

December 23, 2015



GOOD NEWS

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

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Thanks to our children, youth and the helpers for the wonderful musical, "A King is Coming" which was presented in worship on Dec. 13.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT 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!



*Merry Christmas
from your church staff*

OUR MISSION

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

Church Family News

In Our Prayers

Allen Campbell, who broke his hip
Jace Lukenbaugh

Family of Evelyn Campbell,
who died Dec. 17

Nelson family, as they grieve the
death of Colleen's mother

Kathleen, daughter of Emily Killin,
diagnosed with cancer

JoAn Widmer

Terry Wood

Larry Stothoff

Linda Bricker

Jan Goby

John Phillips

Fern Dixon

Joan Miner

Attendance and Giving

Sunday, Dec. 13

General Fund giving \$4,454

Building Fund giving \$1,395

Attendance 126

Sunday, Dec. 20

General Fund giving \$4,283

Building Fund giving \$2,385

Attendance 109

General Fund giving in Dec. \$18,603

Amount needed monthly \$24,322

Building Fund giving in Dec. \$14,835

Amount needed monthly \$8,950

COME AND WORSHIP

• Dec. 27 - Informal worship service with carol singing and Christmas stories during the 10 a.m. service. Discussion on "Resolutions for the soul for 2016" during the 8 a.m. Worship in the Round.

• Jan. 3 - Guest preacher: Christine Webb

• Jan. 10 - Guest preacher: Kerry McQuillin

Douglass Anne will be gone from Dec. 28 to Jan. 4.

Eric will be gone from Jan. 1-9.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL CELEBRATION

Our annual gathering as a congregation will be held on Sunday, Jan. 10. We will share brunch hosted by our youth, honor our departing officers, install our new officers, celebrate our 2015 Honored Member and celebrate the work of Christian Women's Fellowship. We will eat and worship around tables in Fellowship Hall.

There will not be an 8 a.m. service that morning and no Sundays at Nine program.

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

END-OF-YEAR GIFTS

End-of-year gifts to the church need to be in the church office by Sunday, Dec. 27 so our financial secretary can make the deposit to the bank before the new year. The church office will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1.

NEWS FROM JAIROS

(Jairos was the ministerial student from Eastlea Church in Harare, Zimbabwe who was sponsored by our church to attend Northwest Christian University in 2000-2004. Ray Lindley received this update from Jairos.)

"I will be moving to Kenya at the beginning of January. I got a new job with the All Africa Conference of Churches as the Executive Secretary. Our Church UCCZ is a member of the AACC. We are so excited about the new assignment. Please pass our regards to all friends."

Sincerely,

Jairos Hlatywayo

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. 13 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.

LOOKING AHEAD

Jan. 10

10 a.m. Brunch, Worship and the Annual Congregational Celebration (no 8 a.m. service and no Sundays at Nine)

Jan. 17, 24, 31

Racism workshops led by Kerry McQuillin and Terasita Alvarez-Cortez after worship. Lunch will be served. RSVP if you plan to attend.

Feb. 20-21

Women's Weekend at Silver Falls Conference Center

Feb. 27

9-4 Envisioning Our Journey

March 17-26

Mission trip to Mexico

June 25

3 p.m. Ordination of Doug Collins

July 31 -Aug. 5

Regional summer camps for middle school and high school

Aug. 8-12

Regional summer camp for elementary school children

Aug. 26-27

Family Camp at Tumalo

TRUE COMMUNITY

DEACONS' MEETING

All deacons are invited and encouraged to attend an organizational meeting at 9 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 10. Even if you have been a deacon for many years, it will be important for you to attend and help the newer deacons learn the jobs.

There will be an opportunity to sign up for jobs on the month that you are serving in the first quarter.

WOMEN'S WEEKEND IN FEBRUARY

Planning is underway for the Women's Weekend set for Feb. 20-21 at Silver Falls Conference Center. Debbie Burchfiel, Kris McLaughlin, Christine Webb and Douglass Anne Cartwright have selected the theme "Frames of Reference." This year the group will explore how we understand the world, ourselves and others.

