



# The Messenger

February 2016



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

### *Pastor's Ponderings.*

Lenten focus:

Here is mine...is an authentic, ethical life one which makes decisions "because it's the right thing to do"? What does that mean? When is "being right" courageous, and when is it simplifying life into dualistic categories? Jesus seemed to have high standards for righteousness, but they weren't the same as the legal authorities' ideas. Here are two poems, one by the 20<sup>th</sup> century's greatest Israeli poet, one by a 13<sup>th</sup> century Sufi mystic (a sect of Islam).

#### *The Place Where We Are Right*

From the place where we are right  
Flowers will never grow  
In the spring.

The place where we are right  
Is hard and trampled  
Like a yard.

But doubts and loves  
Dig up the world  
Like a mole, a plow.

And a whisper will be heard in the place  
Where the ruined  
House once stood.

--Yehuda Amichai

*Blessings for the New Year.*

*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

- 4:30pm **James2 Dinners, FC**, (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Tue. FC Friendship Room)
- 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)
- 6:00pm **Joy Bells Practice** (CC Sanctuary)
- 7:00pm **Choir Practice** (CC Sanctuary)

### THURSDAY

- 5:30pm **Valley Zen Circle**
- 6:30pm **Book Discussion**

### SATURDAY

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

## MONTHLY EVENTS

- Feb 3 **Horizons**, 1<sup>st</sup> Wed (1pm, Brookdales Small Dining Room)
- Feb 3 **Stewardship Meeting**, 1<sup>st</sup> Wed (7:30pm, CC Library)
- Feb 6 **Mid-Valley Food Summit** (Willamette U) Registration NOW!
- Feb 7 **Falls City Food Bank Collection**, 1<sup>st</sup> Sun (10:30am, FC Kitchen)
- Feb 7 **Worship Committee Meeting**, 1<sup>st</sup> Sun (1pm, CC Library)
- Feb 10 **SPRC Meeting, CC**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed (7am, Independence Grill)
- Feb 13 **Annual Falls City Valentine's Dinner** (5pm & 7pm Dinner \$10 ea.)
- Feb 14 **Falls City Monthly Potluck**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun (11:30, FC Friendship Room)
- Feb 16 **Board Meeting, CC**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue (7pm, CC Library)
- Feb 17 **Board Meeting, FC**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed (7pm, FC Friendship Room)
- Feb 18 **Board Meeting, Western** Compass Campus Ministry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu
- Feb 22 **Lunch Bunch, FC**, last Mon (12pm, FC Friendship Room)
- Feb 25 **Submission Due Date** for Messenger Newsletter
- Feb 28 **Christian Education**, 4<sup>th</sup> Sun (12:30pm, CC Library)

### Save these dates!

- Apr 8 **Spaghetti Feed and Auction** – for Relay for Life
- Apr 10-17 **Hospitality Week**. Sunday through Sunday, April 10-17
- Jun 4-5 **Relay for Life**, Saturday and Sunday,

### 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)



Feb 4 Sherry Pittam

Any other birthdays?

## Prayer Ministry

Please continue to hold these people in your prayers:

Sue Badgett; Shelby Case; Beth Fleisher; Lisa Fowler & Family; Megan Gipson; Marcia Henderson; Mo Jaffer, Beth Ritchey; Jim & Jean Smith; Georgia Wildfang, Jo Yeager

Those of us who are recovering:

Ed Badgett; Heather Badgett; Lorraine Reed; Tom Ritchey

We offer prayers

For those affected by the turmoil in Syria; especially those who have been injured or lost loved ones; also prayer that a way may be found to deescalate the situation in Syria; and prayer for positive communication and non-violence in our communities; for teachers who can easily be overloaded by the many students they are responsible for; for those who have coped with a loss of a friend or loved one last month; and for prayers for new beginnings.

