



United Church of Christ-Congregational THE LIGHTED WINDOW

Celebrating 157 years of faithful service for
Christ and the Church

January 2016



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

Happy New Year! Rarely have I been so happy to see the close of a year. It happens now and again, that years roll through that don't make our "favorites" list.

We lost too many people in 2015. Eight of our members died this year and two long time members made moves to other climes. We are both saddened and diminished by these losses. Personally, I had surgery that did not go quite as planned and is still painful. I call 2015 the year that I sat. As soon as our ice goes away, I am stepping out on regular walks. So, we welcome a new year with open arms confident that God leads us into this new year, come what may.

We do have good news. We are the recipients of a large gift for the benefit of Christian youth ministry. The heirs of the Hanna Trust have graciously designated our church as the stewards of over \$18,000 for youth ministry. This is an extraordinary opportunity for us to fund programs, provide

experiences, send kids to camp or national youth event or whatever our imaginations and the grace of God create. We can invent something new that would reflect the values of Christian love for all people.

I am asking all of you to help in discerning the use of this generous gift. Put on your thinking caps and pray. We can make a difference in the lives of young people and share the love of God, all at the same time. Write down your ideas and bring them to the annual meeting (January 31, potluck after church).

God has yet more light to break forth from his holy Word (Pastor John Robinson, 1620). God IS still speaking. Let's listen in.

Grace and peace to you all.

Deb

Greetings from the Children's Corner

Off to a new start. I want to thank the congregation for all of their support and help last year. I am grateful for all who will be helping with Sunday School until Chrissy's position is filled.

A sign-up sheet is located in the Roberts Room. Please include your phone number. Thank you.

Here is the month's lesson:

1-10-16 Named and Claimed;
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

1-17-16 Overflowing Love;
John 2:1-11

1-24-16 Proclaiming Jubilee;
Luke 4:14-21

1-31-16 Ministry on the Edge;
Luke 4:21-30

Celebrate with Floyd!

Not many poor people are lazy and stupid. Not many rich people are selfish and greedy. Most people, rich and poor, are doing the best they can. Celebrate their efforts to do even better.

January Sunday School Volunteers needed!

We will need volunteers to assist in Sunday School for the four 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.

January Birthdays

R.J. Miles—15

Floyd Emerson—22

Helen Thomas—28

Bob Wilson—17



January Anniversaries

Patty and Susan Herring -21



3rd —8 am Men's Breakfast

6th - 5:15pm Diaconate

7th—Annual Reports due

11th —1 pm Women's Fellowship

18th—Office closed (MLK day)

27th—5:15pm Church Council

29th—Teacher's lunch at Colonel Wright

31st—Annual meeting and Potluck

To link to the website, click below

<http://www.uccthedalles.org>



Foster Children Christmas party

We hosted our 3rd annual Foster Children's Christmas party on December 16. This takes an all-church effort to organize, host, entertain and clean-up. We had almost 20 members present during the party, staffing three activity stations (craft table, photo booth, and gift room) plus an experienced kitchen staff to prepare and serve a sit down dinner. Special thank-you's to Pastor Tyler Beane, of Zion Lutheran Church for leading our singing while sporting an elf hat of sartorial splendid. And many, many thanks to our excellent Santa Claus, Gene Parker.

Thank you to all the helping hands.

Thank You

From William Boldt, the Child Welfare Program Supervisor

Dear Dr. Allen,
I would like to extend my personal, and most sincere thanks for all the time, effort, and expense you all went to in order to make this happen (the party). I know this was very meaningful for the families who were able to participate. It is also not possible to overemphasize how encouraging it is for our staff to see in a tangible way the greater community cares about these families. Again, on behalf of DHS I sincerely thank you and your congregation for your partnership and service.



Food Pantry News

2015 saw donations in the hundreds nearly every month. Cash values totaled from a low of \$80.00 to a record high of \$1100. The church replenished the food bank at the Salvation Army with everything from Tuna, soup and toiletries to Thanksgiving items, so that many could eat a traditional meal at home. The pantry also provided 3 families with a bountiful Christmas for 5 small children and their parents. For the January collection, we will need soup again this year. Please bring your donation to the shopping cart located in the Roberts Room. A full report of the pantry's collection will be in the annual report booklet.

