



United Church of Christ-Congregational  
**THE LIGHTED WINDOW**  
 Celebrating 158 years of faithful service for  
 Christ and the Church  
**December 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**

Like it or not, we are communal creatures. We drift toward herds, flocks, packs, kith and kin. Like our fellow pack animals, we tend to do the things that other members of our group are doing, but far more powerfully than just one alone. In a spirited group, good-hearted people can change the misery of thousands and get caught up in selfless acts of grace. In this sacred, holy season, we, Christian folk, need to flock together as an alternative to the seasonal running amok outside the walls of church. The whole world is straining to hear a word of hope, a word that is true, a word that is more compelling than a 50% off sale. We, the Christian flock, are bearers of that word.

That word is made visible in our gathering because ours is a community of givers. We give to the Food Backpack Program, Community Meals, Salvation Army, Christmas gifts to area children, library programs, a community concert, the Foster Kid Christmas Party, to elementary schools and teachers, sending kids to camp, providing emergency assistance, to supporting the regional and global ministries of the UCC. The word of hope in Jesus Christ is an action word, It is like a warming fire that sparks us into action, embodying the

love of Christ. We are a helping herd; not safety in numbers, but the more the merrier. Giving with full hearts prepares the way. That is why we find ourselves, year after year, gathering, as one clan, in the dark of winter, at our Christmas Eve service. Christmas Eve has its own radiance; a cozy peace shelters us from the winter night and the familiar words of scripture and song are both comforting and nudging. At the singing of "Silent Night", with the beauty of the sanctuary illuminated only by candlelight, a tranquility descends and a gentle accord knits us into one body, yet again. That hymn is both a powerful declaration of hope and lullaby; in its soft crooning, peace reigns in our hearts. It is almost impossible to be mad or harbor resentment while singing this tender carol in the midst of the body of Christ. Peace comes. Peace lives. Our God is with us.

In this glorious season, the astonishing love of God calls us into one family. We flock together in hope that the light that has come might shine into every shadowy corner of the earth. Together, we hope that we find ourselves more kindly and full of grace. Together, we hope that, day by day, we are becoming the Church of Jesus Christ. The sheep know the shepherd and hearken to his

voice. It is a good herd to run with, a herd that hopes by serving the world. Clump together with those who call on the name of the Lord. Hang onto the coattails of those who do not and draw them into the circle of love. Rejoice, the Lord has come.

Peace be to you. **Deb**



- Dec 2—Teacher's Lunch  
Colonel Wright school**
- Dec 3 –10am to 2pm Habitat for  
Humanity Bazaar and Soup &  
Pie lunch**
- Dec 4— 8am Men's Breakfast**
- Dec 7—4 pm Church Council at  
Pastor Deb's**
- Dec 12 —Noon Women's Fellowship**
- Dec 14—1:30pm Foster Kids party**
- Dec 17-10-11:15am Play practice**
- Dec 18—Christmas program during  
Worship**
- Dec 21—7pm Longest Night service**
- Dec 22—office closes at 11am**
- Dec 24—5pm Christmas Eve service**
- Dec 25—10am Worship**
- Dec 26—Office Closed**



December's  
collection will be  
**BABY PRODUCTS.**

## Moderator's Note

December is a busy month in the church for MISSION. On December 2<sup>nd</sup> the church will provide a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon at Col. Wright Elementary School. Our Annual Foster Kids Christmas Party will be on December 14<sup>th</sup>. We'll need a lot of help with this project. Also, the Church is once again adopting families for Christmas, two through the Salvation Army and one from Col. Wright Elementary School. To participate just take a few gift tags off the boards, buy the gifts and bring them to the church by December 11<sup>th</sup>. No wrapping needed. Just attach the gift tag you took from the board to each gift.

The Nominating Committee is still looking for people to be generous with their time and talents. Please consider accepting a nomination to the Church Council, one of the church boards or church committees. Contact Annabelle Lavier.

The Financial Committee composed a proposed budget that will enable the church to continue to Celebrate God and do God's work in our community, as well as the world. It will also meet the needs of having a church staff and maintaining our beautiful church building. This budget will be presented at our Annual Meeting, January 29<sup>th</sup>.

The generosity of our members and friends is awesome. Money, time, and talent are donated in abundance. Thank you!

Randy Stewart  
Moderator

\*Please wear your nametags on Sundays. If we all wear them every Sunday it will become a habit by the holidays.

**Younger Children's  
Sunday School**



We still do not have a permanent person to teach our younger Sunday School class (K-3). We have had two great volunteers (Rymmel Lovell and Susan Stewart) who are covering this class until the first of the year. Could you volunteer for a Month? The curriculum is easy and very flexible. We want to make sure we have programming for this group, we hope some of our parents will volunteer, too.

Additionally, we have had a toddler or two on Sundays and Corliss has been taking them to the Isabella Gray room. There is sound in that room, you will not miss the sermon. It is just supervising playing with the toys. Can you take a Sunday or two? Let Corliss, Rymmel, or Susan know. Thanks.

**Servers for December**

Date	Greeter	Reader	Coffee Host
12/4		Cheryl	Lovell's
12/11	Yvonne	Traci	Rosemary and Paula
12/18		Rymmel	Randy and Susan
12/25	Yvonne	Cheryl	

**Well-done Faithful Servants!**

The **Christmas Fund** is one of the four special mission offerings of the UCC. These monies provide direct financial assistance to individual UCC clergy and lay employees. All the money goes to people. Clergy salaries are low considering the educational requirements. Last year the Christmas Fund helped 464 lowest income retired clergy, helped with supplemental insurance premiums for 235 retired clergy and lay employees, small Christmas "thank-you" checks went to 528 retired clergy or spouses, and provided emergency funds for 52 active or retired clergy. The money goes directly to people who have labored for the church. Please give generously to this important mission.

