



The Messenger

September 2015



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

Pastor's Ponderings

Friends:

As the academic year starts up, we've been busy gathering school supplies and preparing for our Hospitality Week, which occurs just as school begins for our school-age guests.

The new program director for the Western Compass campus ministry has been hired (see page 3), and she will hit the ground running come September 1. I have been fortunate to gather information on campus ministry over the past few months, to prepare me to be a better advisory board member. Last week, I read on an Episcopal Church's young adult website about an intentional community of young adults reporting out on their year at St. Hilda's House, an Episcopal Service Corps site in New Haven, CT. Here is a powerful statement from young adults who are a bit tired of having others speak for their generation. I think you'll agree that they speak well for themselves:

The authors of this volume aren't interested in a dying Church. We aren't interested in hearing about declining attendance, spiritual apathy, or the incompatibility of faith and reason. We've grown up hearing that the Church must either reinvent or perish in the face of all these things- it gets repetitive, and it doesn't preach.

We are committed to a Church with a future – a future which is much the same as its past. We are committed to a Church which cannot count on a dominant culture for its sustenance. We are committed to a Church which doesn't count strength in terms of numbers. We are committed to a Church which recognises no foundation but Jesus Christ, which builds its life around His Word and Sacrament. We are committed to a Church which lives with and for the oppressed and downtrodden, working in faith so that the love of God might be borne to all.'

Amen to that! Blessings as autumn arrives.

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** (Independence Grill)
 5:30pm **Joy Bells Practice** (CC Sanctuary) Restarting the 16th
 7:00pm **Choir Practice** (CC Sanctuary) Restarting on the 16th

THURSDAY

- 5:30pm **Valley Zen Circle**
 6:30pm **Book Discussion** (Starting back up on the 17th)

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

MONTHLY EVENTS

- Sep 1 **Peace, Justice, & Mission Team**, 1st Tue (7pm, CC Library)
 Sep 2 **Horizons**, 1st Wed (1pm, Brookdale's Small Dining Room))
 Sep 6-13 **Hospitality Week**, Volunteers welcome!
 Sep 7 **Office Closed** for Labor Day
 Sep 8 **Worship Committee Meeting**
 Sep 8 **James2 Dinner**, 2nd & 4th Tue (5pm, FC Friendship Room)
 Sep 9 **SPRC Meeting, CC**, 2nd Wed (7am, Independence Grill)
 Sep 15 **Board Meeting, CC**, 3rd Tue (7pm, CC Library)
 Sep 16 **Choir, CC**, Starting back up! Come join! You're needed.
 Sep 17 **Board Meeting, Western Compass Campus Ministry**, 3rd Thu (10am, CC Library)
 Sep 17 **Thursday Study Group, CC**, Starting back up!
 Sep 22 **James2 Dinner**, 2nd & 4th Tue (5pm, FC Friendship Room)
 Sep 30 **Board Meeting, FC**, last Wed (7pm, FC Friendship Room)
 Sep 23 **Mission Lunch, CC** fundraiser (upstairs after Service)
 Sep 25 **Submission Due Date** for Messenger Newsletter
 Sep 27 **Christian Education** (12:45pm, CC Library)
 Sep 27 **Welcome Campus Ministry Potluck** (6pm, CC Fire Pit)

Put these dates on your calendars for next month:

- Oct 8 **Give Us an Hour!** Polk Community Free Clinic (5-6pm)
 Pressed Coffee and Wine Bar, 788 Main Street, Dallas
 Oct 17 **Old Time Fiddler's Benefit** (Sat., 1:30-3pm, FC)
 Oct 30 **Hospitality Dessert Benefit** (Fri., Reed Opera House,
 RSVP by Oct. 20)

Christ's Church (CC)

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www.christschurchmonmouth.org

CC's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christs-Church-Methodist-Presbyterian-United/576855235764119>

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You may donate online using
 PayPal by clicking "Donate" on:

www.fallscityumc.org

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- 09/02 Kay Graven**
09/02 Gillian Scott
09/05 Earl Jeldens
09/09 Vern Hiebert
09/10 DeeJay Scott, nee Whitehead
09/12 Sue Badgett
09/13 Walter Moser
09/20 Mo Jaffer
09/22 Dan Major
09/24 Kendra VanGelder

Announcement: New Program Director for Western Compass hired!

