



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



**March 2015**

**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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**Pastor's Pen**

What was your best Lenten season ever? You know, the one where you took pictures to remember and put them in the album; the one you still talk about with friends and family. That one. What? Nothing comes to mind? Blank stares? Sad to say, rarely do people remember Lent. We do not remember things that do not cost us much. Lent is like that, announced and quickly forgotten.

Church seasons are not just exercises that are good for you, like bran or fish twice a week. Church seasons are rhythms of life that can lead us deeper into a life of faith. We can participate and draw abiding benefit from them or just go along for the ride, like floating on an inner tube down a fast moving river, just waiting for it to be over. Rarely does profound faith land full of glory in our laps, but arrives from coming into God's presence in quiet daily practice. The world calls loudly and stridently to us. So many things seem more important than tending to our faith life.

May I make a suggestion? The Book of Psalms has been a powerful help to Christians in all eras and generations. The psalms are a record of the yearning of the human heart. They are distinct units of praise, pleas for help, longing and joy.

They are short and get to the point quickly. Pick a daily psalm and read it three times, notice what attracts your attention. Breathe deeply and you hold the words in your heart. For every question asked of God in the psalms, an answer is given.

Start with Psalm 1. It declares that happy are those who delight in the law of God. What might that mean? Do you believe it? Did Jesus say something similar? Skip around and sample the psalms of lament. Ever feel that way? Visit psalms of hope, wisdom, and praise. Soar with the human spirit that has been touched by the Most High triumphantly in Psalm 100 or more quietly in Psalm 23. You might want to skip Psalm 119, it goes on forever, and it is easy to lose the thread. Finally, Easter morning, read Psalm 150, the last one in the book. It is a fitting entrance into the glory of Easter.

Do something for your heart, mind and soul this Lent. Take a couple of pictures of this magnificent early Spring so that you can remember the Lent that mattered and still holds you in the power of its depths. This could be the one, the time when you more fully belonged to God.

*Grace and Peace to you, Deb*

Saluti (greetings in Italian) from the Children's Corner,  
Lent is upon us once again and once again the Sunday school class will be having a Seder Dinner on Palm Sunday, which is March 29.

This Lent the class is traveling to the Old Testament. March 1<sup>st</sup> we are still in Genesis learning about another promise God made to Abraham and Sarah and to all people. March 8<sup>th</sup> we travel to the book of Psalms where we will learn to find joy in following the wise ways of God. March 15<sup>th</sup> we are still in the Psalms where we will learn how to give thanks for God's steadfast love in both the good times and bad times. On March 22<sup>nd</sup> we move to the book of Jeremiah where we will learn to feel God's promise of love deep within our hearts. March 29<sup>th</sup> we will have our third Seder dinner.

Just a reminder there will be no Sunday school on Easter Morning.

*Angie Schultze*

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

**Celebrate with Floyd!**  
**Another person's faith is his/her gift from God and it is precious to them, no matter how inadequate it might seem to you or me. How dare we criticize that gift? Instead, celebrate it.**



### **March Birthdays**

Annika Baumgarten—5  
 John Baumgarten—6

Benjamin Deckard—9  
 Sue Peachey—11  
 John Peachey—13  
 Klea Espy--30

### **March Anniversaries**

Karl and Jean Vecouteren—20  
 Clay and Pat Cox—20  
 Bill and Vicki Matthew—25

### **Women's Fellowship**

Women's Fellowship March meeting will be Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in the Isabella Gray Room. Our guest speaker will be Marolyn Wilks. She will be sharing about the Quaker faith. Donnie Bergstrom and Jean Vecouteren will be our hostesses. Dorothy Wiley will provide the devotional. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

Our January and February meetings were enriched by our guest speakers. In January, Regan Evans shared about her membership with the Seventh Day Adventist Church. She enlightened us about her church beliefs, which are very similar to ours. The biggest difference is that they believe church is worshiped on Saturday. She also told us about their Food and Clothing Bank that is opened each Tuesday to those in the community in need. We donated \$50 towards their outreach to help others.

In February, Geo (Jo) Young shared about her church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Geo, like Reagan, is very involved with her church and their youth. She gave us a paper that listed their thirteen "Articles of Faith."

(continued)..We reviewed each article of faith with her. Many are very similar to UCC's beliefs. Number 11 reads: "We claim the privilege of worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them how, where, or what they may." They, too, have an outreach Food and Clothing Bank to help others locally and we donated \$50 in support of their outreach.

We thoroughly appreciate Reagan's and Geo's contribution to our focus of understanding other denominations. Their honesty and sincerity in expressing their commitment and faith in Jesus Christ captivated our interest and blessed us. Many questions were asked. In correspondence we received a thank you card and two letters. The thank you card was from Wilma Schaub. She thanked us for all our prayers and wonderful thoughts extended her way over the holidays.

The first letter was from our sponsored child, Sonam Dolma, who is now 13 years old. Sonam goes to school in India but is from Tibet. She wrote a delightful letter with colorful sketches thanking us for being her sponsor and expressing her gratefulness. She enclosed her photo, too. The letter and photo can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Be sure to take a moment to read her letter. Sonam is learning English and is making remarkable progress with her writing skills. The second letter came from Global Ministries. Its first sentence stated:

"Please accept the Global Ministries Child Sponsorship staff heartfelt appreciation for your total 2014 annual donation made on behalf of your sponsored child through the Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program."

