



The Messenger

February 2015



Christ's Church Methodist & Presbyterian United & Falls City United Methodist Church

Pastor's Ponderings

Friends: Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent are soon to begin. We strive to return to God, "to the land of your soul," as Rabbi Carlebach wrote. Forty days of fasting – are we ready to take something on, rather than giving up something?

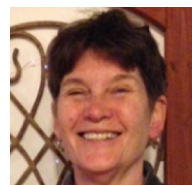
*Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?*

*Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin? (Isaiah 58: 6-7)*

My suggestion is that you re-watch the movie *Chocolat*, especially Pere Henri's sermon toward the end: *I want to talk about Christ's humanity, I mean how he lived his life on earth: his kindness, his tolerance. We must measure our goodness, not by what we don't do, what we deny ourselves, what we resist, or who we exclude. Instead, we should measure ourselves by what we embrace, what we create, and who we include.*

Then look forward to a Lenten hymn, "Now Quit Your Care," which echoes Isaiah about (cont. on page 3)

Becky



REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

- 9:00am **Fellowship** (FC Friendship Room)
 9:20am **Worship** (FC Sanctuary)
 10:00am **Prayer & Meditation** (CCMP Prayer Studio)
 11:00am **Worship** (CCMP Sanctuary)
 12:10am **Fellowship** (CCMP Upper Room)

TUESDAY

- 7:00pm **Boy Scouts** (CCMP Basement Hall)
 7:00pm **Committees** (CCMP Library)
 7:00pm **Spanish Church** (CCMP Sanctuary)

WEDNESDAY

- 8:00am **Lectionary Discussion Group** (Independence Grill)
 5:30pm **Joy Bells Practice** (CCMP Sanctuary)
 6:30pm **Choir Practice** (CCMP Sanctuary)
 7:30pm **Lenten Study Feb 18-Mar 25** (Independence, J. Yeager's)

THURSDAY

- 5:30pm **Valley Zen Circle** (CCMP Basement)
 7:00pm **Thursday Book Study** (Monmouth, S. Pittam)

FRIDAY

- 6:30pm **Arts & Crafts with Sherry** (Monmouth, S. Pittam)

SATURDAY

- 9:00am **Adventist Church** (9:00am-8:00pm, CCMP)

MONTHLY EVENTS

- Feb. 3 **Peace, Justice, and Mission Team Meeting**, 1st Tuesday (7:00pm, CCMP Library)
 Feb. 4 **Horizons Bible Study Group**, 1st Wednesday (1:00pm, Heron Pointe, Small Dining Room)
 Feb. 6 **Worship Team** (1-4, Pastor Becky's house)
 Feb. 7 **Polk Community Free Clinic**, 1st Saturday (7:30am)
 Feb. 8 **Scout Sunday**
 Feb. 8 **Servants Holiday**, CCMP Board Retreat (2-7pm)
 Feb. 10 **James2 Dinner**, 2nd Tue. (5:00pm, FC Friendship Room)
 Feb. 11 **SPRC Meeting** for CCMP (7:00am, Independence Grill)
 Feb. 14 **Valentines Day Dinner, FC**, with live music, 3rd Tue (5:00 & 7:00pm, FC Friendship Room) Donations Appreciated!
 Feb. 15-22 **Hospitality Week** for homeless families (CCMP)
 Feb. 17 **Board Meeting, CCMP**, 3rd Tue (7:00pm, CCMP Library)
 Feb. 18 **Ash Wednesday Service**
 Feb. 19 **Board Meeting**, Western Compass Campus Ministry, 3rd Thur. (10:00am, CCMP Library)
 Feb. 26 **Lunch Bunch** 4th Thursday (11:40am, FC Friendship Rm.)
 Feb. 28 **Polk Community Free Clinic**, 4th Saturday (7:30am)
 Feb. 24 **Submission Due Date** for February Newsletter
 Feb. 24 **Stephen Ministry**, 4th Tue. CCMP (5:15pm, San Antonio's)
 Feb. 24 **James2 Dinner**, 4th Tue. (5:00pm, FC Friendship Room)
 Feb. 25 **Board Meeting, FC**, last Wed. (7:00pm, FC Friendship Rm)

Christ's Church (CCMP)

Methodist & Presbyterian
 412 Clay Street W.
 Monmouth, OR 97361

www.christschurchmonmouth.org

Televised on: WIMPEG

Channel 18

(Currently WIMPEG is having technical difficulties, so keep checking here for the new schedule.)

