

# The Messenger April 2015



### Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Flock:

Holy Week is here! I hope to see many of you this week for the Special Services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and even the Sunrise Service.

May this season of Holy Week and Eastertide bring much new growth, flowers small and great, and a harvest of new life for you...for us.



The Sunday after Easter, "Bright Sunday," we will celebrate Holy Hilarity – please bring your favorite religious joke or two...we can laugh at death! "Death, where is thy sting?!"

Happy Easter

Blessings.



# 

**SUNDAY** 

9:00am

9:20am

10:00am

11:00am

Apr. 30

### REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

Fellowship (FC Friendship Room)

Prayer & Meditation (CCMP Prayer Studio)

Worship (FC Sanctuary)

Worship (CCMP Sanctuary)

12:10am	Fellowship (CCMP Upper Room)
TUESDAY	
7:00pm	Boy Scouts (CCMP Lower Level)
7:00pm	Committees (CCMP Library)
7:00pm	Adventist Church (CCMP Sanctuary)
WEDNESDA	7A
8:00am	Lectionary Discussion Group (Independence Grill)
5:30pm	Joy Bells Practice (CCMP Sanctuary)
6:30pm	Choir Practice (CCMP Sanctuary)
<b>THURSDAY</b>	•
5:30pm	Valley Zen Circle (CCMP Lower Level)
7:00pm	Thursday Book Study (Monmouth, S. Pittam)
FRIDAY	•
6:30pm	Arts & Crafts with Sherry (Monmouth, S. Pittam)
SATURDAY	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
9:00am	Adventist Church (9am-8pm, CCMP)
MONTHLY EVENTS	
Apr. 2	Maundy Thursday Simple Meal (5:30pm, CCMP Lower Level)
•	•
Apr. 3	Good Friday Stations of the Cross (12–8pm, CCMP Sanctuary) Brief Good Friday Service (7pm, CCMP Sanctuary)
Apr. 3 Apr. 4	Polk Community Free Clinic, 1st Saturday (7:30am)
-	Easter Sunrise Service & Rejoicing! (6:30am CCMP fire pit)
Apr. 5	Easter Breakfast (10am, CCMP Lower Level)
Ans 7	Easter Service Flowers, praise, & song (11am, CCMP Sanctuary)
Apr. 7	Stephens Ministries (5:15pm, San Antonio's)
Apr. 7	Peace, Justice, & Mission Team, 1 <sup>st</sup> Tue (7pm, CCMP Library)
Apr. 8	SPRC Meeting for CCMP 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed (7am, Independence Grill)
Apr. 8	Horizons Bible Study, 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed (1pm, Small Dining Room at
	Heron Pointe)
Apr. 9	Book Study Resumes (7pm, S. Pittam)
Apr. 12	Bright Sunday
Apr. 14	James2 Dinner, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tue. (5pm, FC Friendship Room)
Apr. 2	SPRC Meeting for CCMP (7am, Independence Grill)
Apr. 21	<b>Board Meeting, CCMP</b> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue (7pm, CCMP Library)
Apr. 16	<b>Board Meeting</b> , Western Compass Campus Ministry, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thur.
	(10am, CCMP Library)
Apr. 23	Tallmadge Health Fair (5–7pm, Middle School)
Apr. 25	Polk Community Free Clinic, 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday (7:30am, Trinity)
Apr. 25	Relay for Life Opening Ceremony (6pm, WOU)
Apr. 25	<b>Board Meeting, FC</b> , Thu (7pm, FC Friendship Room)
Apr. 25	Submission Due Date for February Newsletter
Apr. 28	<b>Stephen Ministry</b> , 4 <sup>th</sup> Tue CCMP (5:15pm, San Antonio's)
Apr. 28	Community Resource Event, (5–7pm, FC Friendship Room)

