH'S Birthdays**

Heather Thompson	4
R.J. Miles	15
Floyd Emerson	22
Helen Thomas	28
Mollie Newton	30



**THIS MONTH'S anniversaries**

Patty and Susan Herring	21
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To link to the website, click below  
<http://www.uccthedalles.org>

## January Pantry donations



Soup is the choice for January. Warm and hearty stews and soups can do much to battle the cold weather. Please bring your donation to the Roberts room shopping cart.

## Calendar of Events



- 5<sup>th</sup> –Council meets after Worship**
- 9<sup>th</sup>–Annual Reports are due to office**
- 14<sup>th</sup>–5:15pm Trustee's meet**
- 20<sup>th</sup>–Office Closed: MLK Day**
- 26<sup>th</sup> –Annual meeting and  
Finger-food Potluck follows  
Worship**



### Advance Notice

UCC Chocolate Fest and  
(non) Talent Show  
Valentine's Day, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
Tenney Fellowship Hall

This event was such a success in the past we are bringin'er back. It is a potluck affair, so plan on contributing some of your favorite chocolate goodies. You may even want to contribute your talent. Don't worry, it is a very appreciate and safe crowd. So, look for a talent sign-up at church (beginning January 26<sup>th</sup>), prepare a chocolate treat to share, invite a friend, and come have some fun.



"Verdi, Wagner & Holiday Favorites" is the title of the Cascade Singers' rescheduled concert. Performances are Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 10th and Union Streets, The Dalles. The community choir and children's choir will present romantic era music by Giuseppe Verdi and Richard Wagner whose 200th birthdays were observed in 2013, and a variety of pieces, classical to pops, sacred and secular, for the holidays. Admission is by donation at the door.



### Let's Get Social

Hey, remember the "Clipper Club" and all the great activities we used to have-hiking, wine tasting, movies, game nights, guest speakers? Well, we are pleased to announce the formation of a new socially oriented church group. Everyone is invited to participate, and we hope a lot of you do. We don't have a name yet, but maybe you can help us out with that. Look a suggestion box at church and please drop in an idea for a name and/or an idea for a future activity. We are planning on having four to six activities a year. These are in addition to our usual potlucks or special coffee hours. The kick-off for the new group will be the Valentines Day Chocolate Feast and (non) Talent Show on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Look for the announcement and details of this event in this issue of the Lighted Window. Our last talent show was so well received, and the chocolate goodies were so much enjoyed, we are expecting a great turn out this year. Come and enjoy the fellowship and feel free to invite a friend.

Contributed by- Randy Stewart

### Did You Know...

**The monthly Men's Breakfast group uses their donated funds to buy paper supplies for the coffee hour.**

***Breath of Life: Earth's Atmosphere***  
**The Fifth Annual**  
**EARTH CARE SUMMIT**

**January 27, 2014 5:30-9pm**  
**First Christian Church**  
**1314 SW Park Ave, Portland**  
**Pre-registration is required**  
**\$25/person**  
**Scholarship available**  
**Call (503) 221-1054**

**Guest Speakers will include Bob**  
**Doppelt of the Climate Ethics**  
**Campaign and Resource Innovation**  
**Group.**

**Practical and local actions for**  
**congregations, individuals and**  
**communities will also be provided**

**UCC Hosted Foster**  
**Children's Party**

You've already heard us talk about it, but by any standard our Christmas Party for foster kids on December 20 was a joy for all involved. The purpose of the party was to provide a safe and fun space for children in foster care to meet with their birth parents and grandparents. That they did. We hosted 52 children and parents with over 20 members of the church stepping in to make sure it was a happy party. We had warm and smiling greeters, we took picture of each family for them to take with them, they decorated cookies and made an ornament, we set up a "gift shop" so each child was escorted by their personal shopper who helped them select and wrap a present for their parents. We had music and songs, a delicious holiday meal with dessert and goodie bags. We had a special guest appearance by Santa (thanks, Gene) who gave each child a candy cane and stuffed reindeer toy. The mood and tone of the party was joy and laughter, talk about hitting the right notes. Thanks to all members of the church who offered time or donations to make this a splendid time. We all went home happily tired. Now that's Christmas.

