

December 24, 2014



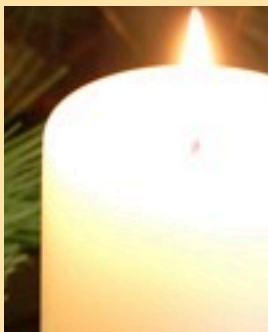
# GOOD NEWS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (*Disciples of Christ*) 432 Ferry St. SW, Albany, OR 541-926-8606  
Vol. 58, No. 18 Web site: <http://www.fccalbany.com/>



## *Merry Christmas from your church staff*

*Front row: Bailey Wood, Connor Welsh, Kaylee Varner  
Back row: Patty Evans, Caren Luckenbill, Nancy Anderson,  
Gary Ruppert, Douglass Anne Cartwright*



### **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE**

Bring your family and friends to worship at 7 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!

# Church Family News

## In Our Prayers

Georgia Parker  
Mary Lou McCorkle  
Brett Muckey  
Jean Burke in hospice care  
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, Dec. 14

Attendance 160

General Fund giving \$7,610

Building Fund giving \$1,855

### Sunday, Dec. 21

Attendance 107

General Fund giving \$4,101

Building Fund giving \$725

General Fund giving in Dec. \$16,935

Amount needed monthly \$24,537

Building Fund giving in Dec. \$3,350

Amount needed monthly \$8,925

## 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

Our annual gathering as a congregation will be held on Sunday, Jan. 11 following the 10 a.m. worship celebration. We will share a delicious lunch, honor our departing officers, install our new officers, enjoy a special presentation of the highlights of 2014 and announce and celebrate our 2014 Honored Member.

Everyone is invited to attend. This event is a wonderful way to get better acquainted with members and life at the First Christian Church. Plan to attend!

## UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY COMING IN JANUARY

A new church directory of active participants in church life will be assembled in the next few weeks. Please report any changes or corrections to the church office so they can be included. This directory will be ready for the Jan. 11 congregational lunch.

## DOUG COLLINS TO PREACH DEC. 28

Doug Collins will be "home" from seminary over Christmas break and has agreed to bring the morning message on Sunday, Dec. 28. It will be so good to see Doug again and hear how his journey in the ministry is progressing. Doug is in his second year of a Master of Divinity program at the University of Chicago and is on track for being ordained here in Albany after completing his degree. His parents, who were also members of this congregation, currently live in Washington so we are blessed to be able to share Doug with them on his Christmas vacation. Be sure to be present in worship on Dec. 28 to greet and hear Doug.

### OUR MISSION

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

## SUNDAYS AT NINE APPRECIATION

Grateful thanks is extended to Amber Churchill, Jeff Taylor, Les Peterson and Renee Windsor-White who all took a turn at leading the Sundays at Nine Advent Study. It was a great discussion group and each of our "ministers in residence" did a wonderful job leading the class in this scripture-based discussion on the meaning of Advent. Thank you friends!

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Jan. 9-10

All Youth Lock-in  
(8 p.m. Friday - 2 p.m. Saturday)

### Jan. 11

Annual Congregational Lunch  
and Meeting

### Jan. 16-18

Snow Rally at Hood River for  
high school youth

### 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

## GETTING UNDERWAY IN THE NEW YEAR

Members of the Church Board and Program Cabinet are encouraged to turn in their notebooks now. The notebooks will be updated and returned to continuing members at the first meetings in January. For those new to the board or program cabinet, they will receive notebooks with important policies and guidelines to help them in their leadership of church life.

### CHURCH BOARD

6:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 12

Graham Kislingbury

Kathwren Hayes

Cam Shuck

JoLee Bryant

Anne Catlin

Emily Killin

Sharon Gisler

Dale Gray

David Fryer

### PROGRAM CABINET

6:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 19

Tony Wilson

Beth Hogeland

Jim Schulte

Cathy Feeney

Rowland Gaal

Sandy Jenne

Shanna Jenne

Dean Minato

Teralee Weir

### ELDERS

6:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 26

Ray Lindley

Anne Magruder

Ross Jackson

Nancy Marshall

Mac McClanahan

Vicki McClanahan

Nancy Robb

Kris McLaughlin

Nancy Powell

Don Rea

Mary Dale Salston

Jim Schulte

Steve Etzel

### DEACONS SERVING IN JANUARY

Don Albright

Wilma Albright

DeeDee Blais

Jerry Blais

Anne Catlin

Rich Catlin

Joann Humphrey

Kym O'Hare

Evelyn Ranck

Stephan Selvage

Jim Somppi

## GRATEFUL THANKS FROM THE STAFF

The staff sends their thanks to the Personnel Committee and the congregation for the lovely staff appreciation reception on Sunday, Dec. 14 and for the monetary gifts that were collected on their behalf.

The major portion of those gifts are set aside to provide staff birthday lunches through out the year as well as the annual staff Christmas party.

Most of all, thank you for all the ways you share your gifts, time and faith as we minister together in Christ's name. It is a joy to be in loving Christian partnership with you.

# DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

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

Everyone is invited to join in a year-long exploration of Brian McLaren’s new book, “We Make the Road by Walking.” This is an opportunity to reflect on and share our faith journeys with each other. Through this sharing we will grow in our understanding of the scriptures and how our faith intersects with daily life. We will increase the ties of love that bind us together as a church family. There are many ways to participate in this communal book study. You can...

