



# The Messenger

## January 2016



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

### *Pastor's Ponderings. Friends,*

Even as the echoes of our Christmas Eve services reverberate, even as the end of the year rushes toward us, I find myself more often anxious than at peace or even hopeful – *that thing with feathers that perches in the soul* (with thanks to Emily Dickinson)...

I preach about newness, about transformation, about conversion – those gifts that the Spirit offers us, continually, yet Change. Just. Scares. The. Hell. Out. Of. Us. All of us.

Here is an observation by faith development psychologist, the late James Fowler:

*When we are grasped by the vision of a center of value and power more luminous, more inclusive and more true than that to which we are devoted, we initially experience the new as the enemy or the slayer – that which destroys our "god." Alfred North Whitehead wrote, "Religion is the transition from God the Void to God the Enemy, and from God the Enemy to God the Companion." Only with death of our previous image can a new and more adequate one arise.*

Can we be grasped by a new image of God? One that calls us to change, no matter our age?

A UCC clergywoman and poet, Miren Tirabassi, wisely wrote (with her prompt, the wonderful Ecclesiastes poem, "There is a time...: see the entire poem at <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2015/12/31/5385/> )

*There's a time to seek, to lose, /and to wonder why I came here in the first place; /  
a time to tear down any old walls that are still standing, / and a time to stitch up my  
lips; lots of time to keep silence ... / in front of a sunrise, /a child's smile, and several  
enthusiastic plans / that I know won't work out, / and a time to speak kindly and with  
lots of love ... / after that happens. / There are months and months and months for  
love, / and a couple hours to hate loneliness, cancer, / and Alzheimer's Disease. /  
There is a time to really hate war, racism, intolerance, / and a time to work for peace,  
/ no matter how old or tired or frustrated I feel.*

This is the time for hope, for change, for God to become new to us, and real, and friend.

*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

- 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

- Jan 3 **Falls City Food Bank Collection** (10:30am, FC Kitchen)  
 Jan 6 **Horizons**, 1<sup>st</sup> Wed (1pm, Brookdales Small Dining Room)  
 Jan 6 **Stewardship Meeting**, 1<sup>st</sup> Wed (7:30pm, CC Library)  
 Jan 10 **Falls City Monthly Potluck** (after service, FC Friendship Room)  
 Jan 10 **Volunteers for General Assembly** (video showing during service)  
 Jan 10, 17, & 25 Free **Three-Session Class on Muslims** (6:30-8:30pm at Dallas Trinity Lutheran Church)  
 Jan 12 **James2 Dinner**, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tue (5pm, FC Friendship Room)  
 Jan 13 **SPRC Meeting, CC**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed (7am, Independence Grill)  
 Jan 13 **Worship Committee Meeting** (after worship, CC Library)  
 Jan 19 **Board Meeting, CC**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue (7pm, CC Library)  
 Jan 20 **Board Meeting, FC**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed (7pm, FC Friendship Room)  
 Jan 21 **Board Meeting, Western** Compass Campus Ministry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu (10am, CC Library)  
 Jan 25 **Submission Due Date** for Messenger Newsletter  
 Jan **Christian Education** (After Service, CC Library)  
 Jan 26 **James2 Dinner**, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tue (5pm, FC Friendship Room)

### Save these dates!

- Feb 6 **Mid-Valley Food Summit** (Willamette University)  
 Registration NOW, in December and January!  
 Feb 13 **Annual Falls City Valentine's Dinner** (5pm & 7pm Dinner \$10 ea.)

### 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

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01/02	Bill Ousterhout
01/04	Kristie Moser
01/06	Bev Herzog
01/09	Paul LaRue
01/27	Gail Saxowsky
01/27	James Simmons

## Upcoming Events

January 10 – Presbyterian Church (USA) – For interested **Volunteers for the General Assembly**, the national convention coming up in Portland this spring. A video will be shown at the service and questions answered. Find out what will be happening at the GA!



**Three-Session Class on Muslims at Trinity Lutheran Church in Dallas:** Sundays, January 10, 17, and 25, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. The class will be taught by Matt Davies, Professor of Religion. The three sessions will cover:

- Qur'an and Muslim Faith
- Jihad and Terrorism
- American Muslims

The class is free and open to the community. Childcare will be provided. For more information, call Trinity Lutheran at 503-623-2233.



