



The Messenger

January 2015



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

Pastor's Ponderings

Well, so that is that. Now we must dismantle the tree,
Putting the decorations back into their cardboard boxes --
Some have got broken -- and carrying them up to the attic.
The holly and the mistletoe must be taken down and burnt,
And the children got ready for school. There are enough
Left-overs to do, warmed-up, for the rest of the week...

Once again

As in previous years we have seen the actual Vision and failed
To do more than entertain it as an agreeable
Possibility, once again we have sent Him away...
Remembering the stable where for once in our lives
Everything became a You and nothing was an It...

In the meantime

There are bills to be paid, machines to keep in repair,
Irregular verbs to learn, the Time Being to redeem
From insignificance...

W.H. Auden, *For the Time Being, A Christmas Oratorio*

Friends:

May the final days of Christmas and the first days of the New Year find you still pondering the Impossible Possibility of a vulnerable Creator depending upon us to care for Emmanuel, each year, each moment. The God whom we have come to trust, trusts us still.

Blessings.

Becky



REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

- 9:00am **Fellowship** (FC Friendship Room)
 9:20am **Worship** (FC Sanctuary)
 10:00am **Prayer & Meditation** (CCMP Prayer Studio)
 11:00am **Worship** (CCMP Sanctuary)
 12:10am **Fellowship** (CCMP Upper Room)

TUESDAY

- 7:00pm **Boy Scouts** (CCMP Basement Hall)
 7:00pm **Committees** (CCMP Library)
 7:00pm **FC Board** (FC Friendship Room)

WEDNESDAY

- 8:00am **Lectionary Discussion Group** (Independence Grill)
 5:30pm **Joy Bells Practice** (CCMP Sanctuary)
 6:30pm **Choir Practice** (CCMP Sanctuary)

THURSDAY

- 7:00pm **Thursday Book Study** (Monmouth, E. Weiss)
 7:00pm **Spanish Church** (CCMP Sanctuary)

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

MONTHLY EVENTS

- Jan. 3 **Polk Community Free Clinic**, 1st Saturday (7:30am)
 Jan. 4 **Epiphany, Feast of the Three Kings**, A shared worship service with Falls City (FC) & Christ's Church (CCMP) (11:00am, CCMP sanctuary)
 Jan. 27 **Stephen Ministry**, 4th Tuesday
 Jan. 6 **Peace, Justice, and Mission Team Meeting**, 1st Tuesday (7:00pm, CCMP Library)
 Jan. 7 **Horizons Bible Study Group**, 1st Wednesday (1:00pm, Heron Pointe, Small Dining Room)
 Jan. 9 **CCMP Worship Team Meeting** (10-2pm at the Manse)
 Jan. 11 **Second Sunday Potluck** 11:00pm, FC Friendship Room)
 Jan. 13 **James2 Dinner**, 2nd Tue. (5:00pm, FC Friendship Room)
 Jan. 14 **SPRC Meeting** for CCMP (7:00pm, Independence Grill)
 Jan. 20 **Board Meeting, CCMP**, 3rd Tue (7:00pm, CCMP Library)
 Jan. 22 **Lunch Bunch** 4th Thursday (11:40am, FC Friendship Rm.)
 Jan. 24 **Polk Community Free Clinic**, 4th Saturday (7:30am)
 Jan. 24 **Submission Due Date** for February Newsletter
 Jan. 27 **Stephen Ministry**, 4th Tuesday (5:15pm, San Antonio's)
 Jan. 27 **James2 Dinner**, last Tue. (5:00pm, FC Friendship Room)

Note: Our "Servants Holiday" (Board retreat) – for all Board members going off the Board and those joining the Board for 2015 is coming, probably Sunday, Feb. 8th from 2–7.

Christ's Church (CCMP)

Methodist & Presbyterian
 412 Clay Street W.
 Monmouth, OR 97361
www.christschurchmonmouth.org
Televised on: WIMPEG
 Channel 18
 5am-6am, Sun. through Sat
 3pm-4pm, Sun. through Sat

Falls City UMC (FC)

United Methodist Church
 PO Box 473
 242 N. Main St.
 Falls City, OR 97334
www.fallscityumc.org

OFFICE

Hours: M–F, 9am-12pm
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Pastor Becky Strader

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Newsletter Editor: Joy Brown

email: jrbrown@me.com

January Birthdays

- 1/02 Bill Ousterhout
 1/04 Kristie Moser
 1/06 Bev Herzog
 1/09 Paul LaRue
 1/27 Gail Saxowsky
 1/27 James Simmons
 1/28 Brandon Hume

***Welcome! No matter
 who you are, or where
 you are on life's
 journey . . .
 you are welcome here.***

**Our mission is to discover, proclaim and share
the love of Jesus Christ through prayer and worship,
ministry, service & our action as individuals.**

A **huge** thank you should go out to all who helped donate time, food and money in support of getting the 20 food baskets out to families to help their celebration of Christmas.

(Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities to help people who are who are homeless and/or experiencing poverty.)



Epiphany – The Feast of Three Kings

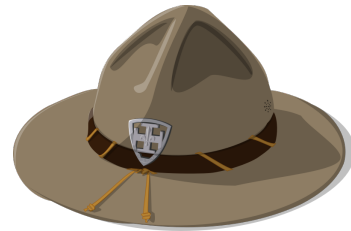
The Magi followed the Star...and we celebrate their arrival to gift Jesus. On Jan. 4, we will observe the Feast of the Three Kings, Epiphany, with songs, a piñata, and King's Cake. Congregants and guests from both Falls City United Methodist and Christ's Church Presbyterian & Methodist United will be joining together to celebrate this event!

Christmas Tree Pick-Up & Recycling

The Boy Scouts are doing Christmas Tree Pick-Up & Recycling again this year. They will be picking up trees on the following weekend dates:

January 3 & 4, 10 & 11, and the 17 & 18.

Call 503-893-8380 or email: T38trees@yahoo.com



Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network has identified a possible week in February for our churches to host homeless families in 2015! Does anyone see any big insurmountable obstacles with **February 15-22**? Please let Denvy Saxowsky know if you are interested and want to determine the best way for you to help or to let him know of any conflicts you foresee that may be problematic.

Do you remember doing this type of biblical challenge as a child? Or as an adult? Here goes! See if you can find or finish this Bible verse.

“_____ world that he gave his only_____”

What are some other favorite verses from the Bible that you'd like to see in upcoming newsletters? (Thanks to Jo Yeager for suggesting inclusion of a Biblical Challenge. :))



What's happenin' at Arts & Crafts Friday?

Tiny clay purple penguins; handcrafted blank books; miniature fiber-arts prayer/meditation Friends; Drawings; Shrinky-dinks; and Clay sculptures are examples of what we have come up with on Friday evenings in the last couple of months. We had special fun making a few new Chrismons (ornaments) for the Church Christmas Tree.

Some participants bring their own supplies and work on personal projects; others use the supplies provided. Supplies and tools are available for book making, some clay work, and for weaving Friends and some beading, plus many other crafts (e.g. whittling, leather work, wood working, painting, crocheting, knitting). Instructions and guidance is available; we welcome all levels of skills.

We are guided by our goal to find items to create that will assist us on our path to a Jesus guided life; and to find items that might be sold as fund raisers for Christ's Church Christian Education projects, such as VBS. Our great pleasure is in creating in the company of our fellow believing seekers.

We meet at Sherry Pittam's, call 503.838.2667 for location, at 6:30 pm most Fridays, usually finishing up by 8:30-9 pm.
Sherry Pittam

Next Newsletter issue: *What are Friends?*

A gift from Linda Grund-Clampit while attending the Academy for Spiritual Formation

The Evangel

An angel named Eve
appeared,
a messenger bearing good
news.
She said,
"Beloved, do not fear.
I am sent to tell you that you
are beloved of God.
I am sent to tell you that your
life is not over.
What came before is gone,
and you can grieve or rejoice.
But, in either case, you must
let it go
to claim the new life God
wants to begin in you now.
God wants to heal you.
That healing can begin as soon
as you exhale
and relax into the arms of the
Spirit,
as soon as you open your
heart to trust
that God is at work in you.
I am sent to tell you that there
will be companions on the
way.
Watch for them.
You will recognize each other
by tenderness.
And even in the darkness,
when you think you are
abandoned,
God will be with you –
for God has been there before
you,
and does not disdain to sit
with you there.
Beloved, do not fear.
God is calling to you now,
"Rise, and walk."

Here's another opportunity to give back to people in our community this season. This is a community event designed for any persons who are homeless, on the edge of homelessness, who need to or do utilize several community resources to help them survive and cope with daily needs. Many, many services are available all on one day and in one place.

It has been a wonderful experience for all of us who have been involved in this day in previous years because instead of participants getting frustrated what you hear are things like, "I've never gotten so much done in one day every before . . ." or "I didn't realize there were all these services were available." – Gail Saxowsky

4th Annual Polk Community Connect

The 4th Annual Polk Community Connect will be held on Wednesday, January 28 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Valley Life Center Church in Dallas (1795 SE Miller Ave). Services and resources offered include pet care, haircuts, bike repair, dental services, health screenings, clothing, and more! Free transportation will be provided to and from the event.

