



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



**May 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

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**Pastor's Pen**

Do we need church? I am a pastor, I think about these things. One of the big reasons, for me, is that in the gathered body of Christ, we are strengthened and encouraged in our faith. We don't receive that too many places; at home, maybe, in gatherings of friends, maybe, but not in the world. The world often sneers at going to church or holds it suspect. Even at culture's most magnanimous assessment, going to church is seen as a gathering of folk in need of a crutch.

Case in point, on Easter morning, as I was preparing for worship, I wanted to listen to some Easter music. Like many of you, I listen to internet radio. This allows me to select a genre of music, but not individual tracks. On my personal list I have Hawaiian radio, Jimmy Buffett radio, Paul McCartney radio, Shaker hymn radio, John Denver radio, and classical music radio. I tried a Nat King Cole radio, but that led to a lot of crooners that I don't like, like Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin (sorry, Frank fans). I also like the music group Train. When they come on at the office, your office staff enjoys an energetic dance break. However, when I selected "Train radio" I got a lot of the "Chattanooga Choo-Choo" variety. So, back to Easter morning. I searched for Easter hymn radio. What I got was a lot of weepy what-Jesus-has-done-for-me mournful songs or even worse, songs about Easter bonnets. I was looking for loud

and joyful. I was looking for music to lift the human spirit. On internet radio you can issue a "thumbs down" for tracks that you don't like, but they limit the number. After fifteen minutes of using up all my "no's", I switched stations. On Easter morning, I ended up listening to Cambridge's Trinity College Choir, rendition of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." It was joyous, it had trumpets and set just the right triumphant mood. Not my first choice, but happy enough.

The world, our popular culture, will not encourage and support our faith. We have to work at being Christian in a world, which often looks on believers with distrust. Just this week, from our own insurance company, we got a notice of a workshop with the title, "Are Prayer Chains an Invasion of Privacy?" Church is more than coming for the music, the friends, or the weekly "talk." Coming together with our brothers and sisters, in the presence of the Holy Spirit, changes us. It lifts up our hearts and our vision to higher purposes. Higher purposes doesn't mean harder purposes, but aligns our lives with the special gifts that we have already been given. We find those purposes on a steady feast of worship in the community of faith. Jesus promises that where two or three are gathered, he is in the midst of them.

Come join us. Be strengthened. Be changed.

Be the Church.

Deb



May panty item will be **BEANS.**

Canned or dry-any type works! The

April total was over 290 items! Bring your donation to church and feel good about stocking the shelves at the Salvation Army.

**Servers for May**

Date	Greeter	Reader	Coffee Host
5/7		Cheryl	Ice Cream Social
5/14	Yvonne	Caroline	Men's Group
5/21	Yvonne		
5/28		Cheryl	Patti & Dale  Shirley Miller

**UCC's Women's Fellowship News**

As the saying goes, "April Showers Bring May Flowers!" All the flowering plants and trees are especially beautiful this year flocked around the emerald green landscape! How glorious! Our May meeting will be May 8<sup>th</sup> at NOON in the Tenney Fellowship Hall with our end of year salad luncheon. Yvonne Hartung and Joy Krein are the hostesses and will provide a dessert. Members will be bringing a salad. All women of the church are invited. We hope you can come!

To have a little fun at our May meeting, we are asking you to bring a baby picture of you so we can have a guessing contest to recognize you!

Our program will be a review of our year's focus regarding prayer followed by a short business meeting. Plans for our new year 2017 to 2018 will be discussed and a committee formed to develop our suggestions. Our Women's Fellowship year of 2016-2017 ends this month. We take a summer vacation and begin again with our new year starting in September and continuing each month until the following May, September 2017 to May 2018.

Last month Rosemary Ross presented her topic on "Different Ways of Praying." After her thoughtful presentation, she provided each of us with a prayer folder filled with different ways to pray and blank pages to record our prayer journey. Thank you, Rosemary!

**Celebrate With Floyd...**

**It is impossible to come to terms with life until you have come to terms with death. Once we have given ourselves permission to die, we can celebrate that and grasp the joyful possibilities of life.**



**May Birthdays**

Marolyn Wilks	5
Deb Allen	6
Dottie Layer	13
Jan Leonard	21
Kris Vercouteren	26
Patti Thompson	27
Caroline Homer	29

**May Anniversary**

Tedd & Rymmel Lovell 21



- 2—5:15pm Diaconate
- 7—8am Men’s Breakfast
- 8—Noon Women’s Fellowship
- 14—Mother’s Day Raffle
- 17—Noon book study
- 23—3pm Church Council
- 24—Preschool Graduation  
Noon book study
- 29—Office closed
- 30—5:15pm Trustees mtg
- 31—Noon book study

**A.A. meets:**

**Mon-Fri 7-8am**

**Mon & Fri 6-7pm**

**Sat & Sun 5-6pm**

**Tues 5:30-6:30pm**

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**The Faith and Fun hike on Sunday April 30th was such a success (see the pictures on the church’s Facebook page) Bruce Lumper has agreed to lead another hike next Sunday, May 7th. We want to take advantage of the great wildflower bloom happening right now. This hike will also be on conservancy land, located near Murray’s Addition. We will again leave after church service and coffee hour. Like with the last hike wear good shoes, bring sunscreen, water, a lunch, wind breaker, etc.**

**Randy**

**School Year Ends**

Last Day of Sunday School will be May 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you Annabelle!

Strengthen the Church Special Offering will be June 4, 2017

The special mission fund is used largely to support youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard. Your generosity will help plant new churches and awaken new ideas in existing churches.



The Mission Committee will be collecting crayons during the month of May as part of **The Crayon Initiative**. This non-profit organization collects used and broken crayons to recycle them back into new ones. They are then given to children’s hospitals and other children’s art programs. Please look for the box in the Robert’s room to donate.

## May Book Study!

We will have a three week book study this month starting May 17. We will be reading **Miss Brenda and the Loveladies** by Brenda Spahn. A woman of faith decides to open her home as a halfway house to women getting out of prison. This is non-fiction. We will meet on Wednesdays at noon in the Isabella Gray room on May 17, May 24, and May 31. Not sure of the final cost of the book, but will let you know. This is worth our time.

## Summer Music, A Special Treat

It is the custom of the church for the choir members to take the summer months off, but that doesn't mean we are short of talent.

Do you have a musical gift that you would love to share? Been practicing the harmonica and are ready to perform? Be sure to look for the sign-up sheet located in the Roberts room and share your music with us.



**June 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**It's a red-letter day**

**Pentecost**  
**Choir Sunday**  
**Potluck**

- **Come celebrate the birthday of the church**
- **Say thank-you to our choir**
- **Feast with us. Right after church**
- **Remember to wear Red!**