



The Messenger

October 2015



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

Pastor's Ponderings

Friends:

Recently, I've been reading and thinking a good deal about transformation and repentance, about forgiveness and possibility. What gets in the way of the transformation we say we look for in Christ, the Great Transformer?

I am reading about the Day of Awe, when our Jewish brothers and sisters take stock of their lives and ask for forgiveness from God and from those they have harmed, or whether I am pondering the trajectory of this congregation in the limited time I will be with you, I wonder at our human resistance to and fear of change. What will we lose? What will we have to grieve?

I am reading a book by Peter Block called *Community: the Structure of Belonging*. This book could relate to business or government sectors, but it is very well suited to the community of faith. He looks to the building of a restorative community, and offers a model to invite and engage people in working together for change.

He also offers some sample questions for us to ask ourselves, should we be ready to join in the effort. Here are a few starters that I invite you to ponder...and I'd love to hear the conversation that might result:

What are the crossroads you are faced with at this point in time? What declaration of possibility can you make that has the power to transform the community and inspire you? Then...

What have I done to contribute to the very thing I complain about or want to change?

What is the story about this community that you hear yourself most often telling? The one you are wedded to and maybe even take your identity from?

What are the payoffs you receive from holding on to this story?

What is your attachment to this story costing you?¹

In other words, are we willing to change how we think about who we are, to think in terms of possibilities and cooperation rather than allowing our understanding of our past – positive or negative – put blinders on us?

What do you think?

Becky

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

- 9:00am **Fellowship** (FC Friendship Room)
 9:20am **Worship** (FC Sanctuary)
 10:00am **Prayer Room Open**, CC
 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** (Indep. Grill)
 6:00pm **Joy Bells Practice** (CC Sanctuary)
 7:00pm **Choir Practice** (CC Sanctuary)

THURSDAY

- 5:30pm **Valley Zen Circle**
 6:30pm **Book Discussion** (S. Pittam's)

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

- 7:30am **Free Medical Clinic** 1st & 4th Sat (Trinity Lutheran Church, Dallas)
 9:00am **Adventist Church** (9am-8pm, CC)

MONTHLY EVENTS

- Oct 4 **Nominations Team** (after service, CC Library)
 Oct 6 **Peace, Justice, & Mission Team**, 1st Tue (7pm, CC Library) with Monmouth Police Chief Darrell Tallan
 Oct 7 **Horizons**, 1st Wed (1pm, Brookdale's Small Dining Rm)
 Oct 8 **Give Us an Hour!** Polk Community Free Clinic (5-6pm) Pressed Coffee and Wine Bar, 788 Main Street, Dallas
 Oct 13 **Worship Committee Mtg** 2nd Tue (7pm, CC Library)
 Oct 13 **James2 Dinner**, 2nd & 4th Tue (5pm, FC Friendship Rm)
 Oct 14 **SPRC Meeting, CC**, 2nd Wed (7am, Independence Grill)
 Oct 15 **Campus Ministry Board Mtg** 3rd Thu (10am, CC Library)
 Oct 17 **Old Time Fiddler's Benefit** (Sat., 1pm, FC)
 Oct 18 **Bags of Hope assembly**, Sun (after worship, CC)
 Oct 21 **Board Meeting, FC** 3rd Wed (7pm, FC Friendship Rm)
 Oct 20 **Board Meeting, CC**, 3rd Tue (7pm, CC Library)
 Oct 20 **RSVP for Hospitality Dessert Benefit** (CC Office)
 Oct 21 **Charge Conference/Annual Meeting** (Wed., 7pm, CC)
 Oct 25 **Submission Due Date** for Messenger Newsletter
 Oct 27 **James2 Dinner**, 2nd & 4th Tue (5pm, FC Friendship Room)
 Oct 25 **Christian Education** (4th Sun after worship, CC Library)
 Oct 30 **Hospitality Dessert Benefit** (Fri (7pm, Reed Opera House, RSVP by Oct. 20!))
 Nov 22 **Hunger Harvest Dinner** from the **Peace, Justice, & Mission Team**

Christ's Church (CC)

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

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

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: jrbrown@me.com



10/03 Nathan Brown

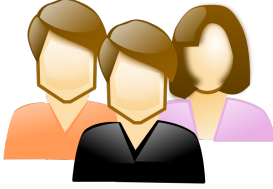
10/06 Henry Kreft

10/08 Roland Brown

10/09 Beth Ritchey

10/17 Jake Major

Please remember our annual joint **Charge Conference / Annual Meeting** held for both our congregations.



