



United Church of Christ-Congregational THE LIGHTED WINDOW



Celebrating 158 years of faithful
service for Christ and the Church

February 2019

Sunday Worship Time

10:00am

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Bill Comfort

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Office Administrator Sally Forster

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Hours: M-Th 9am-12:30pm

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From the Interim Pastor Wide Margins of Grace

Many of you already know that I went to Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry for my Master of Divinity. One of my teachers was a gifted woman named Glauscia Vasconcelos Wilkey who was constantly admonishing us to treat one another with wide margins of grace. I have adopted that phrase and you will hear me use it over and over again. I believe it means to recognize that all of us are children of the living God and even those we disagree with are subject to the grace of our divine parent. As children we are called to regard each other as no less valuable and precious than that. In other words, we are called to treat each other with "wide margins of grace."

The process of Interim Ministry is outlined elsewhere in this issue, so I will limit my comments here to this one important point. As we move through the process in the direction of calling a settled pastor there will be issues. We will disagree with each other over things.

All of these issues can be worked through. None of the things that come up will stop us from the faithful completion of our task together. One of the tools we will use to work our way through each issue is to treat each other with wide margins of grace. This will mean recognizing that people who think differently than you do are your siblings in Christ. It may mean taking an issue seriously that another person takes seriously even if it doesn't seem serious to you. It may mean speaking your truth in a way that does not shame or deride someone who sees things another way. These things are not easy, but as we grant each other grace we can get through any issue.

I am excited to be with you in The Dalles. I have enjoyed getting to know some of you. I look forward to getting better acquainted with all of you. I believe it will be amazing to see how we can all live into the wide margins of God's grace.

Blessing, Bill

SERVERS FOR FEBRUARY

Date	Greeter	Reader	Coffee Host	Child Care
2/3		Rymmel	Jackie and Darrell Clark	
2/10		Rosemary	Lovell's	
2/17	Yvonne			
2/24	Yvonne			
3/3		Rosemary		

Calendar of Events

Feb 6— Noon Book Study
3pm Diaconate
Feb 11—1pm Women's Fellowship
Feb 12—2:15pm Church Council
Feb 18—Office closed President's Day

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

**Noon Book Study
Wednesday, February 6th
Isabella Gray room.**

THE FAITH CLUB
A groundbreaking book about Americans searching for faith and mutual respect, The Faith Club weaves the story of three women, their three religions, and their urgent quest to understand one another.



February Birthdays

- Tedd Lovell 10**
- Gene Parker 11**
- Vicki Matthew 14**
- Moses Church 16**
- Jean Vercoouteren 17**
- Marissa Miles 18**
- Adele Barnett 26**

**February Anniversary
Darrell and Jackie Clark 14**



**Food
Pantry
Needs**

The February pantry item is MEAL-IN-A-CAN. Please help fill the shopping cart in the Roberts room.

Save the Dates!!!

UCCC will serve community meals:

**February 10th
May 5th
September 15th**

These are Sunday afternoons.
Contact Annabelle Lavier if you would like to volunteer.

Women's Fellowship News

Women's Fellowship met on January 14th with 15 in attendance. Joy Krein presented her slide show showing her photos of God's beautiful world that she has come upon on her walks and travels throughout the area. She had a few unusual ones too, like finding jet stream crosses and cloud angels in the sky! Creation is part of the UCC's recognition of the Three Great Loves. Joy's sharing helped bring awareness to creation we all can witness the second we walk out the door of our homes!!

The business meeting that followed was full of decisions to be made. The child we have sponsored for 11 years through Global Ministries will be graduating soon. It was decided that we would continue our sponsorship by selecting a new candidate within the next few months. After receiving correspondence from Haven, we decided to give the organization a one-hundred-dollar donation. Concerning a needed change for our February program, we have asked Raz Mason to speak with us; she has accepted and will join us at our next meeting, Monday, February 11th at 1:00 pm in the Isabella Gray Room. Caroline Homer and Jean Vercooteren will be the Hostesses and Jean also, will provide the Devotional. All women of the church are welcome to attend Women's Fellowship. We hope to see YOU there!

Here's more about Raz's talk.

Raz's program's title will be "Climate Threshold". She says, "We stand at an exciting and important time. [I] will talk about positive opportunities for each individual linked to extreme weather and climate change. This talk, she explains, is for everyone, no matter where you are on the climate involvement spectrum: from newbies to old pros.

The goal is for everyone to leave with deepened perspective because of the talk's comprehensiveness—we'll celebrate connections among faith, science, wise use of technology, social justice, and nervous-system-based personal and political resilience. Come curious!"

Corliss Marsh announced at the Women's Fellowship meeting in January to SAVE-The-DATE for the NW Region Women's Retreat which will be held November 1-3, 2019, at the Oregon Gardens in Silverton. It is open to all women of the church!

Thank You!

Dear UCC,

Thank you for your donation from coffee hour proceeds. Thank you also for renting to us and letting us use other parts of the basement.

We appreciate being in partnership with you to fulfill God's mission that builds homes, communities and hope.

Corliss, Volunteer

The Interim Process

I started as your interim pastor on December 2. I will be here to help you through the interim process. The interim process can be divided into five areas that need to be addressed. These may not happen sequentially or in the order listed, sometimes we will be working on more than one of these things at a time

- **Learn the lessons of the past and let it go**—Now that Pastor Deb has retired the congregation needs to process their feelings around her departure. Are you feeling abandoned? Are you relieved? Are you panicking about the future? The interim process allows time for each of you and the congregation as a whole to let go of Deb's ministry and her as a person. Old habits of power can be addressed and changed to something more appropriate. Conflicts that existed during or before Deb's ministry can be identified and addressed.
- **Discern who you are as a congregation and who you want to be.** One of the things that the interim pastor will help you with is discerning who you are as a congregation. I will do this by talking to as many of you as I can. There will be ways of self-assessment and techniques for addressing problems. Once the congregation has a clear sense of its identity a church profile can be put together to begin your search for a new pastor.
- **Find your strength as lay leaders.** When a strong pastor has been in place there may be the belief that the pastor runs the church.

The strongest churches are run by strong lay leaders. The interim is a good time to find your strength as lay leaders. It is also a time to assess whether the existing patterns of lay leadership are healthy and empowering. Action can be taken to develop positive and creative ways to share the leadership of the church.

- **Heal and strengthen your connections with the Central Pacific Conference and with the UCC denomination.** Sometimes ties to the wider church are eroded during a long pastorate. It may be that the main ties to the conference and the denomination have been through the pastor. During the interim there will be opportunities to work directly with conference staff.
- **Getting ready for your new pastor.** A search committee will be chosen. They will do the necessary steps to find and assess candidates. The search committee will prepare a church profile. At the same time the rest of the congregation is readying themselves psychologically and spiritually for new leadership.

This is an outline of the work we will do together. It will take from nine months to two years or more. This is an exciting process that can be both smooth and transformative.