Please welcome Jill Mayer, a life-long United Methodist and recent graduate of Willamette University, who has been hired as Western Compass campus ministry's newest Program Director.

Jill hails from Auburn, Washington. She has been active in youth and young adult ministry both as a participant and as a leader. At Willamette, Jill participated in leading career discernment groups as part of a Lilly Foundation-funded project. Jill is also an award-winning singer.

Currently Jill is the Youth Director and Director of Spiritual Growth at Dallas United Methodist Church. One of Jill's claims to fame is that she ran her church's Stewardship Campaign as a 14-year-old. [Who can resist donating when a 14-year-old asks...?]

You can meet Jill and some new students on Sunday evening, September 27, for a potluck-around-the-fire-pit at Christ's Church at 6pm. We'll need you to bring side dish or salad or dessert and lawn chairs, and arrive by 5:45pm to get food organized. We hope we'll have members of all sponsoring congregations present to meet each other and Jill and the students!

Jill will meet the students at The Grove on campus, and walk them over to Christ's Church, so they will be able to find us. She assures us that she has been a guide, so she can walk backwards.

If you have sticks/skewers that you can bring for toasting marshmallows, and if the burn ban has been lifted by then, we'll have s'mores!



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

Hint: A new school year is starting!

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you _____."

Prayer Ministry

Please celebrate the arrival of Troy Jason Gootee, Maggie Triplett's newest grandchild!

Please continue to hold these people in your prayers including Shelby Case; Rudy Chavez; Kevin Elmore; Beth Fleisher; Lisa Fowler's extended family; Megan Gipson; the family of Wayne Kester; Jai King; Paul LaRue; Diane McBurnett's cousin Bill and her son Tristan; Dan Major; Kristi Motko, Beth Ritchey; Tom Ritchey; Jim & Jean Smith; Joy Trigg; Joan Wallace; Lorraine Wells; Jo Yeager

Those dealing with health issues including, Rudy Chavez, Cori Kershner Hatch; Lisa Fowler's oldest son, Brandon Hume; Mo Jaffer; Lorraine Reed; Georgia Wildfang

Please pray for all victims of forest fires and drought along with the fire fighters – and give thanks for rain; for the Cave Junction church which is providing a sanctuary for those affected by the forest fire; for those affected by the toxic chemical explosion in China; for victims of the chemical explosion in Conroe, Texas; for those suffering from mental illness; for those suffering from chronic pain; for those in our community crying for help, but who go unheard; prayers for teachers, students, and parents who are preparing for the start of a new school year; for candidates, that they may be more respectful of one another.

Prayers of intercession for the world that we find other ways to relate rather than dropping bombs; for humankind to use wisdom and courage to respond to and prevent further damage from climate change like severe forest fires



Volunteers!

We would appreciate a few more ushers, and some more people to take turns providing refreshments after-worship. (People do such a good job providing yummy refreshments already – we just need more of them.) Please call the office if you'd like to be added to one of both of those lists. Thank you.

Stevie was telling us all this morning, Sunday the 23rd, before worship **"It's almost September..."** Yes, it is, which means school is starting at all levels in the near future.



As a church family we have gathering school backpacks and supplies to help students have the tools they need for learning.

Why not consider, checking with the school closest to your home and volunteer to stop by once a week or once a month to help a teacher prepare items for their lessons, or read to a student or to listen while a student reads to you or sit have lunch with a lonely child. A little time can make a major difference for that child. !!

Please mark your calendars for the annual joint **Charge Conference** held for both our congregations.



It will be held on Wednesday, October 21, from 7-8pm, at Christ's Church. (SPRC will meet with District Superintendent Peg Lofsvold at 6:30pm in the Library). If you are a team chair, please have your report turned in to the office by October 16. Thanks!