The joint congregational meeting will be held on Wed, Oct. 21, from 7-8pm, at Christ's Church. (SPRC will meet with District Superintendent Peg Lofsvold at 6:30pm in the Library). See you there!

Questions to consider for the **Charge Conference** held for both our congregations. These will be asked as a springboard for discussion and learning from one another.

Consider these questions posed by District Office:

1. *How are you living as a follower of Jesus Christ, personally and as a congregation?*
2. *What practices do you keep so you might grow in faith?*
3. *How are you inviting new people into your community of faith, and helping them grow spiritually?*

An Open Invitation!

The Peace, Justice, Mission Ministry Team meets this coming week on Tuesday, Oct. 6th, will feature an open discussion with a local guest, the Monmouth Police Chief Darrell Tallan.

The goal of the group discussion is to start dialogue to better understand our local needs and concerns. Your thoughts, concerns, and questions will be helpful, so please do come. Thanks!

This month's fill-in the Bible Verse (complete verse is on last page)

"I can _____ through him who gives me strength."

Prayer Ministry

Please continue to hold these people in your prayers including Shirley Cage; Shelby Case; Jaque Eicher (previously Fornay); Beth Fleisher; Lisa Fowler & family; Marj Howard; Mark Kershner & family; Megan Gipson; Lorraine Reed; Beth & Tom Ritchey; Jim & Jean Smith; Emily Trigg; Lorraine Wells; Jo Yeager

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

Please pray for all students and teachers as they start a new school year; for the Western Compass Campus Ministry and for Jill as its new leader.

Prayers of intercession for the Sufi branch of Islam that is being persecuted in the Middle East; for the individuals and families affected by the tragic stampede of Hajj pilgrims; for refugees and homeless people everywhere, especially Europe and the Middle East, Northern Africa, Latin America, and people suffering right here, in our own country and local schools;

Prayers of gratitude for the visit of Pope Francis to this country; for pointing our important issues that affect everyone such as the challenge of immigration, the importance of the Golden Rule in all that we do, and for his moral leadership.

**COME HEAR THE
OREGON
OLD TIME
FIDDLERS**

**A BENEFIT PERFORMANCE AT THE
FALLS CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

MUSIC STARTS AT 1PM!

CONCERT IS FREE TO ALL!



**A DONATION BAKE SALE WILL ALSO BE HELD.
CONTRIBUTIONS TO HELP MAINTAIN OUR
HISTORIC 1892 CHURCH BUILDING ARE
WELCOME!**



Refugee Crisis information:

(copy and use these web addresses)

United Methodists

<http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/european-refugee-aid-goes-beyond-food>

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

<https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/syria/>

Church World Service

<http://www.cwsglobal.org/our-work/you-can-help-syrian-refugees.html>

Hunger Harvest Dinner – Plans are already moving forward for our annual Hunger Harvest Dinner on Nov. 22 – to be discussed further at next **Peace, Justice, & Mission Team** meeting and may be focus of event will be more of a time of sharing with our church family.

Hospitality!

*Announcement: A fund-raiser for the entire **Interfaith Hospitality Network in October**: “Join us for dessert, Friday, October 20, 7:00-8:00 p.m., Reed Opera House Ballroom. Please **RSVP** by October 20 to Jill@SalemIHN.org (This is another “bring your checkbook event”)*

**Salem Interfaith
Hospitality Network**

cordially invites you to the
Autumn Dessert Celebration

Thursday, October 30th, 2014, 7:00 pm
At the Reed Opera House Ballroom

RSVP by October 20

*Creating Hope. Nurturing
Strength. Transforming Lives.*

Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God

Linda Scheirman is one of our wider United Methodist Church's leaders in United Methodist Women. At our Conference's recent Mission U, she taught a course on happiness, and how it springs from our life in God. The overview of the course points out that from Augustine and Thomas Aquinas, through the Wesleys, and certainly in today's search for meaning, happiness has been and is a worthy goal -- not just deep "joy" -- but happiness in our lives.

Linda will be teaching this course around the conference, and would like to offer it at Christ's Church, also. She will need to hear from you about your interest, and what a good time might be for scheduling it. Sunday before or after worship would be a couple of possibilities. Please speak with her or email her. Falls City folks, this could work for you, too, if you'd like to attend!