And Prayers of Thanks and Gratitude

For Joy & Roland Brown; Katy Kopel; Diane McBurnett

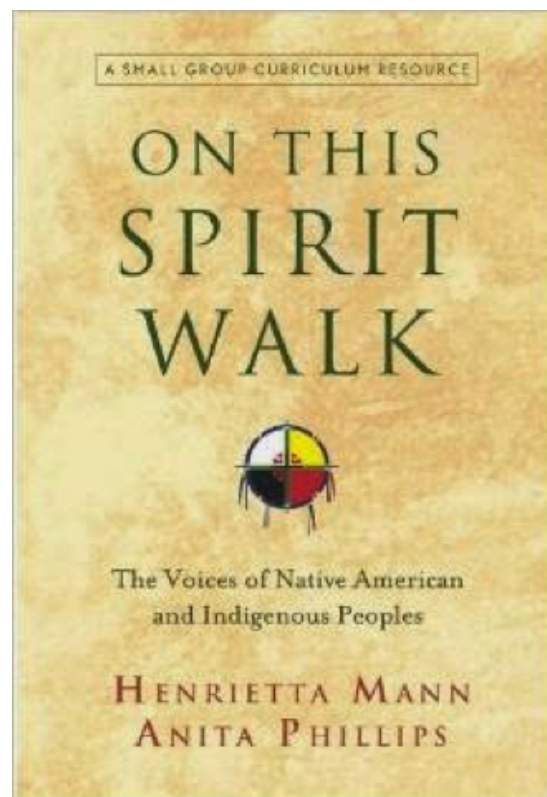


## Exciting Lenten Study/Discussion Starting Feb 14

- Six Sundays at 5 pm in the upper kitchen area
- Soups provided, bring side dishes to share if you wish
- Scholarships available to cover book cost

Henrietta Mann is Professor Emeritus in Native American Studies at Montana State University. *Rolling Stone Magazine* named her one of the top 10 professors in the nation. In ***On This Spirit Walk***, which she co-authored with Anita Phillips, a member of the Cherokees from Park Hill, Oklahoma, Mann shares stories of traditions and stories of creation and genesis, plus stories of vision and prophecy.

***On This Spirit Walk*** is a vivid portrayal of these storytellers who "do not choose to be storytellers" but "are chosen to be the Keepers of Living Stories. With our breath, we give life to the stories and they take flight." These stories include reflections by native people on recent efforts by the United Methodist Church's General Conference of 2012 to engage in an Act of Repentance including confession, repentance and forgiveness for the manner in which religious ideas were forced upon native peoples.



- adapted from Trinity Methodist Church in Denver article

## Upcoming Events

**Help us spend some money!**  
**-- Yeah, that's right.**

Our Church has several funds for special uses. One of these funds is the **Memorial Fund**. Usual donations to this fund are dedicated to specific persons who have passed away. Over the years, many persons have been honored by funds from loved ones and friends; projects were completed. Sometimes funds were not completely spent, thus there are moneys currently in the fund which has no specific dedication. Some of these kinds of funds have been used in the past to fill in when a project ended up costing more than proposed. But, now the Stewardship Team has decided we are holding too much money in reserve, thus this invitation to the Congregation.

There is about \$1500 that we would like to spend on something appropriate to a Personal Memorial. We want you to make a suggestion for a project you'd like to see happen. Forms will be available at worship Feb 7 and in the office by Tues Feb 3 for you to submit your idea for a project.

Complete the form; turn it in to Sherry Pittam, or our office Administrative Assistance, Kim. And, thank you in advance for spending time

working on describing your ideas for the Stewardship Team to consider. — Sherry



On February 13<sup>th</sup> Falls City will be hosting our annual **Valentine's Dinner**. This event includes a fabulous three-course lasagna meal in a romantic environment with live entertainment. Dinner will be served at 5pm and again at 7pm. Pre-sale tickets are available for \$10 a person from any Falls City UMC member. You can also pay at the door \$12 a person, but please RSVP by contacting Kristy Majors at [kristymajor@gmail.com](mailto:kristymajor@gmail.com), or call 503-881-3993.