**Lunch Bunch** Last Thursday (11:40am, FC Friendship Rm.)

Christ's Church (CC)
Methodist & Presbyterian
412 Clay Street W.
Monmouth, OR 97361
www.christschurchmonmouth.org
CC's Facebook

page: https://www.facebook.co m/pages/Christs-Church-Methodist-Presbyterian-United/576855235764119

Falls City UMC (FC)
United Methodist Church
PO Box 473
242 N. Main St.
Falls City, OR 97344
You may donate online using
PayPal by clicking "Donate" on:
www.fallscityumc.org

Office Hours: M–F, 9am-12pm (Monmouth Site) (503) 838-1724 email: ccmpunited@gmail.com

Pastor Becky Strader Becky's cell: (802) 454-8304 email: ccmppastor@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Joy Brown email: jrnbrown@me.com

Welcome! No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey... you are welcome here.



04/07 Dennis Busby04/08 Elizabeth Weiss04/21 Jim Smith04/23 Janna Moser04/30 Bev Beaird-Leeper

### This month's fill-in Bible Verse (answers on last page):

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat

This is what Christ Jesus said when he was crucified

1. Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing. (Luke 23:34)

2. I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise. (Luke 23:43)

3. Dear women here is your son, and to disciple-here is your mother. (John 19:26-27)

4. My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? (Matthew 27:46)

5. I am thirsty. (John 19:28)

6. It is finished. (John 19:30)

7. Father into your hands I commit my Spirit. (Luke 23:46)

### **Prayer Tree Ministry**

### Please continue to hold these people in your prayers

http://www.polkio.com/obituaries/2015/mar/25/frank-wells/

<u>The family and friends of</u> — Beth Ritchey, Christina Lofton's sister-in-law and her premature baby, Beth Ritchey, Jim & Jean Smith, Lorraine Jones Wells, Vern & Nancy Wells

<u>Those dealing with health issues</u> — Meagan Gibson, Jean Keys, Mackie, Elaine Palulak, Tom Ritchey, Elizabeth Weiss, Jo Yeager

<u>Those who are recovering</u> — Roland Brown, Marj Howard & Marcia Henderson, Sherry Pittam, Ruth Sonnenschein, Anya Troyer-Zhang

<u>We offer a prayer of thankfulness</u> for the life of Frank Wells. Please keep Lorraine and the Wells family in your prayers.

<u>And please congratulate and celebrate</u> the birth of a new grandchild to Linda Scheirman and Jack Scheirman

The family of Frank Wells called to let us know they had to delay the Willamette National Cemetery service with full military honors, until April 3. This service will be for the family only. In addition, there will be a reception for friends and family at the home of Nancy and Vern Wells on the afternoon of **April 3 from 4-6**. Their address is 838 Corsair Dr. Independence, OR. Franks obituary can be found in the Dallas Itemizer-Observer or online at:

### Guest Musician – Lennox Fleary

Kevin Elliot, Music Director for Christ's Church, and Lennox Fleary, a charismatic and inspirational professional musician, graced us with his presence and his gifts of music and song on Sunday, March 15.

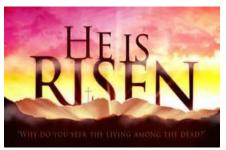
Fleary describes himself a bit more on www.lennoxfleary.com
Fleary says; I am a worship pastor at a church in Sheridan, Oregon...
I was born in the Caribbean. I lived there until I was 15 and then



I went to college in Napa Valley, CA.... I've always been fascinated by music. I can't stop playing music because I hear it in my head and I just have to play it even if no one's listening. I play guitar and bass. Bass is my favorite. I compose on drums and keyboard sometimes, just to get ideas flowing... I play because I love to play, no matter who hears it.

Lennox also offers some videos on his webpage for any aspiring musician, some are made for specific students he's working with, but you might benefit from them anyway. If you know someone who can't afford guitar lessons, direct them to this page, because they can learn some skills here at no cost.

Thank you, Kevin, for inviting Lennox Fleary to perform for all of us at Christ's Church. It was a wonderful experience.





