



United Church of Christ-Congregational
THE LIGHTED WINDOW
 Celebrating 157 years of faithful service for
 Christ and the Church
November 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

Giving and receiving played a big role in one of my earliest childhood memories. It played out in my grandmother's kitchen as we were getting ready to leave after a week's visit. Nana was trying to give my Dad some money and he was having none of it. Dad, the youngest and biggest of three boys, was actively fending off his mother, while she was just as determined. "No," she said, "I want you to have it," And the money flew around the room. As a young child, it was riveting to watch because, one, few people challenged my father, two, the pure entertainment value of money flying back and forth, and three, they were cut out of the same cloth; givers, not receivers. They were generous givers, always, but receiving gifts was very difficult for them and vigorously avoided. Even before Christmas, my Dad would go out and buy himself socks, ties, and belts. Sheesh, what is a limited allowance girl suppose to do?

As people who actually believe Jesus when he says it is more blessed to give than to receive, we understand the dynamics of giving all too well. There is a certain power in giving, is there not?

When we give a gift there is a glow of benevolence, there is a feeling that we are one-up, or ahead of the tally. We know the feeling of discordance when someone arrives at Christmas with a gift for us and there is no reciprocal gift. Receiving can be very hard and we like to claim credit for all the good things we have and that come our way. Maybe in this season of Thanksgiving, we can practice more diligently the art of receiving in gratitude and humility. Receiving isn't about beholdingness, it is about noticing that we and we alone, are not sufficient to our needs. That we are dependent. This is a good thing, because, then, and only then, can we give to another out of the fullness of our hearts. Now that is a gift worthy to be received.

Get your "thanksgiving" list ready early this year. Bask in the many gifts given to you, already. A well-spring of love, joy, grace and delight, just might prompt you to give and give again in gladness.

***Grace and peace to you all,
 Deb***

Greetings from the Children's Corner

Psalm 127:3 states that children are a gift from God. And that is what my Sunday school class is, a gift from God. I want to thank Annabelle for covering for me last month. I also want to thank Jim W. for the use of the flashlight.

The holidays are coming and I still need the Sculpty or Fimo clay that can be hardened in the oven for a project with the kids.

This month the kids will be finishing their class book we are making. We did the 1st's lesson last week it was based on Mark 12:28-34 entitled Love, Love, Love. The lesson on the 8th will be based on Mark 12:38-24 entitled "Just Giving". The kids will sign a card and send it to the Veteran's Home. The lesson on the 15th we will be deviating from Mark and going to Romans 12:12 and talking about future hope. We will be finishing up our book on the 22nd with Reign of Christ in John 18:33-37.

Angie Schultze



November Birthdays

Matt Newton—3

Patti Dale—3

Mark Poppoff—8

Jada Gay—13

Hew Hillis—21

Barbara Bailey—25

Annadale Rooper—28

Jim Wilcox—29

Bob Krein—29

November Anniversaries

Gary and Jackie Deckard—9

Dave and Bonnie Long—16

Floyd and Jean Emerson—28

Church Servers for November :

Date	Greeter	Reader	Coffee Host
Nov 1	Service	At	Zion
Nov 8	Jada	Raz	
Nov 15	Jada	Rymmel	Randy & Susan
Nov 22	Jada		Bob & Joy
Nov 29	Jada		

Calendar

4th —Noon- Mission Meeting
5:15pm Diaconate

9th —1pm Women's Fellowship

11th —Office closed, Veteran's Day

12th —Office closed

18th —5:15pm Church Council

22nd —5:30pm Memorial Committee mtg

26th —Thanksgiving

29th —First Sunday of Advent

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



Celebrate with Floyd!

There is no scientific evidence that God exists. Of course not! God can't be found in a test tube. But do you have any spiritual evidence that God does not exist? Spiritual realities need spiritual proof. Celebrate the Spirit.



This Month's collection is **Adult Toiletries**. Personal hygiene kits are made up and later distributed to those in

need at the Community Meal site. Bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, all are good ideas for filling the shopping cart.

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship met in October. Our guest speaker was Renee Weiler from Lyle, Washington representing the Baha'i Faith. She explained about the Baha'i faith's teachings, which began in 19th century Persia (present day Iran) founded by Baha'u'lla. Today it is an international religion with over 6 million followers. Its headquarters is in Haifa, Israel. The Baha'i's believe in the Love of God and the unity of mankind. They express that love in many ways of prayer, meditation and service. We enjoyed her presence with us and thank her for taking time from her busy schedule to share her personal story. The next meeting for Women's Fellowship will be November 9th at 1:00 pm in the Isabella Gray Room. We hope to have a guest speaker from the Jehovah Witness faith. All women of the church are welcome to attend. Louanne Starr will be our Hostess and Corliss Marsh will provide the prayer.