Falls City UMC (FC)

United Methodist Church
 PO Box 473

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Falls City, OR 97344

www.fallscityumc.org

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 (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: jrbrown@me.com

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



Feb. 26 Brian Hume

(We want to list your birthday, too. If you have a birthday this month that is not listed, please give your birthday date to the main office. Thanks – and Happy Birthday!)

Pastor's Ponderings (continued from page one)

the kind of fast that God desires. Percy Dreamer wrote the poem

*To bow the head
In sackcloth and in ashes,
Or rend the soul,
Such grief is not Lent's goal;
But to be led
To where God's glory flashes
His beauty to come nigh.
To fly, to fly,
To fly where truth and light do lie*

*For is not this
The fast that I have chosen? —
The prophet spoke —
To shatter every yoke
Of wickedness
The grievous bands to loosen
Oppression put to flight,
To fight, to fight,
To fight 'til every wrong's set right.*

Watch for details about our observance of Ash Wednesday. I hope you will join in the Lenten Study (and dessert – chocolate, perhaps?) each Wednesday evening from Feb. 18 to Mar. 26. May our fast be pleasing to God.

Becky



Lost & Found Box. If you have lost something recently, please check the Lost and Found Box in the Office. Right now there are primarily little things like sunglasses, toys, and jewelry, but that can change from day to day. Probably some are not recent additions so even if you've been missing something for a while, it's still worth checking out. Of course, if you find something at the church without an owner, please turn it in to the office. Kim Clark, our Administrative Assistant, keeps track of these things for all of us.

Last month's Bible Verse:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

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

"I can do all things _____."

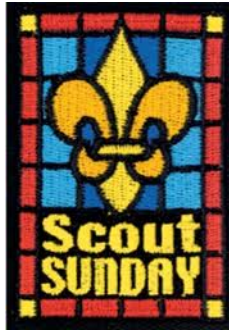
**Neighborhood Block Party**

Our Summer Neighborhood Block Party is coming sooner than we think! It's not too early to be thinking about how to make our Neighborhood Block Party even more successful this coming year.

Save July 30th for this event!!! And help plan! What other activities can we set up for our neighbors and their kids? Want to give a magic show? Demonstrate making some Arts & Crafts? Who or what else can we invite to participate as a vendor? This is a great way to reach out to people – and to have fun while doing it!



Christmas baskets donations went well. We provided for 20 families, only one was Hispanic, though. Baskets were also delivered by CCMP volunteers. Thanks all!



Boy Scout Troop 38, which Christ's Church sponsors, will join us for worship on

February 8. They will be ushering. Please welcome them warmly!



Relay
for
Life

The Relay for Life 24-hour walk this year will be Saturday and Sunday, **May 30 and 31.** "Footprints" from Christ's Church and beyond, is again registered as a team, and you can join the team, either to walk or to raise money, by contacting Denvy (saxowsky@gmail.com), or by registering online www.co.polk.or.us/fair/relay-life.

A 24-hour walk or an overnight in a tent may sound intimidating but no one has to do it all. Every little bit counts; just one lap around the course, \$5 in the kitty, a prayer for strength and healing...

Relay for Life is a major fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. (Our **Spaghetti Feed and Auction** will be held on **April 17**) Money goes to research, education, providing care for patients and support for families. The number of diagnosed cases of cancer has drastically dropped in recent years as people pursue healthier lifestyles and the number of survivors of cancer has increased as treatment procedures continue to improve. Just look around the congregation to witness evidence of these facts.



