



Disciples Dispatch

First Christian Church of Corvallis

Disciples of Christ

December 5, 2017 vol. 19, issue 41

Join us for Sunday Worship, December 10 at 10:00 a.m.

- 9:00 a.m. - Adult study
- 10:00 a.m. - Service (w/Sunday School), Choir Vespers
- 5:30 p.m. - Stone Soup Supper (prep at 3:30)

Called to Serve

Elders: Michael Gordon, Ann Smart

Home Communion: Ann Smart

Preparing Deacons: Allan Doerksen, Mary Stuart

Serving Deacons: Myron McMahan, Kathy Crawford, Janet Chenard, Mary Cotton*

Coffee Cart and Snack: Carol and Tom Garbacik

Flowers: na

Greeter: Vera Rush

Sunday Worship Accessibility

Hearing assistance devices, large print bulletins and hymnals are available.

Sermons Online

<http://heartofcorvallis.org/recent-sermons/>

Stone Soup Meal Count

Tuesday, 11/28 - 117

Saturday, 12/2 - 104

Sunday, 12/3 - 132

Staff

Rev. Matt Gordon..... Senior Minister

Matthew Clark.....Choir Director

Eric Qian Pianist

Jill Shinkawa.....Communications Manager

Kevin Weaver..... Paladin

Lucas Teeter ..Disciples House Resident Advisor

Christa Schmeder..... Director of Youth Ministry

Deck the Halls and the First Sunday of Advent!



Christmas and Advent 2017

The Christmas and Advent season is a great opportunity to bring a friend to church. We sincerely hope you will find time this holiday to be a part of our festivities. Below is a schedule of our upcoming events. All are welcome!

- **Sunday, December 10** - Second Sunday in Advent. Choir Vespers at 10:00 a.m. Experience the music of Advent and Christmas with anthems and special music from our choir. Drinks and desserts to follow.



- **Sunday, December 17** - Third Sunday of Advent. **Advent Fair** - an interactive and hands-on crafting event for children

and youth during worship. Lunch is served afterwards.



Advent Walk at 5:00 p.m. - Join us for a traditional German/Bavarian Christmas lantern walk. It is a time for quiet reflection on the coming of the Christ. We will begin our walk at the Bald Hill parking lot on Oak Creek. A



Continued on page 3

Matt's Minute

'Tis the season for giving! A few weeks ago, I challenged the congregation to give back in big ways this holiday season. Here are some opportunities to give in December:

A Gift to the Minister's Discretionary Fund: Your gift helps people in a variety of ways. Gifts from these funds help provide small grants (under \$200) to people in need. In most cases, these small grants fill in the gaps where other services in our community are lacking. Some examples of grants include: work shoes, prepaid phone minutes, help with insurance costs, bus tickets to get people home or to employment opportunities in other places, gas for church van that helps transport people to the hospital or job locations, tents and sleeping bags, help with utilities, and other short-term needs.

A Gift to the Regional Christmas Offering: First Christian Church is part of a regional network of churches, the Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho. Christmas offering gifts help churches find pastors, youth go to camp, new churches, and revitalize congregations.

Giving Tree Tags in the Narthex: We are working with our partner organizations to give items on their "wish lists." Visit the Giving Tree in the narthex and pick up a tag.

Non-Perishable/Non-expired food to Linn-Benton Food Share: Donations can be put in the big white box in the narthex.

Hygiene Items: Donations can be put in the big white box in the narthex.

Clothing Donation to Vina Moses: Vina Moses offers free clothing to families living in Benton County.

Gently used or new clothes, especially winter clothes, are desperately needed this time of year. Donations should be taken to Vina Moses.

Volunteer for the Holidays: Consider volunteering your time, talents or treasures to our Christmas festivities this year. We need help with all of our events including the Choir Vespers, Advent Fair, Advent Walk, Christmas Pageant, Christmas Eve service, Lessons and Carols service.

These are just some of the ways you can give back this year. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but perhaps a good place to start.

We Need Your Input!

