



The Messenger

July 2017



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

What is "Session Moderator"?

In the Presbyterian system, when a church is without a pastor the Commission on Ministry appoints a minister to be Session moderator. That person chairs the meetings of the Session until a pastor is called or appointed.

The Commission on Ministry has appointed me, David Mote, to that role for Christ's Church. I will chair the monthly meeting of your Board and be a connection with the Presbytery. Your new District Superintendent is beginning this month, so your connection with the United Methodist Church will continue as always.

I am a retired pastor living in Albany. I served as pastor of churches in Colorado, Utah, and California. Then I took the interim pastor training and served a two-year interim in Seattle before retiring for the first time.

I retired to the San Francisco Bay Area, near where I had grown up. That lasted six months. Then I was persuaded to give up retirement for a six-month interim pastorate in Richmond. That began a pattern of retiring and un-retiring. Five and a half years ago I flunked retirement for the fourth time and moved to Albany to be interim pastor of United Presbyterian Church. Three years ago I retired for the fifth time, but it only lasted five months. The interim pastor of a church in Eugene needed to leave before the search process was finished, so I stepped in to finish that interim. Two years ago I retired for the sixth time.

Other than volunteer jobs, like being your Moderator and filling in on an occasional Sunday, I've managed to stay retired. I look forward to the successful conclusion of the search for Christ's Church's next pastor.

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

- 9:00am **Fellowship** (FC Friendship Room)
 9:20am **Worship** (FC Sanctuary)
 10:00am **Prayer Room Open**, (CC Prayer Room)
 11:00am **Worship** (CC Sanctuary)
 12:10pm **Fellowship** (CC Friendship Room)

MONDAY

- 12:00pm **Lunch Bunch** (Falls City Friendship Room, 11:40am)
 6:30pm **Young Adult Bible Study** (S. Pittam's)

TUESDAY

- 4:30pm **James2 Dinners**, Tuesday. (FC Friendship Rm)
 7:00pm **Boy Scouts** (CC Lower Level)
 7:00pm **Committees** (CC Library)
 7:00pm **Adventist Church** (CC Sanctuary)

WEDNESDAY

- 8:00am **Lectionary Study** (Independence Grill, 8am)
 6:00pm **Joy Bells Practice** (CC Sanctuary)
 7:00pm **Choir Practice** (CC Sanctuary) Summer Hiatus

THURSDAY

- 6:30pm **Book Discussion** & open to newcomers! (S. Pittam's)

FRIDAY

- 8:00pm **Narcotics Anonymous**

SATURDAY

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

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

- Jul 1 **Polk Free Clinic** 1st Sat (7:30am, Dallas, Trinity Lutheran Church)
 Jul 2 **Falls City Food Bank Collection**, 1st Sun, after worship
 Jul 4 **Ice Cream Booth!**
 Jul 2 **Worship Committee Meeting** (1st Sun, after worship, CC)
 Jul 5 **Horizons** 1st Wed (1pm, CC Library) on Summer Hiatus
 Jul 11 **PJM – Peace, Justice, & Mission** 2nd Tue (6:30pm, CC)
 Jul 11 **Stewardship Team Meeting** 2nd Tue (6:30pm, CC Lib.)
 Jul 12 **SPRC CC**, 2nd Wed (7am, Independence Grill)
 Jul 16 **Congregational Conversation** (after worship, CC)
 Jul 20 **Western Compass** (Campus Ministry, Summer Hiatus)
 Jul 22 **Polk Free Clinic** 4th Sat (7:30am, Dallas, Trinity Lutheran Church)
 Jul 23 **Christian Education**, usually 4th Sun (12:30pm, CC Library)
 Jul 25 **Submission Due Date** for Messenger Newsletter
 Jul 30 - Aug 8 **Mission to Gambell**, Alaska
 Jul 31 **Lunch Bunch, FC**, last Mon (12pm, FC)



Is your birth date missing from this month's list? Please tell the office know so we can correct that omission.

Thanks!