The **Old Time Fiddlers** will be playing at their annual gathering at Falls City Methodist on Saturday, October 17, from 1:30 to 3. Baked goods are available for sale, and donations are always welcome. Come for some foot stompin' fiddlin' !



All ages are welcome and it's fun for the whole family! Come, enjoy, and celebrate life!

The photo below shows what was contributed on the 23rd. Does it



bring back memories of going back to school every September? What school supplies did you most like? What do you want students to have to take with them that first day?

Give Us An Hour!

Some scholars speculate that one of the reasons Jesus stirred up discontent among the establishment of his time was that he offered food and forgiveness and healing services *for free*. He didn't charge fees or require sacrifices the ways the officials and the professionals did.

Here in Polk County, that witness continues with the Free Clinic, geared to provide health care for those without access to health-insurance-funded care. With innumerable hours given by community in professional roles, and some of our best pray-ers praying with people, the Free Clinic offers healing of body and soul. Christians of various traditions can work together in this ministry without worrying about doctrinal differences. They are following Jesus' countercultural witness.

Save the date for an informational session on October 8. Yes, bring your checkbook. And maybe your calendar.



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)

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 [click here](#) to email her. Falls City folks, this could work for you, too, if you'd like to attend!

**COME TO THE WATERS – is our 2015-2016
Horizon Bible Study**

The Horizons study group meets the first Wed. of each month, September through June, at 1 PM in the Brookdale Assisted Living Center's small dining room in Monmouth. Our first meeting will be September 2nd. Please come join in.

Water plays a central role in the scriptures, from the chaotic waters of creation to the river of life in Revelation, where chaos is no more. Sometimes there is too much water (Think Noah); sometimes there is too little water (think drought in the desert).



This year, in Horizons, we will explore some of the Bible's more than 800 references to water, including the delivery of God's people through the parting of the Red sea and the crossing of the Jordan River, judgment of a people weak in faith, and the adoption of the people of God through baptism.

The rich imagery of water throughout the Bible helps us understand and articulate our Faith. Just as water nourishes our bodies, so the scriptures nourish our souls! Come join us on September 2nd at 1 PM at Brookdale.

ALL ARE VERY WELCOME!

(submitted by Jo Ann King)

Book Discussion Group

After a summer recess, the "Book Group" will resume meeting weekly on Thursday evenings 7-8:45 pm on Sept. 17th. We meet at Sherry Pittam's. Call 503.838.2667 for directions. The group selects books after considering several.

Each week's discussion starts with 2-3 pages from *We Make the Road by Walking: A Year-Long Quest for spiritual formation, reorientation, and activation* by Brian D. McLaren. This book has charmed us all with its imaginative ways of looking at everyday life. The rest of the evening will be devoted to our most recent group choice, *The Wisdom Jesus: Transforming Heart and Mind – a New Perspective on Christ and His Message* by Chythia Bourgeault, which we hope to start discussing at the first meeting.

This group is open to all, and welcomes anyone interested in learning more about spiritual life. If you enjoy an accepting and respecting environment for all ideas, consider participating with us.

We order books as a group for the best "rate" and free shipping. Scholarship funds may be available. Hard copies of *The Wisdom Jesus* are about \$21 and the McLaren book is \$25. EBook versions cost less. Each evening we close with a prayer for needs in our community of friends, relatives, and congregation members. For more information or to order a book, you may contact me, Sherry, as above, or Bev Herzog on Sundays.

(Submitted by Sherry Pittam)

GUEST COLUMN

This month includes our first guest column. Megan Gipson has been kind enough to write this column for us. Thank you, Megan! (And thank you, Sherry Pittam, for encouraging us to do this.)

My Mama Told Me So: An Introduction

Hello my Christ Church family.