Backpack Ministry

Good afternoon,

I am late with information this school year and for that I apologize. We have gotten off to a good start and are already packing about 45 packs each week and the number seems to increase a little each week. Last Friday we distributed 543 pounds of food to 46 kids. How's that for amazing?????

The Methodist Church packed Sept. and Oct. and St. Paul's is up next for November. We don't have anyone signed up for December, so keep that in your prayers.

For one week in November and two weeks in December the kids are out of school and do not have school breakfasts and lunches to depend on. We are asking for donations of gift cards from any of the three grocery stores in amounts not to exceed 25.00. We will work to give each child a gift card at Thanksgiving and Christmas to help with the cost of food during those weeks where school food is not available. We will distribute whatever we collect in equal amounts. Collecting amounts no larger than 25.00 will make it easier to distribute. Will you help by passing this request on to your congregations and organizations? Thank you.

I know that you have been praying for this mission. Without your support of prayer, donations and service we would not be able to support these children and let them know we think their education is important to this community. I thank God for each of you and am in awe of our power through Christ to continue this mission.

Most Sincerely,
Glenis Schreffler
[541-296-1140](tel:541-296-1140)



Rev. Deb will be out of town November 10-15. Pastor Emeritus Karl Vercouteren will be preaching on Sunday, November 15th.

Ecumenical Service November 1st

We are doing it again! On Sunday, November 1, we will join the First United Church and Zion Lutheran Church for All Saints Sunday. Zion Lutheran will host us all, the service is at our regular time of 10 o' clock. But this is a bonus Sunday; we switch back to Pacific Standard Time that day (fall back) so you have an extra hour to get ready. We had a joyous time last year; let us repeat the beginnings of a tradition among us. Pastor Deb is the preacher for the day.



Trustees serve the church

If you notice something broken, torn, or in need of repair- please notify a member of the Trustees:

- Dave Long
- Nikki Lesich
- Lyle Miller
- Sue Peachey
- Lynn Wilcox
- Bob Krein

Below you will find the "List of Wishes for the Community Meal Site Gift Bags" for Christmas Day, 2015. Thank you once again for your generous contributions to this project so that those less fortunate at least receive one gift on this special day when we honor the birth of Christ.

List of Wishes for Community Meal Site Gift Bags for Christmas Day – 2015

Sponsored by Mid-Columbia Fellowship of Churches

About 45-50 Gift Bags will be distributed on Christmas Day at the St. Vincent Community Meal site.

You are invited to share in this effort. Please have your new items or money donated delivered to Klea Espy (2909 W 10th St) by Tuesday, December 1st or phone Klea to have them picked up: 541.298.1692.

\$5.00 McDonald's, Burger King or Burgerville Coupon books

men's and women's socks

washcloths

small soaps

small shampoos

small toothbrushes, individually wrapped

small toothpastes (*be sure not close to due-date*)

wrapped hard candy or fun-size bars

adult-size mittens or gloves

12-ounce bottles of water

Lightweight rain ponchos from \$ Tree

Homemade cookies (*can bring these frozen*)

Fresh apples will be purchased a day or two ahead of time

Please note: NO handle gift bags are needed this year. Beautifully decorated ones have already been donated.

Saying Goodbye...

Krissy Schultze will be leaving us as Sunday School Assistant at the end of December. Krissy has helped out downstairs for five years and been faithful to the task. If you would like to donate something toward a farewell gift to Krissy, please drop it by the office. We wish her well as she says goodbye.

Thank You

Dear Friends,
Please accept my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for your many kindnesses, expressions of sympathy and love in response to Jim's death. He often talked about how much he appreciated your friendliness and welcoming ways. You made us feel part of the family.
Thank you with love,
Lucile Torgerson

Let's Celebrate

During worship on Sunday, November 29th, Pastor Emeritus Karl Vercouteren will receive the Ruben H. Huenemann Award for Christian Leadership. Conference Minister Walter John Boris will be the presenter. Karl was to receive this award during the Fall Conference, but was unable to attend. Karl was nominated for this award that recognizes leadership that furthers the mission of the conference and denomination.

Courtyard

How you noticed that there has been progressed on the John and Jean Thomas courtyard? Work has almost been completed. Check here next month for more details.