**Food Focus for  
February!!!**

**Meats & peanut butter!**



**Friday, April 8  
Spaghetti Feed and Auction**

Several Relay for Life teams in Polk County will host a spaghetti dinner from 5:00 to 7:00PM followed by an outcry auction at 7:00PM. Bidding on silent auction items will start at 5:00 with several closings throughout the evening. Live music will be available before the outcry auction. As you are thinking about supporting the fight against cancer, remembering loved ones who are or have fought cancer and doing some spring cleaning or downsizing, set aside items that you would like to donate to the auction. You can bring them to the church the week prior to the auction.

— Denvy Saxowsky







Falls City United  
Methodist Church  
Annual Valentines Day  
Dinner



Come enjoy a Romantic Evening,  
Live Music, and Good Italian Food

Price: \$10.00  
2 Times: 5:00 pm and 7:00pm  
Date: Saturday, February 13th  
Where: At the Falls City United Methodist  
Church, on the corner of 1st and Main in  
Falls City  
To purchase tickets call Kristy Major at  
(503) 881-3993



## Save the Date: Mid-Valley Food Summit

February 6, 2016 @ Willamette University



Learn about local food efforts in Marion & Polk counties and engage in the exciting collaborative plans to improve the Mid-Willamette Valley food system. There will be a keynote speaker, breakout sessions, informational booths, and a local lunch.

Registration opens on December 15, 2015. For more information contact Lexi Stickel at [astickel@marionpolkfoodshare.org](mailto:astickel@marionpolkfoodshare.org) or 503-581-3855



### Hospitality Week.

Sunday through Sunday, April 10-17 - Churches and community members of Polk County will host up to four families who are without a permanent addresses at Christ's Church.

Christ's Church will take the lead offering space for meals and sleeping, and providing welcoming hosts and meals.

Everyone is welcome to volunteer for one or more of the tasks: contacting volunteers of the day to remind them of their commitment, preparing a meal with friends for either the evening meal (5:30PM) or breakfast (6:00AM), spending time with the families, parents and children welcoming them (5:00-8:00PM), or helping set up or clean up before they come and after they leave (Sunday afternoon, April 10, and then Sunday morning a week later).

— Denvy Saxowsky



**Save the Date! Relay for Life** Saturday and Sunday, June 4-5 - Join a team, preferably Christ's Church's own Footprints, and take a shift in walking for 24 hours from Saturday morning to Sunday morning. By joining you have a venue to support the other team members and the efforts to remember cancer patients and caregivers, and fundraise to fight cancer through research and education.

— Denvy Saxowsky



### A Letter to Christ's Church

Hello Christ's Church UMC / PCUSA United, Monmouth,

Thanks for letting us use the Christ's Church parking lot on the first Saturday of December 2015 to distribute Christmas wreaths on behalf of MLP (Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas), a local farm worker women's cooperative based in Woodburn, OR.

Your congregation is a long time supporter of farm worker rights going back to the 80's and 90's through several members and pastors. A few years back, Diane McBurnett helped organize an immigration forum at Christ's Church. We are grateful for this long-term support and look forward to working with your congregation in the future.

This year we are promoting legislation to raise the minimum wage and protect workers against wage theft in Oregon. Regionally, we are supporting dairy worker safety and Skagit Valley berry worker rights in WA

State. Nationally, we work for comprehensive immigration reform in collaboration with farm labor partners United Farm Workers and Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United / PCUN.

Feel free to contact me with your questions and suggestions about engaging Christ's Church and the people of Polk County in the farm worker struggle for better wages, working conditions and voice in the workplace through union contracts. Thanks!