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
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Pastor Linda-Grund Clampitt

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- 06/06 Lois Grippin
 06/20 Steve Moser
 06/26 Adam Grund-Clampitt
 07/01 Diane McBurnett
 07/02 Carol Brown
 07/06 Dee Christianson
 07/07 A. Joy Brown
 07/10 Toni Christiansen
 07/19 Emily Trigg

Prayer Ministry

Please hold these people in your prayers:

Shelby Case, Poonie Chiles & Joey Hampton, Beth Fleisher, Lisa Fowler, Megan Gipson, Ron & Marcie Henderson, Jim Smith, Jo Ann King, Jo Yeager.



Saturday Medical Clinic Prayer Thanks

Here is a note we received from a Saturday Clinic Prayer Partner thanking us for making prayer shawls.

“Today I gave a shawl to a lady. Later I noticed her at the table with her husband, here 13 year old and her 5 month old. The 5 month old had become fussy so she wrapped the shawl around her shoulders, then around her infant, and they were both enclosed in the close warmth of the shawl. The baby was quiet.” Thank you for your gifts!



Announcements

On June 15 we commissioned Linda Grund-Clampit to her new position as appointed lay pastor to Falls City United Methodist Church, a fulfillment of a long-time calling. Blessings, Linda.



Guest pastors to look forward to!

Here are the guest pastors to look forward to in the month of July. Please let them know how much they are appreciated.

July 2	Michael Powell
July 9	Chuck Willming
July 16	Jody Felton
July 23	David Mote
July 30	Roger Newell



Welcome Sarah Ramirez!

Sarah was born in Dallas, Oregon to Steve and Christina Palmer. She grew up in Dallas and worked in her grandparent photography studio until the family moved to Monmouth. Sarah attended and graduated from Central High School where she was in Band, played volleyball, softball, and ran track. After high school she obtained her Associates in Business and Computer Science. In 1996 she married her high school sweetheart, Jesus A Ramirez.



Jesus and Sarah welcomed their first son, Samuel "Sam" in December 1999 with large support from the community. Sarah and Sam were the 61st mother/child set in TN, and 2nd in Oregon, to under go Inutero Fetal Surgery for the repair of Spina Bifida. Many of the community churches, including Christ's Church, prayed for the Ramirez Family when they traveled back to Nashville, TN to undergo the surgery and followed Sam's first couple of years.

The family makes their home in rural Independence with four cats and two dogs. They enjoy working around their house, traveling to Bend or the coast, and being part of the community. Sarah has worked for several churches both in Monmouth and Dallas in Children/Youth ministries, Office Administration, and Technical Support. She has a deep faith and loves doing work that bring joy and hope to others. Her motto is to "Bring joy, Share hope, Live in faith".



Rapid Response and Know Your Rights Trainings in relationship to immigrants, businesses, and I.C.E. continue to be offered in our communities If you are interested, please contact Joy Brown for more information.



Community Connections

Poetry – First Poem by Lind Grund-Clampit

On Sunday, June 25, Falls City United Methodist Churches new Pastor, Linda Grund-Clampit, shared two poems with the Christ Church congregation. Several congregants expressed the desire to have a written copy so they are being included here, for everyone's contemplation. The first is the poem Linda wrote and shared in her sermon on Sunday. The second poem, by R. S. Thomas, was also shared in Linda's sermon and she is happy to share it again with us.

*At the edge of the lake where I have been
skipping stones,
You have invited me,
O most faithful and persistent Love,
to shed my clothes
and step off from the shore
into the dark water.
I hear your call in the border of water
Whispering,
And the breeze sighing in the fringe of trees.*

*All my life I have anchored my feet on solid
ground.
I love the flight of the stone as I throw it
sidelong
and the way it skims the surface in
two, three, perhaps even four lovely arcs before
finally, regretfully,
losing its will and sinking below.*

*But now,
O most faithful and persistent Love,
You call to me,*

*The time for dancing at the margins is
finished.
Come in... come in,
come in where I gather all the stones
together
and the water itself will hold you.*

