



United Church of Christ-Congregational THE LIGHTED WINDOW

Celebrating 157 years of faithful service for
Christ and the Church

February 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

Unlike Christmas, there is nothing in our culture, in stores, online, or on TV, that will remind you that Lent is coming. There are no Lenten sweet treats nor decorations festooning the stores. It is up to us to remember. Lent arrives early this year, February 10, too early for me.

When I was growing up, our practice was to give up something for Lent, sacrificing some pleasure to show God how devoted we were. I'm not sure that forced suffering is the best way to be pleasing to God, but it has a long history among the people of God. Once upon a time, when my confirmation class was made up of seven junior high boys, we talked at length about Lent. They couldn't see the rhyme or reason of "sacrificing" chips or their favorite TV show. I thought that they had a point. Although, this is the same group who, when I asked them if Jesus was showing up in the flesh at church on Sunday or Ken Griffey, Jr. was going to be down the block at the pizza place, who they would want to see more...well, you can guess. However, I have mulled their objections over the years and for many years have been advocating "adding" something to our daily practice rather than "giving up" something. For me, the difference is dwelling in joy and not in sorrow. So, what can we add?

I urge you to add two things to your daily life; joy and silently waiting in the presence of God. God doesn't just love a joyful giver,

God loves a joyful "spirit." Add something in your daily routine that delights you, whether it is surprising someone with kindness, a card, a call, flowers, or a bag of groceries. Sing at the top of your lungs, dance like King David before the Ark, smile at someone who appears to be having a trying day. Refuse to respond in kind to someone who is angry. Give God five uninterrupted minutes every day. Five minutes to be fully present before God. When we stop long enough to listen, we may actually hear God's Word to us. Everyone has five minutes.

Our book study this Lenten season is called, **The Year without Purchase.** A family of four wishes to live their life at a more intentional level, to be with each other more, laugh more, and stop shopping. Oh yeah, and they don't tell their kids they are embarking on this experiment. It is a very witty and funny and faithful account of how it went. It is worth our time. Lent is a wonderful pause in the church year to spend some time pondering how we are faithful and how we might live more closely to the ways of Jesus Christ. Everyone can participate. It is a time to notice the One who has been the companion of our days, from the beginning. Six weeks is such a short season, let let's join together in our intentional walk through the season.

Grace and peace to you all.

Deb

Greetings from the Children's Corner

Thank you to those who have helped and will be helping in the classroom. It's a fairly quiet month. We will be learning about Lent.



Celebrate with Floyd!

God offers us divine presence, not protection. People of faith are no safer from danger than the faithless, but they can celebrate assurance even in the worst of times.

On-Going Sunday School Volunteers needed!

We will need volunteers to assist in Sunday School for the rest of the school year. 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.

February Birthdays

Bob Peachey—8
Tedd Lovell—10
Gene Parker—11
Vicki Matthew—14
Moses Church—16

Jean Vercouteren—17

Marissa Miles—18

February Anniversaries

Bob and Sue Wilson—26

To link to the website, click below

<http://www.uccthedalles.org>

3rd –5:15pm Diaconate
7th—Men's Breakfast 8am
8th —1 pm Women's Fellowship
10th—Ash Wednesday
11th-18th Pastor Deb Away
15th—Office closed (President's day)
21st—Community Meal
23rd—Fellowship of Churches 5pm
Speaker- Jay Waterbury
24th—5:15pm Church Council

Moderator's Message January 2016

It is an honor to serve again as your Moderator. Looking ahead at this next year we, as "The Church", will continue to honor God and strive to do God's will within our church, community, country, and the world. I see lots of service opportunities as well as a lot of joyful celebration ahead.

