



Disciples Dispatch

First Christian Church of Corvallis

Disciples of Christ

December 19, 2017 vol. 20, issue 43

Join us Sunday, December 24 for Advent Services

- 10:00 am - Folk Worship, Christmas Pageant
- 4:00 pm - Family Folk Service
- 7:00 pm - Candlelight Traditional Service

Called to Serve

10:00 am - Worship

Elders: Tricia Martin, Bud Graham

Home Communion: Teresa Shaw

Deacons: Preparing - Kathy Crawford, Mary Stuart; **Serving** - Holden Williams, Connor Williams, Maya Herb, Hugh Olsen*

Coffee Cart/Snack: Sherry and David Sisson

Greeter: Lynda Shurtleff

4:00 pm - Family Service

Elders: Christa Schmeder, David Sisson

Deacons: Preparing - Sherry Sisson, Carol Garbacik; **Serving** - Lauri Morris, Myron McMahan, Linda Stinson, Jim Stinson*

7:00 pm - Family Service

Elders: Rick Olsen, Christy Wright

Deacons: Preparing - Sherry Sisson, Carol Garbacik; **Serving** - Lee Mason, Donna Mason, Tom Frederick, Mary Frederick*

Sunday Worship Accessibility

Large print bulletins and hymnals available.

Stone Soup Meal Count

Tuesday, 12/12 - 108; Saturday, 12/16 - 104
Sunday, 12/17 - 126

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

Christmas Eve Sunday

Join us for Christmas Eve this year.

In the morning, we will celebrate the Christmas pageant. The children and youth tell the story of Christmas by re-enacting the story of the journey to the manger. This is an all-comers pageant, so show up at 9:30 a.m., put on a costume and join the fun.

In the evening, we have two Christmas Eve services, both celebrating the birth of Jesus through candle-

light and song. Our first service at 4:00 p.m. is led by the Folk Musicians, includes an extended story time for the children, and a candlelight circle at the end. Our 7:00 p.m. service is a traditional, liturgical service led by the choir, with special music, and a candlelight circle at the end. We hope you will join

us at our special services this year. Everyone is welcome and we encourage you to bring a friend.



Hands and Hearts of the Advent Fair...



Matt's Minute

O God of the Baby of Bethlehem,
We come into your presence with praise and thanksgiving.
We hear the glad tidings of the angel voices,
We come to experience this good news of great joy for all the people.
As the shepherds traveled to Bethlehem,
We have traveled here – excited, expectant, hopeful; a bit skeptical.
Let the words of sacred scripture seep into our hearts,
To be treasured and pondered anew.
We are here; we are ready, O God!
Let the light of your love break forth! Amen.

-Call to Worship from A Just World for All

In the 21st century digital age that we live in, there are so many distractions and so many tools to escape the imperfect reality. I believe that, either consciously or subconsciously, the more useless, superficial, false information that enters our brains create an inverse proportional need for meaning and purpose. I believe that the season of Christmas, with all of its gingerbread houses, lanterns and paper chains are one big experiment in the search for meaning. Like the Grinch who Stole Christmas, we might just find the one thing that makes our heart grow three sizes, so that we too might find that true meaning of Christmas in our hearts.

Maybe that something is creating or crafting. Maybe that something is music or meditation. Maybe that something is found on the long, silent journey towards the manger, in the quiet darkness, or the beauty of community found around a circle of candlelight on Christmas Eve.

Finding the place where the spirit of God is most alive and most real in our hearts and minds and then not letting go of it. Grabbing on like a wild dog,

sinking our teeth in and not letting go, no matter how hard life gets or busy our schedules are. When we hang Christmas lights, we're saying either consciously or unconsciously, we need more light in our lives.

Why is decorating gingerbread houses so fun? Because the Creator created us to create, creation and creativity is essential for our survival.

We need to experience the quiet, holy, silent night of the Advent Walk and Christmas Eve lit by candles because inside of us is a deep need for silence, even stillness, something we rarely receive in our overly productive, hyper-active, media-centric culture.

