



The Messenger

May 2017



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

Pastor's Ponderings

Friends: We are winding down our time together – two months left. Please note that on June 4, Pentecost, we will hold a congregational meeting after worship for the purpose of dissolving the pastoral relationship as of June 30, 2017.

I have learned a great deal from my time here – including practicing some interim pastor skills that I hadn't expected to use! I have had support from the Presbytery, the Annual Conference, and mentors from both denominations who have helped me navigate the ecumenical (and somewhat independent) experiment here at Christ's Church. I am glad to watch your futuring work and the sense of belonging that small discussion groups have engendered in the past few months. You have many people who are passionate about the mission of this church.

And it has been a joy to grow with the Falls City congregation, and see the dedication on the part of Christ's Church and the UMC Conference toward this small yet dedicated, intergenerational bunch. I am so pleased that Linda Grund-Clampitt will be your next local pastor.

I will treasure the friendships that have been extended to me by so many of you!

Blessings on your next steps.

Becky



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)

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

- May 2 **PJM – Peace, Justice, & Mission** 2nd Tue (6:30pm, CC)
 May 3 **Horizons** 1st Wed (1pm, CC Library)
 May 6 **Polk Free Clinic** 1st Sat (7:30am, Dallas, Trinity Lutheran Church)
 May 7 **Falls City Food Bank Collection**, 1st Sun, after worship
 May 7 **Worship Committee Meeting** (1st Sun, after worship, CC)
 May 9 **Stewardship Team Meeting** 2nd Tue (6:30pm, CC Lib.)
 May 10 **SPRC CC**, 2nd Wed (7am, Independence Grill)
 May 18 **Western Compass Meeting** Campus Ministry, (10am, 3rd Thu)
 May 25 **Submission Due Date** for Messenger Newsletter
 May 27 **Polk Free Clinic** 4th Sat (7:30am, Dallas, Trinity Lutheran Church)
 May 28 **Christian Education**, usually 4th Sun (12:30pm, CC Library)
 May 31 **Lunch Bunch, FC**, last Mon (12pm, FC)

Save these dates!

- Jun 3 **Relay for Life!**
 Jul 4 **Ice Cream Booth!**
 Jul 30 - Aug 8 **Mission to Gambell**, Alaska



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 Methodist & Presbyterian
 412 Clay Street W.
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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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You may donate online using PayPal by clicking "Donate" on:
www.fallscityumc.org

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05/04 Tristin Harkins
 05/07 Carol Busby
 05/07 Denvy Saxowsky
 05/08 Marj Howard
 05/12 Sandy Moser
 05/14 Bob Goodman
 05/19 Liane Moser

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

Prayer Ministry

Please hold these people in your prayers:

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



Announcements

Native American Ministries Sunday on April 30

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Native American Ministries Sunday on April 30, 2017, is one of The United Methodist Church's six special Sundays designated by General Conference to recognize and support particular ministries annually with a special offering. This observation focuses the attention of church members on the gifts and contributions of Native Americans to society and the denomination. Polly House has the story for Interpreter magazine.

[Read story](#)

[Get resources](#)

Clergy speak out against executions

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (UMNS) — Legal challenges stopped three of the four planned executions in Arkansas this week, but Ledell Lee was put to death on April 20. United Methodist clergy are among those who spoke out against the multiple executions. Kathy L. Gilbert has the story.

[Read story](#)

Immigration Raids Are Beginning to Happen Under the Trump Administration

As the faith community, we must continue to be in solidarity with immigrants and refugees as increased attacks come down from the Administration. We know from Trump's Executive Orders and announcements that immigration enforcement will increase deportations, likely through large-scale raids. This may take place through workplace raids, home raids, neighborhood-wide raids, or even checkpoints. We've heard of raids already beginning to happen. As faith allies, we are called to be in solidarity and help stop these raids should they occur through rapid response mobilization.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Ever wondered?