Happiness



**You are Invited to: Give Us An Hour
October 8, 2015
5 – 6 PM**

Come to Pressed Coffee and Wine Bar, 788 Main Street, Dallas to learn about Polk Community Free Clinic and to help celebrate four (4) years of providing medical care in our community. Hors d'oeuvres will be served as you are presented with stories of how this clinic has affected the recipients and volunteers of our communities.

Call the clinic office: 503-831-0551 to reserve an individual seat or a table for eight. Or email: polkclinic.info@gmail.com (Space is limited)

Christ's Church 2015 Stewardship Campaign: October 11 - November 5

Each year we need to check in with the congregation to request pledges of support for the upcoming year, so that we can build the church budget for the next year. . . that's one way to look at it.

Another way: each year we try to give ourselves the opportunity to consider what we are giving back to God, to look at our spiritual discipline of stewardship.

Stewardship encompasses not just money, but also time and talent. When we join the church we promise to support the church with our time, talent, and tithe. The Nominating Committee asks us each year to consider how we might contribute some of our time and talent to the life of the congregation. The Stewardship Team asks us to consider how we are living out our faith with our money.

Does our spending reflect our stated priorities? Do we understand money as not only a tool, but also as a responsibility? Do we think about how our spending can bless others? Do we understand that God cares for the world through us? Do we believe that our security lies in God or in our wealth?

We are planning a low-key campaign this year. At the beginning of the campaign, a letter will go out to everyone with 2 sample budgets for 2016: one that maintains the status quo, and one that adds some possible new efforts. The level of giving needed to support each will be described. We'll have brief presentations during worship during the first three Sundays of the campaign: Oct. 11, Oct. 18, and Oct. 25. We'll send another letter out before Sunday, November 5th with pledge cards and ask that you return them at worship on Sunday, Nov. 5 or to the church office beforehand.

Please plan to be present in worship, to consider the presentations and communications, and to prayerfully consider your support of our congregation in 2016. Thank you.

– Linda Grund-Clampit, on behalf of the Stewardship Team

“Home” by Warsan Shire

"You have to understand,
that no one puts their children in a boat
unless the water is safer than the land

No one burns their palms
under trains
beneath carriages
no one spends days and nights in the
stomach of a truck
feeding on newspaper unless the miles
travelled
means something more than journey.
no one crawls under fences
no one wants to be beaten
pitied

no one chooses refugee camps
or strip searches where your
body is left aching
or prison,
because prison is safer
than a city of fire
and one prison guard
in the night
is better than a truckload
of men who look like your father
no one could take it
no one could stomach it
no one skin would be tough enough

the
go home blacks
refugees
dirty immigrants
asylum seekers
sucking our country dry
niggers with their hands out
they smell strange
savage
messed up their country and now they
want
to mess ours up
how do the words
the dirty looks
roll off your backs

maybe because the blow is softer
than a limb torn off

or the words are more tender
than fourteen men between
your legs
or the insults are easier
to swallow
than rubble
than bone
than your child body
in pieces.

I want to go home,
but home is the mouth of a shark
home is the barrel of the gun
and no one would leave home
unless home chased you to the shore
unless home told you
to quicken your legs
leave your clothes behind
crawl through the desert
wade through the oceans
drown
save
be hunger
beg
forget pride
your survival is more important

no one leaves home until home is a
sweaty voice in your ear
saying-
leave,
run away from me now
i dont know what i've become
but I know that anywhere
is safer than here"

#kiyiyavuraninsanlik

#HumanityWashedAShore

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. (Matthew 25:35)"

Dear friends in Christ,

Many of you have called my office [Presbytery in Portland] regarding the European refugee crisis and what we as a community of faith can do.

GIVE

ACT

PRAY



In this letter I am providing links and information of what we are already engaged/doing as a denomination as well as opportunities for each person in our congregations to be involved, contribute and support efforts to alleviate this refugee crisis.

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been engaged with our church partners doing refugee work in Europe and in Lebanon and Syria. PDA is working with ACT

Alliance in this crisis. We are supporting their efforts as we assess the situation and determine other ways that we can provide support. Here are the links to the work we are doing:

<http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/european-refugee-crisis/> <http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/syria/>

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is part of the World Council of Churches and as such we join the efforts of the Church World Service resettlement offices and a national petition asking President Obama to increase the resettlement of Syrian refugees.