We would like your opinion on how we should distribute First Christian Church's Permanent Funds Income (PFI). Click on the survey link for more information about PFI and to fill out our distribution survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/73BHQ9H>

Go to this link for a description of programs we support:

<https://goo.gl/Qpoymm>

The survey will take just a minute or two. Thank you for helping to decide how to allocate our Mission Funds!

What is PFI?

PFI stands for Permanent Fund income. The Permanent Fund at First Christian refers to all of our investments that are held at the Christian Church Foundation (CCF), an agency of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Each year the Christian Church Foundation (CCF) recommends a percentage distribution that we can draw as interest from our



Rev. Matt Gordon

Senior Minister

Church phone: 541-753.2671

Email: matt@heartofcorvallis.org

Open Office Hours:

Mondays: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Tuesdays: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

investments without touching the principal amount and allows the fund to grow. This interest income for the last several years is between 3 and 4%. This interest income is PFI. Gifts to the Permanent Fund come in a variety of forms including stocks, bonds, real estate, tangible property and cash. Gifts received in any form other than cash will be converted to cash at its fair market value as soon as is practical.

50% of PFI is designated for outreach ministries consistent with the current vision of the church and transferred to the Program Cabinet for expenditure. Expenditures are recommended by the Program Cabinet and approved by the Board.

For more information about the Permanent Fund of PFI distributions, please contact me.

*Peace,
Pastor Matt*

Relying on the spirit and story of the gospels, First Christian Church is supported primarily by donations. There is no charge for any event. We rely on freely given offerings to support our various ministries and opportunities.

Your contributions and gifts allow us to continue to be a radically inclusive, justice-driven community of faith every day of the week. Thank you in advance for your gifts.

Christmas and Advent 2017 *Continued from page 1*

30 minute walk and gathering at the barn. Bring a lantern that provides a soft light, such as a candle or kerosene lantern. Bright lights, such as Coleman type lanterns and large flashlights are discouraged. Please plan to join us on this special walk and for refreshments in the parking lot after.

- **Sunday, December 24 -**

Christmas Eve

Worship Gathering at 10:00 a.m.

- Our children and youth (along with the help from some kids at heart) will be presenting the Nativity Story through a dramatic presentation. All

youth and children are invited to participate. Be there at 9:30 a.m. if you want to be in the play.

Candlelight Family Service at

4:00 p.m. - The folk musicians will be playing this service. It is an informal, relaxed celebration service.



Bring the whole family.

Candlelight Traditional Service at 7:00 p.m. The church choir and the organ working together to sing the carols and announce the miracle of Christmas!

In-laws, out-of-town guests and friends are invited to celebrate with us at this special service.



- **Sunday, December 31 - 10:00 a.m.** Lessons and Carols. A relaxed, informal service designed to hear and sing the story of Christmas. Come in your pajamas, bring your new stuffed animals.

Day of Remembrance

A Day of Remembrance service is on December 6 from 11:00-1:00 p.m. at McHenry Funeral Home. This is a service set aside to remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones lost. Pastor Matt will be officiating and delivering the message and there will be a luncheon following.

In Our Prayers

Carol Bailey

Sandy Landis' friend, Ruth, injured herself in a fall

Teresa's friend Amy passed away. Prayers for her family and friends

Lynnie Evans and family

Charlene is recovering from knee replacement surgery

Leonard Higgins and family

Don Zobel's sister is receiving cancer treatments

Georgann Taylor

Marcene Stuart

Teanna McMahan and her family

Jim Stinson

Doris Montgomery

Prill's mother, Betty

Margaret Coon

Roger Weaver and his family

Homeless families

For the victims of shootings around the country

Our world, country and leaders

Joys

For everyone who helped deck the halls with holiday spirit. Thank you!

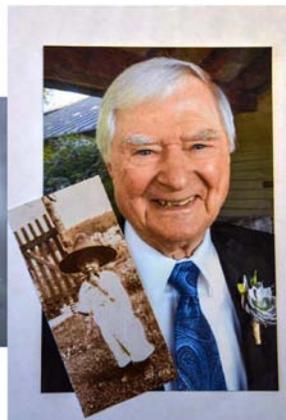
Merritt Celebrates 100... Spanning the Years!