Ever wondered what our congregation does on 5th Sundays? Our congregation seeks to minister to the community. It's helpful, healing, and people have fun. Check out this 5th Sunday video from 2011! Here is a link to the last time we cleaned up this yard! www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-locZDv2C4

Thoughts: Every Morning Is Easter Morning from now on!

*"You will show me the path of life;
In your presence is fullness of joy;..."*
Psalm 116:11 NKJV

A path is a lovely thing, it is somewhat narrow, seldom straight, but enticing to follow.

I loved walking the sheep trails along the hillside, the view was terrific. They led through the woods and along the river as well as past the wild rose bushes, well nibbled, with thorns holding bits of wool, like flags saying "this way."

A path is a place someone has gone before, a smoother place in a rough terrain.

*"I will bring the blind by a way they did not know;
I will lead them in paths they have not known.*

*I will make the darkness light before them, and crooked places straight.
These things I will do for them and not forsake them." Isa 46:16*

A path often reflects moonlight in the dark, a great comfort when it's hard to see the way.

May all your paths this spring be on solid ground, well trod, firm beneath your feet.

Contributed by Linda Scheirman

Why we are called United Methodists

DALLAS (UMNS) — There have been many nicknames for the band of believers who followed the lead of John and Charles Wesley in their early ministry in England. On April 23, 1968, United Methodists got their current moniker on what was the denomination's official birthdate.

[Read story](#)

Take your church's hospitality to the next level.

Become a more hospitable congregation with the tools in [Welcoming Ministry 100](#) . Learn how to encourage members to participate in visitor ministry. Assess what your church already does well and areas for improvement.

Upcoming Events & Announcements *(continued)*

You are invited to a

Substance Abuse Awareness Training

**“Vaping, Edibles, Drinkables and More.
What Legalization and Novel Products mean to our Youth”**

Presented by:

Polk County Family & Community Outreach
the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program

May 9, 2017
7:00 pm
Henry Hill School
Independence

Goals for the Presentation

“Presentation not appropriate for minors”

- To understand youth marketing messages used by those selling drug products and knows best-practice counter-marketing messages.
- To be able to identify new & common drug delivery products and items available to youth in Polk County.
- To understand support systems available for youth and be able to refer youth to school and community experts.
- To have a basic understanding of relevant laws and local statistical trends.

Sponsored in cooperation with
Central School District
Polk County Family & Community Outreach
Christ’s Church Methodist and Presbyterian United

For more information on Polk County Family & Community Outreach go to:

<http://www.co.polk.or.us/fo/prevention/tobacco-prevention-and-education-0>



Make the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program more visible in the Presbytery

My name is Blake Collins and Pastor Josh Dunham encouraged me to reach out to you to help make the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program more visible in the Presbytery of the Cascades. I was a YAV in Peru in 2013-14 and now am the associate for recruitment and relationships with the program. YAV is an ecumenical service-year opportunity for young adults, ages 19-30, in partnership with World Mission of the PC(USA). Would you please share the attached image in the presbytery e-newsletter until June 1st as we promote our final date to apply for the 2017-18 season? Please feel free to use the language below:

*The [Young Adult Volunteer \(YAV\) program](#) is a faith-based year of service for young people, ages 19-30, in [21 sites](#) around the world and in the United States. YAVs accompany local agencies working to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation while exploring the meaning and motivation of their faith in community with peers and mentors
Program benefits include a stipend, housing, transportation and [student-loan repayment options](#) throughout the duration of the service year. For more info, please visit the FAQ tab at the top of the [YAV homepage](#) (youngadultvolunteers.org) or feel free to contact Blake Collins (blake.collins@pcusa.org). Encourage a young person you know to [apply today!](#)*

YAV would also love to have an alum attend the presbytery gathering in late June. Josh encouraged me to ask about the potential to present during the “open space” time and have a representative at a table throughout the gathering. Is this possible? Thank you in advance for your assistance and partnership and I look forward to continuing the conversation. Blessings on your day and week and happy Easter!

