

# Christ's Church Methodist & Presbyterian United

## The Messenger, December 2017



### Values, Vision, & Mission

**Mission Statement for Christ's Church Methodist & Presbyterian United** is *"to discover, proclaim and share the love of Jesus Christ through prayer and worship, ministry, service, & our action as individuals."*



**While we await our new Pastor, Dave Pritchard, we have the following guest speakers**

- Dec 3 – Karen Crooch
- Dec 10 – Jon Langenwalter
- Dec 17 – Michael Powell
- Dec 24 – Jody Felton
- Dec 31 – David Moreli

**And we have the following for Pastoral Care**

- Nov 25-Dec 1 – Gail Saxowsky
- Dec 2-8 – Bev Herzog
- Dec 9-15 – Diane McBrumet
- Dec 16-22 – Diane McBrumet

## REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

### SUNDAY

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

### MONDAY

- 7:00pm **Young Adult Bible Study** (S. Pittam's)

### TUESDAY

- 4:30pm **Service for Residents** (Independence Health Center)  
 7:00pm **Boy Scouts** (Lower Level)  
 7:00pm **Committees** (Library)  
 7:00pm **Adventist Church** (Sanctuary)

### WEDNESDAY

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

### THURSDAY

- 7:00pm **Book Discussion** (S. Pittam's)

### FRIDAY

- 8:00pm **Narcotics Anonymous**

### SATURDAY

- 9:00am **Adventist Church** (9am-8pm, CC)  
 • 5:00 pm **Advent Study & Potluck** (At the church)  
 • Christian Education will provide rides for Advent participants who need transportation

## THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

- Dec 3 **Worship Committee Meeting** (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, after service, CC)  
 Dec 3 **Hanging of the Greens**  
 Dec 6 **Horizons 1<sup>st</sup> Wed** (1pm, CC Library)  
 Dec 6 **Lectionary, 1<sup>st</sup> Wed** (8am, Pink House)  
 Dec 2 **Free Polk Medical Clinic** 1<sup>st</sup> Sat (7:30am, Dallas, Trinity Lutheran)  
 Dec 3 **PJM – Peace, Justice, & Mission** 2<sup>nd</sup> Fri (11:00am, CC)  
 Dec. 10 **Community Chorus Christmas Concert** (3:00pm, CC)  
 Dec 12 **Stewardship Team Meeting** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue (6:30pm, CC Library)  
 Dec 13 **SPRC CC, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed** (7am, Independence Grill)  
 Dec 21 **Western Compass Meeting** Campus Ministry, (10am, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu)  
 Dec 23 **Submission Due Date** for Messenger Newsletter  
 Dec 24 **Christian Education**, usually 4<sup>th</sup> Sun (12:30pm, CC Library)

### Save these dates!

- Jan 6 **Polk Free Clinic** 1<sup>st</sup> Sat (7:30am, Dallas, Trinity Lutheran)

**Pastor: David Pricchard**  
*(as of January 1<sup>st</sup>)*

**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>

### Office Hours:

Sun, M-F, 9am-12pm  
 412 Clay Street W.  
 Monmouth, OR 97361  
 (503) 838-1724

Email: [ccmpunited@gmail.com](mailto:ccmpunited@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor: Joy Brown**



12/03 Dot Turnbull  
 12/05 Jim Beaird-Leeper  
 12/07 Georgia Wildfang  
 12/09 Dirk Van Gelder  
 12/09 Pat Jaffer  
 12/14 Lorraine Wells  
 12/15 Howard Grund-Clampit  
 12/19 Shelby Case  
 12/25 Nadine Korcha  
 12/31 Bev Davis  
 12/31 Joyce Moser

*Is your birthday missing? Please let the office or editor know so we can correct that omission. Thanks!*



### **Prayer Ministry**

Please hold these people in your prayers:

Poonie Chiles, Lisa Fowler, Nick Erstgaard  
Megan Gipson, Jo Ann King, Jim Smith, Jo  
Yeager



We offer prayers:

- *For people who have been evicted or made homeless by the ever changing forces of nature and the economy.*
- *For our nation, and world, which is suffering an upsurge of hate and racism directed against some of us*
- *For the ability to stand up for justice by exercising our rights to speak up and out for others, no matter what the circumstances.*
- *For the ability to influence the circumstances of our death to bring comfort and peace*

### **And Prayers of Thanks and Gratitude**

- *For the joy and happiness which comes from embarking on a new journey*
- *For healing after accidents, like recovery from a crash with a bicycle*
- *For new life and the joy of the Erstgaard twins.*



### **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."



## **Announcements & Upcoming Events**



### **Food Bank Focus for December:**

#### **Christmas Baskets & Sock it to Hunger**

Contact the PJM Team with questions regarding the food bank.



**On Sunday, December 3 at 2:00 pm,  
come join in the fun**

Join us in decking the halls and celebrating the season as we hang the greens. Please bring gloves, pruners, evergreens, and drop cloths if you have them. Hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies will be available.