Our congregation supports an abundant and varied number of mission projects. Habitat, Food Cart, Heifer, Haven, Children/the Back Pack Program and the Foster Kids Christmas Party, Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, Community Meals, Christmas Families, Warming Shelter, Camp Adams Scholarships, Hygiene Kits, etc. I want us to continue to support these missions as well as the five special UCC offerings that are taken each year. However, you never know what God will place before us. Other chances to serve our local and wider communities will no doubt present themselves, and we will answer. I am proud of our Church's caring and generosity, and its continued strong efforts to offer a hand up to those in need. Sincerely, **Randy Stewart**

We are no longer collecting used medicine bottles. It was a very successful program. Thanks to everyone who donated.

Thank You

Dear UCC,
Your kind and generous offer to serve lunch to the Colonel Wright staff is very much appreciated! The food was delicious and the fellowship fantastic- a nice break in our work day! Thank you for thinking of us.

--Signed by the teachers of Colonel Wright Elementary school

Refugee?

Pastor Deb and Corliss attended an informational refugee workshop at Bethel UCC in White Salmon last month. The presenters were from the Lutheran Church Services (LCS) in Vancouver, Washington who are one of the group tasked with settling refugees in our area. Even with our interest in sponsoring a refugee family, there is almost no chance of that happening. Only 1% of refugees ever get an opportunity to come to this country after a process taking 3-7 years. The numbers of refugees accepted in the U.S. is way down, the number allowed is set by Congress. LCS does need donation of monies and supplies. They provide a furnished apartment for each family. We will keep you informed.



February's collection will be MEAL-IN-A-CAN. Please bring hearty stews, pastas and chili to the shopping cart in the Robert's Room.

Women's Fellowship

Here it is February! Women's Fellowship's monthly meeting will be Monday the 8th in the Isabella Gray Room. The Hostess will be Sue Wilson, the devotional will be given by Yvonne Hartung, and the program will be a guest speaker not yet determined. Come with anticipation! All women are invited. A new Raffle item will be offered at Coffee Hour the last Sunday of the month, Feb. 28th. January's RAFFLE drawing was the last Sunday in January for a Pecan Pie! Yum!! Were you the winner? Make sure you buy a ticket to increase your odds of winning!

Last month Jean Vercoouteren presented information about the Islamic religion. "A Muslim is one who believes in God and strives for total reorganization of his life according to His revealed guidance and the sayings of the Prophet." "The word "Allah" is the proper name of God in Arabic." Facts quoted from a pamphlet printed by The Islamic Center in Washington, D.C. that Jean handed out.

In 2009 the four largest countries of Muslims in the world were Indonesia, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh with an estimated 572 million. The great majority are Sunnis which is the orthodox branch of Islam; the other group are the Shia with three main branches. Shia Muslims are in the majority in Iran, Iraq, Bahrain, and Azerbaijan in addition to large Shia communities in Afghanistan, India, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Qatar, Syria, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The largest branch of the Shia, The Ithna Asharis, believe that "Muhammad's religious leadership, spiritual authority and divine guidance were passed on to 12 of his descendants, beginning with Ali, Hassan and Hussein." Facts from a printed sheet on estimated distribution.

From Callie Jordan

Happy New Year from Tucson!

Although I still have spring wildflowers to look forward to, I feel like I've been here now through all the seasons of the year. Summer wasn't too bad even though it was indeed in the triple digits for a couple of months. In fact, I had an easier summer than you did because we're better prepared down here. My little apt is built of concrete block to keep out the heat and keep in the cool of the night, whereas my frame house in TD was an oven by the late afternoon on hot days. Every place is air conditioned here of course and I was pleased to find that the stores weren't icy cold.

I have a darling little SUV (with dark tinted windows) so I've been doing a fair amount of exploring, and there's room in the car for my tent and ice chest to go camping. The mtns outside town are only 20 min away but this is a small state and lots of other mountains and historic towns are within a 2-3 hour drive. The kind of desert we have here has a lot more diversity than others, because of the drenching rains in the summer, monsoons that are brought in from the Sea of Cortez.