-Blake

Needed: Toys and supplies are still needed for children of homeless families, hosted at Christ’s Church during Hospitality Weeks. We are building this collection through donations of toys, supplies, and money. Your donations would help. There is no collection of toys and supplies for grade school ages. We do have a few games and books, but building toys such as Legos (and more books) would be very helpful. And please, keep those donations coming so we can build a toy library for this age group.

Donations can be brought to the church office; questions can be sent to Denvy (sazowsky@gmail.com, 541-223-4462).



Service Opportunities

Relay for Life

The theme for this year's Relay on **June 3rd and 4th** is "Disney." The location is the Dallas high school football field.

We can do some celebrating, because we are winning the fight. Thanks to individual and financial support from many sources, cancer is a disease that can be cured and prevented.

You can help again in several ways. Visit and support those who are struggling with cancer, or offer relief to a caregiver. Make a financial contribution individually or through Relay for Life. Join the Footprints Relay for Life team and spend some time with the Footprints team and other teams as they join in solidarity against cancer. You join the team online; probably it would be easiest to Google Relay for Life Polk Oregon and click on Join a Team and enter the zip code 97338.



Jesus said, "What you do for the least of these you do for me."



Christians Can Stop Trump's Wall by Jim Wallis

Donald Trump's wall is obviously a terrible idea: It's both impractical and ineffective — and more importantly, it's immoral. Building Trump's wall would be building a 2,200-mile-long monument to racism.

Trump's wall has nothing to do with fixing a broken immigration system. It will waste money and result in cuts to more effective and important programs. It's not about strengthening national security; it's about fueling national paranoia. And Christians must ensure that it doesn't move forward.

There are several indications that the wall won't do what Trump promises or accomplish its stated goals.

A 2015 government study indicated that the bulk of illegal drugs that enter the U.S. come hidden in trucks through established border checkpoints, so a wall wouldn't keep drugs out of the country as Trump claims. As for undocumented immigrants, the Pew Research Center tells us that not only has immigration from Mexico been falling for years, long before Donald Trump took office, but at this point more Mexican immigrants are leaving the United States than are coming in each year.

But there are more important reasons beyond the practical — Read the full article: <https://sojo.net/articles/christians-can-stop-trump-s-wall>

Denomination News

Methodist Conference Dilemma

The United Methodist Church will be in the news this week, as the (ecclesial) legality of Bishop Karen Oliveto's election, consecration, and appointment will be decided by the UMC's Judicial Council. Bishop Oliveto is the first married lesbian pastor to be elected by a judicial conference as a Bishop. A letter from our Bishop was distributed on Sunday, May 30.. You can read it here:

<http://www.pnwumc.org/news/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/JudicialCouncil-LetterFAQ.pdf>

- <http://westernjurisdictionumc.org/why-we-voted-for-bishop-oliveto/>
- <https://vimeo.com/211536319>
- <http://westernjurisdictionumc.org/a-call-to-stand-together-mountain-sky-area-vital-congregations-sustentation-fund/>

Our congregation's Board asks all of us to pray at noon, daily, for all affected by the outcome of this trial, including the world-wide United Methodist Church.



Statement by Rev. Mary K. (Sellon) Huycle (PNW Conference voting member of the Western Jurisdiction which elected Bishop Oliveto)

...in our era, Methodists have wrestled as new understandings emerged in the dominant culture about slavery, segregation, and woman. The first woman was ordained in 1866, but it wasn't until 1956 that women received full clergy rights. Methodists splintered over slavery and while they reunited in 1939, segregation was part of our formal polity until 1958. These "issues" couldn't have been imagined by those first followers. Fortunately, they left us a pattern of discernment and adaptation.

The judicial Council decision is not a statement about the worth of LGBTQI persons. It is not a statement about whether or not they should have full rights in The United Methodist Church. It was The Book of Discipline, our church law, that was on trial here. Does it allow for the contextual adaptations needed during a time of transition?

