



# United Church of Christ-Congregational THE LIGHTED WINDOW



Celebrating 158 years of faithful  
service for Christ and the Church

## December 2017

### Sunday Worship Time

10:00am

10:15am Youth Education

### 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

As you have heard by now, during our Thanksgiving Eve break-in, our church doors, that were lovingly repaired this summer by Mark and Bruce, were cracked. This hiccup in our daily life will quickly pass.

Our church doors are a threshold to our life together. Weekly, we pass through this handsome gateway to gather together in worship and in praise. Our corporate life unfolds here. People we love have passed through these doors, as well as babies on their way to be baptized, kids to be confirmed, and couples wanting to begin their life together in blessing. While God does not need our church building, for us it is a visible symbol of the invisible grace that calls us here, again and again. And let's face it, we are immensely fond of this place. We gather here, rejoice here, sing here, pray here, weep here. It is the heart of our life.

We are at another kind of threshold, the beginning of the church year, Advent. Here, we keep watch with the faithful in every generation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is our turn to

remain watchful and faithful. Let us keep an active watch. Be watchful for strangers who need a kind word or warm greeting. Send a note of genuine thanks. Gratitude is easy to put on the back burner, the thing you are going to get to; soon, someday, really. Begin our faithful watching noticing the gifts of spirit and talent that someone else brings to your life. Sing out loud. We were made for singing, even if you sound like a bike horn, sing the joy of the season. One final suggestion, the really hard one. Pray for someone you dislike, who has hurt you or reviles you. We resist this bit of grace because holding someone in prayer creates a connection to this person through Christ. Let's face it, that is not what we want. We are in the season of generous spirits.

Our physical threshold has been damaged, but not our threshold to the sacred. Let us spread the good news, as Martin Luther says, using words if necessary., as far and wide as we each can. We are the church and the world needs us.

Merry Christmas, **Deb**

The Bell Choir from Zion Lutheran will be joining the choir for the first Sunday in Advent for the anthem: "Christmas Is Coming."

Also, for anyone interested in following the work of Mission Brasil, a mission to which the church donated money, they can search for them on Facebook. They are always sharing pictures. If you choose to follow them, they will show up on your Facebook page --Cheryl Ortega

**SERVERS FOR December**

Date	Greeter	Reader	Coffee Host
12/3	Adele	Lynn	Annabelle & Bruce
12/10	Patti	Annika	Tedd & Rymmel
12/17	Paula	Caroline	Corliss
12/24	Annika	Dale	Tama
12/31	Yvonne	Paula	Cookie Crunch

**Celebrate With Floyd... The Word of Jesus from start to finish is tht God has the power to redeem us without any help from us. All we need to do (can do) is to accept Jesus' promise.**



**December Birthdays**

- Sue Wilson 5
- Lindsay Miles 9
- Rosemary Ross 10
- Bruce Lavier 16
- Bob Wilson 17
- Shirley Miller 21
- Dave Long 23
- \*\*\*\*\*

**December Anniversaries**

- R.J. & Denise Miles 3
- Bruce & Annabelle Lavier 20
- Bob & Joy Krein 27



- 2—10am-2pm Habitat for Humanity Bazaar
- 3—after Worship Women's Bazaar
- 6—4pm Church Council at Pastor Deb's
- 7—BSA Roundtable
- 11—Noon Women's Fellowship Lunch
- 13—2-4pm Party for Foster kids
- 17—10am Worship- Raz Mason preaching
- 21 7pm Longest night service
- 24—10am 4<sup>th</sup> Advent worship  
5pm Christmas Eve service
- 25-26—Office closed
- 31—10am worship (No Sunday school)

**AA MEET: Mon-Fri 7-8am  
Mon & Fri 6-7pm  
Sat & Sun 5-6pm  
Tues 5:30-6:30pm**

## Women's Fellowship News

Jean Vercooteren delivered the program in November that elaborated on the Church's history. The history of the UCC went from four churches which were The German Reformed Church of the United States, The Evangelical Synod in North America, the Congregational Churches and the Christian Churches, into two which were the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches to finally one, the United Church of Christ in 1957. This journey has brought us to a rich history of ecumenical unity. Thank you, Jean for sharing the progression to where we are today. At our business meeting we designated one hundred dollars to be given to the Department of Human Services to help them support their Christmas outreach to children from The Dalles and surrounding areas. The month of December has a full schedule of activities.

### December 3<sup>rd</sup> is our Church's Bazaar.

Women's Fellowship organizes the function, but all of us attending church are welcome to donate an item, whether it be food items or a gift or the Christmas Bazaar Coupon!! Have your item priced and place it on the table in the Roberts Room Sunday morning ready for our after-church Bazaar. Your support helps us with our continual outreach.

**Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** is the date of our next meeting. It is our annual **Soup and Bread Luncheon** in Tenney Fellowship Hall at NOON. Caroline Homer, Corliss Marsh and Patti Thompson are bringing soup. Jean Vercooteren and Annabelle Lavier are bringing bread. Joy Krein and Yvonne Hartung are the hostesses and they will set up and provide the dessert. Louanne Starr will give the devotion. After lunch Sue Wilson will organize our program which involves the signing of Christmas

cards to those who cannot attend church. Before we depart for home, Corliss Marsh will lead us in some Tai Chi. All women of the church are welcome to attend. Our next event, sponsored by the Church, is our **Foster Children's Christmas Party held on December 13<sup>th</sup>**. Women's Fellowship's members volunteer their assistance with all the tasks necessary right along with all of us who attend church. Gifts, for the GIFT SHOPPE, are supplied by all of us attending church, not just Women's Fellowship members. The gifts are for the parents attending the party and given to them by their children after the children have shopped in the GIFT SHOPPE. Please deliver your gift item to the church office by Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> so there is plenty for the children to choose from.