### Spring is here, as is Easter!

A time of new life and new beginnings! Along with the things we are already working to accomplish, this is a time of planning for future

activities. Jim and Bev Leeper-Beaird have already reserved a spot in the Monmouth City Park for the annual CCMP ice cream booth the afternoon and evening of July 3<sup>rd</sup> and all day July 4<sup>th</sup>! Jim says he has no plans for a 4<sup>th</sup> of July float this year. Does anyone want to step forward? Both are great vehicles for outreach to our communities.





### **Stephen Ministries Updates at CCMP**

Stephen Ministries has a new supply of "Journeying Through Grief" books for those who have lost a loved one. If you or someone you know needs these books, please call Jo Ann King @ 503-838-6603.

Also, we are looking for someone to attend the National training session for Stephen Ministry Leaders in order to assist in our local program. If you are interested please call Pastor Becky or Jo Ann King.

We are excited about our plans to start serving "extended communion". This means that we can deliver and serve communion to shut-ins or those unable to attend for any reason, after the elements have been blessed in worship. If you would like to be one of the servers, contact Pastor Becky for brief training or to go with her as she serves. It is a blessed experience!

— by Jo Ann King



## The CCMP Prayer Team is open for Additional Members...

If you would like to join our Christ's Church prayer chain and be notified by call or email about prayer needs, so that you can pray for them, please call the church office, 503-838-1724, or Bev Herzog, 503-838-1172, and give them your information for the prayer list. This is a way you can help others from home without needing to go to another meeting. Thank you!

— by Jo Ann King



### **Health Kits and Bags of Hope**

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you -- especially to Michelle Hasbrook, DMD, who donated the toothbrushes we needed, and to those individuals who have donated cases of items to help fill our CWS Health Kits and Bags of Hope. On Palm Sunday – our 5th Sunday project was to assemble these kits. Because of people's generosity we were able to assemble 50 Health Kits and 24 Bags of Hope at an approximately cost of \$150 from the Peace Justice & Mission team (PJM) funds. There will be postage costs for health kits.

If you didn't get a Bag of Hope to have in your car to hand out to those in need on the street, pick up a bag at the Church Office. The PJM Team has talked about what we as individuals can do in response to those people in need. This is one small way of responding with Christ's love.

- submitted by Gail Saxowsky

### **News from Methodist Annual Conference 2014**



On June 13th the Annual Conference paused to remember the massacre of Native Americans in Colorado in 1864, The United Methodist Church is forever linked to this event because the commander of the Cavalry force, Colonel Chivington, was an elder in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Our conference took time to bless Pendleton blankets that were sent to the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference, which will travel to the site of the Sand Creek Massacre National Park to participate in the 150-year remembrance of the massacre. It is never too late to be and say, "I'm sorry."

— submitted by Jo Ann King

### More on The Sand Creek Massacre

On November 29, 1864, U.S. Colonel John Chivington and 700 volunteer troops attacked an encampment of Cheyenne and Arapaho along Sand Creek. The thunderous approach of horses galloping toward camp at dawn sent hundreds fleeing from their tipis. Many were shot and killed as they ran. While warriors fought back, escapees frantically dug pits to hide in along the banks of Sand Creek – cannonballs later bombarded them.

In the bloody aftermath, some of the soldiers mutilated dead bodies and looted the camp. Later, most of the village and its contents were burned or destroyed.

Among the slain were chiefs War Bonnet, White Antelope, Lone Bear, Yellow Wolf, Big Man, Bear Man, Spotted Crow, Bear Robe, and Left Hand – some who had worked diligently to negotiate peace.

Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site commemorates all who perished and survived the horrific event, Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Colorado soldiers. The site also symbolizes the struggle of Native Americans to maintain their way of life on traditional lands.



