



United Church of Christ-Congregational THE LIGHTED WINDOW



Celebrating 159 years of faithful
service for Christ and the Church

May 2019

Sunday Worship Time

10:00am

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Bill Comfort

Phone 541.296.2909

pas2rbill@yahoo.com

Office Administrator Sally Forster

secretary@uccthedalles.org

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

Website- www.uccthedalles.org



Be The Church

Have you paid attention to the banner that hangs in

the corner of the Roberts Room where we have our coffee after worship each week? It contains a list of values that we all might live into, both individually and collectively, on the way to becoming the church God is creating us to be. The list is extensive and incomplete. Here it is: Protect the environment, Care for the poor, Forgive often, Reject racism, Fight for the powerless, Share earthly and spiritual resources, Embrace diversity, Love God, Enjoy this life. If you are the kind of person who likes to critique things you can easily find things that should probably be on this list that are not. If, on the other hand you are the kind of person who likes to give yourself and your church a grade on each of the items on the list I think the grade would have to be incomplete. In fact the whole list is pretty overwhelming.

During Lent some of us have been studying how care for creation fit into our

Christian faith. This is not because we think that the other items on the list are less important than care of creation, but the relationship between human beings and the rest of creation seem to be at a point of maximum tension right now. As Christians we believe that the universe has been and continues to be created by and through the love of God in Christ Jesus. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.* (John 1:1-5) The Greek word that is translated "word" in this passage is *logos*, a word that is difficult to translate into English. I like to use "dream" or "imagination." In this way we can think of God dreaming or imagining creation into being. In the fullness of time God evolved a part of creation that also dreamed and imagined—human beings.

We human beings have not always opened our dreams to the level of God's dreams. Sometimes we have imagined that we could benefit while the rest of creation did not benefit. From that state of consciousness, we have been able to act in ways that have harmed the earth. In our studies over Lent we became aware of the need to act in different ways.

These different ways might include reducing your own carbon footprint or the carbon footprint of our church building. In another article in this edition of *The Lighted Window* Jackie Clarke will outline the kinds of things that might be done. One thing that will be done is to try to educate ourselves and the congregation and the community. We will start having Creation Care Moments during worship on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. A Creation Care team will be meeting regularly to produce these moments and think of ways that we might live into a better relationship with all of creation. This team will be open to anyone. In this way we will move in the direction of Being the Church that God is creating us to be.

Blessings, Bill

Dear Members and Friends,

Since The Rev. Dr. Deb Allen announced her retirement last June, we turned to Pastor Molly Carlson, our Central Pacific Conference Minister, for guidance about the process of seeking new ministerial leadership. We experienced sadness at Deb's departure in October, and joy in celebrating 7 years with us.

Pastor Molly met with our Intentional Interim Selection Committee, and we were blessed to have The Rev. Dr. Bill Comfort and lovely wife, Sheri join us in time for Advent.

Pastor Bill is not a candidate for the "Settled" position as our pastor, but he is with us to help facilitate our transitional work in preparation for the Settled Pastor Search. He will be with us until that has been accomplished.

With Pastor Bill and Sheri in place, we invite all of you to be part of a self-study and community learning process to identify our church's imagination for the future and corresponding pastoral needs. In order to develop a church profile for potential candidates, we have commissioned a Settled Pastor Search Committee. This Committee will be installed on May 19.

We will initiate a search process for a new pastor in accordance with our bylaws. Our conference office will advertise our open position to UCC clergy across the country. Our search committee will read ministerial profiles, screen candidates, conduct interviews, check references, and select a candidate who will be recommended to the entire congregation.

Our goal is for the congregation to elect, in a unified way, a new pastor whose gifts God can use with us and among us for the sake of the Gospel.

The tradition practiced in the United Church of Christ of calling a pastor affirms the active presence of God's Spirit in the search process. We will prayerfully seek a pastor with particular gifts and skills while recognizing that candidates are also engaged in a Spirit-led discernment process. We will keep you informed on a regular basis as we move toward what God has in store for us as a congregation.

In Christ's name,
Dottie Layer, Moderator, and UCC
Council



The May pantry item is BEANS
Please help fill the shopping cart in the Roberts room.

Calendar of Events

May 1— 3pm Diaconate
May 5—8am Men’s breakfast
8:30 Breakfast
3:30pm UCCC serves Community meal

May 6—NOON Women’s Fellowship
May 8—11:30am Book Group
May 14—2:15pm Church Council
May 27—Office closed Memorial Day

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



Birthdays in May

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

Women’s Fellowship News

April brought nine of us together to travel to Maryhill Museum. It is an amazing place and it was a refreshing experience especially after our winter weather!! Now May is just around the corner. It brings us to our next meeting, but there is a change!! Our very own, Raz Mason is available to speak with us on *May 6th*. This is the first Monday in May, instead of our typical second Monday meeting. Her time with us in February was cancelled due to the inclement weather. She will join us for our annual May Salad Luncheon at NOON in Tenney Fellowship Hall and then share her most recent work. As she explained to me in February, her program 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.

May Anniversary

Tedd and Rymmel Lovell 21



Date	Greeter	Reader	Coffee Host	Child Care
5/5	Nikki	Corliss	Wilcox	
5/12	Nikki	Rymmel	Lovell	
5/19	Nikki		Jackie Clark	
5/26	Nikki	Caroline		
6/2				

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!" Women's Fellowship will hostess this event for all of us in our congregation. Just RSVP to Joy Krein at jobok29@charter.net or text my cell phone at 541-980-0619 if you (who are not an attending member of Women's Fellowship) plan on joining us for Raz's presentation!! After Raz's presentation Women's Fellowship will continue with a short business meeting. We will be re-discussing various old business items and also looking ahead. This May 6th meeting is our last for the 2018-19 year! Our next meeting, Monday, September 9th, begins the next calendar year, 2019-2020. New programs will need to be planned and a committee formed to further plan the next year's agenda over the summer, so come prepared with ideas and topics.

Joy Krein

New Group



We have formed a new group at UCC Congregational. It is the Creation Care Group. It was born out of the Lenten Study conducted by

Pastor Bill this Lenten season.

The Values of UCC Congregational Church include Creation Care. Those who attended this study became interested in finding a way to make our Creation Care value a more active part of our church program.

This group will highlight specific Creation Care subjects in The Lighted Window and also present interesting information and suggestions in this area on the second and fourth Sunday services. Jackie Clark

Notes from the treasurer, 1st quarter of the year.

The Finance Committee thought it would be appropriate to use the Lighted Window to report to the congregation how we were doing in regards to the budget we passed. So, here is the first installment: we are very close to what we projected for the first quarter of the year. I have observed that the church is very consistent in its annual requirements, which makes budgeting easy. We passed the budget with a deficit and that is showing already. There was a discussion at Church Council about using the reserves we own to cover the deficit and it was deemed appropriate. I have heard a comment about all we do is talk about money, but in being the Treasurer it's the job I have to do. (Sorry)

Of a budget of \$137,075 for the year, we have spent \$31,779 and have received \$29,117 in income for operating. Special collections have been \$919 which aren't used for operating.

Tedd Lovell, Treasurer.