**Thank You!....**

The Dalles Sister City Association wrote: "Thanks for letting us use the building as our gathering place for our Miyoshi City student exchange."

**SAVE THESE DATES**  
**UCC will serve**  
**Community Meal on**  
**February 26**  
**April 30**  
**October 15**  
**Please contact**  
**Annabelle Lavier if you can help**

## UCCC's Women's Fellowship News

The December calendar for Women's Fellowship is a busy one! Women's Fellowship's annual Christmas Bazaar will be held this Sunday, December 4th in the Robert's Room right after church. Members will be supplying the tables with food items, crafts, Christmas decor and jewelry. We also receive items to sell from the Habitat for Humanity Bazaar which is held downstairs in the Tenney Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 3rd.

Our display tables will be full. Members will assist you in your shopping and we thank you in advance for your support!

Our December meeting will be on Monday, December 12th at NOON for our annual Christmas Soup Luncheon held in the Tenney Fellowship Hall. Sue Wilson will lead us in our program of signing cards to mail to shut-ins not able to attend church services. A short business meeting will follow. Corliss Marsh will lead us in some Tai Chi, too, to help us reduce the stress from holiday tasks. Our Hostesses will be Joy Krein and Yvonne Hartung. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

On Wednesday, December 14th, many members will be assisting with the church's Foster Children's Christmas Party held from 2 to 4 pm. Those assisting need to be at the Tenney Fellowship Hall before 1:30 p.m.

At our November meeting, we received a letter from the child we sponsor through Church World Services, Sonam Dolma. Her delightful letter is on the bulletin board near the entrance door of the church. Please find a moment to read it.

May your Christmas be filled with silent wonder, simple joys and sweet memories. God Bless YOU at Christmas.  
Joy Krein

## Celebrate With Floyd...

It used to be "Merry Christmas", but now, it is "Happy Holidays." I guess political correctness requires sensitivity to people from other faiths and even no faith. But to me, I would warmly welcome a seasonal greeting that said "Happy Hanukkah" or Have a Joyous Kwanzaa." I would understand such a greeting to be an invitation to celebrate the faith of other people.

## December Birthdays

Sue Wilson	5
Lindsay Miles	9
Rosemary Ross	10
Bruce Lavier	16
Bob Wilson	17
Betty Dahlberg	20
Todd Miller	22
Dave Long	23

## December Anniversaries

RJ & Denise Miles	3
Bruce & Annabelle Lavier	20
Bob and Joy Krein	27

## December 14 at 1:30 Foster Child Christmas Party

Can you believe that this is the fourth year we have hosted our Foster Child Christmas Party? It has become an annual event for us. Children in foster care are invited to come and be with their biological parents in a happy and, we hope, fun environment. We provide a hot meal, a gift room where kids can pick out a gift for their parents, some carol singing and a visit from Santa where each child gets a small toy and candy. It takes many hands to help this be a cheerful time. Consult the sign-up sheet in the Roberts room for where we still need help. All hands on deck. Aren't we lucky to be able to provide this for kids having a difficult time?

**Families in need of a  
Happy Christmas**

**COLONEL WRIGHT FAMILY**

1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE GIRL:

SIZE 7

DRAWING STUFF, DOLLS, AND  
COOKING THINGS

4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE BOY (JOSHUA):

SIZE 11-12

GAMES: CONNECT 4, JENGA, ETC

16 YEAR OLD GIRL:

TYPICAL TEEN AGE GIRL STUFF---  
HAIR ACCESSORIES, SCARFS

**ALL DUE---DECEMBER 11**

**FAMILY # 198:** MOM, DAD

BAILEY (F) 19 months;

clothing size 2T; shoe size 6 Books,  
musical toys, baby dolls

ROY (M) 7 years;

clothing size 10; shoe size 3.5 Legos,  
board games, hotwheels

JOSE (M) 9 YEARS;

clothing size 12; shoe size 4.5 Coloring  
and drawing supplies, pokemon, and  
pokemon books

**FAMILY # 226:** MOM

AZALIA (F) 10 years;

clothing size 1 jr pants; large shirt,  
dress, pj's; jacket adult medium; shoe  
size 5.5 women Arts and crafts,  
shopkins, Monter High Legos

GABE (M) 14 years;

clothing size XL; PANTS 32 x 34; shoe  
size 13.5 NEEDS CLOTHES, yugio,  
pokemon, headphones

**Annual Holiday party  
at Donna and Lyle Miller's  
2236 West 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**December 10<sup>th</sup>**

**at 7:00p.m.**

**Please bring an  
appetizer to share  
and a white elephant  
gift to exchange.**

**"What is a White  
Elephant" you ask?**

**It is defined by  
Webster's as an object no  
longer esteemed by its  
owner though not without  
value to others. I hope  
that helps.**



Money is still be collected  
for the beautiful fresh wreaths  
decorating the sanctuary.  
The envelope is in the  
Roberts Room.

**Name Tag Sunday**

The first Sunday of the month is name-  
tag Sunday. If its communion, it is name  
tag Sunday. Please wear your name tag  
for the benefit of the whole body.