



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



March 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

Once again I received an email from Paul McCartney. He sends me a newsy note every three weeks or so. If this were my 11 or 12 year old self receiving this note, I would be apoplectic. I would imagine Paul typing in his correspondents one by one and at some point he would type in my name. I would tell everyone I knew. Absolutely, everyone. Oh, the power of first crush. As you have guessed, this is some ginormous email list that spews out across the universe. How my name got attached to this list is a mystery. He probably sends me email because he knows I don't tweet.

Who is it, that if they sent you an email, would make your heart skip a beat? An old flame? Sports legend? What if God sent you an email? Would your heart skip a beat? Would you rush to open it? God is sending us messages everyday, all the time, without ceasing. Come down and look around church. The north side of the building is a carpet of violets and the delicate cascading spirea are popping open minute by minute. Daffodils are out, tulips are making their presence known, and the ornamental trees are erupting in blooms.

For me, these tender signs of spring are a reminder of whose hand made creation, including your life and mine. God doesn't have a crush on us, God

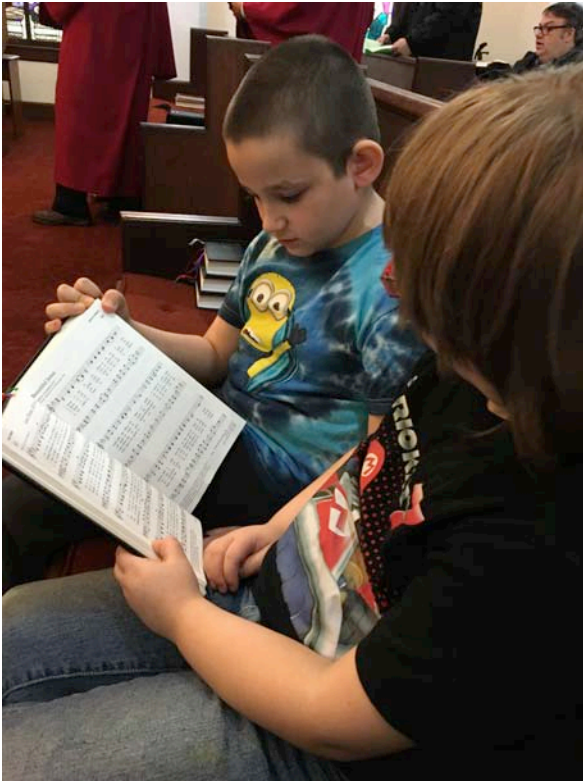
loves us. These messages of hope and power are all around us in whatever shows forth love. All this lush new growth, the vibrancy of spring green, the burst of flowers among dead looking gardens, point to the mystery of God's eternal presence and care. These are outward and visible signs of invisible grace. We are surrounded by this grace, we are knee deep in this grace; if we have eyes to see.

The Bible claims that "in the midst" of the world the Word became flesh, a sign that is both contradiction and reconciliation. Many of these signs stretch our comprehension: the sustaining presence of bread broken, the cup shared, the sign of the cross, the empty tomb. Messages of God's grace are all around us, powerful, mysterious, loving, and steadfast. These are the emails from God. Surrounded by these messages of love, we respond in faith and trust, by loving one another, as God loves us. Grace abounds. Notice the perpetual seasonal rhythms of the hand that made you. Spend some of the minutes allotted to you noticing that message after message is being broadcast. These are not marching orders, but calls to refreshment and restoration. . Now. Always. Forever. Tell everyone you know. Absolutely everyone. And now, I have to answer some email...

Grace and peace to you all.

Deb

Greetings from the Children's Corner



Welcome to my three new kids and welcome back to Robert and Benjamin. On the Sunday before Easter please have the kids wear old clothes. We will be painting on a project to take home on Easter.

The picture of Mikey and Hayleigh was taken on 2/21 during the first hymn.

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.