This is a summary of an article in the latest United Methodist Women's newsletter called, "Our Two Cents". The title is "More than one way to feed a Sheep". In John 21:15-17, Jesus asks Simon Peter, "Do you love me?" Peter responds that he does and Jesus admonishes him to "feed my

sheep". United Methodist Churches and United Methodist Women have taken this charge to heart by feeding people body, mind and spirit. According to Bread for the World, food banks and other private charities provided \$5.2 billion dollars of food assistance in 2013. This seems like a lot, but we must remind ourselves that acts of mercy do not change the system that leads to poverty and hunger. The government's program of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance or SNAP, which is part of the Farm Bill, provided \$102.5 billion in benefits; nearly 20 times what the private sector was able to do! In the Farm bill of 2014, SNAP benefits were cut by \$8billion over 10 years. So as important as our contributions are, unless we act to change the causes of hunger and poverty, we will fall further behind. We must address systems as well as acts of mercy that address short term needs. How about stopping wars and getting more jobs programs going?

(Main article written by Paula Sadler; summarized by Jo Ann King)

# Mark your Calendars! Spaghetti Feed & Auction April 17<sup>th</sup>!

We will be hosting a spaghetti feed and auction on April 17 as a fundraiser for the **Relay for Life** by the Footprints team! Please start saving treasures for the auction, save the date. and plan to have fun! Please see Denvy for details and questions. You can contact Denvy Saxowsky at (saxowsky@gamail.com), or contact Kay Graven at gkr@q.com or register online www.co.polk.or.us/fair/relaylife.



So what is all this about the Relay for Life, anyway? What is the purpose? Who is involved? What can I do?

Relay for Life is a major fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Money raised goes to cancer research and prevention, education, as well as providing care for patients and support for families.

The number of diagnosed cancer cases continues to decrease, in large part to people pursuing healthier lifestyles, and the number of survivors has increased as treatment procedures continue to improve. You only have to look around our own congregations to witness the evidence of improvements in cancer prevention and treatments, as many of us have had cancer impact our lives directly.

Many of our members from Falls City, Monmouth, & Independence, are actively involved in putting on the Relay for Life each year along with seven other teams from the area. The Relay is a major activity in our communities. Besides information and fund raising, it provides an opportunity for people to meet others and share personal stories and triumphs over cancer.

People are always welcome to joining the Footprints team. In addition to walking the relay, helping with fundraising, or working on publicity, there is a lot to organizing these fundraisers and events. You can join the team to do any of these activities, again by contacting Denvy Saxowsky (Monmouth) or Kay Graven (Falls City).



Polk Community Free Clinic continues to provide free medical care on the First and Fourth Saturday mornings of each month. Of course, our desire is to get that word to anybody in our communities that need medical care and are uninsured or underinsured. We are now really looking for new volunteers to help staff the clinic hours and to help in the office during the month. This includes people with medical skills. office skills, people skills, skills of sharing God's love through prayer or hospitality or just people who desire to be involved in a vital local mission. Call 503-831-0551 to leave a message or go online at salemfreeclinics.org to find an application.

submitted by Gail Saxowsky



### Holy Week is coming!











Holy Week begins with Palm /Passion Sunday on March 29. Come and join our procession, if able, to celebrate the arrival of the Messiah in Jerusalem...not the Messiah we expected...and consider whether we would have been disappointed by his utter humanity.

**The Triduum**: The *Triduum* refers to the intense period of Maundy (washing) Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Day. You are invited to let the Story of Jesus' Passion, Crucifixion, and Resurrection inform and maybe even transform your life this year.

On **Maundy Thursday**, **April 2**, we will gather for a simple finger-food meal (please bring vegetable, fruit, fish, and dairy foods—**not meat**—to share). We will hear about the Seder meal that Jesus was likely celebrating in the Upper Room. We will share the Last Supper, and then wash each other's feet—or shine each other's shoes, before adjourning to the Sanctuary Garden for a *Tenebrae* (shadows) service of reading, song, and darkness. Please wear easily removed socks and shoes, or shoes that can be shined. We will leave in silence.