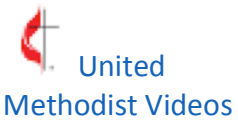
Epiphany blessings,  
Ed Brandt, Past President  
Board of Directors  
Farm Worker Ministry  
Northwest (formerly Oregon  
Farm Worker Ministry)  
Home: Dallas, OR  
call / text 503-917-  
1326 email  
[edgarbrandt@q.com](mailto:edgarbrandt@q.com)



### Missouri Mission

Over 250 churches in Missouri have been building relationships with congregations in Mozambique for more than a

decade. Through **the Mozambique Initiative**, churches and schools have been built and more than a hundred wells have brought far more than clean water to over 100,000 people. Some United Methodist churches in Missouri give 100% of the Christmas offering to missions including water projects in Mozambique.



What a great statewide effort!



### Syrian Refugees

You can make a difference in the lives of Syrian refugees who have fled the violence in their own country in search of safety and security. Find out how to help at **Presbyterian Missions** at

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

After five years, the crisis, with no sign of a political solution, desperation is rising and hope is in short supply.





### The Ten Commandments of food

GENEVA (WCC) — The Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit believes every plate of food can remind us of challenges and opportunities for justice. The top executive of the World Council of Churches presented the "Ten Commandments" of food recently to business and political leaders at a World Economic Forum session.

[Read story](#)



[Click here for full transcript](#)



### Islam, Faith, and Culture Series

A number of Christ Church members attended three Sunday night lectures in January at the Lutheran Trinity Church in Dallas. Matt Davies, a professor at Chemeketa Community College, presented the three lectures. Dr. Davies gave an excellent presentation, each time, and I feel, did much to address the beliefs of the Muslim faith as well as promote understanding of this religion without fear.

All three lectures are available through the Dallas Trinity Lutheran Church website at [www.dallastlc.org](http://www.dallastlc.org). The first is video taped, the other two have only audio recordings at this point but soon will have video, as well. It is known that Matt Davies is willing to present three similar lectures at Christ's Church, perhaps after Easter. Understanding each other's faith is invaluable.

The first lecture was on the beliefs held by Muslims. First and foremost is the belief in One God and submission to that God. Davies affirmed that the Muslim faith recognizes the Jewish and Christian are of "the book" and worshipping the same God (Allah). Allah is the Arabic word for God, and is used also by the Christians and Jews who speak Arabic. Matt gave a very good overview of the requirements of the Muslim faith (the five pillars of Islam).

The second lecture concerned the growth of ISIS. ISIS is not recognized by the leaders of Islam as a legitimate part of the religion. The main leaders of Islam have spoken out against what is being done by this group of radicals and has repudiated ISIS.

The third lecture dwelt with the Muslim Faith in the United States. Islam is all across the states with at least one mosque in each state. Oregon has 12 mosques. Overwhelmingly Muslims support the United States and value their US citizenship. As it is with other religions, including Christianity, there are some radicals that do not follow the teachings and are recruited in a different way. They are an extremely small group compared to the majority, who do not hold ISIS beliefs, and support the suppression of ISIS. One of the basic tenants of the Islam religion is charity and support for those in need, definitely the opposite of what ISIS teaches.

— Pat Jaffer







## Devotional

### **1 Corinthians 13 – An interpretation.**

No matter how powerfully or eloquently I speak,  
if I do not speak in love,  
it's all just noise.

If I know everything  
and understand life completely,  
and have miracle-producing faith  
but do not act in love  
it's all for nothing.

If I give away everything I own,  
and die a heroic martyr's death  
but do it without love,  
I have just wasted my time.

To love is to be kind.  
To have time for the other.  
To be generous, humble and gentle.  
To let go of keeping score of faults,  
and instead to rejoice in what is good and true.  
To love is to bear willingly,  
to trust deeply,  
to hope boldly,  
to endure patiently.