The answer we learned with the Judicial Council decision, is "no." There is now even greater urgency for the denomination to engage with the process that the Bishops' Way Forward Committee will be bringing us. In the meantime, however, we must prioritize caring for persons made even more vulnerable by this decision.



Denomination News

Christ's Church is engaged in a process of discerning our next faithful steps as a congregation. We are looking for clues as to what God is calling us to do and to be in the next stage of our life together.



Our first congregational conversation was

following worship on

Sunday, March 12 and focused on questions of our core values. The clues from that conversation were reported in the April newsletter. Our second conversation was following worship on Sunday, March 26th. Below is one statement of the clues that came out of the second conversation, which focused on who we are as a congregation.

Do these statements ring true for you? What would you add? What would you change?

Please feel free to give feedback to anyone on Christ's Church's Board: Gail Saxowsky, Beverly Davis, Linda Scheirman, Sue Badgett, Janna Moser, Linda Grund-Clampit, JoAnn King, Maggie Scroggins, and Carol Brown.

Clues from the second conversation, our "personality" as a congregation.

- Christ's Church has been a safe place to explore our faith and to be iconoclasts, a safe place to ask questions and to wonder why. There has been a sense of freedom, "I don't want to be told what to think or do, but be given opportunities to listen to alternatives and make up my own mind."
- We have come to rely upon, admire, and be inspired by our companions here, even those with whom we wrestle.
- We have found opportunities to grow in our faith and in our service. There are many good experiences of service and opportunities for helping and leading - there is support and strong leadership to help others become leaders; "living out the Bible."

“Vision is a gift of God given to the people of God. It is important to find a way to get the wisdom of all. God has given some of the wisdom to all of us, but not all the wisdom to any of us.”

- Lovett Weems



Community Connections

Rapid Response Training for people wishing to serve as Legal Observers and otherwise to respond to ICE Raids will be offered on May 6, 2pm, at the Dallas UMC, 565 SE LaCreole Drive, Dallas, Oregon. The training will last 3-4 hours. English speakers are welcome. This event will be a combined event between Polk County Huddle and Polk Community for Human Equality (PCHE).

There is a BIG need for rapid responders in Polk County. So please plan on attending, We will need a head count, so as soon as you know you can go, please RSVP to the United Methodist Church at dallasumc@qwestoffice.net An email RSVP will be your registration for the event. The space at the church is large, so you can definitely bring other interested people to come with you; just include them in your email.

Substance Abuse Awareness Training

Half the money from the Peacemaking Special offering, taken annually at Christ's Church, will support an informational meeting and training on the use of drugs and alcohol by youth.

Polk County Family Community Outreach will present a Substance Abuse Awareness Training on Tuesday, May 9, 7:00PM at the Henry Hill School in Independence. The training is a joint effort of Polk County, the Central School District and Christ's Church.

The training will last about one hour and is designed for teachers and parents to help them be aware of youth abuse drugs and alcohol, what are the emerging trends and what they may do to curtail this problem. This training is not for minors. If this training is not relevant to your life, perhaps you know someone who might benefit from the training; encourage them to attend.

Free Clinics

Medical: Clinic days continue to be held on the first and fourth Saturdays of each month but we're having trouble meeting the increased demand. It is now important for people to call in and make an appointment before the clinic day, because there are more walk-in patients coming than we can accommodate in recent weeks. This means that we might not be able to care for everyone the day they come to the door but need to schedule them for another clinic day. Office phone: (503) 831-0551.

Dental: People who have dental needs should call Living Hope City Church at (503) 623-6890 to be added to the list for the NW Dental Van.

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."



Editor's Corner

Hello friends. Due to medical needs (upcoming surgeries for both my husband and myself), I do not know how the next 1-4 months will affect The Messenger newsletter.

If you do not see a newsletter between June and September, do not be alarmed. I may be off with my husband on a "summer hiatus!" I pray that your summer will be much more pleasant.

– Joy