



United Church of Christ-Congregational
THE LIGHTED WINDOW
 Celebrating 155 years of faithful service for
 Christ and the Church
August 2014



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

Phone & Fax 541.296.2909

Cell phone: 509.499.1294

Email- revdeborahjallen@gmail.com

Website- www.uccthedalles.org

Pastor's Pen

I was watching a **Frontline** program on hunger in America recently. The camera focused on a cute little freckle-faced girl talking matter-of-factly about the fact that her family only had two meals a day, sometimes not. The interviewer asked her what she did when she got hungry. She said that she was always hungry and taught herself not to think about it. I just wanted to scoop her up and feed her wholesome food. Her teenaged brother said that he punched things a lot to not think about how hungry he was. We can do better than this.

Children do not choose their circumstances nor their parents. They are stuck with what they have. Not all places in America have access to food pantries or food banks. I lived in one the poorest counties in the state of Washington and the food bank was open a couple of days a month. Then, of course, is the part we rarely acknowledge, the shame factor. If you cannot feed your children you must be a pretty sorry parent, some say. People stay away from places where their failures are highlighted. Additionally, sometimes, navigating the social services labyrinth takes more skill and patience than many of us possess. We can help.

There are homeless children in The Dalles; they are couch surfing or moving relative to relative. They are hungry. Two years ago a group gathered to address this need. The

Backpack Program for homeless youth was born. It is housed in the Methodist Church. UMC was the logical choice, given their proximity to the high school. It works like this; the high school staff identifies homeless youth and then sends them over to the church on Friday afternoon. A backpack is stuffed with food for the weekend, sometimes including food for a sibling. The backpacks are dropped off at school and returned to the church and readied for the next Friday.

This program is growing. A new storage space and refrigeration has been acquired from donations and grants. We've expanded it to include the middle school and the elementary schools. It is going to be a busy year to meet this need. We will be collecting food items (listed elsewhere in this newsletter) for the month of August. This is in addition to our regular collection for the food bank (this month it is pork and beans). Any kid that is homeless and still going to school, we want to support, and this is very basic, feeding them. We can all give something to this ministry.

Some practices of faith are very difficult, this one is really easy. Feeding someone is elemental. We are the village that comes to the aid of the young in our midst. As you do to the least of these...said Jesus. We can respond.

Grace and Peace to you, Deb

Greetings from the Children's Corner,

Wow the Sunday school year has gone by very quickly. Just a reminder that there will be no Sunday school in August. Chrissy and I would like to thank the congregation for all of their help this year. This year we added two new candle lighters: Robert and Jase. I would like to tell of the kids who lighted candles this year: "You all did a great job and worked hard." The two Sundays that the kids did have Sunday school we finished up the lesson on Noah and The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant.

With school not far around the corner Chrissy and I took a look around the classroom. We would like to ask the congregation to help us out with a few things:

- the current DVD player turns on but does not read DVDs
 - playdough
- glue (both liquid and stick)
 - a pencil sharpener
 - watercolor paint sets
 - dry erase markers
- a variety of colored card stock
 - hot glue stick



Angie Schultze



Backpack program pantry needs re-stocking

Last school year, the backpack program served about 864 meals. This year, the program will include all schools in district 21. Please help restock their pantry located at the First United Methodist church. We will take donations here at our location (look for the big box) and take it over before the start of school.

Needs:

Canned green beans
 Canned corn
 Jam and jelly
 Pancake syrup
 Canned milk
 Small size mac and cheese
 Pastas
 Small size tuna or canned meat
 Soup
 Powdered milk
 Crackers
 Dried beans
 Smaller size pasta sauce
 Breakfast bars

Did you know that 1 in 5 adults lack the basic reading skills beyond a fourth grade level? Or that almost 85% of all young people in the juvenile court system are illiterate?

Participate in this unique, all-church initiative, the United Church of Christ's inaugural One Read of the inspirational book, Hot Dogs & Hamburgers: Unlocking Life's Potential by Inspiring Literacy at Any Age, by Rob Shindler. And it's simple to participate. Yet rewarding, motivating, and educational.

