



United Church of Christ-Congregational
THE LIGHTED WINDOW
 Celebrating 156 years of faithful service for
 Christ and the Church
December 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

What is your heart's desire this holiday season? For most of us, it is probably not available for purchase, but closer to peace on earth, goodwill everywhere. Most of us want the warm glow of love, safety for those dearest to us, rifts truly mended, and indwelling peace. Here is my hope for you this season.

That sometime during Advent/Christmas, you find yourself outside at night and the heavens will be beaming like diamonds on velvet. There you will stand in astonishment, like the **prophets** before you. They, too, witnessed the dazzling, creative power of God and were awed into reverence.

That sometime during this holiday season, you give away such a spontaneous and generous gift of yourself, that in surprise, you kneel with the **Magi** in humility before the God you love. Yes, it is true, it really, really is more blessed to give than receive.

That sometime during this holiday season, something so wonderful, absurd, or delightful captures you in laughter's giddy embrace, and you cannot stop. That with guffaws and snorts you draw a crowd to yourself and strangers join in, and can't say

why. The joy of the **shepherds** is yours, too.

That sometime in this holiday season, you glimpse true amazement in the eyes of a child. When their wonder becomes your wonder, you stand with **Joseph** in the stable, unable to do anything but thank God.

That sometime during this holiday season, you belt out your favorite carol, as loudly and gustily as you can. Then you will notice the **angels** nudging in, to join you in your mighty chorus.

That sometime during this holy season, you receive something you didn't know that you wanted, but turns out to be just what you needed. And you ponder at this gift, like **Mary** on that night.

And finally, that sometime during Christ's season, you fill yourself so filled with the Spirit of Peace that you fear you will bust, but you will not. Then you know that you stand with the faithful through the ages, knowing that the love of God who came down to be with us is such an inexpressible idea, that joy, wonder, laughter, and love are all brief and holy encounters with the One who was, is, and is to come.

Merry Christmas, Deb

Greetings from the Children's corner,

On 11/16/14 I shared the talent parable from Matthew 25:14-29 with the children and then had them think and share their one talent with the class. Then I picked three of them to act as the servants in the story. The first had to share and teach his talent of singing to the class. The second had to share her talent of juggling with the class. And the third did not share or teach her talent of surprising people with the class. For the activity they created a talent possibility picture. I gave them a choice of two questions: If you had a million dollars what would you do with it? And if you were the president of your own country what choices would you make to help your people? The children all chose the money one and their answers were surprising; so I want to share with you the children's Talent Possibilities answers with you...

Mikey and Logan would but a lot of pizzas and share them with people. Hayleigh said that she would surprise everyone by sharing her money.

Kristal said that she would keep \$5,000 and half of what would be left would go to the cancer society and the other half to the poor people in Africa for clean water, food and other things that they need.

A bit of good news to share from the education front at Multnomah University. I had to take the NES test and pass a series of test with a score of 220 or better. The reading and writing portions I passed with ease. The math portion I had to take four times before I passed. I took the test on 11/18 and passed with a score of 226. I am able to complete my last year and a half at Multnomah. Thank you again for all the support you my church family have given me as I tackle my education journey

these past two and a half years. Here is what is on the lesson plans for December....

12/7 is the second Sunday in Advent and the lesson comes from Isaiah and words of comfort that God is still working in the world and us. I will be taking the children's picture today for a Christmas gift.

12/14 is the third Sunday in Advent and the lesson comes from Psalm 126 and the lesson is that when we can rejoice that God is present in our lives even when we can't see it.

12/21 is the fourth Sunday in Advent and the lesson comes from Luke where the angel Gabriel talks about not being afraid because God is with in all that we do. Today is also the Christmas program. I would like to thank Paula Christy for teaching the children the signs to "Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child" and "Joy to the World". The activity today will be the making of the Christmas presents and a small Christmas party in the class.

I NEED TO PUT A CALL OUT FOR 15 EMPTY COFFEE CANS FOR THE JANUARY 4TH SERVICE. I NEED THEM BY 12/14.

Angie Schultze

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

**Celebrate with Floyd!
There is more to spiritual life than avoiding cigarettes and whiskey and wild, wild women. It is more a seeking of the good than avoiding the evil. Celebrate!**



December Birthdays

Sue Wilson—5
Lindsay 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

December Anniversaries

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

Reminder

There will be no NO Sunday School on Dec 28th.

On January 4th, our Epiphany Sunday, we are having special events during worship. You won't want to miss it... The Kings are coming...



Women's Fellowship News

Women's Fellowship met on November 10th. It was decided during the business portion of the meeting to give \$100 towards the Foster Children's party, \$100 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and \$100 to DHS for their Christmas needs to children. Rev. Deb provided an excellent program giving us insight as to what is in the Bible and why with a great discussion that followed. We thank her for loyal participation.

December Meeting

December's meeting will be Monday, December 8th, at NOON in the Tenney Fellowship Hall for our annual Christmas Soup Luncheon. Corliss Marsh, Jean Vercooteren, Donnie Bergstrom, and Caroline Homer will provide soup and Louanne Starr will provide bread. Hostesses Joy Krein and Yvonne Hartung will provide the dessert and decorations. Yvonne Hartung will provide the devotion. After lunch we will be signing Christmas cards for our shut-ins. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

Christmas Bazaar

Women's Fellowship's annual Christmas Bazaar will be Sunday, December 7th, right after church. All congregates of the church are welcome to contribute a bazaar item/s of choice!! Monies collected during this event is used to fund many of our outreach services. We thank you in advance for your contributions and purchases!