– Linda Grund-Clampit

Poetry – Second Poem by R. S. Thomas

*I have seen the light break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the pearl
of a great prize, the one field that had
the treasure in it. I realize now
that I must give it all that I have
to possess it. Life is not hurrying*

*on to a receding future nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush. To a brightness
that seems as transitory as your youth
once, but it is the eternity that awaits you.*

– R. S. Thomas



Traditional Fourth of July Ice Cream Booth

Among the older traditions at Christ's Church is the Ice Cream Booth in the Monmouth City Park during the Fourth of July festivities. This year again Christ's Church will setup a canopy with ice cream and condiment filled freezers, boxes of supplies and festive decorations. The money is raised during this time has benefitted a variety of programs. For years the monies went to Heifer International. More recently it has helped more local projects as needs develop.

A key part of this event is that it is a church wide activity; it doesn't belong to a single committee or team, or a particular group of dedicated individuals. It belongs to all of us, we all benefit through our service and we all need to offer what we can. While Jim and Bev Beard-Leeper have and are taking a lead, the making of the ice cream is done days before the Fourth, and it's probably complete by the time you read this. Our offerings of ice cream extend over days but with many volunteers scooping and topping the shifts are short and downright enjoyable. And you can be trained on the spot; no previous experience required.

Call Jim or Bev and let them know when you want to be of service.



Service Opportunities

Clean up Day at Christ's Church

Again, yes, it's happened more than once in the past, an outdoor activity at Christ's Church fell on the hottest day of the month, maybe the summer. Regardless, members of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, who share our building on Saturdays and Tuesday evenings, and a handful of diehards from Christ's Church pruned, trimmed, weeded and watered outside and scrubbed, vacuumed, dusted, washed and generally cleaned up inside. That was the evening of Saturday, June 24. It was a beehive of busy sweaty and jolly people who drank lots of water and left a few weeds and a little dust as seed for the need Fun Work Day. Hopefully it will be scheduled for a cooler day.



The **Polk Community Free Clinic** continues to have full days of providing health care to our community with the support of our volunteers. We will have clinic throughout the summer on the first and fourth Saturdays of each month.

A current need is to find people who are interested in becoming prayer partners during the clinic hours. This is a very fulfilling role and greatly appreciated by our patients and their families. You can ask JoAnn King about this role because she has been a PCFC prayer partner for several years.



And we are always looking for Spanish interpreters and prayer shawls. We are OK for now with the amount of general volunteers.

If you are interested call the Clinic office and talk to Gail - 503-831-0551. Christ asks us to share our talents with our neighbors and to be in relationship – being involved at the PCFC does these for sure!



Food Bank Focus for July: Canned fruit is needed!

Service Opportunities (continued)

Building a Church in Gambell, Alaska

At General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in June of last year, Denvy and Gail visited an information booth about ministry in Alaska and learned of a need to help build a church in Gambell on St Lawrence Island, just 36 miles from Russia.

This need was mentioned in conversations from time to time and several persons and a college sorority thought we should go help. As time passed through attrition the team pared down to eight persons from throughout the country; North and South Dakota, Washington and, of course, Oregon.



The team is gathering in Anchorage on June 20, will fly to Nome for an overnight on the sanctuary floor in Nome and then onto Gambell for 9 days. The building which has been worked on for several years is enclosed so the work will probably be electrical, heating, trimming and painting, but at this point the job is undefined.

St Lawrence is a narrow island is about 100 miles long that was inhabited by about 4000 locals before “white men” in whaling ships affected their lifestyle. The dozens of villages now are two with several hundred residents. Now with global warming the subsistent lifestyle is threatened as animals, like whales, walrus and seals don’t come to the island as much.

The Presbyterian Church has served this area for many years not only as a religious organization but also as a supportive group for the community. The new church will serve as a community center as well as a place of worship.

If there are adequate Internet connections, the team will attempt to write daily reports of their activities. Keep tuned in for details.

Denomination News

Another congregational conversation is coming on Sunday, July 16th!

