

December 10, 2014



# GOOD NEWS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (*Disciples of Christ*) 432 Ferry St. SW, Albany, OR 541-926-8606

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## CHRISTMAS MUSICAL THIS SUNDAY

The children and youth gave us a sneak preview of their musical “The First Leon” by singing at our recent Advent Evensong service. You won’t want to miss their full presentation of this special Christmas musical during 10 a.m. worship on **Sunday, Dec. 14.**

A final rehearsal will be from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 13, followed by a lunch for all participants and their families!



### THE CAST

**Storyteller:** Haley Weir  
**Leon (Innkeeper):** Charlie Mack\*  
**Ms. Mosley:** Alyssa Nelson\*  
**Jonathan (Joseph):** Ryan Nelson  
**Madeline (Mary):** Kendall Weir

### Shepherds –

Michael Varner\* (Matthew)  
Aiden Varner\* (David)  
Chinua Tafen

### Wise Men –

Henry Catlin  
Makinzie Cluver\*  
Lucy Rouse°  
Emma Ortiz\*

### Angels –

Anica Ortiz\* (Julie)  
Simone Welsh\* (Brooke)  
Ellie Norman\* (Katie)  
Grace Catlin\*  
B.B. Bartholomew\*  
Simone Jackson°

### Villagers –

Kathleen Chancellor  
Evie Rouse  
Beth Rouse\*°  
Davarié Muckey

Soloists\* Narrators°

# Church Family News

## In Our Prayers

Georgia Parker  
Mary Lou McCorkle  
Brett Muckey  
Jean Burke  
Marcia Stevens  
Tom Cochran  
Linda Bricker  
Jan Goby  
Nancy Robb's brother  
Jack Miner  
Lynnie Evans  
Harryette Anderson  
Sarah Mack's step mom  
Doreen Hilderbrand  
Jan Hagemeister's daughter  
For those in hospice care:  
Phyllis Silsbee  
Cheryl Hersom

## Attendance and Giving

Sunday, Nov. 30

Attendance 141

General Fund giving \$4,488.37

Building Fund giving \$665

Sunday, Dec. 7

Attendance 164

General Fund giving \$5,224

Building Fund giving \$770

General Fund giving in Dec. \$5,224

Amount needed monthly \$24,537

Building Fund giving in Dec. \$770

Amount needed monthly \$8,925

### OUR MISSION

is to be a faithful, growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality, and a passion for justice.

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

Bring your family and friends to worship at 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. We will gather as family in the candle-lit twinkle of our sanctuary to sing carols, hear the Christmas story, celebrate the lighting of the Christ candle, receive communion and close with our tradition of singing "Silent Night" in the glow of candles. The service is simple, quiet and a perfect way to welcome the Christ Child. Come and worship!

## GENERAL FUND 2015 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The 2015 General Fund budget approved by the congregation at the December Congregational Meeting includes a cost-of-living raise for staff who served throughout 2014, an increase in staff auto allowance and the Pastors' Ministry fund to accommodate the needs of two full-time pastors; an increase to provide more educational resources for children and youth; and a \$660 increase to General Fund outreach. Even with those increases the Budget Committee was able to keep the total budget at \$399,267 which is \$2,574 less than the 2014 budget.

## END-OF-YEAR GIFTS

End-of-year gifts to the church need to be in the church office by Sunday, Dec. 28 so our financial secretary can make the deposit to the bank before the new year. The church office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING

Don't miss the congregation's annual celebration of its life together on Sunday, Jan. 11 following morning worship. Highlights of this time together will include a delicious lunch, video highlights of 2014, installation of 2015 church officers, a time of appreciation for out-going officers and the celebration of the 2014 Honored Member. Make sure your calendar is open for this important and special celebration of church life.

## THANK YOU

Dear friends at First Christian,

Thank you to those who attended our woodwind quintet recital. Our family enjoyed performing for you and we hope you enjoyed the music!

We appreciate all the donations toward music camp for Alyssa and Ryan. They are looking forward to attending Woodwinds in the Wallowa camp next summer!