Love does not die.  
Beliefs will end;  
languages will fade;  
knowledge will exhaust itself:  
knowledge and belief are not the whole picture.  
But there is a wholeness,  
and we let go of the part for the whole.  
When I was a child  
I spoke and thought like a child.  
Becoming an adult, I abandoned those ways.  
Now we see through foggy glass,  
but in time we will see clearly, face to face.  
Now I know only partially;  
in time I will know fully—  
and know that I have been fully known.

We have these three great gifts: faith, hope and love.  
And the greatest is love.

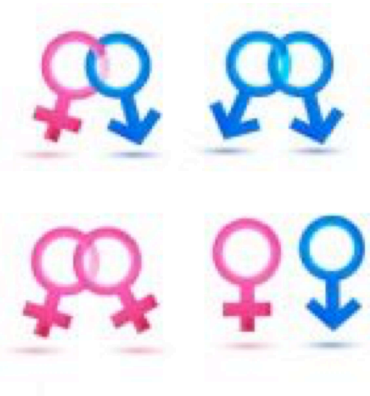
Steve Garnaas-Holmes *Unfolding Light* [www.unfoldinglight.net](http://www.unfoldinglight.net)



## Denominational News for Our World

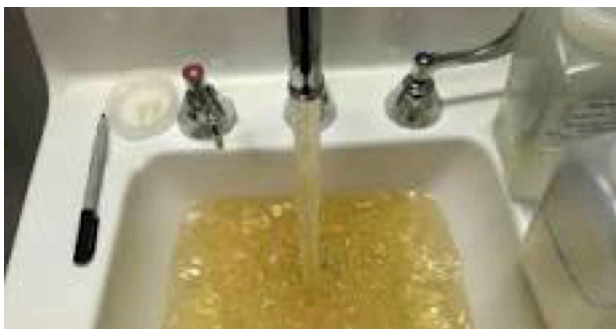
**Annual Presbyterian Assessment** - a per capita payment is given each year to the Presbyterian Church by Christ's Church. **The United Methodist Church apportionment** is calculated in a different manner. Stay tuned for more information on that.

Each year a portion of our church budget includes payments to our denominations for shared ministry. Our statistics, both membership and financial numbers, are recorded as half to each denomination as per our church Bylaws. In the Presbyterian denomination the Per Capita is considered an obligation of shared responsibility within a covenant community, the source on funding to support the judicial, administrative, and connectional relationships within the denomination, from the Presbytery to the Synod and General Assembly. Volunteer through <http://www.gaportland.com/volunteer-to-help-with-ga/> The Per Capita is calculated by multiplying ½ of our membership at the end of last year with an amount decided by the Presbytery. Christ's Church Per Capita for 2016 is 31 (membership) times \$29.89, which equals \$926.59.  
— Gail Saxowsky



### Preview to debate on sexuality

PORTLAND, Ore. (UMNS) — Many United Methodists expect the most intense debates at General Conference to be around how the denomination includes people of different sexual orientations. Participants at the recent pre-General Conference news briefing got a preview to the debate and a proposed alternative process for considering legislation. Heather Hahn and Kathy Gilbert report. The link to volunteer for General Conference. <http://westernjurisdictionumc.org/gc2016/>



*Our lives  
get infinitely easier  
the moment we  
stop trying to  
impress other  
people.*

### Bishop appeals for help in Flint water crisis

FLINT, Michigan (UMNS) — Michigan Area Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey has appealed to all United Methodists in the state to respond to the Flint water crisis. Church efforts already underway include the hiring of a district emergency water crisis coordinator and \$100,000 from the United Methodist Committee on Relief to help fund water resource centers started by eight churches. But Kiesey said more is needed and she asked for prayer, donations and hands-on assistance.