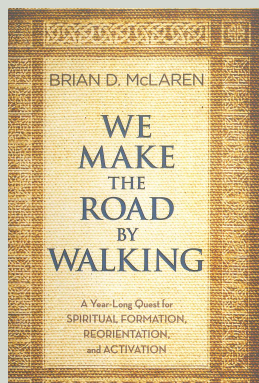
- Purchase and explore the book by yourself in a way and a time that suits your needs;
- Bring together a group of friends that will meet weekly or monthly to discuss the reading that is being done at home each week;



- Attend Sundays at Nine beginning Jan. 4 and running through April 12 which will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday to discuss the week’s reading;

Express your interest in joining a group that will meet weekly or monthly for discussion and reflection. Sign up in the church office for this option and you will be contacted by Patty Evans to determine meeting possibilities.

Books are available now in the church office. Everyone who would like to read this book in sync with the elders and other church members should read the introductory pages and Chapter 1 by Jan. 4. Once each quarter there will be a Sundays at Nine gathering to share insights and inspiration gleaned from this great resource. Watch the newsletter for information on those quarterly gatherings.



## CHILDREN’S PROGRAMMING

Children will stay in worship on Dec. 28 and Jan. 4. Children’s programming upstairs will resume on Jan. 11.

For the Sundays while the children are staying in worship, activities will be provided. Children can go to the table in the back of the sanctuary or take activities to their seats.

Douglass Anne is planning the next season of Sunday morning programs. If she calls you to help out, please prayerfully consider your leadership with our children.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE IN THE NEW YEAR

If you are seeking a place to share your gifts and talents, there are many ways within the church.

- Add your voice to the choir (rehearsals on Wednesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. and Sundays at 9:30 a.m.)
- Volunteer at the Community Meal on Tuesday evenings, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- Be a liturgist at Sunday morning worship
- Join a hospitality team to assist with Coffee House and Fellowship Time on Sunday mornings. If you want to be added to a team, tell Nancy in the church office.
- Join our prayer shawl ministry which meets twice each month to crochet or knit prayer shawls to be given out to those who are sick, recovering from surgery or having a tough time.

# PASSION FOR JUSTICE

## COMMUNITY MEAL

### TAKE HOME FUNDRAISER

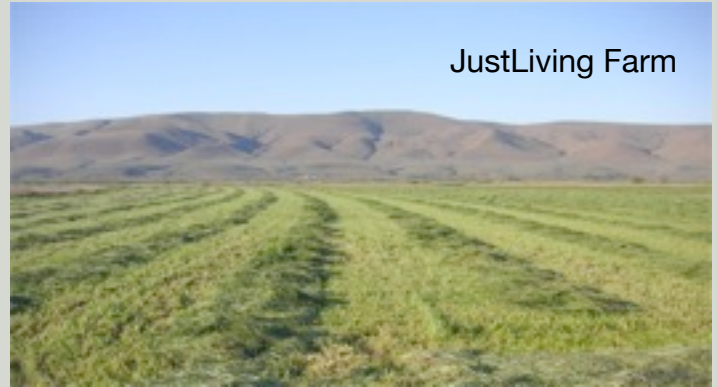
Support the Community Meal AND enjoy a delicious and nutritious Sunday lunch prepared by Gordon Kirbey, our Community Meal chef. Gordon will be cooking up one of his specialty entrees and the meal will be available for take home following the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Jan. 25. You can purchase your tickets for \$10 beginning Sunday, Jan. 4. All proceeds will provide a firm financial foundation for the Community Meal which serves 800 to 1,000 meals every Tuesday night.



## STAFF CHANGES

It seems the face of our church staff is always changing with people coming and going as they address life changes and challenges. In November we said goodbye to Mary Anne Staton who served in the church nursery alongside Bailey Wood each Sunday as a loving caregiver to our youngest members.

We also bid farewell to Ruben Sandoval who took wonderful care of our building as our church custodian. Kaylee Varner joined the church staff this month as a nursery attendant and Vickie Posch is serving as a temporary custodian as we search for a new janitor. Be sure to warmly welcome Kaylee to our staff and if you see Vickie at work in the building, introduce yourself and share your appreciation for her willingness to help us in this pinch!



## MISSION TRIP UPDATE

Fundraising for the 2015 Mission Trip to JustLiving Farm in the Yakama Valley is well under way, thanks to congregational support of the wreath fundraiser this past month!

As they get closer to March, the CYF will begin exploring some topics that will be part of their experience in the Yakama Valley, such as pilgrimage, landscape, culture, and justice.

Youth will be serving at the congregational lunch on Jan. 11 and donations to the meal will support the mission trip.

They will also be doing some more fundraising over the next few months, so keep an eye out for ways that you can be part of this mission trip experience!

### **Mission Trip participants:**

Haley Weir  
Alyssa Nelson  
Ryan Nelson  
Elizabeth Wood  
Lauren Burton

### **Mission Trip Chaperones:**

Shanna Jenne  
Jay Mack  
Douglass Anne Cartwright

## ALL YOUTH LOCK-IN

8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9 – 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan.10

This will be an opportunity to gather for fun, fellowship and learning. Adult volunteers are needed to cook breakfast on Saturday morning. For planning purposes, youth are encouraged to RSVP to Douglass Anne by Wednesday, Jan.7.

No evening youth groups will be held on Jan. 4, 11 and 18 so that youth can participate in the lock-in and snow rally. Regular youth groups resume on Jan. 25 at the usual times.



## CYF SNOW RALLY

Hood River Valley Christian Church

Friday, Jan. 16 – Sunday, Jan. 18

This annual regional event gives our youth an opportunity to meet and get to know other Disciple youth across the region, as well as have some fun, bible study, and play in the snow.

The theme for the weekend is “Trust in the Lord” (from Proverbs 3:5-6) and the keynote speaker will be Rev. Jenny Crosswhite. Youth need to fill out a registration form (available in the office) and return it with the \$35 registration fee to FCC by Sunday, Jan. 4.

## 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

Thanks to our children and youth for bringing us “The First Leon” musical on Dec. 14.





## CHRISTMAS YOUTH PARTY

