



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



April 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

Phone 541.296.2909

Cell phone: 509.499.1294

Email- revdeborahjallen@gmail.com

Website- www.uccthedalles.org

Pastor's Pen

Highway 101 up the Olympic Peninsula in Washington is one I know well. I have travelled that road to the ferry dock in Port Angeles for over 36 years. In my mind, I know every curve, when you really need to slow down, and when you can make up time. I am also acquainted with the three speed traps, not from experience, mind you, but from observation. So, last week when I was tooling up this curvy road and found myself behind a long truck taking his own sweet time, I was fuming just a bit. "Come on, Grandpa," I said, "Get a move on." He was completely ignoring the slow vehicle turn-outs and oblivious to my irritation. So, we very ponderously made our way up the road. No passing possible for the stretch next to the water.

Since I was stuck in the slow lane, I let my brain out for a wander. There, I made the discovery that the water was sparkling and everything glistened in the spring sunshine. While I was drinking in the beauty, I realized how dead dog tired I was, and it occurred to me that I shouldn't be driving. Then, the thought skittered through my mind that maybe God sent the truck. Maybe taking the road more slowly, maybe by having no control over the rate of speed, maybe by suddenly knowing that I was tired and should be careful, maybe all of that was a

good thing. We are accustomed to thinking about the "good" things that God provides, but maybe we don't really have a clue about what is a divine gift. It is so difficult to discern between blessings and curses. We think that it should be easy; happy, good thing, sad, bad thing, but nothing in life or concerning the divine is that easy. There is an old saying, "Your curse is your blessing and your blessing is your curse." For example, winning the lottery might be a blessing, but quickly becomes a curse when family, friends, and strangers see you as an ATM. This is where faith comes in. We are so quick to identify what is and what is not the hand of God, but we do not and cannot know the mind of God. Trust me, no one "up there" is out to get you, but someone "up there" is totally for you.

Our response to God's declaration of love is to daily live intentionally as belonging to Christ. To remember the gifts of grace, beauty and love that have already been given to us. Life has its sorrows, but those sorrows are not eternal. The love of God, with us, for us, among us, is forever. Blessing or curse? Hard to know. Christ's resurrection is God's great "yes" to us. Forever. Always. Without end. Rejoice.

Grace and peace to you all. *Deb*

Shalom from the Children's Corner

The children celebrated The Passover with a Seder Dinner. For the first time the children tried lamb and quinoa. They enjoyed the lamb.

Last Sunday the kids started painting crosses and will finish them this week.

Here is the list of lessons for the month of April:

4/10 A New Vision
4/17 Showing Up
4/24 Tipping Point

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.



April Birthdays

Robert Deckard—4
Barry Frizzell—13
Donna Miller—13

Cynthia Graham—15



3rd —Men's Breakfast 8am
6th --5:15pm Diaconate
11th —1 pm Women's Fellowship
15th—2pm Marilyn Ericksen memorial
20th—5:15pm Church Council
24th-Congregational Meeting follows service
26th—5:15pm Trustee's to meet
26th —5pm Fellowship of Churches Forum: Medical Marijuana

Moderator's Notes April 2016

As promised, the revision of the 2016 budget is now available for review and will be presented for approval at a congregational meeting after church on April 24th.

The Board of Trustees still needs one more member. Also there is a vacancy on the Finance Committee. Any one interested in volunteering?

Refurbishing the Thomas Courtyard and Fireside Room are ongoing projects.

We are busy finalizing Kristal's trip to the UCC National Youth Event as well as offering scholarships for our younger kids to attend Camp Adams.

Save this date! The annual Mother's Day breakfast and raffle will be on May 8th. So come and enjoy breakfast and stay for the raffle during coffee hour after church.

Randy Stewart, Moderator

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

SAVE THE DATE!!!
July 10th 6PM
Bobby Jo Valentine Concert
City Park
Sponsored by United Church of
Christ Congregational

Hi Everyone,

Here is Logan's Baseball schedule. Would love to have you come out and support him any time you can.

