



United Church of Christ-Congregational
THE LIGHTED WINDOW
 Celebrating 159 years of faithful service for
 Christ and the Church



March 2017

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

As I write this, it is March 1. It is both Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, and meteorological Spring. Our calendar Spring does not happen for three more weeks. This is a strange duality in our church calendar. Ash Wednesday inaugurates the season of repentance, intentionality, sacrifice, and other spiritual practices. We are honing our faith skills in preparation for the glory that is Easter. Spring, ah, sweet Spring, is warming air, budding branches, flowers, bright days with lionish winds. What a strange mix in which to begin our holy season of reflection and thoughtfulness.

If I am to be honest, it seems as though we have already walked our days of Lent. We have emerged from a long and brutal winter. We had three months of cold, snow and gray, lowering skies. Driving through our various snowstorms was miserable. I, myself, went two months without leaving town, a first. Shoveling was our major outdoor activity. We are not used to such harsh conditions. So, that is why it seems as though we are already emerging from somber times.

Today is bright and sunny, the snowdrops in my yard are springing up as fast as they can, the promise of better days seems close to fruitfulness. We can work with this.

Preparing for Easter means attending closely to the Word of God. What has God already told us? How does our daily life match or drift from those commands? Do we curb our spontaneous thoughts, our words, our behavior, for the sake of witnessing to peace close to home and in wider circles? Do we give generously words of kindness, time in intentional service, and days of praise and thanksgiving? Do we spread around the gifts we have been given with a gleefulness that uplifts ourselves and others. Big list, I know, but a worthy list and Lent is the time to put these things on our daily schedules. Small steps lead to big changes really is true, especially in matters of faith. Got five minutes? For the Lenten season, take five minutes to name the good that is in your life, everyday, or take five minutes to sit in silence and trust that God will keep you safe while you let go of the daily distractions, or take five minutes and sing (out loud) your favorite hymns. Do it everyday. The God who can make all that is out of nothing can transform you in five minutes. Start now while Spring is creeping into view. It will be a glorious Easter. It is God who makes all things new, even us.

Grace and peace to you, **Deb**

**The Board of Directors of
the Central Pacific Conference
Request Your Presence
For Walter John's Retirement Farewell**

Sunday, March 19, 2017 at 2:00 PM for
Worship, singing and dessert reception

First Congregational United Church of Christ
1126 SW Park Ave., Portland 97205



If you are unable to join us in person, but would like to send a card, please send it to First Congregational UCC, 1137 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97205, ATTN: Walter John's retirement.

What to bring: If you are able to bring a dessert, please contact Rev. Michael Ellick, ellick@uccportland.org or (503) 228-7219.

Thank You Gift: We will be presenting Walter John with a monetary thank you gift. If you are interested in contributing to this gift please send checks payable to: Central Pacific Conference, to CPCUCC c/o Debbie Jacober, 0245 SW Bancroft Street, Suite E, Portland, OR 97239.

Questions: Any other questions, please contact Rev. Tara Wilkins, revtara@bridgeportucc.org or text/call 503-484-3609.

What Is Per Capita?

In the United Church of Christ, conferences charge a small administrative fee for each church member. These fees are called **per capita** and each church in the conference is assessed, based on the number of members. This year the per capita fee is **\$14.00** per person. The church pays the fee, but in this church, we invite members who can to cover their costs for this fee, to donate the cost. The fee will be paid, whether or not we receive any donations, but if you are able, could you donate your fee? You will find small brown envelopes marked **per capita** in the pews or in your bulletin. Please give if you can. These fees are a part of our covenant with all the other UCC churches, in our conference, and nationally.



March is time for TUNA MADNESS! Please put your donation in the

Shopping Cart. February's collection was outstanding. Over 250 items were sent to the food bank at the Salvation Army.