Please plan to stay after worship on Sunday, July 16th to engage in another conversation around the tables to gather hints about where God is calling Christ's Church next. We will have lunch and then discuss together whom God has placed on our hearts, what can we uniquely do that others can't, and what do we feel called to do such that we will invest our time, talent and money to engage with it?

This conversation will build on our prior conversations about who we are as individuals and who we are as a congregation. Some background information will be coming over the next three weeks to aid you in reflection and prayer. Everyone's input is needed! We hope you'll join us!

Below are some general thoughts to ponder about the need to ponder our calling!

Steve Ross has served as the Conference staff person for congregational vitality for the past seven years with the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. He is leaving that position July 1st to become a local church pastor again. He is looking forward to the change, as he believes that it is in the local church where "the Body of Christ is most powerfully expressed."

In a sort of farewell blog, Steve shared four things thriving congregations have in common:

- Vital congregations nurture vital leaders. The common qualities of these leaders are that they are *personally committed* to following Jesus in ways that transform the world into something more like the kingdom of God he proclaimed. Vital leaders collaborate with one another, making the most of one another's gifts. And they believe in that God is not finished with the congregation they lead.
- Vital congregations are convinced that they have a unique calling of God that is evident in the intersection between who they are as a church (strengths, passions, assets, convictions) and where they are (the needs, challenges, assets, culture of the community where they are). They believe that they have everything they need now to accomplish everything God wants them to do now.
- Vital congregations care more about fulfilling their calling than about being comfortable. They are *mission focused*. Their calling always involves not only serving people, but inviting the people they serve to become servants as well.
- Vital congregations understand and embody the fact that *sustaining vitality* is more like housekeeping than house building. It is not a season of effort resulting in a new or better thing, but a way of living that constantly creates, nurtures and maintains life. The programs and ministries of vital congregations are under constant evaluation and reformation so that they can provide the space where a constantly changing community of people can know a serve Jesus Christ in a constantly evolving mission context.



DO THIS AND
YOU WILL LIVE!

LUKE 10:26-28



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Annual Conference
Session

Oregon-Idaho & Pacific Northwest

2017 Annual Conference Report June 14-17, 2017

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,” and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’ ... “You have answered rightly...”

Do this and you will live! Luke 10:27-29

“And who is my neighbor?” Bishop Elaine emphasized relationships and used the “Dorothy’s: Paradoxical Circle of Life” (above) pointing out the cross where all lines meet and arrows moving in from the margins drawing closer to one another as they reach the center. It’s all about relationships.

Everything is on line to share through the Connector Newsletter and Facebook. Facebook posted Greg Nelson’s Summary in the Connector and it’s full of interesting information.

— Linda Scheirman



How can churches be in ministry with Deaf?

BALTIMORE — People considering ministry with the Deaf often think of sign language interpretation, but there are many models for ministry with the Deaf. The Rev. Leo Yates Jr., a provisional deacon in the Baltimore-Washington Conference who serves as the consultant for the United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries, writes about these possibilities.

[Read article](#)

Values, Vision, & Mission

CCMP Mission Statement is

“to discover, proclaim and share the love of Jesus Christ through prayer and worship, ministry, service, & our action as individuals.”

Falls City UMC Mission Statement is

“Feeding people mind, body, & soul.”



Commentary: Small church as surrogate family

LEMOYNE, Pa. — The Rev. Lewis Park, author of “Small on Purpose,” writes that small churches offer surrogate families for those whose basic family unit is dispersed or in need of wider circles. He adds that they are not unlike the house churches of the New Testament era.

[Read commentary](#)

The benefits of being in church choir

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMC.org) — When John Wesley preached to the choir, he had some valuable advice: “Above all, sing spiritually.” Chris Fenoglio reports on the spiritual and health benefits experienced by United Methodist choral members.

[Read story](#)



Editor’s Corner

Hello friends. Roland’s surgery went well so at the last moment it looked like a newsletter could be pulled together for the month of July after all.

Many thanks to Linda Grund-Clampit, David Mote, Sarah Ramirez, Gail and Deny Saxowsky, Linda Schierman, and Bev White. We wouldn’t have had this newsletter without your help. Thanks, all.

– Joy