What is the meaning of Christmas? To bring light into the world, to shine into the dark corners, the love and light that existed from the beginning came into the world through the person of Jesus. We must find the thing that feeds us, and try, no not try, but insist on making it a part of our everyday lives. Then, this Word that moved into the neighborhood continues to show up when we make room in our lives.

*Peace,
Matt*



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.

PFI Survey is Closing Soon!

Today, **Tuesday, December 19** is the last day to submit your suggestion on how to disperse approximately \$10,938 of mission funds that are available this year. Click on the link for information about PFI and to fill out the distribution survey:

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

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

<https://goo.gl/Qpoymm>

Completing the survey takes just a few minutes. For your voice to count we must receive your survey by **Tuesday, December 19**. Please, only one submission per person. Thank you for helping us distribute Mission Funds!

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.

Walking Advent at Bald Hill...



Above (4): The intrepid walkers were bundled up against the cold. As the temperature and dusk fell, candle lamps were lit to show the way.

Left: Before our walk we witnessed a vibrant sunset whose colors were reflected in Oak Creek.

In Our Prayers

Lynn Evans is receiving hospice care. Prayers for her and her family
Carol Bailey

Charlene is recovering from knee replacement surgery

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

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

For the people affected by the fires in California

Our world, country and leaders

Joys

For everyone that helped and participated in the Advent Fair and Advent Walk!

More Advent Fair!



From the Staff...

Special thanks to the congregation for your generosity and gifts this year.

**Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!**

From the First Christian Church staff

Ruth
Matt

Looking Ahead

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

January 5

- 9:00 am - Due Knots meet

January 15

- Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. -
Church office is closed.

Happy Birthdays!

- 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
- 1/1 - Max Glenn
- 1/2 - Merritt Jensen
- 1/8 - Kasey Burns
- 1/10 - Betty Claypool, Susan Potter

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 Garback
- 12/21 - Sue and Bob Schulz
- 12/29 - Charlotte and Chris Lee



Women's lunch at Delicias Valley Cafe.

Photo by Pamela Doerksen

What's Happening...

Lessons and Carols 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.

Due Knot Meet

Due Knots meet on Friday, January 5, 2018 in room 35 at 9:00 a.m. Come and tie quilts for kids at risk in our community and enjoy a cup of tea with us.

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, break-fast 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.

The Giving Tree in the Narthex

There are 60 gift wish tags on the giving tree; ten each from Stone Soup, We Care, Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center, West M, Hope and Wholeness Counseling, and Disciples House. Please help one or more of these partner organizations this Christmas season. The wishes include an Office Max gift certificate, monetary donations for utility bills, aprons, pizza cutter, ground coffee, and home baked cookies. Please leave gifts with office staff during the week or in the designated box near the tree on Sundays.

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.

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>

Around Town...

Merritt Celebrates 100... Spanning the Years! From Kelly Jensen

The Jensens' invite 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

First Presbyterian Advent Recitals

Tuesday, December 19 at 12:15 p.m. - "Hallelujah Lullabies" Two Harps; Laura Zaerr and Jeff Parsons. Presbyterian women will host a free luncheon in Dennis Hall following the recital. Admission is free. Brown Bag lunches welcome!

December 2017/January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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  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	28 Church office is closed	29	30 10 am -Stone Soup Breakfast
31 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  3:30 pm -FCC's turn to prep/serve Stone Soup 5:30 pm -Stone Soup Supper (3:30 pm prep)	3 7 pm -Choir Rehearsal	4	5 9 am -Due Knots Meet	6 10 am -Stone Soup Breakfast
7 9 am -Bible Study 10 am -Worship, w/Sunday School 5:30 pm -Stone Soup Supper	8 7 pm -Finance Cabinet	9 5:30 pm -Stone Soup Supper (3:30 pm prep)	10 10 am -Bible Study 7 pm -Choir Rehearsal	11	12	13 10 am -Stone Soup Breakfast
14 9 am -Bible Study 10 am -Worship, w/Sunday School 5:30 pm -Stone Soup Supper	15 Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. Church office is closed 7 pm -Program Cabinet	16 5:30 pm -Stone Soup Supper (3:30 pm prep)	17 10 am -Bible Study 7 pm -Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20 10 am -Stone Soup Breakfast



First Christian

Disciples in the Heart of Corvallis

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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