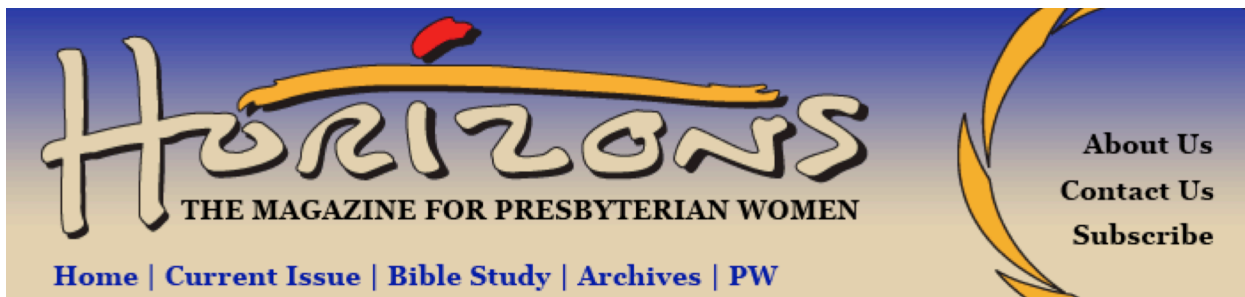
[Read appeal](#)

[Water crisis coordinator: Filtration is priority](#)



### MBishop decries immigration raids

WASHINGTON (CWS) - United Methodist Bishop Minerva Carcaño is decrying planned federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids against Central Americans who have crossed into the United States. Current immigration laws “discourage us from living out our faith imperative to love and help our neighbor,” she said.



### A new website for Presbyterian Women

Work is underway to create a new and improved website for Presbyterian Women. The new site will merge content from Presbyterian Women's website, the *Horizons* Magazine and Bible study website (these pages!) and the Gathering website. It will launch at the end of the first quarter. A condensed version of the *Horizons* website will be available during this redesign. Click on the above link or copy and paste [www.pwpcusahorizons.com](http://www.pwpcusahorizons.com) to go to the condensed version. Thank you to the hundreds who answered survey questions to help us create the best site possible. And thank you for your patience!



### Forum on church's worldwide nature

CHICAGO (UMNS) - The Connectional Table, a coordinating body in The United Methodist Church, is launching the newest topic in the #CTTalks online forum. The forum is a series of videos and social media conversations around key topics related to the 2016 General Conference. January features a month-long series on the worldwide nature of The United Methodist Church.

[Read press release](#)

[Join forum](#)

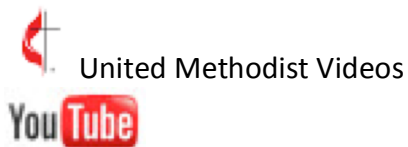




### Churches give clean water for Africa

Click here to [view video](http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/churches-give-clean-water-for-africa), or go to <http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/churches-give-clean-water-for-africa>.

Over 250 churches in Missouri have been building relationships with congregations in Mozambique for more than a decade. Through [the Mozambique Initiative](#) ... A new well brings clean water and a flood of opportunities for this village in Mozambique... The Rev. Yvi Martin, The Gathering United Methodist Church: "We have completed 120 wells and we've got 6 more in the works. That's 126,000 people that now have access to safe water who didn't five years ago."



