

# The Evangel

Stayton United Methodist Church  
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Volume 12 Issue 14

December 2018

## Advent Worship

This year is the 200th anniversary of the debut of "Silent Night, Holy Night." This hymn has become one of the best-loved hymns of many Christians around the world. Something mystical occurs as we light our candles and sing the hope of "all is calm, all is bright"—peace and light for the world. I will be using liturgies and ideas from Marcia McFee's Advent Series Calm and Bright as we celebrate the carol's message over the entire season of Advent and highlight its call for peace, joy, love and hope for our lives that can guide us all year long.

### December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sleep in Peace - PEACE

we will use the first verse of Silent Night and explore how we can be instruments of peace. Humanity is the holy infant for whom God so desires a heavenly peace. Is it possible to bring calm and bright to our own corners of this world? This advent, let us become those who not only wait, but also work, for peace in our lives, our families, our communities, and our world.

Scriptures Isaiah 2:1-4; 9:2, 6-7

The world of Isaiah and of Jesus was a world divided by war and violence. Then and now God acted with a vision for peace.

### December 9. Glories Stream - JOY

Awe at the transformative glory of what God can do in our lives is the focus this week. Glories are streaming every day if we only have eyes to see. How would our lives be renewed if we saw the world and our lives through the lens of wonder?

Scriptures: Psalm 86: 9-11; Luke 2:8-20.

Throughout scripture, "glory" often has to do with shining with light. God is light and the light surrounds us. God's presence, God's deliverance, God's strength is with us like that pillar of fire, the burning bush, and now the star and accompanying angels adding their singing to the shining light of God's glory. They show us the appropriate response to this shining light... "Glory to God!"

### December 16. Redeeming Grace - LOVE

The presence of God in human form is the "dawn" of redeeming grace, says the hymn's third verse. God so desired to be "up close and personal" that God came to live, breathe, feel, teach, touch, and love through Jesus. Made in the image of God, we are called to nurture relationships that birth, multiply and radiate grace in the world. We are called to put "love's pure light" at the center of all we do, of all we create. And this is not simply the sentimental love of Hallmark cards, but a love that compels us to risk, to do what is difficult and sometimes

uncomfortable.

Scriptures: John 1:1-18

In John's opening lines, we hear of the presence of Christ from the beginning of time when "let there be light" constituted the first dawn in our faith story. Coupled with the idea of Jesus as a human baby, this is the most poignant melding of birth of the cosmos and birth from a womb. Divinity and humanity as one. This outpouring of light can never be extinguished. It is through the in-breaking of this light, that we receive light and are "lit up that we might be Christ's light in the world today."

### **December 23. Let us Sing - HOPE**

The last verse of Silent Night invites us to lift our voices in alleluia's to the one who is "King." These sweetly sung words remind us who is the one with power to change this world. Naming Jesus King was a radical, "in your face" repudiation of the corrupt rulers of that time and any time. Calling Jesus King offered the people a vision of hope amidst the tyranny that ruled the day. Hope is a critical antidote to an atmosphere of fear. "If people can't access their hope, they live by their fear." It is tempting to be caught up in the fear story that permeates our news today, but the story of God entering our world enfleshed as a vulnerable baby calls for a different response.

Scripture Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 2:1-12

Yes, we will be reading the story of the magi usually heard the first Sunday in January before Christmas. Comparing the kingship of Jesus to the kingship of Herod is key to our understanding of the peace, joy, love and hope Jesus calls us to. Like the magi, we are invited to follow the star, a sign of hope illuminating the way to a better way of being together, a way born out of love, not fear. So we will let that wondrous star lead us to the light of Jesus Christ born anew in us.

### **December 24 Christmas Eve: SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT**

Come and experience the wonder!

### **Women's Bible Study**

The Women's Bible Study will meet Wednesday December 5, 12 and 19, 5:00-6:30 PM. Will study select messianic passages from the prophet Isaiah.

Arlene Webb

### **Poinsettia Order Forms**

Just a reminder that the poinsettia order forms are due this Sunday, December 2nd. They cost \$7.50 each. Order forms are on the counter by the front entrance.