Annual Meeting and Potluck

Everyone is encouraged to participate at this year's annual meeting on Sunday, **January 31, 2016**. A potluck in Tenney Hall will follow worship that day.



Reports will be reviewed, the budget looked over and Pastor Deb will say a word or two. This is a great chance to look forward in the life of the church.

Lunch at Colonel Wright

This year, our mission committee planned to honor teachers by hosting a lunch at each of our three elementary schools. We are hosting our second teacher's lunch at Colonel Wright on Friday, January 29th.

We will be asking for you to sign up for salads or desserts. We also provide beverages, rolls, and service ware.

This is a wonderful outreach opportunity while we share our appreciation for the work of teachers.

Mark your calendars. This is all part of our extravagant welcome.



A Journey of Faith...

Floyd Emerson had some thoughts about the differences between the faith pilgrim and the faith "tourist."

A tourist is on a holiday, traveling for the fun of it.

A pilgrim is on a serious journey, and sometimes the going is tough and filled with hardships.

A tourist is looking for the highlights, the beautiful vistas, the fun spots, the mountains and beaches and historical sites.

A pilgrim is looking for the deep meanings, not just the view, but the spiritual truths that often lay hidden.

The tourist is "Trying to get away from it all."

The pilgrim is "Trying to find it." To get close to what is the most significant.

The tourist will soon go home, perhaps to return again on another vacation.

The pilgrim may never return home and may never pass this way again.

The tourist is often in a hurry, so many things to see before the vacation is over.

The pilgrim is on a life long quest that won't end until s/he stands in the presence of God, or maybe that is when the journey really begins.

The tourist will go home with snapshots and trinkets and mementos of the places s/he has been.

The pilgrim will continue the journey with spiritual growth and fulfillment.

For the tourist, the journey is some time out of "real life."

For the pilgrim, the journey is life.

Many people experience life as both tourist and pilgrim. Family and careers often are a pilgrimage, a deeply spiritual experience, while most everything else is like going on a tour.

But I wonder how many people go to worship as tourist and how many go as pilgrims? To go to church, synagogue, temple or mosque as a

tourist is to take time out, to go on a spiritual vacation. Worship should be exciting and relaxing and especially entertaining.

A pilgrim comes to worship because it speaks to the place where real life abides. The pilgrim is not taking time out, but is on a journey that will help make sense of everything else that happens to them.

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship is set with our January meeting on the 11th in the Isabella Gray Room at 1:00 pm. The Hostess will be Caroline Homer. Rymmel Lovell will provide the devotional. Our program will be delivered by member Jean Vercoouteren. She will share her knowledge and understanding of the Islamic faith. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

Women's Fellowship's Christmas Bazaar was a huge success. We gratefully thank all of YOU who provided something to sell and/or made a purchase or volunteered! Also, we gratefully thank Habitat for Humanity for their generous donation of bazaar items left over from their sale the day before. In addition we thank Corliss Marsh for all of her efforts devoted to both bazaars.

Soon a "Hot Raffle Item" will be offered on the last Sunday of each month by Women's Fellowship. Tickets can be purchased each Sunday during coffee hour. January's item will be introduced Sunday January 10th. Monies raised from the annual Christmas bazaar and the raffle will be used towards outreach within our church and community.

Dedication of the Thomas Courtyard

On Christmas Eve at 4:30 p.m. in the afternoon, we gathered to dedicate the Thomas Courtyard (space between the sanctuary and the office building) to John and Jean Thomas. Church members and family members assembled for a small prayer service to mark the official renaming of the space.. We thanked John and Jean for their lifetime of service to our church and community. We thanked Tedd Lovell for designing and organizing the construction of the courtyard. The text of the dedication plaque, which will be mounted once the weather turns warmer, is as follows:

The Thomas Courtyard

**In Honor of John and Jean Thomas
and their family for their
faithfulness, love, and support of
this church and community.**

December 2015