- To volunteer, contact: polkconnectvolunteers@gmail.com or 971-599-3845
- For more information, please contact Michelle Bornfleth at 503-623-9664, x 2457 or bornfleth.michelle@co.polk.or.us.

Excerpts from our denominational websites.

Human Trafficking Awareness Day

January 11, 2014 Human Trafficking = Modern-Day Slavery

The year 2014 marks the 151th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Because of the groundbreaking work of our ancestors, slavery was outlawed in the United States. However the legacies of chattel slavery continue to haunt our society even as we turn to face a new form of slavery: human trafficking. More than 20.9 million people are estimated to work in conditions of forced labor worldwide according to the International Labor Organization. On January 11, consider marking human trafficking day with prayer and **action**.

- Learn more what **products of slavery** are produced with child and slave labor though this interactive website from Anti-Slavery International. Estimate your "**slavery footprint**".

To lift up the issue of modern-day slavery, provide resources and advocate for further action to eradicate human trafficking, the roundtable is [taking action.] See <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/human-trafficking/> for more information, or

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Human Trafficking Roundtable (800) 728-7228, x5435

Excerpts from our denominational websites.

All Lives Matter – A Lesson from Hebrew Midwives

By the Rev. F. Willis Johnson Jr.

Dec. 5, 2014 | FERGUSON, Mo. (UMNS)

...When Israel was in Egypt's land

The Hebrew midwives narrative in Exodus 1:15-21 highlights an indecent human proposition.

Shiphrah and Puah. Under government sanctions, are enlisted to participate in extermination of Hebrew boys... Justifiable homicide was made politically expeditious and socially acceptable in response to the presupposed threat Hebrews boys posed...

Truth told, as Christians we are confounded in similar ways every day. Situations like Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin, kidnapping of Nigerian girls, immigration reform, the comprehensive global response to Ebola and so on create ethical challenges. Important to understand is our day-to-day living remains answerable to our faith...

Obviously, Shiphrah and Puah sought vigilance over violence. They exercised discipline over destruction. They realized there is credence for the practice of prayer as protest and protest as prayer. The midwives epitomize how God-fearers should respond faced with longstanding, systemic and culturally oppressive realities. When faced with having to do the right or righteous thing, they elected righteousness – being in right alignment with God's will and way. The women were divinely defiant, diplomatic, and destined in their redress.

Divine defiance is agitating or acting against legacies, systems and the practices that challenge our faith life. Defiance is a spiritual call to being antithetical to the world's kings. Theirs was diplomacy that created a unique relational exchange...

Lastly, the midwives were divinely destined, They had clear understanding that state-sanctioned killing of Hebrew babies could result in provable demise of others, When pharaoh was done killing Hebrew boys, were girls next, or Semitic people? The women recognized their destiny was interconnected with what happened to others babies.

Without their civil resistance and resoluteness for the sake of the Hebrew boys, there would be no Moses for any of us. These outsiders' acts of simple heroism in the prayer/protest, "Black lives matter."

...Acknowledge that wherever, whenever, however, whosoever is forced to live through or die from unjust and inhumane treatment, it is spiritually damning because ALL LIVES MATTER!

Johnson is pastor of Wellspring Church, a United Methodist congregation in Ferguson, Missouri. He has a doctorate in ministry.

<http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/all-lives-matter-a-lesson-from-hebrew-midwives4>



What a Blessing the gift of a new carpet is for the Christ's Church sanctuary! Isn't it simply lovely?

The blue is restful and blends well with all the other colors and textures in the sanctuary. There are no more patches! People will no longer be tripping over uneven repair work! The carpet even looks as if it has been there always.

Many thanks to ALL of you who helped move furniture (and the organ!) out and then back in once the carpet was installed. The efforts truly demonstrated how many hands make work light – and more joyous. And we did it without calling in Drew Mosier to help. Drew was able to stay home and get better instead of needing to come in to lend his muscle to the effort. That's because the rest of us all worked together to get it done. Good job! (And glad you're better now, Drew.)

Photo courtesy of Linda Scheirman

What's another way to make our sanctuary welcoming? Friendliness.