66th Year for the Christmas Creche

The Christmas Creche has been set up again near the Narthex of the church. It was purchased in 1948 in memory of Irving Nathaniel Wiley by his family. Mr. Wiley died suddenly in April of 1948. He was a member and Sunday School teacher of the church and a teacher of The Dalles High School and principal of The Dalles Junior High. Because he was born on Christmas Day and loved the Christmas holiday, the Creche was the perfect memorial for him. He is the father-in-law of Dorothy Wiley and grandfather of Joy Krein, Doug and Marylee Hattenhauer and Marilyn Fisk from our church.

Foster Children's Christmas Party

For the second time, we will be hosting a Christmas party for foster kids and their



parents. We will host on Wednesday, December 10th from 2-4pm. We need you! We need greeters, cooks, present wrappers, table setters, punch fillers, room decorators, musicians, craft

helpers and all people of good cheer.

If you can donate small presents for adults (M/F), supplies, money, or time please call the office. Last year we had over twenty people helping- and can always use a few more.

This is our Christmas gift to the community, please help us make this a happy celebration.

The Christmas Fund

One of our Christmas mission projects is the UCC's Christmas Fund. These monies go to the denomination's emergency fund and help for retired pastors, their spouses and church workers. Please consider giving generously to the servants of God who are in tough circumstances. Thanks You.

Different Copier

If you need to make copies in the church copy machine, please get instructions from Sally first. we have a loaner machine for a while, so we are treating it with care.

Annual Reports are due to the office December 30th. The annual meeting is scheduled for January 18th following worship.

Snow Removal

Snow removal around here is do-it-yourself, but the Trustees have designated a lead person for each snowy month.

December—Jim and Lynn Wilcox

January—Dave Long

February—Mark Poppoff

If you can help out in snowy weather, please contact that month's lead person. We want to keep everyone safe in slippery weather.

Thanks Trustees!



Longest Night December 21st 7pm

We will again host the Longest Night Service on the night of the winter solstice. This is a quieter Christmas service than Christmas Eve. It acknowledges that not everyone is merry during the holidays. Invite a friend, the candlelight service is an hour long.

Early Time 5 pm

Our Christmas Eve Service will be two hours earlier this year.

We will begin at **5pm** on Wednesday December 24th. It will already be dark and you can get home for dinner. Let us worship together.



Building Safety

In November, we had a police officer walk with us through the building to identify safety concerns. There was nothing glaring because we have limited doors open at one time. During the week, only the office door is unlocked and on Sunday, only the front door is unlocked. He said that the best thing we can do for safety is to empower everyone to dial 911 anytime there is an uncomfortable situation or person. That means anyone can and should call 911 if you perceive a problem. You don't have to check with anyone, just call. The officer said that the dispatcher prioritizes calls, so no one should feel as though they were wasting the police's time. He said that, because of our location one block from the sheriff's office and one block from the police station, he thought our risk was low. However, it is good to know. Call 911 if you are concerned or worried.

**Habitat for Humanity
bazaar and soup lunch:
December 6 from 10-2
Great food- wonderful
items, don't miss it.**



Miller's Christmas Party
December 13 at 7pm
Please bring an appetizer to share and a white elephant gift.
236 West 14th Street

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES

Salvation Army #13

Mom	L/XL	Anything, household items
Francisco (8)	Coat-XL youth Shirt-XL youth Pant-14/16 sweat pants Shoe-5.5-6 youth	Legos Sport balls Action figures
Benito (6)	Coat-M youth Shirt-M-youth Pant-8 Shoe 2.5-3 youth	Mario or Luigi Legos Hot wheel cars

Salvation Army #45

Jessica (7)	Coat-8 Shirt-8 Pant-8 Shoe-12.5	"Frozen" Legos Barbies
Karla (5)	Coat-7/8 Shirt-7/8 Pant-8/10 Shoe 12	"Frozen" Cars Sofia the First

Military Family

The family consists of a Dad and Mom with two daughters, 2 and 6 yrs old. She stated that she was told the girls are really into anything pink and horses

There will be a box in the Narthex for collection of items. Remember to leave the gifts unwrapped and labeled. Thanks so much.

Church office will be closed
December 24, 25 and 31st .

The Dalles HOPE Warming Place

The warming place opens it's doors every season to provide overnight shelter for those without the comfort of a place to stay during cold weather. We depend totally on volunteers to staff every night the temperature drops frpm November 16, 2014 to March 21, 2015. We are in desperate need of volunteers to perform the following tasks:

- Volunteer to stay overnight with our homeless guests.
- Volunteer to be a Nightly Coordinator which requires scheduling volunteer to serve.

If you are interested in this ministry- please contact Ed Elliot at 541-386-5857

Thank you from...

--The Dalles Sister Cities Association for the use of the church's Tenney Hall. The delegates from Miyoshi City had a wonderful time in The Dalles.

--The Backpack program appreciated the food donation and the \$200.00 given by the UCC conference.



Pantry News

In October, 186 items were collected to help several families enjoy a hearty Thanksgiving. In addition, items were collected for the backpack program, which is now sending 40-50 packs home each weekend.

In November, adult toiletries were collected and for December we will collect baby products.

Please put your donation in the shopping cart located in the Roberts room.