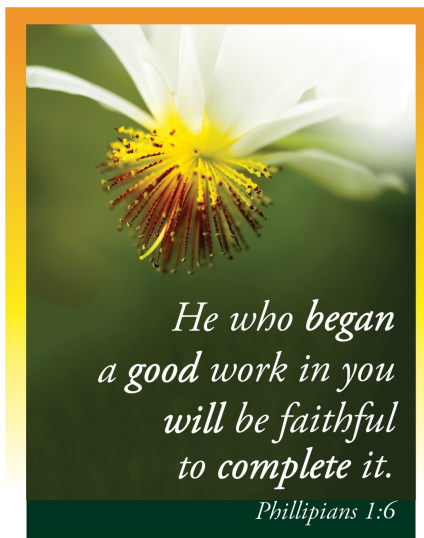
I have been invited to share a column in the newsletter and hope to give you short notes from writings and conversations with my mother May Gustafson. Mama loved Christ Church. She passed away February 2014 and is greatly missed. She was a religious scholar and strong mystic, and had a love for teaching. She completed her Masters of Divinity and spent time as a local pastor. She held many teaching jobs and was full of love for the world. In the end her faith was so strong it was an example to me daily. My goal is to pass on her teachings through notes from my life and let her teachings continue to reach out.

"He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it." This quote came from a notebook mama had begun with written prayers for VBS one year. She wrote out prayers for each child and all the workers. For example, "Denvy, Jesus has begun a good work thru you and Jesus will be faithful to complete it".

This is a very good reminder for me. I get too caught up in, -- what is my purpose? Why do I exist? But this message gives me hope and a bit of peace. God knows, God created me and yes I am his vessel. I live in an assisted living facility where they help me with my many meds, meals and routine care; and the days often feel repetitive. I get lonely; I get down - thinking how life could be without all the medical issues. It reminds me to 'let go and let God' (another of Mom's favorite sayings).

The foundation of Mama's teachings to me, were to build a life centered in coming close to the holy; see the holy in each other 300 and the natural world. I felt lost when she died but here she is telling us, God began a good work in me and will be faithful to complete it.

by Megan Gipson



Hospitality Week

Our next Hospitality Week with Interfaith Hospitality Network will take place September 6 – 13!!! If you can assist, please contact [Denvy Saxowsky](mailto:Denvy.Saxowsky@interfaith.org).



Announcement: A fund-raiser for the entire **Interfaith Hospitality Network in October**: "Join us for dessert, Friday, October 30, pm, Reed Opera House Ballroom. Please RSVP by October 20 to Jill@SalemIHN.org (This is another "bring your checkbook event")"

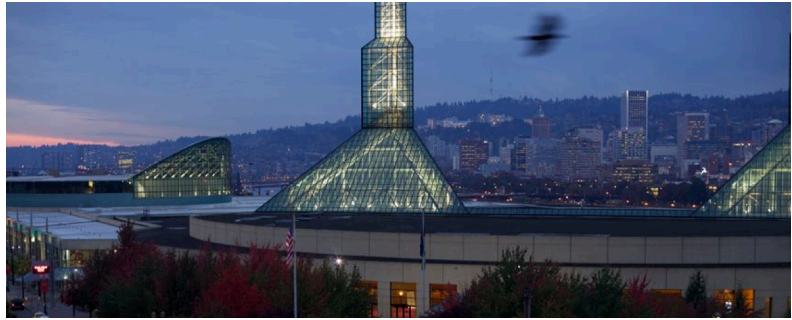
A Reminder...

"If you claim to be religious, but do not control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. – James 1:26

Yikes! That verse pulls no punches. We know that, like sticks and stones, words CAN and DO hurt. Children, especially, internalize judgment and criticism, but lies, half-truths, gossiping, mocking, verbal bullying, and labeling can wound us all. The early church reminded its members, over and over, to avoid doing any of this.

Still, rumors and gossip can continue to bring pain, division, and discouragement. As a church, let's not go there. It ends up hurting us all. Loving kindness, however, helps to heal us all.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

United Methodist General Conference 2016: Portland, Oregon

Similar to the Presbyterian General Assembly, United Methodists are gathering in **June, 2016**. Stay tuned for more information. Also, in anticipation of next year's global church gathering in Portland, follow the link below for a short video showing behind-the-scenes around the Oregon Convention Center. It's a way to see what it will be like before you go! <https://www.facebook.com/umcgeneralconference?fref=nf> In addition, there will be the same needs for volunteers as those listed below from the Presbyterian list below. Volunteering is a great way to serve others as well as be able to participate in the Conference. It's something to think about if you are interested in attending either the Conference or the General Assembly.