**Salem Community Chorus Christmas Concert** (December 10 at 2:30 pm, at Christ's Church) We have three people from our church involved in this chorus. It takes a lot of commitment and dedication to get to perform this caliber of singing for all of us.

Come. Enjoy.



### **Christmas Caroling!**

On Friday evening December 22 we have the opportunity of being the singers, or carolers in this case, as we travel around Monmouth and Independence singing Christmas carols at the homes of persons who find it difficult to get out and to the residents of the local nursing homes. We will gather at 4:50PM at the church, caravan around the communities and return to the church for hot cocoa, warm food and joyous fellowship. Wear your gloves or mittens and bring flashlights. We want everyone to be safe, too.

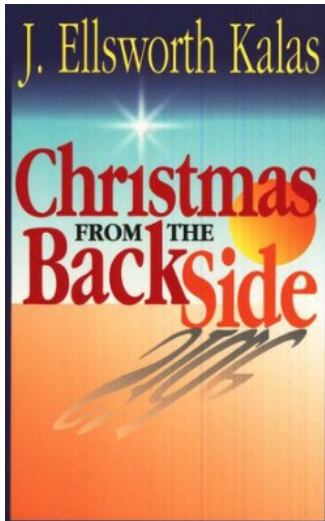
So, clear your throat and join in this meaningful way to get into the spirit of Christmas.





# Advent Study 2017

## with Sandwich and Salad Potluck



**Sundays: Dec 3, 10, 17**  
**5 - 7 pm**

Kalas' angle is to look at the Christmas story from different than usual approaches, and so he talks about Christmas and Adam and Eve, Christmas and women's roles, Christmas and 'hotels' in Jesus' day, Christmas and

Government, etc. I think Kalas does his best work in getting readers to imagine themselves as being part of the story. He really helped me flesh out some of the birth narrative texts, and gave some great colorful details about what things might have been like.

Taken from review @ The blog of bethquick.com

***Facilitated by Rev. Jody Felton***

**Sign Up Early**

*Books available in  
advance when you sign  
up*

Transportation is available  
arrange with Sherry  
503.838.2667

5 – 7 pm Potluck & Study in Upstairs kitchen/sanctuary



## Christmas is Coming

Actually it's the preparation of the celebration of the Coming of Jesus. Again we will find comfort in some of the activities we've done in the past creating our own traditions.

Already we are gathering food and money via the Sock It to Hunger socks for 20 Christmas boxes which will merge with other boxes from other churches and community groups to help families with extra needs have a Christmas feast. We know that we need to have the food by December 17; we know that the fresh vegetables and potatoes are being donated; we know that we will put the boxes together before December 20; we know regardless of ethnic background we need desserts and canned fruit and vegetables so you can bring those by anytime now. What we don't know is the size of individual families or if they prefer an American or a Hispanic menu. Soon we hope to know more.

After several years of Christmas Concerts by the Salem Community Choir we can consider this year's concert at 2:30 in the afternoon of Sunday December 10th a tradition of Christ's Church. Of course, a part of the tradition is the repertoire of Christmas songs and the cookies and juice. We like to fill the pews so bring your neighbors, friends and family.



**Merry Christmas All**

## **Community Connections**

### **Warming Centers in Polk County**

*From Denvy and Gail Saxowsky: Brent Demoos of Polk County and Commissioner Jennifer Wheeler were present during a discussion of what is needed for homeless people in Polk County. It's hard to briefly summarize a one-hour meeting with Brent in an email but here goes.*

...Brent set the stage for the meeting. I briefed them on our discussion in the Happiness class we held recently. We shared ideas, dreams, limitations, ongoing projects and possible thoughts on housing homeless persons in Polk County.

If one were to establish housing for homeless in Polk County there's a good chance that the word would get out and others would move to Polk County just for the homeless shelter. A screening process might need to be considered if the goal is to help the locals.

Apparently Dallas UMC is considering some additional facilities at their church to house vets: addition to church with toilets and showers, allowing campers on property, purchasing another reloadable to house persons. This will probably be focused on male vets.

Brent receives calls during the cold winter nights for housing and as a church we have the minimum resources with we could find people to be in the building during sleeping hours.

City of Dallas can allow about 4 mini-houses on a single lot, but the houses must be on-site and not moved in.

Monmouth Library reported that homeless hang out in the library during the day for electricity and Wi-Fi and after hours hang around outside for Wi-Fi and electricity but the city has decided to turn off the outside electricity and Wi-Fi.

Northwest Housing is thinking about buying and then moving in some 30's buildings (\$1 purchase, \$8K to move) on a lot near the river near the Independence dog park.

Commissioner Wheeler will talk to Independence. She has and will be attending meetings in the state regarding housing homeless persons.

Brent will be meeting with the Dean of the College of Education at WOU about the use of some of its buildings.

I know I've missed a lot of what was discussed but this gives you an idea that much is in process. The services provided during Community Connect in January will be focused on homeless persons. It is expected that the head count of homeless may be more accurate this year.