Servers for March

Date	Greeter	Reader	Coffee Host
3/5	Yvonne	Susan	Randy & Susan
3/12	Yvonne	Rosemary	Lyle and Donna
3/19	Yvonne	Cheryl	
3/26			

UCCC's Women's Fellowship News

The March meeting for Women's Fellowship will be Monday, March 13th. The meeting will be held in the Isabella Gray Room at 1:30 p.m. Our time has changed because we have a speaker coming and she can not be there until 2:30. So we have delayed our meeting by a half hour. We will have our refreshments and then our business meeting followed by our guest speaker, Jill Kiefer from Water's Edge. She will provide the program on health meditations. Rosemary Ross made all the arrangements. Thank you Rosemary! Jean Vercooteren will be our hostess. All women of the church are invited to attend. Let's give Jill Kiefer a warm welcome with your presence! Last month's program was provided by Jean Vercooteren. She shared about spiritual practices of Native Americans in our area who have always had respect for the Creator. It was very informative and appreciative. Thank you, Jean! At our Business meeting, we allocated monies from our treasury and donations from Sue Wilson and Louanne Starr to go Columbia Gorge Peace Village Day to Camp this summer and to the Rev. Ann Smith Educational Loan/Grant Fund through the Central Pacific Women's Board. We also had a moment of remembrance for long time member Jean Thomas. Submitted by Joy Krein

Below you will find recent letters received from Sonam Dolma. She is the child UCCC Women's Fellowship has sponsored since 2007 from Global Ministries. She lives at the Tibetan Children's Village in Kangra, India. Her parents live in the Ngakchu province in Tibet. On April 15 she will be 18 years old.

First card:
Merry Christmas *card decorated by her with MERRY CHRISTMAS on the cover and on the inside:
Dear Sponsor...
Here I'm going to wish you all A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS. MERRY CHRISTMAS
With lots of love,
Your's lovely child,
Sonam Dolma

Enclosed inside is her letter. It is also decorated with stars and hearts.

Written at the top of her stationery BE

HAPPY...ENJOY...

**Dear Sponsor...she makes a ☺...then a red heart... u all...

Good day. How are you all doing these days? I hope you all are fine and doing well. I am almost happy if you all are fine. Here I am fine. The hand of TW school gopalpuv and the power of Hi Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama. I always eat my meal and do my own veg (gardening). I also hope you are doing very very well.

So, here I am very extremely glad to write a letter regarding to your up coming Christmas. About my deeds doing the first ____examination and (something about athletics.) I would like to say that Merry, Merry Christmas to you and I am speaking this to you from my deepest heart. And even I am happy to wish you because that held. And even I am happy to wish you because that held just in a year. I hope for the best that you will be happy with your family and your beloved friends. For me, we (don't) spend big doing(s) Christmas because we (do) PT at Losar.

For me our first time ____and second time exam is also coming near. That is why I am busy to prepare it. So I wish you will (be) happy on Christmas.

Enjoy a lot. Smile.

Your daughter, Merry Christmas Merry XMAS ENJOY BE HAPPY

**Though some of her words are difficult to decipher, her message is full of love!! I have added the () and ____
Second card:

Dear My sweet sponsor UCC Women's Following, a very happy new year! Enjoy your day. I am really wish that you are healthy. I always pray my heart for you.

Happy New Year!! Typed words on the card: With warmest Tashi Delek and Happy New Year. (Tashi Delek is a greeting of good well.)

A letter is attached to the card:

Dear my greatest sponsor UCC Women's following!! ☺ smile forever

First I would like to say you a Tashi Delek. I hope you are fine and healthy. I am also fine. Don't worry about me and I alway(s) do my best in study and now I will study in class six. And all the subject(s) are in English most are really easy to me but Hinde is difficult to me. I alway(s) improve it. I always wanted to meet you. Also my family in Tibet. I always missing you. I alway(s) pray for you. Specially enjoy that big day. *She makes a heart...love you alway(s).

Poem for You

One is know by sponsor. One (to) kee(p) I do I understand I see I remember.

Love you always and also our exam is really near so I am really busy. You are really kind (to) me. I special(ly) thank you to care (for) me.

Your lovely daughter, Sonam Dolma

Also notes: Be Safe, always healthy bye bye Smile and forever bye

Class VI P Home 28

Celebrate With Floyd...

To pray without ceasing doesn't mean to stop what you are doing in order to pray. No, it means to incorporate prayer into what you are doing. Keep on keeping on but do it with celebration and prayer.