Registration will begin in January with a deadline for reservations of Jan. 31 to avoid paying for spaces that are not needed.

BUILDING AND EQUIPPING THE CHURCH

Salem First Christian Church is offering a unique training opportunity on Jan. 29-30 in Keizer. "Building an Equipping Church" is a workshop to teach how to select, prepare and release others for ministry. If you are interested in attending, please tell Eric Dale. Scholarships are available.

BUILDING AN EQUIPPING CHURCH

A unique training opportunity coming soon...

Are you...

- ▶ Looking to motivate and inspire people in ministry?
- ▶ Searching for a way to move beyond theory and build a plan for your church that helps people discover their gift-based ministry?

Join us for this in-depth conference from the Equipping Institute.

This intensive workshop will leave you inspired to build your team. Learn how to select, prepare, and release others for ministry.

- Understand your church's culture and your personal leadership style.
- Learn about core equipping ministry support systems.
- Create an implementation plan to raise the equipping quotient at your church.
- Refuel and refresh your energy to serve in ministry.

DETAILS: Register online at www.salemfcc.org

Dates: January 29 & 30, 2016 (Fri 5-9pm & Sat 8:30am-4:30pm)

Location: City of Keizer Community Center - 930 Chemawa Rd, Keizer

Cost: \$60 (includes dinner, continental breakfast, & lunch)

DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

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. Pick up a copy of our ministries brochure if you are looking for ideas.

- Add your voice to the choir (rehearsals on Wednesdays, 7-8:30 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 monthly to crochet or knit prayer shawls to be given out to those who are sick, recovering from surgery or having a tough time. The group recently made several hats to be included in our kits to be given to those who are without a warm home this winter.

Ministries at First Christian Church
Welcome to First Christian Church. In addition to the Sunday morning worship experience, there are lots of ways to enhance your spiritual life at the church. We hope you will find one or more that speak to your heart and join in.

Community Meal
Every Tuesday evening from 4:30 to 6:30 we serve a free, nutritious meal to the Albany community. Each week 35 or more volunteers

lovingly set up the tables and chairs, decorate the tables, cook the meal, make the dessert, serve the food and beverages, wash the dishes, clean up the kitchen and more. We hope you will join us for dinner.
To volunteer contact: Sharon Gilder, 541-928-7013 or shgilder@fmc.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry
This prayerful ministry combines the love of knitting and caring to reach out to those in need of comfort and solace. Many blessings are knitted into every shawl. Shawls and knitted "prayer pals" are given to those who are experiencing sickness or other challenges. The group meets from 10 a.m. to noon on the first and third Mondays of the month.
Contact: Jan Hogewester, 541-924-3847 or jahogewester@fmc.com

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children will stay in Sunday morning worship on Dec. 27, Jan. 3 and Jan. 10. Children's programming upstairs will resume on Sunday, Jan. 17.

For the Sundays while the children are staying in worship, activities will be provided. Children can go to the table in the front 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.

Youth groups will not meet on Dec. 27, Jan. 3. They will meet on Jan. 10 for a movie night from 4-6 p.m.

In January, the youth groups will attend the workshops on racism following the worship service. (See the story on page 5.)

REIKI IN JANUARY

- Thursdays 1-3 p.m. - contact Terry Wood.
- Saturday, Jan. 23, 9-11 a.m. - Reiki gathering and quarterly meeting. Enjoy light snacks and meet to share visions for 2016. The group will discuss special trainings, healing worship services and more. Please come plan our Reiki ministry in the new year.

Would you like to offer a testimonial in worship about what you value about being a part of this faith community. If so, contact Eric Dale at fccalbany.eric@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE!

In the new year, the Transition Team will host an exciting opportunity for you to envision the future of the church. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. More details will come in the new year.