I'm limiting my desert hiking though to the grounds of the Desert Museum, or the wheelchair loops in the nearby national park. That way the paths are smooth, with benches and water fountains. I haven't seen any snakes but have been on several birdwatching trips. This is a hotspot for birds and there are some very colorful ones that don't live anywhere else in the US. I joined Tucson Audubon but have pretty much decided that "up with the birds" makes the trips too early for me, so I help at events instead.



This is a vermilion flycatcher. There's one that lives in the trees by the parking lot at church. There are two UCC churches in Tucson but I was able to listen to their sermons online before I

came and liked Rincon best. I've been doing coffee hours and work projects so am getting

to know people. I've joined a couple of Meetup social groups for happy hour, movie or dinner outings. Last week I learned Farkel and RummyKube at a games day (and I wrenched my back getting my card table in the car). I'm also singing in community choruses. Last quarter we did Bach and this quarter it's Mozart. Plus I'm taking dance classes, ballroom and ballet.

The weather is cooler than I'd expected from my winters in Baja, but we are after all both further north and at a higher elevation. It's getting to the 30s at night but then it's 50s and sunny during the daytime now. I see you coping with snow and ice --- I certainly remember that.

The people are very nice, almost always let you in if you're trying to merge in traffic --- today a car waiting at the light even backed up to let me turn into a driveway to get my mail. Everyone on the phone is also very pleasant when you call for appointments --- you say thank you and they say you're welcome, never rushed or perfunctory.

The roads are usually two lanes with bicycle lanes and left turn lanes so they're very wide. The population of Tucson is technically the same as Portland but we don't have the suburbs here. Very few buildings are more than 2 stories but even with the resultant sprawl, I can get anywhere in town in about 20 mins, so I'm happy with my central location. I love the clean look of the desert, the stucco buildings, the desert type landscaping --- plus



there is so much sky, with mountains in every direction. I've enclosed a photo of a typical house that's across from where I pick up my mail. I'm afraid my complex isn't as

colorful. I've looked around in case I wanted to move somewhere else, but I'm actually pretty happy where I am. It's small but I have a sofa bed that worked out just fine when my mom visited in October. I will be a really good tour guide for anyone that wants to come down for a winter break, especially along about March muddiness. Missing you all, Callie

Community Meals

Will be served February 21st.

Annabelle Lavier will now be the contact person for these meals. She can be reached at 541-296-9567 or <mailto:alavier@gorge.net>

Other meal dates will be May 15th and September 18th.

Hi- UCC Friends,
The last couple of times we have served Community Meals we have noticed that the kitchen is need of a real cleaning. We are organizing a cleaning party on Saturday, February 6th at 8:00am. We are planning to take everything out of the kitchen and wash down the walls, etc. If any of you could help or pass the word, that would be wonderful. Bring your own rubber gloves!

Thanks,
Karen Broehl
541-980-3170
1st UMC book group

New Noon Book Study begins February 24th

The Year without a Purchase is the story of one family's quest to stop shopping and start connecting. Scott Dannemiller and his wife, Gabby, are former missionaries who served in Guatemala. Ten years removed from their vow of simple living, they found themselves on a never-ending treadmill of consumption where each purchase created a desire for more and never led to true satisfaction. They made a decision to try a different lifestyle.

Cost of the book is \$12.00. Grants are available- contact Pastor Deb.

Study dates are Feb 24th, March 2nd, March 9th, and March 16th.

We welcome back Yvonne Hartung into membership of the church.

Nominating Committee Request

Oops! There is a vacancy on the Board of Trustees. Anyone interested? Also, the Church will be looking to elect/appoint a Treasurer this spring. Payroll duties (tax calculations and filings, etc.) for the church employees will be done by a payroll service company so this job has become quite a bit less complicated. If you would like to discuss possibly taking the job as Treasurer or the position on the Board of Trustees please contact anyone on the Church Council.

Randy Stewart.