Here at our church, we will all read the book and discuss it on the 4 Wednesdays of September (3, 10, 17, 24) starting at noon.

Reading Changes Lives will continue into spring 2015 with March Forth for Literacy (beginning on March 4, 2015) with an all-church initiative with goals and hands-on participation similar to past all-church initiatives of the United Church of Christ, including Mission 1 and Mission 4/1 Earth in 2012 and 2013, respectively.

Individuals and congregations will have an opportunity to join one of four teams in March, competing with each other to collect the most books, solicit the most pledges to become literacy tutors, sponsor the most schools, or raise the most money for local and national literary programs.

Books will be available for purchase with pre-orders. Call Sally if you would like a book. Cost would be \$10-\$13 by August 15th.

Additionally, an eBook is available directly through Amazon, and an audio version of the book will be made available this summer.

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



Calendar of Events

Aug 2nd- 10am Habitat Event

Aug 6th- 5:15pm Diaconate

Aug 17th- 11:30am Picnic & Frisbee golf

Aug 26th- 5:15pm Trustees

Aug 27th- 5:15pm Church Council



Fill the shopping cart for August with the following: PORK AND BEANS
Over 140 cans of vegetables were donated in July.

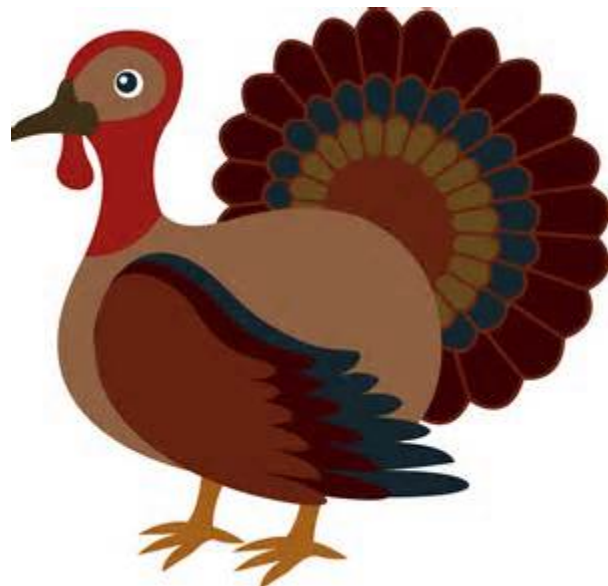
PLEDGES

It's Summer, and for many it is a leisurely time of year; but remember pledges are still needed to keep the bills paid and the building looking good. If you have overlooked your summer pledge, please pop it in the mail today. Thanks so much.

NEW CHURCH PLATES

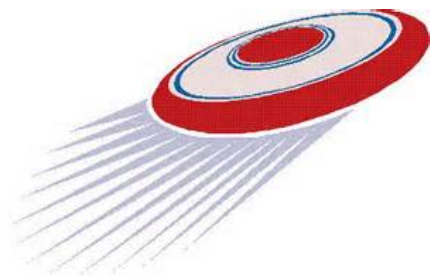
You may have noticed a new church plate in the Roberts Room. I had some made. Currently they are 10 available. They are \$12.00 each; proceeds will go towards getting acoustics for the Roberts Room. See me Mark Ulrich at church or call 541-300-9208 or email me at mulrich@embarqmail.com.

Mark Ulrich



Heifer Kick-Off

The annual fund-raiser for Heifer International was started July 27th. A flock of HOPE (turkeys, geese or chickens) is just 60 dollars. People will benefit from eggs to eat or sell and the use of fertilizer for their crops. You can donate garden items at the Heifer table in the narthex or can purchase tasty veggies. Proceeds will be collected through the month of August.



**Fun and Faith Event
Sunday, August 17th
Plan to meet at Sorosis Park after
Worship. Bring a picnic lunch for
yourself as well as a beverage, AND
your frisbee. We will be playing a
round of frisbee golf after lunch.**

Celebrate with Floyd!

**God is still speaking, but are we hard
of hearing or just hard of listening?
Celebrate: God will keep repeating it
until we finally get it.**