Thank-you everyone who donated food to step up to the challenge of providing the *most* food of the local Methodist churches in the month of January. Good job!



Needed: Ushers and Servers

Have you wanted to assist in worship? Perhaps by serving communion? Are you interested in being an usher, greeting people, and handing out bulletins, getting to know people's names better, and welcoming newcomers? Would you like to assist in collecting offerings and bringing communion elements forward? All in the service of God and others?

Please consider yourself invited! Speak with Diane McBurnett to find out more. Diane will support you and give you pointers on carrying out your duties and schedule you.



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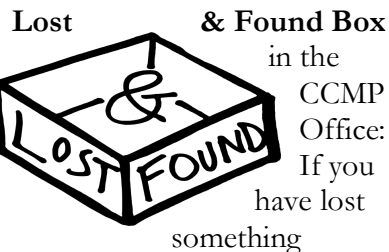
Potting?

The office is requesting donations of large flowerpots. There are about 6-8 plants around the church that could greatly benefit from a repotting. (Thanks, Kim!)

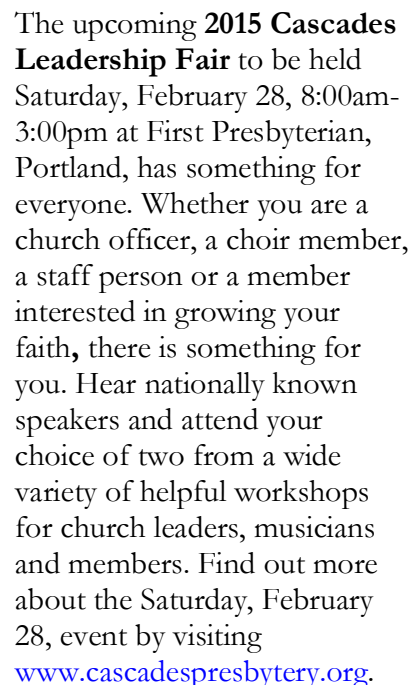


In November, during Hospitality Week, more than sixty volunteers from a dozen or more churches donated over 350 volunteer hours, as well as three meals a day, to five different families for an entire week. One of our goals in February is to involve more volunteers who have not volunteered before. After one of the trips to Mississippi to help after hurricane Katrina, one young participant wrote that he thought it would be wiser to just give the people money instead of buying airline tickets to get there, but after being there he said that,

Persons from Christ's Church have already volunteered to provide food and a supportive welcoming spirit, but there is always, yes, always, need and space for more caring persons. Some members of CCMP have offered to provide the Wednesday evening and Sunday (the 22nd) meals, but they could use help. We expect a larger number of children this time so more volunteers to play with them are also in demand. Then there's setup before and cleanup after, which is greatly appreciated. Contact the church office or Denvy if you wish to reach out to one of the least of these:
saxowsky@gmail.com.

[illegible]

the Gospels” will be held at Jo Yeager’s home, 18 Maple Court, Independence, from 7:30–9:00pm on Wednesday evenings from **February 18 – March 25**. Please let Becky know if you are planning to attend, and she will send you a study sheet each week. There may even be dessert...





Celebrating Kings Sunday this February!

The traditional cake and pastries were great fun, as were the celebration poppers. We all received crowns of our own, as well as prizes.

Perhaps the best part was watching young people whack away at this star piñata. It definitely was the "star of the show."



Our **"2015 Servants Holiday"** (Board retreat) – for all Board members, those going off the Board and those joining the Board for 2015 is coming up quickly.

It is scheduled for February 8 from 2pm-7pm! Be sure to put this on your calendar if you are attending!

And, more training is offered by the Presbytery which is open to all. Read on!

Jay Bloom to Keynote **2015 Cascades Leadership Fair** February 28

Locally based and internationally known Jay C. Bloom will keynote the 2015 Cascades Leadership Fair at **First, Portland**, on Saturday, February 28, with the theme: "Reading the Signs of the Times: Ministering together in the Changing Northwest."

Jay is an expert on the changing demographics of the Northwest and the implications for those who would serve together in our communities. He passionately promotes his concept of "returnment"—using one's skills, resources and knowledge to benefit the greater good in the final third of life. He works to promote intergenerational interdependence and equity, and says, "Unless you are engaged in your later years, you are just dying longer, not living longer."

Jay has undergraduate and graduate degrees in psychology and has lectured at many universities and colleges, including Reed, University of Portland, and Portland State. He was twice interim executive director of United Way of the Columbia Willamette. Jay is eager to explore with us the implications of his deep knowledge of secular nonprofits for the faith community whose congregations can represent as many as five generations.

The Leadership Fair will include sessions of interest to musicians, clerks, treasurers, pastors, elders and congregation members interested in reading the signs of the times—times in which, to quote Abraham Lincoln, "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate for the stormy present... So we must think anew and act anew."



Many thanks to the Moser Mob who cleaned up after a minor basement flood a week ago. All is well! Bless you!



Ash Wednesday: the Pastor will be available in the Sanctuary from 12-1pm on February 18, and from 5-5:30pm. Please come to meditate quietly on readings, and present yourself for the Imposition of Ashes.

Lenten Study on the Names of Jesus in the Gospels will begin on February 18 from 7:30 - 8:45pm at Jo Yeager's home in Independence. The study lasts for six sessions. Please email the [pastor](#) for a copy of the participant pages.



Unofficial synopsis of January Board Meeting

If you'd like to stay up with what's going on at Board Meetings, approved minutes (minus anything confidential) will be posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. In addition, an "unapproved" synopsis will be in the newsletter, for a more timely report.

Unofficial synopsis: At the 1.20.15 meeting, the Board re-elected Gail Saxowsky as Clerk and Janna Moser as Treasurer, approved our annual statistical reports for both Presbyterian and Methodist denominations, and passed a budget of approximately \$111,000, about \$4,000 more than we expect as income at this time. We heard reports from officers and program teams, discussed the upcoming Board Retreat on Feb. 8, and plans for a Lenten study opportunity. For more details, speak with any Board member: *Sue Badgett* (Peace, Justice, & Mission Team), *Carol Brown* (Staff Parish Relations Committee), *Linda Grund-Clampit* (Worship Team), *Jo Ann King* (Methodist Lay Leader), *Diane McBurnett* (Stewardship Team), *Janna Moser* (Young Adult Representative & Treasurer), *Sherry Pittam* (Education & Communication Teams), *Gail Saxowsky* (Clerk), and *Rebecca Strader* (Pastor). We don't have a Presbytery Commissioner at this time, having accepted, with deep thanks for his years of service, Denvy Saxowsky's resignation. Next meeting will be Feb. 17, 7pm, in the library.

THE EGO false self	VS	THE SOUL true self
ME		WE
Separation		Unity
Blame		Understanding
Hostility		Friendliness
Resentment		Forgiveness
Pride		Love
Complain		Gratefulness
Jealousy		co-happiness
Anger		Happiness
Power		Humble
Materialism		Spiritualism
Madness		Wisdom
War		Peace
Coldness		Sympathy
Past/future oriented		Now orientation
Intolerance		Tolerance
Self-importance		We-importance
Egoism		Altruism
Self-denial		Self-acceptance
Social intolerance		Social acceptance
Living up to this and that		Simplicity
Doing		Just be

Falls City's United Valentines Dinner!



Valentines Dinner at Falls City is coming! It will be on February 14 at the First United Methodist Church in Falls City, 5pm and 7pm seatings. To buy a ticket and reserve your place (they need to know how many people to plan for), call Kristy Major at 503-787-3744. It is a special meal with live music by talented people from both churches. Come and enjoy this special evening with your loved ones.

Packets to carry in your car for the **PERSON** on the street corner

Ever struggled with what you can do when you see someone homeless or begging on the street? Ever wondered, should I or shouldn't I give cash to people in such extreme circumstances? What about a gift card for fast food? Ever feel unable to directly help individuals you see just by donating to organizations that help people who are poor? Ever ask, "Am I endangering myself by approaching this person?" Ever wonder, "How can I give to someone in a respectful way – a way that does not demean them?"

Christ Churches Peace, Mission, and Justice Team (PMJ) has developed a list of items that can be placed in a one gallon baggie packet to give directly to people on the street. The PMJ Team is making some of these packets, but we as individuals can do the same on a more personal basis throughout the year.

Here is the suggestion list PMJ has come up with. It can be modified as you see fit.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bottle of water | <input type="checkbox"/> Small box of raisins or dried cranberries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pair of socks | <input type="checkbox"/> Small, easy to open container of fruit (something soft) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soft energy bars | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic spoon (preferably wrapped or sealed in cellophane) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peanut butter & crackers | <input type="checkbox"/> Small packet of baby wipes, facial tissues, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (optional - gift card for fast food) | |

Polk Community Free Clinic

It is a great pleasure to write a brief summary of our free medical clinic activities for 2014. First of all, a HUGE thank you to all of those at Christ's Church United who are so deeply invested in supporting the work of PCFC. Without all of this team it would not be possible to offer this service to our communities and those in need.

We also want to thank the prayer shawl makers. Because of your efforts, there were 46 prayer shawls offered to our clients. The clients report how wonderful it is to put those shawls around their shoulders to feel the love of Christ.

This past year there were a lot of changes in the Health Care System and the overall number of people seeking health care through the clinic decreased. There has been more effort to help get the word out that our clinic is still open to those who still eligible and in need these services. In spite of a lot of changes in the Health Care System, clinic days continue to have a full schedule. Individual persons served in 2014 were about 100 fewer than served in 2013. In 2014, a total of 233 people were seen in 307 appointments. New clients totaled 82. Diagnoses overwhelmingly continue to be diabetes and hypertension. While the overall number of people seeking health care decreased last year, the number of people still eligible and in need, demonstrate the Polk Community Free Clinic is remains necessary.

A couple examples of results from the efforts of Polk Community Free Clinic come to mind: A man in his 40's came in concerned he was experiencing symptoms of diabetes. He comes back routinely now to be involved in diabetes education and is learning to be much more in control of this potentially devastating condition. His lab values now show that he in control, not the disease. Another example is a woman who initially came to the clinic to get medication for her thyroid condition, now has had cataract surgery. She is delighted to have the medication to manage the thyroid condition and now has her vision back, as well. Both developments have greatly improved the quality of her life. These stories would not have happened without the free clinic.

– Gail Saxowski

Per Capita Giving

Christ's Church is connected to both United Methodist and Presbyterian Denominations. It is the time of year when we send in statistical reports and also send in our Church's dues for denomination support. The Presbyterians consider this a fee per capita of our members, that is, how much per person, and the United Methodist consider a formula determine "apportionments," that is, how much per church, based on our budget. If each of us would give \$15 in addition to whatever we have already pledged, our per capita giving would be covered. Please consider contributing this amount. Just put "per capita" on the memo line of your check or as a note with other payment forms, and it will be taken care of! And if you are able, and suspect that the person next to you on the pew is not able to pay this, you could pay it forward and contribute \$30! Thank you so much!



Again, please contact Linda Grund-Clampit (503-510-6511) or any member of the Stewardship Team if you have any questions.

The Stewardship Team

expresses its gratitude to each one of you for your faithful and generous support of the ministry of Christ's Church this past year. Marvelous ministry was done this past year due to both your giving and your doing! In terms of finances, we want to report to you that we ended 2014 with a slightly over \$6,000 balance in the General Fund. This is due to your giving, but also to careful management of our expenses and to rebates related to health insurance expenses for our pastors. Some may wonder why we didn't send that \$6,000 on to our denominations to do the great work that they can do through our connectional systems. That was discussed, but the reality is that our 2015 budget is about \$4,000 short on income as compared to expenses, so this positive balance as we begin the year may need to cover that gap. But we will see how it goes as we move forward. Our priority is always to maximize the ministry we can do, both in our local community and around the world through our denominations.

Please contact Linda Grund-Clampit (503-510-6511) or any member of the Stewardship

Western Compass

Three students and the director of Western Compass, Katie Moss, will be traveling to Guatemala during spring break this spring. Katie actively helps students understand the connection between our Christian beliefs and social justice for all people of the world. A focus of this ministry is a presence on campus by selling and promoting Fair Trade products. The trip this spring will enable the travelers to visit first hand with the farmers involved in Fair Trade and to work shoulder to shoulder with some of the people and programs in Guatemala.

Western Compass continues to be our Christian presence on the campus of Western Oregon University. Its Advisory Board, which includes members from several churches in the Dallas, Monmouth, and Independence area, continues to creatively support activities to promote fellowship and discussions around spiritual matters.

The Western Compass Mission team will also meet with Leslie Vogel a Presbyterian missionary in Guatemala. The PJM (Peace, Justice and Mission) Team, chose Leslie as our CCMP Presbyterian connection to the mission field. We hope she will visit with us during her next visit to the states, and we also hope to have some meaningful contact with her before then. It is also our hope that we send something with the team to support her ministry.

Meet our newest Missionary!**Leslie Vogel***Serving Christ in Guatemala*

Leslie is an intercultural encounters facilitator with the Evangelical Center for Pastoral Studies of Central America (CEDEPCA). She helps CEDEPCA provide people from the US with opportunities that enable them to work alongside Guatemalans and experience everyday life in the country. It's a position that draws on her passion to build relationships with people who are suffering, marginalized, and seeking justice and offer them presence, accompaniment, and solidarity. "My sense of call has always been expressed best by the Hebrew prophet Micah (6:8): 'What does God require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?'" Leslie says. "This call has challenged and nurtured my soul by leading me to serve as a bridge between peoples and cultures."

Mission Co-Worker, Leslie Vogel and the people of Guatemala

pcusa.org/leslie-vogel

leslie.vogel@pcusa.org

Address CEDEPCA Apartado Postal 2834
01901 Guatemala City,
Guatemala Central America

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Spreading information about our free medical clinic remaining a resource is vitally important. We all can help spread the word. While the overall number of people seeking health care decreased last year, the number of people still eligible and in need, demonstrate the Polk Community Free Clinic is remains necessary.

A couple examples of results from the efforts of Polk Community Free Clinic come to mind: A man in his 40's came in concerned he was experiencing symptoms of diabetes. He comes back routinely now to be involved in diabetes education and is learning to be much more in control of this potentially devastating condition. His lab values now show that he is in control, not the disease.

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Thank you! As editor, it is wonderful to have so many contributions turned in this month. Good job, all! You, we are together, truly making this newsletter our own. I'm delighted at your participation. In fact, this month, so many articles were submitted that there was no room for denominational news.

So, to check out the latest on what we are doing nationally and internationally, please visit the denominational websites. Together we are doing a lot. The links to both the Methodist and the Presbyterian websites follow. I hope you enjoy exploring them:

Methodist: <http://www.umc.org>

Presbyterian: <http://www.pcusa.org>

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

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13 (NIV)



Financial Corner for Christ's Church, January 2015

Budgeted income year-to-date	\$6,360	Actual Income year-to-date	\$1,098
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Notes:

- Usual monthly expenses including salaries have not been included yet for Jan.
- General Fund for 2014 finished with a positive balance. YEAH !!!!