## United Methodist Women Activities for December

A big **thank you** to all those who helped with the many activities involved in the preparations and presentation of this year's successful bazaar and spaghetti dinner. A full report will be published in January's Evangel. Bazaar Crafters will not meet in December but will continue monthly meetings in January 2019. Date and time will be announced in the Evangel.

United Methodist Women will again be collecting toiletries, etc. to go with the food boxes which will be delivered in December. A box for donations is in the church hallway. Women will be gathering at the church December 19 at 10:00 to organize the donations and Ladies' Luncheon will be following at 12:30 at Moxieberry's in Stayton. We will carpool from the church at 12:15.

## Bazaar Wrap Up Meeting

Diane and Myrna would like to Wrap-up and evaluate this year's bazaar, on Wednesday, December 5th in the conference room.

If you cannot attend, but have suggestions, please e-mail Myrna, call Diane, or leave a note in one of our mailboxes. before the 5th.

## A Time of Thanksgiving

It is indeed a time for thanksgiving. Thank you for all your prayers, cards, food, and support following Bill's fall and hip replacement. He is now doing outpatient physical therapy in Salem. I am going to a rheumatologist who is working to diagnose and medicate what is causing the various symptoms that creep up on me day to day. We appreciate your continued prayers.

Bill and Carol North

## Movie and Discussion December 9

Our next movie will be at the Kruger's house on Sunday, December 9 at 3:00 PM. The Holiday is the movie. It is an uplifting romantic comedy which takes place in California and in the English countryside. Two young women meet online and impulsively exchange homes for the Christmas season. They each find what they were least expecting: a new love.

Please call Mary (503-779-7029) to reserve your spot; only 10 people at this venue, but we would appreciate volunteers who may like to host a movie in a future month in their larger living room. We also encourage suggestions for future movies.

## Book Group December 2018

Our December book is "The Golden Ring: A Christmas Story" by John Snyder. The story begins just days before the Christmas of 1918 in a picturesque township nestled in the mountains of coal country. Anna Beal, an idealistic nine-year-old, is very close with her father Joseph, a hardworking railroad engineer. As Christmas approaches, a series of puzzling dreams shared by Joseph and Anna about a golden ring mystifies them both. Based on a true story. It doesn't look like this book is on Kindle; "used" hardback copies are available on Amazon for around \$5 including shipping. It's a short book; only 181 pages.

Our next book is "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio. August Pullman was born with a facial difference that prevented him from going to a mainstream school. He started public school in 5th grade at Beecher Prep, and he wanted nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid. But, his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. The book begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance. This book has been made into a movie which is now on Amazon Prime Video.

We will meet to discuss "The Golden Ring" on **Sunday, December 30, 2018 at 2 pm** in the home of Myrna Headrick; note the earlier time for short winter days. We will also make a list of books to read in 2019; bring or email us your book suggestions!

Please bring a small snack to share. Everyone is welcome to join us for this discussion or several. If you have any questions or need a ride, please contact Shirley Hardee or Irene Marchbanks.

**Please come!**

*Choir Christmas Program  
And Carol Sing-Along*

**Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm**

All Church Potluck Following

Please come and bring your friends and family!

Free Will Donations to Choir Fund accepted at Potluck.

## Children's Christmas Program

Children's/Young people's annual Christmas Program is scheduled for December 16 directly following the Choir Program. It is a short, beautiful presentation written by Patty Martizia. Patty and Mary Kruger are asking that parents please have their children attend practices on December 2 and 9 during Jr. Church time. We would also appreciate any additional adult help during practice.

## **Food Boxes: Help Bring Joy to Others This Christmas**

We will be putting together Christmas Food Boxes for people in our area. This effort is coordinated by the Outreach Committee and involves generous donations from our congregation and United Methodist Women. Any food that is put on the table in the hallway will go into the food boxes. Although any food item is acceptable, here is a list of some suggestions:

Rice	Rolls
Canned Vegetables	Jell-O
Pork n' Beans	Canned Fruit
Cranberries	Jelly/Jam
Applesauce	Oranges/Apples
Stuffing Mix	Chili
Yams	Broth
Pie Filling	Butter/Margarine
Pie Crust Mix	Gravy Mix
Cake Mix/Frosting	Pickles/Olives
Cocoa/Tea/Juice	Stew

United Methodist Women will provide specialty items: Toiletries, school/art supplies, etc.