March Birthdays

Annika Baumgarten	5
John Baumgarten	6
Benjamin Deckard	9
Sue Peachey	11
John Peachey	13
Roberta Cook	25
Klea Espy	30

March Anniversaries

Karl & Jean Vercouteren	20
Bill & Vicki Matthew	25



Escape to Blue Skies and Sunshine from Snow and Icy Cold From Callie Jordan

Although we had some of our winter rains here in Tucson last week, the day that Deb and her friend Trudy arrived in Tucson was not only sunny but the temperature made it to 80°. I work on Tuesdays/Wednesdays to support my cute little car so they were on their own for the afternoon, armed with a Streetcar Pass and an extensive list of places to explore along the route.

Deb had said she was looking forward to “really good Mexican” so it was my unfortunate duty to eat out for the weeks before their visit in order to narrow it down. As you might imagine, there are a lot of good Mexican restaurants in Tucson.

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is a 98-acre (40 ha) zoo, aquarium, botanical garden, natural history museum, publisher, and art gallery founded in 1952.

We got an early start so we could join the docent-led bird walk. Deb saw her new favorite bird, our Arizona State Bird, the Cactus Wren. It is much larger than any other “wren” and there were more there that day than I had ever seen. Of course, I’m not usually up that early.

The next day was comfortable birding sitting at the feeders up another canyon, this one in oak forest along a little stream in Madera Canyon, the third-best birding destination in the U.S. where up to 15 species of hummingbirds pass through each year.

This is all about an hour from my house. We had a picnic in the sunshine and then drove back to get ready for our last dinner. All the fresh air --- and the need to pack for an early flight the next day --- made everyone opted for an early night.



- 5—8am Men’s Breakfast
- 7—5:15pm Diaconate
- 8—Noon Book Study
- 9—BSA Roundtable
- 12—**Daylight Savings time begins!**
- 13—1pm Women’s Fellowship
- 14—6-8pm Dist 14 A.A.
- 15—Noon Book study
- 22—Noon Book study
- 29—5:15pm—Trustee’s

A.A. meets:

Mon-Fri 7-8am

Mon & Fri 6-7pm

Sat & Sun 5-6pm

Tues 5:30-6:30pm

**Summer Camp 2017
@ Camp Adams**

Connecting kids with themselves, their faith community, and their world.

Taller & Smaller (K-3rd w/ Adult):

July 5-July 8

Exodus (9th-12th):

July 9- July 15

Sojourners (6th- 8th):

July 16 -July 22

Discoverers (4th-5th):

July 23- July 29

Genesis/Seekers (2nd-3rd):

July 30- August 5

Online registration is open

January 15th- June 1st.

Register now at campadams.org

Sherman Alexie Is Coming We Have Tickets

Sherman Alexie, a Native American author, is coming to The Dalles as part of the American Indian Cultural Festival. We (UCCC) contributed monies, through our Hanna grant, to help bring this well-known author to speak to our communities' kids. On April 13, he will be speaking to all third graders in six counties. We have been given four tickets to this very special event. We will be raffling off these tickets the first Sunday of April. Interested? All you have to do is put your name in the hat.

AFS Host Families Needed

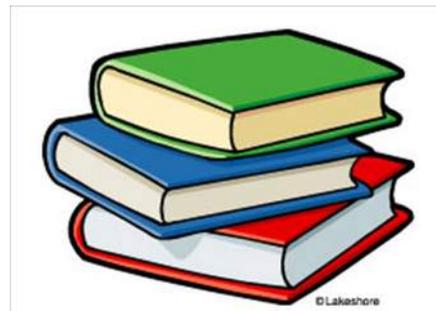
Students arrive mid-August. Host families pick the country, boy or girl, and read bios to find a student who would fit with their family. We hope to have at least two families by the end of May, but the sooner the better. This is a very rewarding experience. For more information contact Rymmel Lovell at 541-296-6546 or

tlovell@netcnct.net

Thank you,
Rymmel

Lenten Book Study in March

We will once again host a Wednesday noon book study in the Isabella Gray room, starting March 8. Our book, by author Laura Willis, is "**Finding God in a Bag of Groceries**". The book will be available on Sunday and is \$15.99. Scholarships for book purchase are available, just ask Pastor Deb. We will meet March 8, March 15, March 22, and April 5. Join us. It is a good read.



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 streets. The services are short and simple, focusing on meditative singing and reflections. Services will happen throughout Lent.