ENVISIONING OUR JOURNEY

Saturday, Feb. 27
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Nadine Wood,
Transition Team
chair

PASSION FOR JUSTICE

RACISM WORKSHOPS IN JANUARY

It is easy to feel powerless about the racial violence in our nation. Most of it happens far from here, and it isn't always clear what it has to do with us. Still, as modern Americans, we need to become aware of the ways in which racism has been woven into the fabric of our society, and how it is woven into us. Come to the racism workshops at FCC Albany to ponder these issues and to become more aware of actions we can take to recognize prejudice and to promote justice.

Plan to attend the series of workshops on racism presented after church on January 17, 24, and 31.

The series will be presented by Kerry McQuillin and Teresita Alvarez-Cortez, who work in the Office of Equity and Inclusion at OSU.

The workshops will be held after a lunch that immediately follows the service each of those days, and they will conclude by 2 p.m.

We encourage you to attend the entire series, but each session will be designed to stand alone if you can only come to one or two.

Child care will be provided.

You will be asked in January to sign up so we can plan food and supplies.



Our mission trip participants are collecting bottles and cans to raise funds for their trip to Mexico in March.

You can bring them to church and put them in the upstairs kitchen.

HOW TO HELP SYRIAN REFUGEES

When you give to Week of Compassion, you are supporting the ongoing efforts to help Syrians who are fleeing extreme violence.

Just in the past few months, Week of Compassion has continued its longstanding Syrian relief efforts with its partner at Church World Service and Global Ministries to provide emergency assistance to these individuals in Hungary, Lebanon, Egypt, Greece, Serbia and Syria.

One of the many refugees receiving support is a 2-month-old girl from Aleppo, Syria, named Kausar. Kausar and her family are Kurdish, a long-oppressed ethnic minority. The family was living in this war zone until their house was leveled by errant artillery fire. Week of Compassion supported them with food, warmth, and sanitation as they fled through Hungary and stayed the night with many other refugees on the floor of Budapest's Keleti Railway Station.

W of C's partners provide mobile teams dispatched to refugee congregation points, which distribute blankets, hygiene kits, and food to thousands of vulnerable families. Kausar's family had just spent three grueling days hiking through the Serbian woods on their way to join relatives in Germany. Through the support of Week of Compassion, its partners have made this dangerous journey much safer for 2-month-old Kausar and so many other vulnerable refugees.

In addition, Week of Compassion is working with Global Ministries to provide emergency food and winterization items to some of the most vulnerable Syrian families still living in the southwestern part of the country. Through its partners, W of C is delivering emergency supplies to Syrians in Lebanon and Syria with medication, rent, winterization items, and schooling for children.

Gifts to Week of Compassion can be made all through the year to assist people whose lives have been upended due to war and natural disasters. A check can be written to First Christian Church with a memo "Week of Compassion."

GETTING UNDERWAY IN THE NEW YEAR

Tony Wilson and Kris McLaughlin will be the co-chairs of the congregation in 2016.

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. 11

Tony Wilson, co-chair

Kathwren Hayes

Cam Shuck

Larry Holverson

Chris Norman

Anne Catlin

Emily Killin

Sharon Gisler

PROGRAM CABINET

6:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 18

Kris McLaughlin, co-chair

Christine Webb

Amber Churchill

Cathy Feeney

Rowland Gaal

Shanna Jenne

Dena Minato

Teralee Weir

ELDERS

6:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 25

Stacey Bartholomew

Nancy Marshall

Mac McClanahan

Vicki McClanahan

Nancy Robb

Kris McLaughlin

Nancy Powell

Don Rea

Mary Dale Salston

Jim Schulte

DEACONS SERVING IN JANUARY

DeeDee Blais

Jerry Blais

Anne Catlin

Rich Catlin

Joann Humphrey

Sue Stein

Evelyn Ranck

Stephan Selvage

Jim Somppi

Kendall Weir

Thanks to our choir director, Gary Ruppert, and the choir for the wonderful choral presentation and to Mary Dale Salston, the reader, on Dec. 20.