All Games are played on Field 2 (behind/to the east) of the snack shack, unless otherwise noted. His team is the Pirates. All games are 2 hours long.

Let me know if you have any questions.
Thanks, Deidre

Logan's 2016 Baseball Schedule

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Friday	4/1	5:30	
			Field 2
Wednesday	4/6	5:30	Field 2
Saturday	4/9	4:00	Field 2
Thursday	4/14	5:30	Field 2
Tuesday	4/19	5:30	Field 2
Friday	4/22	5:30	Field 2
Wednesday	4/27	5:30	Field 2
Friday	4/29	8:00	Field 1
Friday	5/6	5:30	Field 2
Tuesday	5/10	5:00	Field 2
Saturday	5/14	3:00	Field 2
Tuesday	5/17	5:30	Field 2
Friday	5/20	5:30	Field 2
Monday	5/23	5:30	Field 2
Thursday	6/2	5:30	Field 2

Playoffs TBD

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

Scholarships are available. Contact Pastor Deb.



March was the annual TUNA MADNESS! 186 cans were donated! FRUIT will be the next collection. Please bring your donation to the shopping cart located in the Roberts Room.

Women’s Fellowship News

The next Women’s Fellowship meeting will be Monday April 11th at 1:00 pm in the Isabella Gray Room. All women of the church are invited to attend. Hostesses will be Jean Vercooteren and Corliss Marsh. Cynthia Graham will provide the devotional. Last month member Sher Schwartz presented the program on the basics tenets of Buddhism. This month she will share the basic tenets of Hinduism. Following the program will be a short business meeting. Winner of the March Raffle drawing last Sunday was Shirley Ulrich. She won the Easter basket provided by Louanne Starr. The next raffle drawing will be during coffee hour on April 24th. We appreciate your continuous support when you buy a raffle ticket: one for a dollar or six for five dollars! Who knows...You just might be the lucky winner!

Servers for April

Date	Greeter	Reader	Coffee Host	Teacher Assistant
4/3	Jada	Jim Wilcox	Corliss	Annabelle
4/10	Yvonne	Louanne	Susan	Paula
4/17			Joy & Rymmel	Sally
4/24				

Celebrate With Floyd...

Faith and religion happen in every day life. It is the overflow that goes to church. Don’t wait until Sunday to celebrate.

All You Can Eat Pizza!!

The annual Columbia Gorge Habitat for Humanity Pizza Feed will be held Wednesday,

April 13, 2016 at **SPOOKY’S** in The Dalles from 4:30- 7:30pm

Tickets: \$12.00 for ages 14—adults

\$7.00 for ages 7—13

\$4.00 for age 6 and under

Tickets available at the Habitat office, Klindt’s book sellers, Waucoma Books in Hood River, Habitat ReStore or from Habitat members.

NOTE FROM DIACONATE

Our congregation has been blessed for almost 5 years with consistent strong sermons/messages from Pastor Deb. It is the responsibility of the Diaconate to assist our Pastor with making the services as personal and meaningful as possible. We would ask this simple cooperation from the congregation; please allow Pastor Deb uninterrupted private quiet time when she enters the Chancel and is seated prior to the service. She uses that time for prayerful mental preparation for the service. It is part of her preparation to bring us a service and message that is consistent and coherent. Thank you all for your cooperation in helping our pastor continue her great leadership.

The Mission Committee meets in April. If you have a suggestion or idea for mission work of the church, please contact the office. 541-296-2909

Welcome to Raz Mason, who joined the church on Easter Sunday. She is beginning the process of member-in-discernment for ordained UCC ministry. She currently teaches Science at The Dalles Middle School.



Congregational Meeting Scheduled

You may recall that at the Annual meeting the 2016 budget was not quite ready. We are ready to vote on our budget after Worship on Sunday, April 24th.

Therefore, a congregational meeting is officially for April 24th, 11a.m.

Just a reminder, members only can vote. See you there.