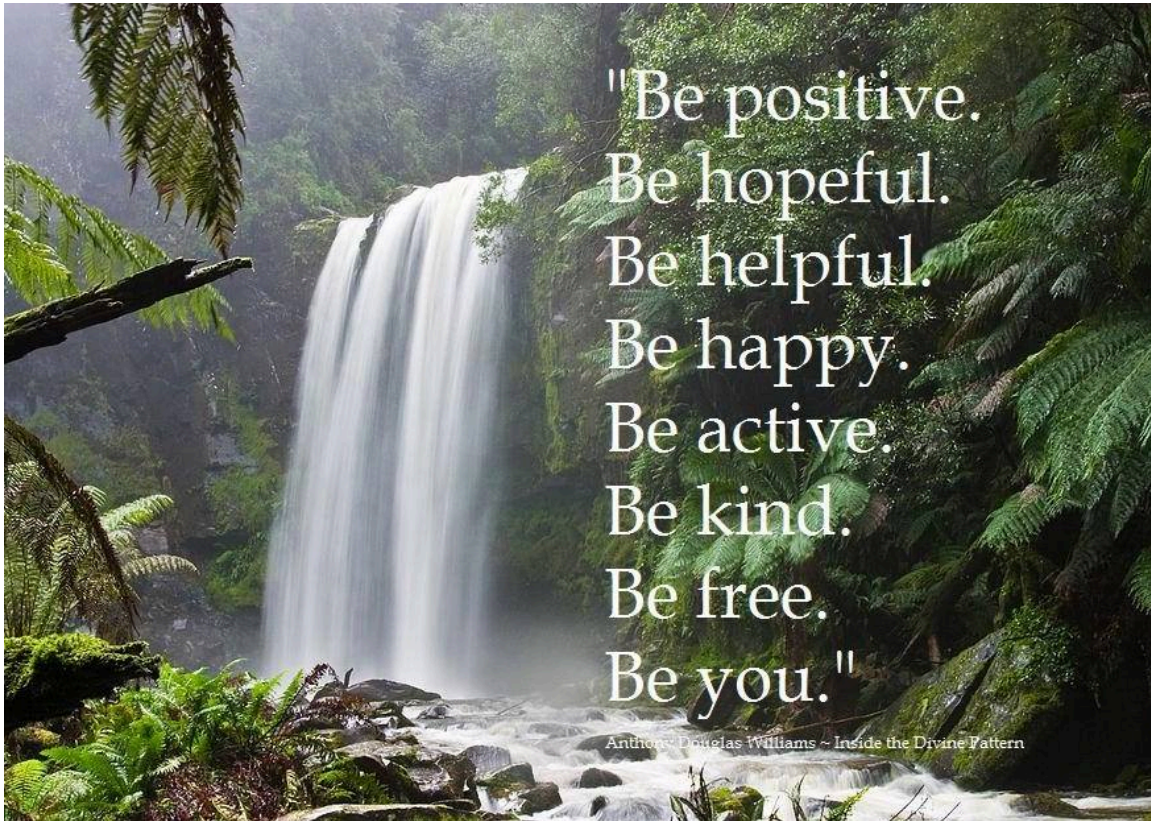
**New Central Community Resource Center** will be available at the old Central School District Office located between Independence and Monmouth on 16<sup>th</sup> street, across from the Central High School. The Resource Center will begin to fill a hole in access to social services for residents of Independence and Monmouth. Transportation can make it difficult for people who need social services.

The Center will start being open on Thursdays, one day a week. The Salvation Army, Fostering Hope, HALO Programs, Mano a Mano, Goodwill Jobs Program, Community Action agency, resource center programs, and the Department of Human Services provide services.

Dental, medical, childcare, and mental health are also available, five days a week, across the street in the Central Health and Wellness Center.

This will make the corners of Monmouth and 16<sup>th</sup> Street virtually the hub of social services in Monmouth and Independence. What a boon for people in our communities!





Here are the **Financials** for Christ's Church from January 19, 2016

Income: \$5130.00

Expenses: \$ 913.52



Lot's is happening in Polk County regarding the hate speech that has surfaced in Dallas, even being reported on national news. The **Human Equality Task Force** is one response. It is a coalition of concerned people and it is a significant response as the group is working toward increasing understanding and non-violence in our communities. The **Classes on Islam** taught by Matt Davies the last three Sunday nights were insightful, informative, and impressive. They dispelled fears and myths about Muslims and Islam right and left. I learned so much about Islam. They help me feel more assured when talking about Muslims and Islam, as well as about Christianity and Judaism. All three religions were born in and believe in the same God. That's because all three start with and recognize the one God of Abraham. I so hope we are able to bring Matt Davies here. I would attend all of his lectures again – they were that good.