City and state land use codes are limiting as far as where to locate facilities for homeless and how existing facilities may be used.

Thanks for all you encouragement and move[ment] forward with a great need in our community.



Linda Scheirman comments: " Not sure near the dog park is a good place as a homeless hang out. The downtown, more public area seems a more healthy location [and safer and more accessible for a warming station].

## ***Faith in Action***

People without health insurance live lives that are shorter and less healthy because it's harder for them to get preventive, diagnostic and ongoing care. [This month] As we honor World Diabetes Day, make sure you and everyone you know has health insurance.

**Enrollment for all Health Insurance** is now open from Nov. 1 – Dec. 15. Please be sure you and everyone you know are signed up. Share this information with others.

– *Faith in Action* newsletter, Nov. 2017, Oregon-Idaho Conference



## **Western Compass in full Swing**



Tuesday evenings will find up to about a dozen WOU students around a table in the back corner of the Sing Fay restaurant. They wander in pairs and singles, some before 5:00 and some after. Many are familiar faces, some are new. The new ones write their email addresses by their names on the sign-in sheet, regular just write their names. The settings include chopsticks, forks, ice water, and plates for Americans, warm water bowls for Chinese. After a few minutes a bowl of rice and a variety of dishes are passed around the table.

Either before the food or during the food each person at the table shares their POWs, WOWs, and HOWs. POW is something bad that happened during the past week; WOW is something good and HOW is "How is your spirit, your soul doing this week?"

Nick, the Western Compass program director, opens discussion on a topic of relevance based on national, local or campus news. Sometimes it's a spiritual development activity like a finger labyrinth, sometimes a chapter from a book like "What is the Bible?" Almost always there's an opportunity for safe open conversation.

Meanwhile during the week, Nick spends time of campus with students and developing programs for the entire campus. Back home, incidentally, Nick and his wife are adjusting to twin boys born mid-November and preparing for a Christmas of smiles and giggling.

– Denvy Saxowsky



## **Denomination News**

### **Current Tax Bills Cannot Be Biblically Defended**

WASHINGTON — Monday the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) issued the following statement condemning the tax cut proposals currently under consideration in the U.S. Congress:

The tax bills currently before the U.S. Congress are designed to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. Additionally, they add \$1.5 trillion to the national debt. These tax plans cannot be biblically defended.

“The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender. Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail (Proverbs 22:7-8, NRSV).” These words of warning from Holy Scripture serve to remind us that over time, those in power who steal from the poor will weaken the body politic and invite chaos. “Oppressing the poor in order to enrich oneself, and giving it to the rich, will lead only to loss (Proverbs 22:16, NRSV).”

The *National Council of Churches* prays our elected leaders heed these ancient words of wisdom which bear witness even today. Our lawmakers have a responsibility to care for the entire citizenry, not just those with the means to influence tax policy.

– *Faith in Action* newsletter, Nov. 2017, Oregon-Idaho Conference



**‘Facing Racism’  
theme  
features  
immigrant  
and refugee  
family  
resources**

LOUISVILLE — Because the beloved community is what God intends for us, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is engaging in an ongoing campaign to share a wealth of antiracism resources with the greater church...we offer resources related to issues facing immigrant and refugee families.

Resources include the award-winning “[Locked in a Box](#)” documentary, [legal resources](#), and more.

This is happening at this very moment in our country!

## **Kentucky public school allowing evangelicals to constantly harass non-Christian kids: mom:**

A Stanton, KY mom named Heather Estes says her children are being bullied at school because they are not evangelical Christians like their classmates — and that adult school employees have joined in on the attacks.

On Tuesday, Estes shared her story with a private Facebook group for atheists. In it, she explained that the vast majority of children at Stanton Elementary attended a daily Christian service before school called The Upper Room. Her children are perceived by their classmates as outsiders as a result and other kids have slammed tables into them and harassed them.

Estes said that when her son spoke to a teacher about the issue, the teacher said that he had to stand in front of the classroom and explain his beliefs. "You're going to have to stand up for yourself if you insist on being different," said the teacher. "Historians agree that the Bible is the most historically accurate book of all time."

-- Raw Story, Dec 1, 2017

### **Editor's Corner**

Each month I wonder what to write about. This month, the story about Religious

Discrimination in our public schools struck me. The story adds another concern to be aware of. Trying to hold these perpetrators in my heart with love for their hurt, angry, fear, and blaming hearts is the challenge I have as a Christian.

The situation will be resolved in legal action, eventually, but that is slow and doesn't mitigate the harm done to all these students, the school's administrators, and affected families, not to mention the harm done to all who learn of this story.

So, we cannot ignore it and likely, we cannot correct what has happened there. We can hold these concerns in our hearts. We can work to prevent this travesty from harming others in our and our children's futures. All I can say is to move forward with God. It takes many steps and many hands to move us on to Christ's beloved kingdom. Blessings for all who do this work.