From Kelly Jensen

The Jensen family invites you to celebrate Merritt Jensen's 100 years of love, laughter and life on January 2, 2018. Birthday Brunch from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at Stoneybrook Lodge, 2nd floor, Commons Area, 4700 SW Hollyhock Circle, Corvallis.

Extra! Extra!

We are creating a "101 Reasons to Love Merritt" poster during the brunch. If you are unable to attend, please email or mail your special reason for loving Merritt, and we'll add it to the poster with your name. Email responses or questions: 13blackrabbits@gmail.com



Corvallis Youth Collective (CYC) Events

The Corvallis Youth Collective is a collaboration between our church, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Grace Lutheran, and First Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC). It is a wonderful opportunity for our young folks to meet other youth group students in Corvallis.

- **Friday, February 2** - Hoodoo sledding trip - charter bus and everything!
- **Wednesday, February 7** - Middle/High School classes cook a Disciples House meal.

Looking Ahead

December 6

- 11:00-1:00 pm - Day of Remembrance at McHenry Funeral Home

December 8

- 9:00 am - Due Knots meet in room 35

December 10

- Choir Vespers (During service)

December 11

- 7:00 pm - Finance Cabinet

December 12

- 1:00 pm - Women's lunch at Delicias Valley Cafe

December 17

- During service - Advent Fair
- 5:00 pm - Advent Lantern Walk

December 18

- 7:00 pm - Program Cabinet

December 24

- 10:00 am - Sunday worship, Christmas Pageant
- 4:00 pm - Folk service
- 7:00 pm - Traditional service

December 25-January 1

- Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
- Church office is closed

December 31

- 10:00 am - Lessons and Carols

Happy Birthdays!

- 12/4 - Sue Cooley
- 12/6 - Miranda Gordon
- 12/12 - Teri Doerksen
- 12/13 - Lynnie Evans
- 12/16 - James Mohr
- 12/17 - Elias Herb
- 12/21 - Madeline Mai Yeh-Crawford
- 12/22 - Kathleen Eide, Moses Gordon
- 12/29 - Tyler Berry, Lisa Luthy

Happy Anniversaries

- 12/4 - Peggy and Steve Fuller
- 12/8 - Linda and Jim Stinson
- 12/16 - Cherie and Neil Reynolds
- 12/17 - Carol and Tom Garbacik
- 12/21 - Sue and Bob Schulz
- 12/29 - Charlotte and Chris Lee

What's Happening...

Due Knots Meet in December

Due Knots will **not** meet in November. Our next meeting is Friday, December 8 at 9:00 a.m. in room 35. Please come and help us tie comforters for at-risk kids in our community. Join us for tea and conversation.

Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center (CDDC) Benefit Concert

On Friday, December 15 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at First Christian Church, Corvallis come and enjoy the music of Cassandra Robertson and Wynter Byrnes and support a good cause. \$10 suggested donation.

Announcements...

Food Box Collection

The food collection box will be in the Narthex until December 31. Food donations go to the local Food Bank. Items that can be used are canned goods, breakfast foods, boxed meals, and paper needs.

We also collect donations for CDDC. Hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, razors, shaving cream, fingernail clippers, deodorant, toothbrushes/paste, lotions, band aides, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, laundry detergent, and sewing kits are appreciated. These hygiene items are not covered by food stamps.

2017 Advent Books

2017 Advent books are available for you to pick up in the narthex.

Gone Missing

The big red book of names is missing. Have you seen it? Did you move it somewhere? Did you take it home for research? If you know its whereabouts, contact the church office.