**Good Friday, April 3,** is not a day to ignore: From noon to 8pm, we will have "stations" set up in the Sanctuary for individual (or intergenerational) meditation on Jesus' final hours. You may come any time during those hours. If you would prefer to gather with others from a brief service at 7pm, you may want to time your attendance so you can take advantage of the meditation stations before or after the service.

You will also receive a resource for **Holy Saturday**, **April 4**, during the week. The tradition of Holy Saturday answers the question, "What was Jesus doing between the time he was laid dead in the tomb and the discovery of his absence?" He was descending into Hell, rescuing all who had died before his coming, "Trampling down death by death." The icons of Holy Saturday show Jesus standing on the Gates of Hell, which he has broken down, and reaching to the multitude waiting for him.

**Easter Sunday! April 5.** At 6:30am, early risers can gather at the fire pit for a glimpse of the rising sun, weather permitting! Come to hear the Resurrection proclaimed and to sing songs of rejoicing! And at 11am, we will fill the flower cross with blooms from our gardens, and sing and rejoice, and remember Jesus' Resurrection meals as we celebrate communion. "He is risen! He is risen, indeed!"

submitted by Rebecca Strader

**DENOMINATION NEWS:** Many of us have been following the increasing acceptance and support for our gay and LBTG brothers and sisters. The latest news is that our congregations have taken the stand of inclusion, acceptance, and support so the debate is on the national rather than the within our congregations... Below is a link to the current thinking by Presbyterians. Following that is the official 2014 Methodist decision.



### What same-sex marriage means to Presbyterians

Amid shouts of joy and cries of lament, some Presbyterians stop to take stock of the newest amendment to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Constitution

MARCH 20, 2015 | LOUISVILLE

As reports began to leak Tuesday evening that gender would no longer be a barrier to marriage in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), social media began to light up. Soon Facebook and Twitter were filled with

press releases, blogs, and secular news articles. Cell phones beamed with a *New York Times* alert, saying, "Largest Presbyterian denomination gives final approval for same-sex marriage." Then came the phone calls, pastors' letters to their congregations, and the hum of Presbyterians—anxiously, joyously, painfully—whispering, sometimes shouting, that a monumental day had arrived for the church.

The church, they all said, would never be the same. On that at least all could agree.



Observers at the Authoritative Interpretation vote during plenary at 221st General Assembly.

Earlier that day, the Presbytery of the Palisades had cast its vote in favor of an amendment to the PC(USA) Constitution that would change the description of marriage from being between "a man

and a woman" to being between "two people." In doing so, it had become the 86th presbytery to cast an affirmative vote, providing the majority needed among 171 presbyteries to approve the change. (Read more about the passage of the marriage amendment here.)

### Methodists approve same-sex marriage benefits

Religion News Service | LAUREN MARKOE | WASHINGTON | May 14, 2014

Same-sex partners can't marry in a United Methodist Church. But if one of the spouses works at one of the denomination's 13 general agencies, the couple can get benefits if state laws allow it.

The decision, made at last week's meeting of the UMC's Judicial Council in Little Rock, Ark., affirms one made in October by the church's General Council on Finance and Administration, which expanded the definition of "spouse" to include same-sex spouses and partners.

Same-sex marriage is roiling the 7.5 million-member U.S. denomination, which in recent years has struggled with a growing rebellion among clergy willing to flout church law and preside over the marriages of same-sex partners. While some welcomed the Judicial Council's decision, other decried it. The Rev. Tom Lambrecht of Good News — a conservative Methodist ministry — blogged last week about the extension of benefits: "It adopts a policy that contradicts church teaching on the definition of marriage, not only violating the beliefs and values of church members (not to mention Scripture) but creating confusion by sending a mixed message about what United Methodists believe."

The decision does not extend benefits to the same-sex spouses and partners of those who work for the church's general agencies in states that prohibit same-sex marriage.

Also at its April 23-26 meeting, the board affirmed that clergy candidates should be allowed a job interview no matter their sexual orientation. The denomination prohibits noncelibate gay clergy.