**Denominational Annual Reports** will be due at the end of January...you know who you are!!!



**Mid-Valley Food Summit** is coming up on Feb. 6 at Willamette University, Putnam University Center - 900 State St, Salem. This is a major community effort involving people and agencies all over the valley, interested in food scarcity as an issue we want to and are able to do something about. This is a great opportunity for networking with others, too. 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 began Dec 15, 2015 and remains open until all seats are filled. Issues include:

- Making local food connections
- Creating access to local food
- Growing food & community: building a garden network in the Mid-Valley
- Why buy local? Where to buy local? – Understanding the economic impacts of local purchasing
- Building the local food

economy in the Mid-Valley  
-Understanding rural challenges to food access  
-Teaching the next generation: youth & the local food system  
-Who's picking our food? – Learning about the farmworker movement  
For more information, contact Lexi Strickel at [astickel@marionpolkfoodshare.org](mailto:astickel@marionpolkfoodshare.org) or 503.581.3855



**Coming up in February: Valentines Dinner** in Falls City, February 13, two seating's.  
**Ash Wednesday** worship on Wednesday, February 10. Watch bulletin and next newsletter for times;  
**Lenten Study** on "On This Spirit Walk" about Native Americans and Christianity. Book cost: \$14. Details to follow.



**Spaghetti Feed & Auction - April 8** (set your auction items aside starting now) for Relay for Life, and **Relay for Life** to fight cancer - **June 4-5 in Independence** (you can register to join the team Footprints online now)

## Prayer Ministry

Please continue to hold these people in your prayers: Sue Badgett; Shelby Case; Beth Fleisher; Lisa Fowler & Family; Megan Gipson; Mo Jaffer, Lorraine Reed; Beth Ritchey; Jim & Jean Smith; Ruth Sonnenschein, Lorraine Wells, Georgia Wildfang, Jo Yeager

Those of us who are recovering: Ed Badgett; Heather Badgett; Tom Ritchey

We offer prayers for all of those affected by floods and other devastation due to weather and climate change, including refugees, and victims of war; for those missing family and/or affected by thoughts of despair and suicide, especially at this time of year; and for a blessed 2016 year  
And Welcome our newest members! Molly, Beth, and Maggie Scroggins; Rebecca Chiles

## **Service Opportunities**

The **James 2 Community Kitchen** is now offering a meal on Saturdays in Dallas - "[Sack Lunch Saturday](#)". All are welcome to attend. Service is available between 11 am - 1 pm at Dallas United Methodist Church (565 SE Lacreole Dr).



**Just Serve.** [JustServe.org](#) is a nation-wide website available to help you find volunteers and volunteer projects in your local area. Organizations can submit volunteer service projects to [justserve.org](#) and community members are able to learn about the project and sign up to help. This is a free website for the community. Projects must be service oriented and not promote fundraising or political interests. For more information contact [Nona Springer](#).



Marion and Polk Counties **Homeless Count**. Each year, on the last Wednesday of January Marion and Polk counties conduct a comprehensive count of the homeless population. Thousands of individuals across both counties experience homelessness each year. The vast majority of these are individuals for whom life has dealt a crushing blow: serious

illness, abuse, addiction, inability to work, collapse of a family, and ultimately the loss of a place to live. The Homeless Count serves the community in the following ways:

- Increases our understanding of homelessness, including information about the causes and impacts of homelessness.
- Provides us the information needed to plan and identify resources and services to better help individuals out of homelessness, and prevent it in the first place.
- Accurate homeless statistics are necessary to receive continued federal funding (almost one million dollars annually) for homeless programs in Marion and Polk counties.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the **Homeless Count**. If you would like to sign up to volunteer visit the [volunteer registration page](#) or contact the Volunteer Coordinator, [DJ Vincent](#), if you have any questions or problems. A Volunteer Training will be held on Monday, January 25, 2016 at 5:30 pm at Salem 1st Church of the Nazarene (1550 Market St NE, Salem).



Polk County **Task Force on Human Equality** has formed as a response to recent anti-Muslim rhetoric in our Country. See Jim Beaird-Leper to participate.



