



United Church of Christ-Congregational

THE LIGHTED WINDOW

Celebrating 157 years of faithful service for
Christ and the Church

December 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

Every Advent we light our customary weekly candles of hope, peace, love, and joy. These candles represent what Christ brought to the world on that long ago night in Bethlehem. Then, on Christmas Eve, we light the white Christ candle, culminating our weeks of waiting and preparing. Sometimes it seems that the single white candle is anti-climatic. Hooray, all the candles on the Advent wreath are lit. Now, it is finally Christmas. I think we should rename the white candle; after all it is not the end of celebration but the beginning. We should call it the "Fear not" candle.

Fear not is what every messenger from God announces to those addressed. Christ himself tells his disciples not to fear, but to hear and act in His name. Fear not should be the motto of Christians everywhere, yet it is so easy to give in to it, especially in light of current events: Fear of violence, so close to home in America, fear of terrorist acts from unconscionable barbarians, fear that there is not enough of wealth, food, good life in the world, fear our health will give out, fear that we are truly killing our planet one species at a time, fear that one politician or another will lead us to

ruin. Fear clings closely to modern life. Thank God for Christmas.

On Christmas Eve, we light the "fear not" candle, the candle that proclaims that evil and death have been defeated, despite the skirmishes that abound. Too often, in this season, we are encouraged to live in manufactured joy, to lighten up, it's Christmas, after all. But regardless of how our own personal Christmas unfolds, happy or sad, joyous or forgettable, is completely unrelated to the power unleashed in this world in the risen Christ. Christ wins against all fear, terror, all loneliness and sorrow. Christ wins, love wins. Fear not.

We are counting down, week by week, to the celebration that was so spectacular and amazing that heaven burst its seams as choirs of angels spilled out singing "Glory to God in the Highest." That is power. That is truth. That is the very definition of awesome. Trust God, fear not, Christ has come. Live your days without fear, for Christ has promised that we are loved, valued, and saved.

***Merry Christmas,
Deb***

Greetings from the Children's Corner from Angie

Merry Christmas, Frohe Weihnachten (German), Joyeux Noël (French), Mele Kalikimaka (Hawaiian), Chag Molad Sameach (Hebrew) from the Sunday School Class.

Just a reminder that the 20th of December is the Inter-generational Christmas Pageant and Krissy's last day. Krissy will be missed by the whole class.

The book written the Sunday school class, "What we think it means to serve God" was written from October to the end of November. It covered the book of Mark with one Sunday covering a verse from Romans. The object of the book was for the kids to define what it means to them to serve God through the lessons from Mark and Romans. The book will be on display during coffee hour. Each Sunday the kids surprised me with the way they interpreted the day's lesson. Take a peek at the book and let their interpretation brighten your day. December is a short month. Dec. 6th the lesson will be Born of Fire and focus on Luke 1:68-79. Dec 13th lesson will be Ignited by Fire and focus on Luke 3:7-18. Dec 20th is the Christmas play and a small Christmas party. Dec 27th and Jan 3rd there is no Sunday school.

Celebrate with Floyd!

Which is the better gift: to be forgiven or to become a forgiving person? Celebrate the redemptive power of forgiveness.

This picture was drawn by Mikey on November 22 during Sunday school:



Krissy Schultze

Krissy Schultze will be leaving us at the end of December. Krissy has been a faithful and reliable Sunday School Assistant for 5 years. If you would like to contribute to a present for her, please drop it off in the office by December 13. Thanks.

January Sunday School Volunteers needed!

We will need volunteers to assist in Sunday School for the five Sundays of January. Our insurance requires two adults to gather with children. If you are willing to help, please sign-up on the sheet in the Roberts Room.

Thank You.



December Birthdays

Sue Wilson—5
Lindsey Miles—9
Rosemary Ross—10
Bruce Lavier—16
Bob Wilson—17
Julie Newton Brockman—19
Betty Dahlberg—20
Dave Long—23
Edwina Bailey —29

December Anniversaries

RJ and Denise Miles—3
Bruce and Annabelle Lavier—20
Bob and Joy Krein—27

Church Servers for December:

Date	Greeter	Reader	Coffee Host
Dec 6	Brenda	Cheryl	Miller's
Dec 13		Caroline	Corliss
Dec 20			
Dec 27			Cookie Crunch
Jan 3			



Calendar DECEMBER

5th— 9am Habitat Bazaar
6th—8 am Men's Breakfast
Women's bazaar
14th—Noon Women's luncheon
16th— 2pm Foster Child party
20th—Christmas Fund collection
21st—7pm Longest Night Service
24th—Office closed
31st—Office closed

Christmas Is Coming!

Let the Church Bells Ring!

The choir will be joined by members of the Handbell choir from Zion on Sunday, December 6th to present "Christmas Is Coming". It was delightful last year, so if you missed it, make sure you come! If you were present last year, come again!! The choir loves to share its music year round, but Christmas is always another opportunity to share our musical talents in special ways!

Faith and Fun

Our return to the Klickitat River on September 27th was a lot of fun. After a short hike we came to the falls. While we didn't see any natives dip netting, we did see plenty of salmon jumping up the falls. We all enjoyed the nice day and our picnic lunches. Our next activity is TBA.

Longest Night Service December 21st

Our fifth Longest Night Service will be held Monday, December 21st at 7pm. This one-hour candlelight service acknowledges the mixed emotions of the holiday season. Longest Night is a quiet, reflective time proclaiming the Christmas message that Christ came for the joyful and the sad, the delighted and the grieving. Please join us and invite someone who just might welcome this respite from the unrelenting Christmas promotion.