The council also struck down part of a gay rights resolution passed by the UMC's Desert Southwest Annual Conference, because it supported clergy who performed same-sex weddings.

### **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### Church Responses to Germanwings Plane Crash in the Alps | By Kathy L. Gilbert

March 26, 2015 | NASHVILLE, Tenn. (United Methodist News Service)

"Our country is in mourning," said Germany's United Methodist Bishop Rosemarie Wenner, for 150 who died in a plane crash reportedly caused intentionally by a co-pilot of a German A32"We are shocked by the news that one of the pilots obviously has chosen to bring all the people in the plane to death," she said in a statement to United Methodist News Service.

The plane was bound from Barcelona to Duesseldorf on March 24 when it crashed in a remote mountain valley in France. Among the victims are a class of German high school students and teachers in Haltern, Westphalia, returning from an exchange visit to Spain.

French investigators have said the **co-pilot, Andreas Lubitz, intentionally sent the plane into its doomed descent.** Information recovered from the cockpit voice recorder revealed he took control of the plane when the captain left briefly to go to the restroom...

The Rev. Klaus Ulrich Ruof, director of the United Methodist Germany Office of Communication, said all the pastors in the region were contacted but none reported any church members affected by the plane crash. As far as he knows, no United Methodist pastors are part of the teams involved in recovery or counseling.

Thomas Kemper, top executive of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, shared an email he received from **United Evangelical Mission** asking for prayer for the churches in Rhineland and Westphalia who are "doing their utmost to assist those who are now mourning."

"The Rhenish Church has dispatched a team of 15 emergency counselors to Duesseldorf Airport to comfort and support those who are waiting for news of their family members and friends. They are going to stay there as long as they will be needed, which will likely be for many more hours," said the Rev. Barbara Rudolph of the church board of the Evangelical Church of the Rhineland.

The World Council of Churches and the Conference of European Churches released a joint statement expressing grief over the news and calling for prayers for victims, their families and the teams working with them in the aftermath of the tragedy...

### World Council of Churches delegation visits Ukraine, CEC President included

Press Release No. 15/10 | 20 March 2015 | Brussels

From 17–20 March a World Council of Churches delegation visited Ukraine. The delegation included high-level representation from churches in the WCC fellowship, including Conference of European Churches President Rt. Rev. Christopher Hill, DD, KCVO.

Bishop Hill was appreciative of the opportunity to participate in the ecumenical visit, which was an important gesture of solidarity. "We were there to be alongside our sisters and brothers in Christ," Hill reflects, "Listening to them in compassion, suffering with them." ... He also remarked on the role the churches can play in spanning a diverse and conflict-filled political landscape. In particular the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) and the All Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organisations (AUCCRO) have potential to foster reconciliation and peace in the midst of destruction and conflict.

The Conference of European Churches has monitored the situation in Ukraine from the first signs of unrest. We again express our solidarity with and prayers for the Ukrainian people.



**Editor's Corner:** Here's feedback from one of our Falls City's members who spends the winter in Mexico.

"Thanks for your energetic and community-based monthly newsletter. I enjoy it and learn a lot. I just donated... to the FC UMC -----but I had to go to the FCUMC website to do so. Why not put the donate info on the monthly newsletter site ... allowing people like me to make a donation directly from the newsletter that comes to us automatically and monthly.... without having to search for the website, and figure out how to donate.

Bless you and all at UMC."

In response to this very nice and helpful suggestion, we have added to the masthead on the second page the words:

Donate online using PayPal by clicking "Donate" on: <a href="www.fallscityumc.org">www.fallscityumc.org</a>
Now we need to se how we can make it easier for readers to contribute to Christ Church as well. Any suggestions on how we can accomplish this? Stay tuned...

### The rest of this month's fill-in the blanks Bible Verse:

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)

Thoughts: Consider paying more attention to nature this month.. Focus on the peace we find in God's gift of nature. Seek this peace as you pray.