The Bazaar, the Luncheon, and the Foster's Children's Christmas Party make December a very busy and giving month. Join us in YOUR support for a joyous season.

### The Christmas Bazaar Coupon

On the Bazaar Tables you might see Christmas Bazaar Coupons. They are offering you an item to buy. Something you don't want right away...maybe a month or two from now. Many items could be offered, like pies, cinnamon rolls, cobblers, even a dinner for 4. Who knows. Look for them! The seller will list what they are selling; the price of the item and their name. The potential buyer sees the coupon, what is being sold and by whom and the price. The potential buyer decides to buy the coupon...how...by picking it up and taking it to the cashier with the money it takes to buy it. The cashier cuts the coupon and gives the buyer the bottom half. The top half goes to the seller. The seller either calls or meets with the buyer. Arrangements are made as to when the buyer will receive the

purchased item!! For example: The seller has a coupon for an apple pie for \$8. The potential buyer sees that coupon. Wants the apple pie but not now...maybe in January. The potential buyer decides to buy that coupon. Takes the coupon to the cashier with the \$8 owed. The cashier cuts the coupon and gives top half to the seller and the bottom half to the buyer. The seller meets with the buyer at the Bazaar. Or goes home and calls the buyer to make arrangements for the Apple Pie to be delivered. The buyer says January 20<sup>th</sup>. So, on January 20<sup>th</sup> the buyer receives an Apple Pie from the seller!! YUM!! (P.S. Any one of us can be the seller or buyer...have fun participating!!)

### **Wiley Memorial Creche**

The Irving Nathaniel Wiley Memorial Creche will be set up for the second Sunday of Advent, December 10<sup>th</sup> and remain until after Epiphany. The Creche figurines are 69 years old. They were purchased in memory of Irving Nathaniel Wiley by his family. Christmas was a special time for him as he was born on Christmas Day in 1892. He was a member of this church from 1924-1948; but at that time, it was known as the First Congregational Church. The church building was the one prior to our present building. Irving died from a sudden heart attack on April 4, 1948 at the age of 55. He had been a teacher, principal and assistant coach at The Dalles High School. He also had been a Sunday School teacher. He was a father of 6 children, now all deceased. His living family members from this church are his daughter-in-law, Dorothy Wiley, her children and grandchildren, and his grandchildren, Joy Krein and Doug Hattenhauer and their spouses, children and grandchildren.

Plus, many other grandchildren, great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren from The Dalles, other towns in Oregon and throughout the Northwest and Iowa.

### **Y.E.S. Thank you!**

**The Y.E.S. (Youth Empowerment Shelter) would like to thank the Ecumenical Churches for your generous donation totaling \$636.00. Be assured it will be put to good use as we continue to minister to the youth in our community.**

The church also received a thank you from the Sister City participants for the use of the building.

### **Adopt-A-Family for the Holidays**

Each year, the UCCC Church generously provides for three families from the Salvation Army's list. Boxes will be in the Narthex along with the tags for the gifts. Please do not wrap the present.

#### **Family #5004 2 Adults, 2 boys 1 girl**

11yr girl: clothing size 16/XL shoes 3 ½  
shopkins, crafting kits, games

8yr boy: clothing size 8/M shoes 2  
Bey blades, Hot Wheels cars

3yr boy: clothing size 3T shoes 7  
Trucks, Big Legos, cars,  
Bey Blades

**Family #5038 2 Adults, 2 girls 1 boy**

7yr boy: clothing size 5/6 shoes 11  
Legos, slime kits, minecraft,  
Beanie babies

10yr girl: clothing size 10/12-M shoes 3  
Barbie house, Science kits,  
Beanie babies, slime kits

14yr girl: clothing size 9 in Jrs.(M)  
shoes 8 women  
sketch book, headphones,  
make-up, nail polish,  
hair dryer

**Family #5032 1 Adult, 2 girls**

9yr girl: clothing size 10/12 M shoes 6  
Legos friends, crafting kits  
Boots

3yr girl: clothing size 6X shoes 1  
My Little pony, play kitchen  
Riding toy pony.

**Household ideas:**

Cleaning supplies, paper supplies,  
cooking utensils, toiletries, blankets,  
rugs, towels, laundry supplies, linens and  
holiday decorations and gift wrap.

**Security Alert!**

Just a reminder- If you are the last  
person leaving the building, please make  
sure the lights are out and the  
doors are securely locked.

**The Annual Christmas Fund  
Collection—December 24<sup>th</sup>.**

One of the unique aspects of the  
Christmas Fund is that the funds provide  
direct assistance to individual UCC clergy  
and lay church employees—the funds do  
not support programs or institutions, but  
people. With your generosity, more  
individuals will receive the support of the  
Church in their time of need.

- Monthly pension supplementation for 448 lower-income retired clergy and lay employees
- Quarterly health premium supplementation for 216 lower-income retired UCC clergy and lay employees
- Christmas “Thank You” gift checks to retired UCC clergy and lay employees
- Emergency grants available for both active and retired clergy

The **pantry** this month is all about mission. We generously give to the Christmas Fund, Adopt-a-family, Toiletries for the shelter/ community meal, and the Christmas party for Foster children. It is a busy and glorious time.