To link to the website, click below
[**http://www.uccthedalles.org**](http://www.uccthedalles.org)

Women's Fellowship

December is here and Women's Fellowship has a busy month! Our annual Christmas Bazaar is December 6th right after church. Any donations made for this event is appreciated. Just bring your item already priced to church and add it to our table of goodies. Our December meeting will be Monday, the 14th. It is our traditional Christmas Soup and Bread Luncheon held in the Tenney Fellowship Hall at NOON. Corliss Marsh, Rymmel Lovell and Caroline Homer will provide soup; Annabelle Lavier and Yvonne Hartung will provide bread, and Joy Krein and Yvonne Hartung are Hostesses providing dessert and decorations for the event. Jean Vercouteren will lead us in prayer. All women of the church are invited to attend. Our program is our annual Christmas card signing gift to our church's shut-ins.

At our November meeting our program was a review of the book, Our Grandfather's Blessing, by Rachel Naomi Remen MD, given by Yvonne Hartung and Joy Krein. Remen says that a blessing is about our relationship to the spark of God in one another. At the end of our discussion we all gave a toast to L'CHAIM as said in the Hebrew language, L'CHAIM pronounced "le CHI yeem" means "to life." If an opportunity comes to you to read this book, please do! We don't think you will be disappointed...we think you will be blessed.

During the business phase of our meeting we pledged to give our annual monetary donation to the Department of Human Resources towards their Christmas outreach to children in need. In addition we will give our time to our church's Foster Children Christmas Party held on December 16th in Tenney

Fellowship Hall with several members volunteering to help with the event. The first Sunday in January we will be kicking off a chance at a RAFFLE to be drawn on the last Sunday of the month during coffee time throughout 2016 as a way to enhance our treasury. The items raffled off will vary...but buying a ticket will liken one's chance to win!! Please support us! We are also savings things...Box Tops for Education, and empty medicine bottles with the their lids, cleaned and labels removed. (Immersing them in a hot water bath removes the labels easily.) Please save and bring to church. Thank you for all you do to help Women's Fellowship prosper and grow.

Medicine Bottles For Malawi

While first world nations throw away perfectly good medicine bottles, medical pharmacies and hospital facilities in Malawi often find themselves with nothing except torn pieces of paper in which to wrap medicine for their patients. This is often seen in rural hospitals and villages where the poorest of the nation try to live and survive. You can help change this. Please bring clean and label-free bottles to church. There will be a collection box which I will send to the Malawi Project in Indianapolis, Indiana. ---Corliss Marsh

CHRISTMAS CRECHE

The Christmas Crèche located near the Narthex has been displayed each Christmas for the past 67 years in memory of Irving Nathaniel Wiley, by his family. He was born on Christmas Day, 1892 and died April 4, 1948. He was a member of our church, a Sunday school teacher, and a teacher and principal with The Dalles schools. From our church he is the father-in-law of Dorothy Wiley, the grandfather of Joy Krein, Doug and Marylee Hattenhauer and Marilyn Fisk.

**Foster Child Christmas Party
Calling all volunteers
Wednesday, December 16th 2-4p.m.**

This is our third year of hosting this great event. If you can help, please call the office 541-296-2909.
 Front Door Greeter (1)
 Nametag Table (2)
 Photo Booth (2)
 Craft tables(2) No Glitter, No glue!!
 Kitchen Help (3)
 Dinner Servers (3)
 Room Rovers – help pick up tables, pass out song sheets, coloring pages etc. (2)

The Christmas Fund

The UCC's Christmas Fund supplies an urgent need. The Fund directs financial assistance to individual clergy and lay church employees. In 2014, these monies went to:

Monthly Pension Supplementation to 325 retired clergy/spouses
 Quarterly Health Premium Supplementation to 209 individuals
 Christmas "Thank You' checks to 510 lower income retired clergy
 Emergency grants to 50 active/retired clergy or lay employees
 Many retired clergy and lay church employees are paid far below what their education and training would command in the general economy. Please give generously to these faithful servants of the church.
 A collection will be taken on December 20th.

Bits and Pieces

- The Thomas Courtyard will be dedicated this month. Stay tuned....
- Annual Reports are due to the office January 7th.

- "These Days" devotional booklets are FREE and in large print. Please help yourself.
- Miller's annual Christmas party is December 12th at 7pm. Please bring an appetizer and a white elephant gift.
- Habitat Bazaar will be December 5th, beginning at 9 a.m.
- Pastor Deb will be out of the office December 25-31.
- No collection will be taken for the pantry in December. The church is collecting items for two families and donating to the Christmas Fund.
- **Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Thursday, December 24th at 5 p.m.**

**Dearest Church Members,
On behalf of Mollie's family we want to extend our deep thanks for all you did to help her celebrations of life be beautiful.**

It's difficult to express just what it meant to our family to not have to worry about all the details you attended to—passing out the programs and printing them, setting up and taking down for the reception and helping serve. Because of your generosity of time, our family could be present and enjoy connecting with Mom's friends. And listen and laugh along with Rev. Deb's amazing tribute to Mom.

Mom attended UCC for the entire time she lived in The Dalles. Matt and I grew up in the church too, and it was fitting here life and death were honored there. Again, our heartfelt thanks and gratitude,

**Julie & Noah Brockman
Matt Newton**