With love and gratitude,

Andy, Colleen, Alyssa, and Ryan

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Dec. 21

5-7 p.m. Youth Christmas Party  
7 p.m. Choral Vespers

### Dec. 24

7 p.m. Christmas Eve service

### Jan. 11

Annual Congregational Lunch  
and Meeting

### Feb. 7-8, 2015

Women's Weekend at Silver  
Falls Conference Center

### Feb. 18, 2015

Ash Wednesday

### March 22-27, 2015

Mission trip to JustLiving Farm

### April 5, 2015

Easter Sunday Celebration

### July 18-22, 2015

General Assembly in Columbus,  
Ohio

## SAVE THE DATE FAMILY CAMP

August 21-23, 2015  
Camp Tumalo  
in the Bend area

Registration in the spring.  
If you have questions, talk  
to Teralee Weir.

# TRUE COMMUNITY

Dear Friends,

Over the last two weeks, I have been reading through the blessings, words of encouragement, and covenants that you all offered during my installation service on Nov. 23. I am deeply moved and overwhelmingly grateful to all of you for welcoming me so warmly into my pastoral role in this congregation and for your support and encouragement as we move forward in ministry together. I will never forget the feeling I had as this congregation surrounded and blessed me.

I especially want to thank Patty for her leadership and generosity; the Personnel and Search Committees for the beautiful reception; Nancy for making sure that everything falls in the right place; and to all of you who have gone out of your way to make Amber and I feel at home here.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!

Douglass Anne



**Best wishes to Lois  
Crow who celebrated  
her 90th birthday!**

## A GRATEFUL INVITATION

All members of the 2014 Church Board, Program Cabinet and Board of Elders are invited to attend an appreciation gathering and Christmas Dessert at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15. Delicious holiday desserts and warm appreciation will be shared. This gathering takes the place of the church's usual Monday night meetings. Please bring your notebooks to this gathering. Materials will be updated for the new year.

## ROOM SHUFFLE UPSTAIRS

If you have been upstairs, you have noticed that we relocated the preschool office so it is easier to find in the center of the hall and visible when you come up the stairs or elevator. Pastoral Counseling Center has relocated into the preschool's former space and the Speech and Language class now occupies part of the former counseling room. Thanks to Beth Morse and her moving crew who did this during Thanksgiving weekend.



# DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY



## “WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING” SUNDAYS AT NINE STARTING JAN. 4

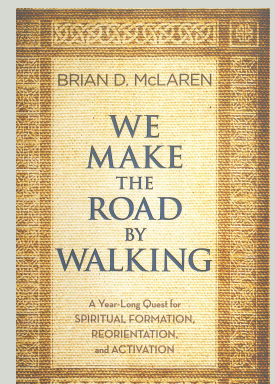
All adults and older youth are invited to join a yearlong quest for spiritual formation, reorientation and activation by reading and studying together a new book by Brian McLaren called “We Make the Road by Walking.” This book offers all that is needed to explore what a difference an honest, living, growing faith can make in our world today. The book contains 52 weekly readings (a very short chapter) that give an overview of the whole Bible and guide individuals and groups through a year of rich study, interactive learning and personal growth. The weekly readings invite participants to cultivate an honest, intelligent understanding of the Bible and of Christian faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; engage with discussion questions designed to challenge, stimulate and encourage; and re-imagine what it means to live joyfully and responsibly in today’s world as agents of God’s justice, creativity and peace.

The elders will be using “We Make the Road By Walking” as their study book for the year and other groups are encouraged to join them in using this book as a guide to faith exploration in 2015. Anyone who would be interested in being a part of a group that would meet monthly to share their journey down this

road of spiritual exploration are invited to call Patty Evans or leave a message in the church office. Patty will contact interested people and groups will be formed.

Beginning Sunday, Jan. 4 Patty will be leading a “Make the Road” group that will meet each Sunday at 9 a.m. through Sunday, March 29. On each of these weeks those gathered will share their reflections on their weekly reading. On Sunday, April 12 at 9:00 a.m. everyone who has joined in this yearlong faith exploration journey will be invited to come to a “First Quarter Check Point.” This gathering will help participants identify and affirm all they have learned over the first thirteen weeks of the adventure.

Copies of “We Make the Road by Walking” are available in the church office for \$18. All who participate in this quest are invited to begin their reading the first week in January and have the preface, introduction and first chapter read by Sunday, Jan. 4. For more information, see Patty Evans.



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## REIKI HEALING MINISTRY NEWS

by Deb Burchfiel



The monthly Reiki Gathering will be Saturday, Dec. 20 (this is a change from 12/27). The session will begin at 9 a.m. If you want to receive, observe or give Reiki, you are welcome! Please contact Deb Burchfiel or Kris McLaughlin in advance. Reiki is also available Thursdays from 1-3 p.m.