## **Polk Youth Services.**

[Polk Youth Services, Inc.](#) is a **Therapeutic Foster Care** Program based in Dallas. The program serves youth ages 14-21 who have been referred to us by the Oregon Youth Authority. Youth live in Program contracted Proctor Homes within our communities. We are currently looking for homes in Polk, Marion, Yamhill and Benton counties. Training and support are provided at no cost to you, and income earned is tax-free. If you would like more information, please contact [David Valencia](#) at 503-623-3310.



**Bishop Hagiya calls for Daily Prayer.** Our United Methodist Conference bishop asks congregations to start praying daily, beginning December 31st, 2015, that the General Conference will be guided by the Holy Spirit. This meeting of United Methodists will be held in Portland, Oregon May 10-20, and will make decisions involving the United Methodists worldwide. Publicize the need for prayer all the way through the last day of the meetings. Remember we need volunteers to help, too. Contact Pastor Becky or Linda Grund-Clampit for details – and Pray! - submitted by Jo Ann King



## Mission Work

The Values, Vision, Mission Statement for **Christ's Church** "...is to discover, proclaim and share the love of Jesus Christ through prayer and worship, ministry, service and our action as individuals." The Values, Vision, Mission Statement for the **Falls City United Methodist Church**, is to proudly uphold and proclaim we are, "The church that feeds people, body, mind and soul!"



Food Focus for **Ella Curran Food Bank** for the month of January is Soups and Stews!



**Falls City UMC** has a reputation, which we proudly try to uphold according to our mission statement as, "The church that feeds people, body, mind and soul!" We are so pleased to be able to serve God in our community! Following are some of the things we are doing:



- We have the great honor of providing space for **James 2**. This is a free community dinner that will soon be three Tuesdays a week (the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays) at 4:30 to 6:30. This wonderful program is seeing that as many as 130 people a night get a nourishing hot meal. There is always room for more support so please let Pastor Becky (802-454-8304) know if you would be interested in helping out.
- The **last Monday of the month** we enjoy providing lunch for around 20 of our high school students who gather at Mountain Gospel Church for lunch and spiritual nourishment. Contact Ben Bobeda ([benbobeda@yahoo.com](mailto:benbobeda@yahoo.com)) for more information or to contribute financial help and/or food.
- The Saturday before **Thanksgiving** over 300 people in Falls City enjoyed a wonderful turkey dinner provided by church and community members. This yearly event brings together in love and service people who donate food, peel potatoes, cook, serve and clean! Kristy Majors and Barb Goodman (the organizers) are always amazed at how the community pitches in and helps this event grow every year. The Majors family delivered meals all over town to folks who were not able to come to the Community Center.
- On **February 13<sup>th</sup>** we 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 5 and again at 7. 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.

- On the **first Sunday** of each month we collect food for the local food bank as a special part of Communion Sunday. The **second Sunday** is a yummy potluck following worship! We worship at 9:20 am on Sunday mornings, with coffee and fellowship before and after service, so please come and join us. All are welcome!



**Community Connect** is coming January 27th - an all day event in Dallas at the Valley Life Center, 1795 SE Miller Ave. The Connect event seeks to connect those in need, homeless, or at risk ... with valuable resources and services. Those who have volunteered for this event in the past years have considered it a most worthwhile day and very rewarding. If you are interested in volunteering to

help set up, during the day or to take down; email Michelle Bornfleth at [bornfleth.michelle@co.polk.or.us](mailto:bornfleth.michelle@co.polk.or.us)



**Antonio and his Peruvian family ministry** appreciate the support of our congregation. The one-day sale that was organized by Beth Fleisher after church on the 14<sup>th</sup> raised over \$165 to send to Antonio's family ministry! Maggie at **Petals and Vines** carries more of these Peruvian items in case you missed them at church, and she would love to show them to anyone who is interested. So stop on by at Petals and Vines to help support Antonio and his Peruvian family ministry.



The [HALO program](http://www.haloprogram.org) is looking to get the word about free services provided to young adults 16-24. They provide free training, education, guidance, and mentoring opportunities for young leaders "*who are serious about getting ahead in the world of work, through*

*education, training and personal dedication.*" " We



offer opportunities to identify goals and roadblocks, and provide meaningful training and education options that will allow [students] to embark on a successful career path. <http://www.haloprogram.org>.



