



# United Church of Christ-Congregational THE LIGHTED WINDOW



Celebrating 158 years of faithful  
service for Christ and the Church

## January 2018

### 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

We herald the turning of the new year at the stroke of midnight with a lot of hoopla and cheers (me, I always celebrate the new year at the stroke of midnight Eastern Standard Time), but the rest of the month is pretty quiet. Christmas is swept away and it's too early for Valentine decorations. Epiphany in the church is a quiet pause between Christmas's joyous celebrations and the earnest seeking of Lent. I spend a lot of time in January sweeping away the old, in drawers, cupboards, closets and shelves. I find this sweeping away to be holy work, it clears a space for something new to appear. Sometimes that is just the delight of seeing a blank spot. The extravagance of empty space brings me joy, adds to a sense of peace and is a spark for new ideas. My brain shuts down in the face of crammed spaces and jumbles of stuff. Open space is like deep breathing, it leads to calm and non-anxious contemplation. That's a big payoff for a tidied junk drawer.

So, maybe for you clearing up itself seems exhausting, even sorting one drawer is daunting. That's an easy one, rely on strength not your own. I'm sure you saw that coming, just as I'm sure praying more was on a few resolutions lists. Not asking for much here, five minutes a day is a good start to a new year. For five minutes, clear

your mind and bring it into the presence of God. This will take work and practice. Our brains are like pack rats distracted by all those lovely shiny objects. Create a tiny, small space for God to be present. Let God rearrange your interior furniture, dust off shelved good ideas, sort through your pile of unfinished good intentions, and start building a large discard pile of things that are no longer true or were never really true. Our interior lives collect as much worn out, never used stuff as our outer lives. Clearing this inside space generates renewed energy and focus. Don't believe me, your pastor? The medical community is catching up with what practitioners of daily prayer have known for thousands of years. Moments of quiet, relinquishment of personal agendas, and inviting in the Holy Spirit is a boon to physical health, as well as mental health. It opens up a place for peace to reside.

Still uncertain? Try softly singing a favorite quiet hymn, daily. Music interacts with our souls in sweet ways. Let it work its divine blessing within you. The God who made you, knows you through and through is trustworthy and faithful. Yield your tight grip on the detritus that fills the space of fret and worry. Start anew in this year of our Lord 2018.

Grace and peace to you all. **Deb**

**SERVERS FOR January**

Date	Greeter	Reader	Coffee Host
1/7			Star snacks
1/14		Tama	Adele & Jan
1/21		Rosemary	Susan & Judy
1/28	Yvonne	Lynn	Potluck



2—3pm Diaconate  
 8—1pm Women’s Fellowship  
 11—BSA Roundtable  
 15—Office closed MLK Day  
 16—3:30pm Church Council  
 23—5:15pm Trustee’s

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

**Celebrate With Floyd...**

**The God who has power to create us and the universe around us surely has the power to redeem us.**



**January Birthdays**

**Heather Thompson 4  
 R.J. Miles 15  
 Floyd Emerson 22  
 Helen Thomas 28  
 Yvonne Hartung 30**



January is nationally recognized SOUP month! Please bring your donation to the Roberts Room shopping cart.

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**January Anniversaries**

**Scott and Sally Forster 15  
 Patty and Susan Herring 21**

## Women's Fellowship News

Here it is 2018 with a grand wish for a grand NEW YEAR for each and everyone reading the Lighted Window and to all others who have missed the chance!! What an amazing December Women's Fellowship had accomplishing all of our tasks. It began with the very successful Church Bazaar, then our well-attended December Soup and Bread Luncheon for all women of the church which includes the time when we send Christmas cards to our church's outreach. Plus, Corliss Marsh taught us two postures of Tai Chi. Mid-week our tasks continued with active participation assisting with the Foster's Children Christmas Party. Finally, on the third Sunday a few members organized all the gifts given for the three Salvation Army's families the church sponsors and took them to the Salvation Army the next day. The season was rich with contributions and energetic participation from our members and from all of the church family. Truly a season of gratefulness! Our thanks to all!! Our January meeting is coming up this next Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm in the Isabella Gray Room. All women of the church are invited to attend. The program will be presented by Rosemary Ross with the topic that informs us more as to how we, the Congregational church, has been influenced by the Pilgrims. The hostess will be Annabelle Lavier and the devotion will be given by Carolyn Homer. No snow is in the forecast so please venture out and join us!!

Joy Krein



proposed remodel

The Annual Meeting is January 28<sup>th</sup>. It will be a potluck in Tenney Hall following worship. Everyone is invited. Come hear the exciting plans for the of the kitchen!