Contact Terry Wood in advance.

2014 has been full of growth, opportunities and challenges. What did you do that was new for yourself

in 2014? Eight years ago, three FCC members decided to explore Reiki training, and there began a self-practice, which has been valuable every day. It also began a healing ministry that grew with more trained givers, more seeking healing and more blessing.

Why not start 2015 with a Reiki I class? Practicing Reiki can help you ease anxiety or pain, support your wellbeing while you address a medical condition, or keep you healthy. Our teacher, Rev. Elaine Andres, is available to offer a training here at FCC Albany in the new year. To learn more about the Reiki I class, visit her website

<http://www.sacredpathministry.org/Reiki1.html>.

# PASSION FOR JUSTICE

## COMMUNITY MEAL

### TAKE HOME FUNDRAISER

The Community Meal Governing Board and Steering Committee are sponsoring a Take Your Lunch Home fundraiser on Sunday, Jan. 25.

Gordon Kirbey and helpers will prepare a delicious entrée with sides and package it up for us to take it home and eat when we are hungry. Cost of the take home meal will be \$10 and the proceeds will benefit our weekly Community Meal. Did you know nearly 1,000 meals are served each month at the Community Meal? There are all kinds of hunger and this meal, served in the welcoming and safe atmosphere of the church, meets many of them. Our participation in this fundraiser as well as the money that is placed weekly in the Community Meal donation basket provide the needed financial base for this loving and nurturing ministry.

## YOUTH GROUPS

### SUNDAY, DEC. 14 •

4:30 p.m. Chi Rho group

6:30 p.m. CYF group

### SUNDAY, DEC. 21 • 5-7 P.M.

5-7 p.m. All Youth Christmas Party

### SUNDAY, DEC. 28 • NO YOUTH GROUPS

### SUNDAY, JAN. 4

4:30 p.m. Chi Rho group

6:30 p.m. CYF group

### SUNDAY, JAN. 11

Youth help serve at the Congregational Lunch

Thanks to all who purchased wreaths and swags to support our youth. Thanks to all the parents and other adults who helped. More than \$900 was raised.

## CHRISTMAS MUSIC ON DEC. 16

On Tuesday, Dec. 16 Gary Ruppert will bring the Christmas spirit to our Community Meal with piano music during the meal. He'll also invite those attending to join in singing a few songs. Be sure to come for great food and great music!

## #GRATEFUL

Who are you grateful for this holiday season? There are so many people who touch our lives and we're grateful for them every day. However, sometimes we like to take a special day to honor very special people! **Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>** is Staff Appreciation Day. We will be showing and sharing our gratefulness to our wonderful and highly valued staff at First Christian! The Personnel Committee will be hosting coffee hour as an expression of thanks and appreciation so that the entire congregation can share how grateful and fortunate we are to have our staff! Each staff member goes above and beyond their regular duties to provide a beautiful place of faith, worship and fellowship. Please join us in remembering our staff with appreciation this Christmas by bringing your cards and/or monetary gifts to present to the staff during coffee hour. Checks should be noted "Staff Appreciation." #FCCstaffisthebest

Thank you,

Traci Egan, Personnel Chair

## THANKS RUBEN

Our great appreciation goes to Ruben Sandoval who served as our custodian for the past 8 months. He recently resigned when he was promoted to a full-time teacher at Garfield School. He is no longer able to juggle two jobs and continue his ongoing education classes. Many thanks to Ruben who was a delightful presence on our staff. We will miss him.

We have temporarily contracted with a cleaning service to keep the building looking great. The position has been advertised and we are taking applications until Friday, Dec. 12.

## CHRISTMAS OUTING FOR FAMILIES

On Wednesday, Dec. 17, children (fifth grade and younger) and their families are invited to join other church families for a visit to Storybook Land. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the entrance to Storybook Land and walk together through the lighted forest scenes and meet Santa and Mrs. Claus. The group will return to the church to warm up and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies upstairs in the Youth Commons.

Admission is free but you are encouraged to bring donations of canned food for Fish of Albany. Storybook Land is located at the Linn Co. Fair and Expo Center in the Cascade Livestock Building.

If you have questions, please talk to Douglass Anne.



## SAVE THESE DATES

### REGIONAL SUMMER CAMPS AT SUTTLE LAKE

CYF and Chi Rho Camp – July 26-31, 2015

Grade School Camp – August 10-14, 2015

Albany, OR 97321

432 Ferry St. SW

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



**GOOD NEWS**