PDA also worked with the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness to send out an Action Alert this week encouraging the US Government to do more in the US and Overseas:

<http://capwiz.com/pcusa/issues/alert/?alertid=67812641>

In the US, we partner primarily with Church World Service and their resettlement programs in 33 locations. The CWS affiliate in Portland, OR is SOAR:

As a presbytery we financially support and partner with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO). Since the 1970s, through the generosity of congregations, community groups and individuals has enabled Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) to welcome and assist our new neighbors as they arrive in the Portland metro area. **For volunteer opportunities and/or donation contact the EMO offices directly.**

Faithfully in Christ,

Rev. Aleida Jernigan Co-Executive Presbyter
[Presbytery of the Cascades]

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

The United Methodist Church's Social Principles include this statement:

"We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination. We urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all."

Amid mounting frustration on all sides of the issue, the 2008 General Conference called for comprehensive immigration reform in the United States.

The UMC.org outlines historical context, information, and headlines related to the topic of Immigration. We invite you to learn more about the official position of the church. Find **resources** and learn ways **you can get involved**.

If you have more questions on this topic, contact www.umc.org/resources/infoserv and they will put you in touch with the appropriate church contact.



UMCOR joined with GlobalMedic to provide staples to refugees in northern Iraq.

UMCOR Focused on Alleviating Suffering in Syria, Iraq, Ukraine, and Nepal

by Linda Unger

Look up this article following the link below to find out more about current Methodist international efforts. These are not "fly by night" efforts, nor do they bounce from one crisis to another. Instead, they stay with these people, often for years, to alleviate the suffering caused by these events. "The beauty of UMCOR is, because of the values we ascribe to—impartiality, independence, humanity, and neutrality—the only thing that matters is human suffering. If somebody is suffering, we're called to be there—as UMCOR and as an extension of The United Methodist Church." - See more at:

<http://www.umcmision.org/find-resources/new-world-outlook-magazine/2015/sept/october/0929umcorfocused>



Editor’s Corner:

Goodness. It’s fall already! So much is happening in our churches as people return from summer vacations, family reunions, and much more. Now we need a couple of other Ushers for church services at Christ’s Church. Both of Christ’s Church Vocal and Bell choirs are starting up again. As if that’s not enough, also starting up again is the Thursday evening Book Group at Sherry Pittam’s. Those are just some of the regular, ongoing needs and activities all of us may participate in. All participants are welcome.

There is also the Friday Arts & Crafts extravaganza, meeting at Sherry’s. (They did not take the summer off, by the way – they’ve been busy. Currently they are working on prayer shawls.) There is the Polk County Free

Medical Clinic on the second Saturday of each month in Dallas, and the James II Dinners twice a month in Falls City. The Interfaith Hospitality Network was very busy this summer; support for homeless families with children is an ongoing mission – and there is a lot more that is happening this month. And of course, the Food Bank always needs all of us to bring in food donations. (Canned fruits are the focus this month.) All these activities continued through the summer. Some efforts just cannot go on vacation. And all of these would welcome and enjoy new participants. Please know you are invited and very welcome!

So, put on your rain gear and decide to join, or just to sample, any of these activities. They’ll put some sunshine back into your days. Enjoy!

– Joy

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Prayer ministry

There are times in our lives when we need special prayers for a friend, neighbor or loved one. The prayer tree quickly sends prayer requests via phone calls or email. If you need prayers or would like to be a part of this important ministry, please contact Bev Herzog at 503.409.6894 or by email at bev@herzogmail.net

Information about the Prayer tree

If you have a prayer request or know someone who does, please initiate including it with a call to Bev Herzog who heads up our prayer tree mission. Her phone number is 503.409.6894. Please call the church office if Bev is not available. If Bev is not available and the church office is closed you may contact our pastor, Becky Strader at 802.454.8304.

Preference and privacy

Prayer requests need to come from someone who directly knows the person(s) we are praying for and has asked and received permission for us to place them on a prayer list. The Prayer tree is open to anyone’s concerns. In the newsletter, though, which is a published document, I am working to keep the mentions to our church family, and to not use the names of extended family members unless they are known to the congregation(s). Thanks for your support and understanding.

Financial Corner:	As of September 2015, Christ’s Church Income & Expenses are as follows:
Income:	\$ 77,752.00
Expenses:	\$ 70,065.00

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

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

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