222 General Assembly, Portland Oregon: "Our Hope is Calling"

Between **June 18- 25, 2016**, over 3000 delegates, observers and corresponding members from around the world will come to Portland and participate in the 222nd Presbyterian General Assembly.

[Gaportland.com](http://www.gaportland.com) is the web page we have created for the Oregon COLA (Committee on Local Arrangements) as a resource for delegates, local church members, volunteers and the larger community. (We have been building this for several months and it will be released to the larger community later this summer.)

Be sure to view, and encourage others to view and share the 15-minute COLA video (<http://www.gaportland.com/cola-video/>), as it is an orientation to General Assembly.

ALSO...

We are going to need over a hundred volunteers from local churches to cover all kinds of activities: i.e.

- Greeters at the airport
- Max train riders to direct delegates to motels
- Information/greeters at the convention center
- Communion servers
- Crowd direction/control/answer people
- Traffic control
- Screeners



[LIKE US ON FACEBOOK](#) for specific volunteer details.... And how to volunteer for specific positions!

RELIGION

Why These Religious Groups Wear What They Wear

Antonia Blumberg, Associate Religion Editor, *The Huffington Post*
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/why-these-six-religious-groups-wear-what-they-wear_55ce7bcae4b055a6dab07ad0?ncid=txtInkusaolp00000592&kvcommref=mostpopular

Clothing worn by religious leaders and people of devout faith often is much more than a fashion statement...



Buddhist monks and nuns robes are worn... to reflect the simple life... and create a “uniformity of intention” visible at first glance.



Catholic priests “Catholic priests have traditionally worn a **cassock**, or long robe, **modern clergy** often wear simple black suits and... a clerical collar, a narrow, often white band that attaches to the clergy shirt.



Orthodox Jews Orthodox Jewish women are encouraged to cover their hair and wear skirts below their knees as a sign of modesty... men typically wear long black garments to indicate a “lack of concern for color and other dictates of fashion... thus helps keep priorities straight...”



Jain monks and nuns are encouraged to live austere lives. Many show this by wearing plain, white robes...



Sikhs (traditional) Sikh spiritual clothing, or bana, includes a turban, modest attire and the five articles of faith... as a way of identifying members of the faith and binding them together.



Mormon missionaries...are required to wear modest clothing and plain hairstyles... The clothing guidelines are meant to ensure that missionaries look “professional” and “attractive,” according to their LDS website...

Muslims



The **Hijab**. Most often, the hijab, a head covering only, is worn by Muslim women as a symbol of modesty and privacy...

Sheila & Abaya – An abaya is a long black, loose fitting cloak that often zips or buttons up the front. The sheila is a rectangular scarf that covers the head... and is... worn for cultural reasons rather than religious purposes.



The **Niqab** is often mistaken for a burqa; the niqab fully covers the body, but only partially covers the face, leaving a narrow opening for the eyes.

Burqas fully cover the wearer, often there is a net window over the eyes so the wearer can see out, but no one can see in.



The **Chador** is more common to Iran. It is a long billowing dress that leaves the face open but covers the wrists and ankles.



Editor's Corner:

This newsletter is for all of us, so here is a question for everyone. Would you think about writing a guest column once, or every once in a while, for this newsletter? This month Megan Gipson graciously agreed to write the first guest column. I'd like to see that practice continue. If you are interested, please consider writing 200-500 words? (Megan's column is about 340 words.) Here's another thought. Have you read any good book lately that you think others in the church would like to read? How about writing a book

review?

It's nice to hear from different people, and that includes you. Let me know if you are interested. Thanks in advance for whatever you might like to contribute. ☺

—Joy



What a wondrous world God has made.

Financial Corner: As of August 18, 2015, Christ's Church financial Income and Expenses are as follows:

Income:	\$ 67,947.26
Expenses:	\$ 63,868.73

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

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. [Jeremiah 29:11 \(NRS\)](#)