On Wednesday, December 19, we will sort and organize food items at 10:00 am and will pack boxes at 6:00 pm. Saturday, December 22, 9:00 am, doors will open for families to come and receive their food box. We will provide cookies, coffee, and cocoa. Thank you for bringing sunshine and God's love into many homes this holiday season.

God Bless,  
Outreach Committee

## HANGING OF THE GREENS

**Saturday - December 1, 2018 - at 10:00 am**

Please join us for a morning of fellowship as we decorate our beautiful church for the Advent Season! We will be trimming the Christmas tree, putting up garlands, arranging poinsettias and setting up the outdoor Nativity scene. It doesn't take a great deal of time if there are many hands to help. This is an invitation to everyone. We look forward to seeing you there!  
Judy Halse and the Worship Committee

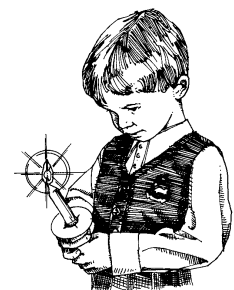


### Nuts For Bread Needed

We have been receiving specialty breads from Loran Udey for Coffee Hour all year and even for the Bazaar. If anyone has nuts (to be dried and shelled or from the grocery store) please leave in Kitchen marked "For Loran" and we will pick up and deliver to him. We are thankful,  
Diane McDermott and Pat Coleman

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The Christmas Eve worship service is Monday, December 24, at 7:00 p.m. The service will include the Christmas story, Christmas carols, and singing "Silent Night" to candlelight. People may bring cookies and candy to share at the refreshment time following the worship service. The offering will go to the Stayton Community Food Bank and be used in the Stayton area.



Christmas Eve Service



### Nursery Attendants for December

2 Carol North  
9 Claudia Johnson  
16 Robin Strand  
23 TBA  
30 Pat Coleman



## A Refugee Savior

*Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt.* Matthew 2: 14.

[For as long as I've been a part of this congregation, I have looked forward to reading Bill Smith's stewardship notes in each issue of *The Evangel*, so it was with a sense of loss and privilege that I accepted his invitation to succeed him in the monthly endeavor. I will certainly be challenged to achieve anything close to Bill's level of excellence.]

Jesus was born.

Then – wham – He was a refugee.

Think about it. The Savior of the world spent His early years as a refugee, fleeing political persecution – the authorities wanted to kill Him.

The plight of refugees is usually pretty grim, isn't it? They are exploited in so many ways by so many predators. Most of us have trouble even imagining what they go through, and so often, like Jesus, through circumstances not of their own making.

As we delight in the birth of Jesus this Christmas season, let us think of His fellow refugees. Let our hearts be softened. Let our resources be freed to help where we can. Let us open the doors to the inn and give shelter and comfort.

Clearly, when we reach out to those fleeing the tyrannies of the world, we reach out to Jesus.

Merry Christmas,  
Don Robinson

## Refugee News

Some of you have asked about donating items to refugee families in the area. Several families have moved to Salem this year and another family of 11 is coming from Congo in December, so there are needs. Following is a list of items needed:

Twin and double mattresses, box springs and bed frames  
Sheets and blankets double bed size  
Silverware, plates, bowls, glasses, cups in sets of 4,8,12  
End tables  
Flat screen TV's  
DVD players  
Microwave ovens

If you would like to donate, please contact [info@salemforrefugees.org](mailto:info@salemforrefugees.org)  
Thank you!  
Mary Kruger



Mission Statement: As a spiritual community, our mission is to grow in our Love of God, Relationships with Others, and Service to the Community  
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**The Evangel**

The Evangel is a monthly publication of the Stayton United Methodist Church, with a circulation of over 225. Articles and items submitted prior to the 3rd Thursday of the month receive priority for inclusion. Others included on a space and time available basis.

Editor: Angel Miller

Support Staff: Kyle Rumley

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Thank you to all our contributors.  
Become one!

The people of the  
Stayton United Methodist Church  
*welcome you!*



**Office Hours**  
Monday through Friday - 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Pastor's Day Off: Friday  
**Sunday Schedule**  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Coffee Hour following the Service

**OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS**