



# The Messenger

July 2015



Christ's Church Methodist & Falls City United Methodist Church

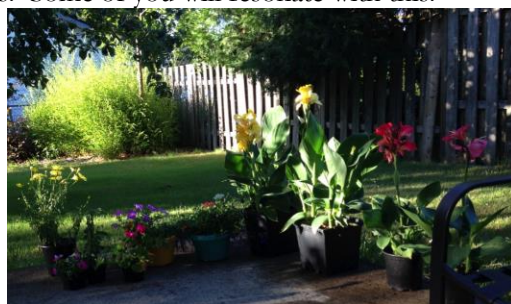
## Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Church in two places:

*Summertime, and the livin' is easy...*

Maybe a little easy, but certainly beautiful, as we enjoy summer blossoms and await those tomatoes from the garden. And water. And water.

Looking back over our first year together, what fun we've had! We have started to get to know one another one to one, to my deep delight, and we have a ways to go yet! My reflections about my first year of ministry here have spiraled around to a new appreciation of my basic personality type – an introvert who needs sufficient time alone, who is most comfortable in very small groups (*where two or three are gathered...*), who comes alive in worship, and then needs to take a two-hour nap. Statistically, most clergy are introverts, in a culture that values extroverts. We do learn to compensate and act “outgoing” for meetings and other gatherings, but we may get overwhelmed with all the personalities and not be our most skilled selves in medium-sized or large groups. Some of you will resonate with this.



The author of a blog I to which I subscribe recently commented on her inner life. She wrote, “*Every time I move, I have to learn how to pray all over again.*” Whoa. I exhaled with recognition. A year ago, I moved here, and have expended great internal and external energy getting settled again. Gardening is part of my spiritual life – it is solitary, it is literally “grounding,” and it can produce delicious “fruit.” I am beginning to learn to pray all over again.

All to say, it is good to start feeling grounded as I work in the dirt, and tending to my inner growth as well; and to let you know that I desire more small group

(Continued on page three.)

## REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

### SUNDAY

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

### TUESDAY

- 7:00pm **Boy Scouts** (CC Lower Level)  
 7:00pm **Committees** (CC Library)  
 7:00pm **Adventist Church** (CC Sanctuary)

### WEDNESDAY

- 8:00am **Lectionary Discussion Group** (Independence Grill)  
 On summer hiatus: Joy Bells Practice (CC Sanctuary)  
 On summer hiatus: Choir Practice (CC Sanctuary)

### THURSDAY

- 5:30pm On summer hiatus: Valley Zen Circle  
 On summer hiatus: Thursday Book Study

### FRIDAY

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

### SATURDAY

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

## MONTHLY EVENTS

- ul 3&4 **Ice Cream Booth**, Monmouth City Park
- ul 7 **Peace, Justice, & Mission Team**, 1<sup>st</sup> Tue (7pm, CC Library)
- ul 7 **James2 Dinner**, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tue (5pm, FC Friendship Room)
- ul 15 **SPRC Meeting, CC**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed (7am, Independence Grill)
- ul 16 **Board Meeting, Western Compass Campus Ministry**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu (10am, CC Library)
- ul 17 **Blood Drive** at Trinity Lutheran Church in Dallas
- ul 21 **Board Meeting, CC**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue (7pm, CC Library)
- ul 25 **Polk Community Free Clinic**, 4<sup>th</sup> Sat (7:30am, Trinity)
- ul 25 **Submission Due Date** for July Newsletter
- ul 28 **James2 Dinner**, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tue (5pm, FC Friendship Room)
- ul 29 **Board Meeting, FC**, last Wed (7pm, FC Friendship Room)
- ul 30 **Neighborhood Block Party** (6-8pm, CC back yard)
- ug 1 Multiple Sclerosis Society **"Bike MS"**

*Plan for these coming events!*

### Christ's Church (CC)

Methodist & Presbyterian  
 412 Clay Street W.

Monmouth, OR 97361

[www.christschurchmonmouth.org](http://www.christschurchmonmouth.org)

CC's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/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](http://www.fallscityumc.org)

**Office Hours:** M–F, 9am–12pm  
 (Monmouth Site)

(503) 838-1724

email: [ccmpunited@gmail.com](mailto:ccmpunited@gmail.com)

### Pastor Becky Strader

Becky's cell: (802) 454-8304

email: [ccmppastor@gmail.com](mailto:ccmppastor@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Editor: Joy Brown

email: [jrbrown@me.com](mailto:jrbrown@me.com)

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



07/01 Diane McBurnett  
 07/02 Carol Brown  
 07/07 Anna Joy Brown  
 07/15 Mark Kershner  
 07/19 Emily Trigg

**Pastors Ponderings, cont.**

...conversations with you, where I will be able to listen attentively and to let you see beyond that outgoing *persona* that I wear in larger groups. I hope to share the parsonage and its considerable grounds with you this summer at a potluck, and also to gather with you for more intimate meals and conversation, helped by a very dear and hardworking Staff-Parish Relations Committee. But don't wait for an invitation, if you'd like to have coffee, or dinner, or take a walk, or shop for plants...and we can let each other know what is on our hearts, what is wilting for lack of living water, and what is blooming in our lives.

Blessings,

*Becky*

July's fill-in Bible Verse (complete verse is on last page)

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus*

**Prayer Tree Ministry**

Please continue to hold these people in your prayers including Shelby Case; Beth Fleisher; Lisa Fowler & family; Meagan Gibson; Bob Goodman; Paul LaRue; Beth and Tom Ritchey; Rudy and friend, Sandy; Jim & Jean Smith; Ruth Sonnenschein; Tom and Kendra Van Gelder's family members who were unable to attend the christening of Virginia; the family of Elizabeth Weiss

Those dealing with health issues including Mo Jaffer, Lorraine Reed, Georgia Wildfang

Please pray for including those who are immigrating, new graduates, moving, remembering and honoring Native Peoples; retiring former pastor, James Simmons; victims of floods, earthquakes,



And offer prayers of joy and gladness for

- The wedding of **DeeJay Whitehead** and **TaMichael**;
- The birth **Virginia Van Gelder** (pictured on right) to Tom and Kendra (and to sister, Lydia, and brother, Dirk);
- The birth of a baby boy, **Axtyn Jay Louis Jordt** (pictured above). Born 6/18/2015, weighing 7lbs 12oz and 20 inches long to Christina and Jeci Jordt, (and brother, Jeremy).



Food Items Focus in July

Supplies for Birthdays and Celebrations!



Do you know how many people from

our Christ's Church family volunteer to help make the Polk Community Free Clinic function?"

The answer is seven actively involved with another 2 - 3 persons who create prayer shawls to be given out to our patients.

There have been 22 prayer shawls given out already in 2015 as of the end of May. In 2014 there were a total of 46 prayer shawls given out.

What a blessing to those who receive the shawls to have a way to be reminded of Christ's love.



Bishop Hagiya's closing remarks at Annual Conference, June 13th, 2015

Bishop Hagiya lifted up the importance of repentance during our time together this week. He instructed us to take the book we were each given, "On This Spirit Walk," and study it and use it. Repentance is not a one-time act. We must open our eyes and see our native brothers and sisters, and to take time to be in fellowship with them. The Bishop challenged us to give financial resources, and back up our words with actions. If we leave here, and do nothing, our time here will simply become yet another broken promise. He asked the Methodist Conference Members to take these learning's and ideas back to our churches to continue the conversation."

– Submitted by Jo Ann King, Lay Leader



American Red Cross Blood Drive

On July 17 a blood drive is being held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Dallas. (320 SE Fir Villa Road in Dallas) Contact Alvera Blanchard at 503-623-8284 for more information.



Lost and Found

Do any of these items look familiar? Might they be yours? If so, please contact the office at (503) 838-1724.





Little Boxes, Tiny Boxes, Pretty Boxes.  
 Crafts and Arts – Come and Join Us Fridays  
 at 6:30, we do have fun.

Arts & Crafts group enjoy making, creating many  
 fun and interesting things. Last Friday we made  
 boxes for some of the little creatures that were  
 made over the last few weeks. Look dinosaurs,  
 rabbits, penguins and beavers. Ducks and more  
 to come.



Our goal is to have some comradery time with fellow Christians, and to find crafts and art that we can sell to raise funds for Christian Education. Fridays at 6:30 pm at Sherry's house. Call Church office for phone number and directions.

.....

In memory of Elizabeth A. Weiss, Sunday, June 28th, a large gathering celebrated her life with photographs, music and remembrances. Elizabeth's family made a small memento based on an item found in her belongings. This small elegant card with a lovely painting on one side and a poem of solace on the other was available for all who were able to attend the remembrance. As Elizabeth found comfort in these words, so might all of us who knew and loved her.

**SAFELY HOME**

I am home in heaven, dear ones;  
 Oh so happy and so bright!  
 There is perfect joy and beauty  
 In this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief is over,  
 Every restless tossing passed;  
 I am now at peace forever,  
 Safely home in Heaven at last.

There is work still waiting for you,  
 So you must not idly stand;  
 Do it now, while life remains,  
 You shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is all completed,  
 He will gently call you Home;  
 Oh, the rapture of that meeting,  
 Oh, the joy to see you come!

– Submitted by Sherry Pittam  
 .....

.....

We have had another passing of a loved one from our church family. Many of us know Ruth LaRue as her husband, Paul, with Ruth by his side, pastored at both the Falls City Church and Christ's Church in years past. Paul was even campus minister at WOU at one time (many years ago). Since retiring, Paul and Ruth LaRue were members of Christ's Church until they moved to Capital Manor in Salem, when they joined Jason Lee UMC in Salem. After their move to Salem, Paul has continued to help out in many ways, covering the pulpit for other ministers when needed, presiding at church conferences for us many times, although not so much in recent years. Now it is time for us to be of support and comfort for Paul and his family, including Paul's son Arthur, who is married to Bev and Richard Davis' daughter, Wendy. That wedding took place at Christ's Church not too many years ago. Paul and Ruth are beloved friends of many in the Christ's Church and Falls City congregations.

.....



**Catholic And Evangelical Leaders Agree: We have a Moral Obligation To Act on Climate Change**

June 23, 2015. Close to 100 faith leaders are calling for lawmakers to act on climate change, urging elected officials to heed the words of Pope Francis and pass legislation that can help slow the advance of global warming.

On Tuesday, a group of religious leaders took out a full-page advertisement on the back page of Politico to offer resounding support for Pope Francis and his recently-released encyclical on the environment, a landmark work of Catholic teaching which argued that governments have a moral obligation to address human-caused climate change.

“As Catholic and evangelical leaders, we are deeply inspired by Pope Francis’ encyclical addressing our shared responsibility to be prudent stewards of creation,” the ad reads. “As citizens of the most powerful nation in human history, we have a unique responsibility to promote sustainable development, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and build a thriving culture of life that protects human dignity.”

...Still, the move appears to be geared toward riding the energy sparked by Francis’ encyclical, a nearly 184-page document that made a robust, faith-based case for protecting the earth and taking action on climate change. In addition to surprisingly vigorous discussions of climate science and environmental issues, the letter specifically refuted old conservative religious arguments that God gave humanity the earth to exploit at will. Instead, Francis encouraged his fellow Catholics and other Christians to be good stewards of the earth, especially since the people most impacted by climate change are the poor and dispossessed.

“It is important to read the biblical texts in their context, with the right hermeneutics, and remember that these invite us to ‘cultivate and care for’ (Gen. 2:15) the garden of the world,” the encyclical reads. “While ‘cultivate’ means to plow or work a plot, ‘to care for’ means to protect, heal, preserve, conserve, to watch over.”

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/06/23/3673212/faith-leaders-back-pope-on-climate/>



**Bike MS**

Our church family has been asked if any of us can provide “event support” for the Oregon National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Meggie Cockburn writes us to tell us she is the Volunteer Engagement Intern for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Oregon Chapter. She is reaching out to request event support from Christ’s Church at the Multiple Sclerosis Society annual event, “Bike MS”. It will take place from July 31 through August 2, 2015, and it will start and finish at Western Oregon University. She emphasizes, “We are in need of volunteers of all ages!”

Multiple Sclerosis Society is a non-profit organization that supports individuals and their families who are affected by Multiple Sclerosis (MS). The Oregon Chapter serves over 7,700 individuals living with MS in Oregon and SW Washington by funding cutting-edge research, driving change through advocacy, facilitating professional education, and providing programs and services to help people affected by MS move their lives forward.

Volunteer assistance is sought for route support to alert riders to upcoming left hand turns, blind turns/intersections, or other areas of the route that could be potentially hazardous to riders on Saturday, August 1st. “The event has always been a safe ride, but we would feel better knowing that we’ve added this extra layer of safety. We are also in need of volunteers for the start and finish line of our race. From cheering on cyclists, to ‘day of check in’ and registration, this is a great volunteer opportunity for youth, children and adults to do together.”

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

**United Methodists welcome health care ruling**

*By Heather Hahn | June 25, 2015 | NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS)*

The U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to uphold subsidies for health insurance bought on the federal exchange comes as a relief to many United Methodist clergy and lay church employees. The ruling also affects millions of other Americans.

Four United Methodists conferences currently send all or some of their local church employees to buy insurance on the exchanges.

The 6-3 ruling in King v. Burwell also affects The United Methodist Church’s longtime social emphasis on increasing people’s access to health care.

<http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/courts-health-care-ruling-affects-united-methodists>

**Mourning for Charleston, then praying for action**

*By Linda Bloom | June 22, 2015 | NEW YORK (UMNS)*

Through Sunday sermons, prayer vigils and public statements, United Methodists are expressing feelings of sorrow, determination and hope over the racially motivated June 17 massacre of nine church members at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina...

Rather than dissect the killer’s motive, suggested the Rev. Cathy Jamieson-Ogg, Columbia, South Carolina district superintendent, focus on the bigger picture. “We may be tempted to overanalyze what happened, but let us look forward and ask, ‘What will motivate us to prevent this kind of violence from happening again?’ she noted. “What will motivate us to tear down racial, political, ethnic, economic, and religious boundaries, and build a world of harmony and peace?”

...Action is required beyond prayer vigils, said the Rev. Tiffany Knowlin, pastor at College Place United Methodist Church in Columbia, South Carolina, in her sermon. “We must open our mouths for silence is consent. Individually and collectively, we must stand for that which is right, if and when we see and engage troubled people who have said they wish to harm others. We are morally responsible for saying, for doing something.”

Still, when family members of the victims told the accused shooter they forgave him, “that’s the positive response of a child of God,” said the Rev. George Ashford Jr., pastor of Journey United Methodist Church in Columbia, South Carolina.

But communities need to wake up and look at society’s challenges, Ashford added. "Anytime the church is under attack, we're all under attack." <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/mourning-for-charleston-then-praying-for-action>

**PC(USA) advocates celebrate Supreme Court decision on same-gender marriage**

**Church leaders say education is the next step**

JUNE 26, 2015 | LOUISVILLE

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is celebrating the **U.S. Supreme Court ruling** that same-gender couples have a constitutional right to marry nationwide, striking down bans in 14 states. Church leaders believe today’s ruling is a step in the right direction as society’s views have continued to change in recent years. In its 5-4 opinion, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote “the right to marry is a fundamental right inherent in the liberty of a person and under the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment, couples of the same sex may not be deprived of that right and that liberty.”

“The PC(USA) has advocated for almost four decades for civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. Today’s decision by the U.S. Supreme Court is in keeping with that work,” said Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons... <http://www.pcusa.org/news/2015/6/26/pcusa-celebrates-supreme-court-decision-same-gende/>





**Editor’s Corner:**

This last week of June has seemed momentous. Do you feel we’re witnessing history, even participating, in recent days? Exciting, isn’t it? So where do we go from here? Today’s leaders have been speaking to all of us reiterating the same themes. Along with tremendous changes comes tremendous opportunities, and tremendous hope.

- In his [encyclical](#), Pope Francis emphasized the importance of our interconnectedness. “Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow

human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.”  
<http://billmoyers.com/2015/06/20/pope-francis-encyclical-urgent-response-poverty/>

- We must... take time to be in fellowship ...[to] back up our words with actions. If we leave here, and do nothing, our time here will simply become yet another broken promise.  
 – Methodist Bishop Hagiya
- President Obama eulogized Reverend Clementa Pinckney saying “He embodied the idea that our Christian faith demands deeds and not just words; that the “sweet hour of prayer” actually lasts the whole week long -- that to put our faith in action is more than individual salvation, it's about our collective salvation; that to feed the hungry and clothe the naked and house the homeless is not just a call for isolated charity but the imperative of a just society.” <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/06/26/remarks-president-eulogy-honorable-reverend-clementa-pinckney>

So what are these people, and many other leaders saying to us? They’re telling us basic truths. Basic truths from biblical and religious teachings shine through it all:

- **CONNECTEDNES**
  - **FELLOWSHIP**
    - **ACTION...**
      - **COLLECTIVE SALVATION**

– Joy



**Financial Corner:** From Jan 1, 2015 to June 29, 2015 Christ’s Church financial Income and Expenses are as follows:

Income:	\$ 74,094.35
Expenses:	\$ 64,423.23

***The rest of this July’s “fill-in the blanks” Bible Verse:***

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* – Galatians 3:28 (ESV)