December Regional (Oregon and Southwest Idaho) Newsletter

The December regional newsletter can be found at: <https://goo.gl/Y8kZSz>

Liturgist Sign-Ups

A worship liturgist would be reading a call to worship, call to offering and prayer after the offering is received. To sign-up to be a liturgist, you can give me a call or sign up here: <https://goo.gl/bx51Q7>

Stone Soup Volunteers

It takes many hands to prepare and serve a meal 365 days each year and we're looking for some folks to fill a few volunteer positions like: compliance manager, meal manager, mop and lock, cook, and other positions for substitutes and on-going needs for most days and both locations.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions about these opportunities, email our Volunteer Coordinator at stonesoup@help@gmail.com. To find out more about Stone Soup Corvallis go to: www.stonesoupcorvallis.org or call 541-757-9725.

Around Town...

24th Annual Corvallis Nativity Festival

We invite you to the 24th annual Corvallis Nativity Festival. This is a community event intended to promote peace and joy during the holiday season. The Nativity Festival will be open December 1-5 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 4141 NW Harrison Boulevard in Corvallis. December 1-4: 11:00-8:30 p.m., December 5: 11:00-8:30 p.m. This free event includes near-continuous live music in addition to beautifully arranged nativity displays depicting the first Christmas.

December 2017/January 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| 3 First Day of Advent 9 am -Bible Study 10 am -Worship, Hanging of the Greens, w/Sunday School 5:30 pm -Stone Soup Supper | 4 | 5  3:30 pm -FCC's turn to prep/serve Stone Soup 5:30 pm -Stone Soup Supper (3:30 pm prep) | 6 10 am -Bible Study 11-1 pm -Day of Remembrance at McHenry Funeral Home 7 pm -Choir Rehearsal | 7 | 8 9:00 am -Due Knots meet in room 35 | 9 10 am -Stone Soup Breakfast |
| 10 9 am -Bible Study 10 am -Worship, w/Sunday School Choir Vespers 5:30 pm -Stone Soup Supper | 11 7 pm -Finance Cabinet | 12 1 pm -Women's lunch at Delicias 5:30 pm -Stone Soup Supper (3:30 pm prep) | 13 10 am -Bible Study 7 pm -Choir Rehearsal | 14 | 15 | 16 10 am -Stone Soup Breakfast |
| 17 9 am -Bible Study 10 am -Worship, Advent Fair during Sunday School 5:00 pm -Advent Lantern Walk 5:30 pm -Stone Soup Supper | 18 7 pm -Program Cabinet | 19 5:30 pm -Stone Soup Supper (3:30 pm prep) | 20 10 am -Bible Study 7 pm -Choir Rehearsal | 21 | 22 | 23 10 am -Stone Soup Breakfast |
| 24  9 am -Bible Study 10 am -Folk Worship, Christmas Pageant 4 pm -Folk Service 7 pm -Traditional Service 5:30 pm -Stone Soup Supper | 25 Merry Christmas! Church office is closed | 26 Church office is closed 5:30 pm -Stone Soup Supper (3:30 pm prep) | 27 Church office is closed 7 pm -Choir Rehearsal | 28 Church office is closed | 29 | 30 10 am -Stone Soup Breakfast |
| 31 9 am -Bible Study 10 am -Lessons and Carols Worship, no Sunday School 5:30 pm -Stone Soup Supper | 1 January 2018! Happy New Years! Church office is closed | 2 5:30 pm -Stone Soup Supper (3:30 pm prep) | 3 7 pm -Choir Rehearsal | 4 | 5 | 6 10 am -Stone Soup Breakfast |



First Christian

Disciples in the Heart of Corvallis

First Christian Church
602 SW Madison Avenue
Corvallis, Oregon 97333-4515

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

 Please recycle this newsletter.

Help us save paper, postage and money - receive the newsletter electronically.
Send an email to jill@heartofcorvallis.org and put "Subscribe Dispatch" as the subject. If you are not receiving the Dispatches please inform the church office.

The First Christian Church of Corvallis is a diverse inclusive community providing a living witness to the compassionate Christ. From our central location in the heart of Corvallis, we seek out, develop, and support ministries to meet the human needs for physical and spiritual wholeness. On the basis of our Disciple heritage, we embrace the ecumenical movement, develop lay leadership, and promote intellectual freedom in the pursuit of truth.
All are welcome to participate. Inclusivity is one of our most important values.

Our Vision