March Birthdays

Annika Baumgarten—5
John Baumgarten—6
Benjamin Deckard—9

Sue Peachey—11
John Peachey—13
Klea Espy—30

March Anniversaries

Karl & Jean Vercouteren—20
Bill & Vicki Matthew—25

To link to the website, click below

<http://www.uccthedalles.org>



2nd –Noon Book Study
5:15pm Diaconate
5th—5:30pm Fellowship of Churches
Dinner
6th —Men's Breakfast 8am
9th—Noon Book Study
13th—One Great Hour of Sharing
Collection
14th —1 pm Women's Fellowship
16th—Noon Book Study
19th—9am- Noon Spring
Clean-up Day
22nd-5:15pm Trustee's meet
5:30pm Fellowship of Churches
23rd —5:15pm Church Council
24th—7pm
27th—Easter

One Great Hour of Sharing March 13th

We live in the midst of the largest refugee crisis since World War II. One in every 122 people in the world today is forcibly displaced from their home, seeking refuge either within their national borders or beyond. OGHS donations fund UCC sustainable development, refugee and disaster ministries. We go the extra mile to respond, to stay for the long term, and to work on root cause because we are walking with those who are forced to go many extra miles simply to survive and, along the way, to thrive.

Thank you for your support of One Great of Sharing (UCC). Without you, none of this work would be possible. It all starts with your decision to give.

Moderator's Notes March 2016

I'd like to recognize the great job Corliss did this last year as our Moderator. We were really busy doing great things for our church and community. She always sets the bar high, and she'll be a hard act to follow. Thanks Corliss!!

The Peacheys deserve a big thank you for donating a speaker system that will work with our projector.

We have a vacancy on the Board of Trustees that needs to be filled. If you are interested, please check with me for more information about this position.

Sincerely, **Randy Stewart**

SAVE THE DATE!!!

July 10th 6PM

**Bobby Jo Valentine Concert
City Park**

**Sponsored by United Church of
Christ Congregational**

Women's Fellowship

On Monday March 14th Women's Fellowship will be meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the Isabella Gray Room. Our Hostess will be Cynthia Graham. Louanne Starr will provide the devotional. Our program will be presented by Sher Schwartz. She will provide background information on Buddhism. Last month Caroline Homer presented informative facts related to the Jehovah Witness. Women Fellowship meetings are held on the second Mondays of the month and we welcome all women of the church to attend. Rosemary Ross was the winner of February's raffle, which was a \$20 gift certificate to the Tijuana Mexican restaurant in The Dalles on east 3rd Street. Our March raffle will be drawn on March 27th -Easter Sunday during coffee hour. We gratefully thank YOU for your participation.

The program related to Rev Thomas Condon on OPB can still be viewed by going to opb.org/television/program/oregonexperience. According to the book, The Odyssey of Thomas Condon, by Robert D. Clark, Rev. Thomas Condon and his wife Cornelia and their four children arrived by boat in The Dalles once the Columbia River ice thawed around mid-March of 1862. Rev. Thomas Condon was the second pastor of the First Congregational Church here in The Dalles. William A. Tenney was the first.



Remember to turn your clock ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 12th. Spring is just around the corner.

Summer Camp Dates and Registration is now open

Camp Adams

Exodus (9th-12th grades)—July 3-9, 2016
 Sojourners (6th-8th grades) July 10-16
 Discoverers (4th- 5th grades) July 17-23
 Genesis/Seekers (2nd-3rd grades)
 July 24-30
 Taller & Smaller (K-1st with Adult)
 July 31-Aug 3rd OR Aug 3-6

Pilgrim Cove Youth Summer Camps **July 10 - July 16**

Pilgrims (3rd -5th grades)
 Sojourners (6th -8th grades)
 Exodus (9th -12th grades)

The summer camp programs offered at both Pilgrim Cove and Camp Adams are designed to provide a traditional summer camp experience for youth wrapped within the fundamental ideals for the United Church of Christ faith tradition.

Scholarships are available! Please contact the church office for an application.

Speaking of Spring....

The Annual Spring Clean-up day will be Saturday, March 19th, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The list of cleaning duties is on table in the Roberts Room. You can choose a job to do and then check it off, when its finished. Everyone is encouraged to help keep your church clean and tidy.

PANTRY NEWS

February's total of meals in a can was 127 items.

March will be the annual TUNA MADNESS! Please bring your donation to the shopping cart located in the Roberts Room.

Servers for March

Date	Greeter	Reader	Coffee Host	Teacher Assistant
3/6	Dottie	Susan Stewart	Randy & Susan	Jim Wilcox
3/13	Dottie	Cheryl	Caroline & Klea	Rymmel
3/20	Dottie	Rymmel	Miller	?
3/27	Dottie	Caroline	Janice, Judy & Sue	No Sunday School