### The Oregon Money Management Program



The [Oregon Money Management Program](http://www.haloprogram.org) is now available in Polk County. Northwest Senior and Disability services is looking for both consumers and volunteers to be part of the program. It offers support to people 18 and over with limited incomes and assets who need help with money management tasks. Questions? Contact [Michele Kimbel](mailto:Michele.Kimbel@nwseal.org) at 503-304-3407.

## Denominational News



### Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon statement on anti-Muslim rhetoric (issued the week of Dec.

**17, 2015.** Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations, congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical, and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry, and public policy advocacy.

- “Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s (EMO) Board of Directors strongly condemns the anti-Muslim rhetoric coming from public figures and other individuals. These statements are xenophobic, racially prejudiced, and clearly contrary to our values as people of faith and as Americans.
- This language serves to divide, denigrate and incite violence against our brothers and sisters of various religions, races, and ethnicities. Our country must learn from the mistakes of its past and uphold our constitutional

commitment to defend the freedom of conscience and religion for all individuals.

- Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon stands together with all people of faith and goodwill for religious and racial tolerance, and we are committed to working towards just and compassionate communities that value the human dignity of all.”



#### CHRISTIAN NEWS

By JEREMY SHARON, REUTERS  
12/10/2015

Catholics should not try to convert Jews, Vatican says in landmark document.



Christianity and Judaism are intertwined and God never annulled his covenant with the Jewish people, document reads... The document, “A Reflection on Theological Questions Pertaining to Catholic-Jewish Relations,” was issued by the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, and approved by Pope Francis. It says Christianity and Judaism are intertwined, and that God never annulled his covenant with the Jewish people...

<http://www.jpost.com/Christian-News/Catholics-should-not-try-to-convert-Jews-Vatican-says-in-landmark-document-436915>



## Denominational News

### Educator says social witness 'is central to the mission of the church universal'

DECEMBER 28, 2015 | LOUISVILLE

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2015/12/28/pillars-church-champion-sees-work-ahead-pcusa/>

For Robert Trawick, joining the **Pillars of the Church** campaign was a no brainer. He strongly believes in the work the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), adding that the **Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations** and the

### Office of Public Witness

conduct some of the most vital work the church can do. With a background in theological ethics, Trawick is thoroughly connected with the church. He teaches at a Dominican school, is a ruling elder and has served as moderator for Hudson River Presbytery. He has also been involved with the **Israel/Palestine Mission Network** among others and has written for the **Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy**.

"I sense there has been a pushback in the Presbyterian Church that political involvement and social witness in general are not appropriate for the church," he says. "A lot of my work has been around the idea that not only is it appropriate, but it is central to the mission of the church universal. I think it's poor theology to suggest that Christianity is about personal salvation only."



### A year of record-patterns hampers communities the world. From record flooding, livelihoods



### setting weather poor around drought to impact on is harsh

Community members from Gozemey, Cameroon, stand in front of a food granary. —Valery Nodem  
Presbyterian News Service | **RICK JONES | LOUISVILLE | DECEMBER 22, 2015**

Continuous snows, floods and the strongest hurricane ever recorded make up some of the biggest weather stories to come out of 2015. While U.S. communities still deal with the impact of this year's unusual weather patterns, staff members of the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Environmental Ministries say poor countries are facing serious economic and health issues related to the weather.

Climate change impacts everyone, but poorer countries have fewer resources to help them adapt or quickly recover from severe flooding or drought...

"No one knows the right time to plant anymore. For some countries, farmers knew it always rained around mid-January. When you have that first rain, you know it is time to go to the farm and get the ground ready for planting," he says. "That's not happening anymore. Mid-February comes and you are still waiting for rain. The seasons of drought are pro-longed and when you have the rain, it's too much and damages everything."

To read more, for more information about the Presbyterian Hunger Program's efforts regarding climate change, to learn more about becoming an Earth Care Congregation, or for more information on helping world communities in need, check here:

<http://www.pcusa.org/news/2015/12/22/year-record-setting-weather-patterns-hampers-poor-/>





### Editor's Corner:

*All good people agree,  
And all good people say,  
All nice people, like Us, are We,  
And everyone else is They:  
But if you cross over the sea,  
Instead of over the way,  
You may end by (think of it) looking on  
We*

*As only a sort of They!  
— Kipling*



### Life around the Church

**Financial Corner:** As of December 8, 2015, Christ's Church financial Income and Expenses are as follows:

Income:	\$ 104,560.23
Expenses:	\$ 97,117.93