UCCC's Women's Fellowship yearly sponsorship donation is \$360.

## Faith and Fun Outings

Our first Faith and Fun event for 2015 was a great success. Seventeen people put their brains in overdrive for Trivia Night. What we didn't know about Oregon, Wasco County, The Dalles, and The Dalles UCC-Congregational, we learned.

Please feel free to add any event suggestions to the list below. It is posted at church. Even better, choose one event on the list or come up with one of your own and run with it; i.e. plan it, choose the date, announce it at church and in the Lighted Window, etc. All are welcome to participate as well as lead.

### ADD YOUR SUGGESTIONS

Scavenger Hunt

Trivia Night

✓ Visit new Cottonwood State Park (John Day River)

Historic Walk Downtown The Dalles  
Riverfront Trail walk

✓ Visit Ft. Dalles Museum

After Church bike ride

Wine tasting/BBQ

Lost Lake Hike/Picnic

Visit Wings of Wonder (butterfly farm)

Day trip to Portland – site visit or event

✓ 4<sup>th</sup> of July Party/Fireworks

✓ Annual Christmas Party

✓ = Done in 2014

### Isabella Gray Lights Up!!

The new lights are now installed in the Isabella Gray room. The lights are programmed to come on at dusk to complete the Stained Glass motif. Please take a moment to drive by some evening and see how beautiful it looks at night.

**Thank you...**

Dear Members and Friends of UCC Congregational,  
On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Central Pacific Conference UCC, I thank you for your generous financial support of our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) in 2014.

Your contribution has been vital to advancing the life and mission we share.

Blessings,  
Nancy Williams

in the United States and around the world.

The UCC-Philippines is a partner church of the United Church of Christ through Global Ministries. Disaster recovery is supported by gifts from One Great Hour of Sharing and special designated funds. As part of the recovery efforts, training is provided to farmers who lost their crops in storms. Farmers receive seed and learn new methods of growing. Collection for One Great Hour of Sharing will be **March 15<sup>th</sup>**.

EASTER FLOWERS GIVEN  
IN MEMORY,  
HONOR OF

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BY \_\_\_\_\_

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NO LILIES PLEASE



Please bring flower form to office (or place in collection plate) no later than **March 29<sup>th</sup>**. Donations of flowers will be listed in the Easter Bulletin.



Just a Reminder, that a bank that looks like a small house is located on the goodie table during coffee hour. Spare coins that are collected during the nibbling are donated to Habitat for Humanity. Last year, almost \$200 dollars was given to this great cause.

**All Church Clean-Up  
Scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup>.**

Beginning at 9:00am, everyone is invited to come and help dust, vacuum, sweep and many other tasks. The Trustees' have a master clean-up list. Come and find your talent. Many hands will lighten the work.

**Book Study—Noon Wednesdays**

Our book study for Lent will begin Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> in the Isabella Gray room at noon. We are reading Pope Francis's book The Church of Mercy. Pope Francis has been much in the news since his election. It will be interesting to engage in conversation about his vision for the church. Books are \$10 each and will be available at the study. See you there.

**One Great Hour of Sharing**

In 2013 the UCC received more than \$2.5 million through the offering and an additional \$1.8 million for specific relief efforts such as Typhoon Haiyan. Together we are responding to disasters

# March

## Calendar

- 4<sup>th</sup>—Noon Book Study begins  
5:15pm Diaconate
- 7<sup>th</sup>—Fellowship of Churches Annual Banquet
- 8<sup>th</sup>—Daylight Savings Time begins
- 11<sup>th</sup>—Noon Book Study
- 15<sup>th</sup>—One Great Hour of Sharing Offering today
- 18<sup>th</sup>—Noon Book Study  
5:15pm Church Council
- 24<sup>th</sup>—5:15pm Trustees meet
- 25<sup>th</sup>—Noon Book Study
- 28<sup>th</sup>—9 am All Church Clean-Up begins
- 29<sup>th</sup>—Palm Sunday
- April 1<sup>st</sup>—Noon Book Study
- April 2<sup>nd</sup>—7pm Maundy Thursday service
- April 5<sup>th</sup>—Easter

## Per Capita

**In the UCC, every church has a fee for each member of the church. This fee is called Per Capita and is currently \$13.00 for each member. Our church's portion was \$700 last year. Could you help defray this small expense? Make checks out to UCCC and memo PER CAPITA. If you can only pay a portion that is fine, too. Thank you for considering making this payment.**



Food  
Pantry  
Needs

This Month's collection will be TUNA! Last year almost 170 cans were collected. Be sure to put your donation in the shopping cart located in

the Roberts Room. Last month, 110 meals-in-can were donated.



## March is Staff Appreciation Month.

**As you can see- foot casts are all the rage around the office. Deb still has 2 more weeks of ankle recovery and Sally needs to rest her fractured foot another 4 weeks. Cooper is helping out as much as he can, but even he has some limitations, when it comes to driving.**