How do visitors determine the friendliness of a church? We asked our interviewees. Their response was simple, yet insightful. Visitors determine the friendliness of a church by *the number of people who talk with them!* That's it. Simple but significant! (No surprise. Right?) We asked them one more question: "*When did you conclude that the church you visited was — or was not — a friendly church?*" More than any other, the critical time for making a friendly impression is the ten minutes right after the service ends.

http://www.churchleadership.com/leadingideas/leaddocs/2013/130828_article2.html?id=app20130828

Walking the Labyrinth is an ancient spiritual act that is being rediscovered during our time. Labyrinths can be found in almost every religious tradition around the world.

The labyrinth in Christ Church's Prayer Room is a finger labyrinth. It is to use the same way you walk a labyrinth, but where you don't have room to set up a walking labyrinth. The European labyrinths, like the one at Chartres mentioned (see illustration), were designed in part as substitutes for going on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land when the politics and wars made that impossible. So the finger labyrinth is another accommodation to experience the spiritual discipline if the physical journey is not a realistic possibility.

A labyrinth is a tool, a path for prayer – a walking meditation. It is not a maze. There are no tricks or blocked pathways.

This is an eleven-circuit labyrinth like that embedded in the floor of the Chartres Cathedral in France

Tips for walking the labyrinth: You simply walk in following the path and return out using the same path. If you meet others on the path, silently step aside



so that one of you can pass. As you walk, quiet your mind. Walk in silence. Let your body find your pace. Open your heart and your mind. Each walk is a different experience for each person. Think of the journey in three parts: The way in. The center. The way out.



Think of walking the labyrinth as a pattern for Christian Spiritual Discipline:

PURGATION: on your way in let your mind quiet. Let go of all that burdens you.

ILLUMINATION: in the center, give yourself time opening to what God may want you to hear or feel.

UNION: on the way out, be open to integrating this experience into your life.

Allow yourself time sitting in silence once you have finished the walk. What meaning did you find for yourself?

Record your thoughts, if desired, in your journal.

Now, We need to remember two of our own...



Rev. Jack Powers (retired) died yesterday morning (Monday, Dec. 29) after suffering a severe stroke on Christmas Eve.

Rev. Powers' **memorial service will be held this coming Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015, at Capital Manor in West Salem** (1955 Salem-Dallas Hwy., Salem, OR 97304).

Memorial gifts can be sent to First United Methodist Church of Salem for the Suttle Lake United Methodist Camp, c/o 600 State Street, Salem, Oregon 97301.

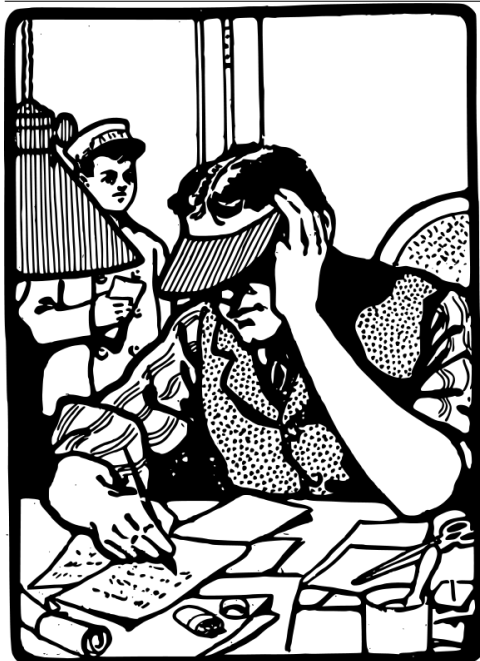
Please hold his wife, June Powers, and their family in your prayers. Messages for June can be sent to 1955 Salem Dallas Hwy NW, Apt 716, Salem, OR 97304-4491.

Rev. Elam Anderson (retired) also died on Monday, Dec. 29.

We do not have any word yet on funeral plans for him.

Please keep his wife, Jean Anderson, and their family in your prayers as well. Messages for Jean can be sent to 345 SE Baker St, McMinnville, OR 97128-6039.





As we embark on a new year, we often contemplate resolutions for the New Year. Some of us may have lofty, unrealistic, or unattainable goals. You may have heard of the philosophy of Charles Schulz, the creator of the 'Peanuts' comic strip, before, but it bears repeating. It helps me realize what are true priorities for all of us. See what you think.

The Charles Schulz Philosophy

Read this straight through, and you'll get the point.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America pageant.
- 4 Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

The lesson: None of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money...or the most awards. They simply are the ones who care the most.

In other words, they are people with whom you share love and relationship. ...May your coming year be blessed, your relationships with others be rich and filled with love beyond measure, and may you be healthy and at peace in this wonderful world God has bequeathed to all of us. ~ Joy