Hannah Project Monies

Idea List from Annual Meeting

1/31/16

- Mission trip
- Organ lessons made available
- Youth night at the church – pizza & movie
- Means of transportation for youth to enjoy activities already on-going in the community
- After school program for Middle School youth, (safe and warm)
- Coordinate with ACTS and YOUTHINK programs
- Support new Youth Center, (ACTS will be part) but this is not a religious based center.
- Concert (in the park) summer, feature Bobbie Valentine
- Fund children from CASA or HAVEN so that they can attend camps or join activities that need fees to participate

Ask youth what they want.....

Middle School age is missed in many community activities, focus on them or multi-age

Whatever is done, think multi-cultural: Native American, Latino, Samoan

6 UCC Congregational, The Dalles, OR
List of Church Officers, Committees, and Boards

Church Council – 1 year term

Moderator - **Randy Stewart**
 Vice Moderator - **Annabel Lavier**

Clerk – **Rymmel Lovell**
 Treasurer - **TBA**
 Financial Secretary - Susan Stewart
 Council at Large **Corliss Marsh**
 Council at Large **Tedd Lovell**

Council at Large **Klea Espy**

Diaconate – 2 year term

2016 Joy Krein
 2016 Dottie Layer
 2016 Jim Wilcox
 2017 **Sue Herring**
 2017 **Mark Ulrich**
 2017 **Angie Schultze**

Board of Trustees – 3 year term

2016 Lyle Miller
 2016 Sue Peachey
 2017 Lynn Wilcox
 2017 Bob Krein
 2018 **Gene Parker**
 2018 **Sue Peachey**

Financial Committee – 2 year term

2016 Deidra Baumgarten
 2016 Susan Stewart (Financial Secretary)
 2017 **TBA** (Treasurer)
 2017 **Corliss Marsh**
 2017 **Lyle Miller**

Deligates to Fellowship of Churches – 3 yr. term

2016 Klea Espy
 2017 Sue Wilson
 2018 Brenda Ragar

Foundation/Memorial Committee – 3year term

2017 Tom Peachey
 2017 Corliss Marsh
 2018 **Dottie Layer**
 2018 **Lucile Torgerson**
 2018 **Dave Long**

Pastoral Relations – 3 year term

2016 Jim Wilcox
 2017 Susan Stewart
 2017 Lynn Wilcox
 2018 **Floyd Emerson**
 2018 **Dottie Layer**

Mission Committee- Appointed

Denise Miles
 Corliss Marsh
 Joy Krein
 Brenda Ragar

Nominating Committee – Church Council

TBA

Delegates to Central Pacific Conference

TBA

New members are listed in **BOLD**

You are invited to join First United Methodist Church for the following:
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed on Tuesday, February 9th from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Donations are appreciated, but not required.

Ash Wednesday Service at **7:15 AM** on Wednesday, February 10th. **THIS IS A MORNING EVENT, NOT AN EVENING ONE.**

Servers for February

Date	Greeter	Reader	Coffee Host
2/7	Paula	Tom Peachey	Wilcox's
2/14		Sue Peachey	Louanne Starr
2/21	Yvonne	Gene	Lovell's
2/28	Nikki	Dottie	

St. Paul's Pancake Supper - Celebrate Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras), Feb. 9, with pancake supper at St. Paul's (1805 Minnesota St). 5-7 p.m. \$5 children/\$8 adults/\$15 family. All proceeds will be divided between the Warming Place (to provide soups, hot chocolate, etc. for guests) and Relay for Life. Basket Raffle tickets \$1 - one basket for men & one for women.

Lenten Taize Services - Are you searching for something more? St. Paul's Episcopal Church invites you to **community Taize services, Tuesdays at 7:00 pm at the Old St. Paul's Chapel, 5th and Union Street.** The services are short and simple, focusing on meditative singing and reflections. Services will happen throughout Lent: February 16, February 23, March 1, March 8, March 15, and March 22.

Wednesday Noon Eucharist - Informal Eucharist services will be offered at St. Paul's Chapel at Noon on Wednesdays beginning Feb. 3. Feel free to bring your lunch!