

The Evangel

Stayton United Methodist Church
1450 Fern Ridge Road SE, Stayton, Oregon 97383

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January 2019

Pastor's Report

To write the obvious, it's hard to believe another year has gone by. For me, and for you, there are changes ahead. I will go to get my guide dog at the end of January. It's hard to imagine the changes this will bring in my life—more companionship, greater mobility, countless joys and challenges. And as I move toward retirement, you will be embarking on the journey and gift of receiving a new pastor—again with countless joys and challenges no doubt.

Every year about this time, I share this poem,

The Work of Christmas, from Howard Thurman.

When the song of the angels is stilled,

When the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and the princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,

To heal the broken,

To feed the hungry,

To release the prisoner,

To rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among brothers (and sisters),

To make music in the heart.

For me one of the most important lines in this poem is the last one about making music in the heart. We cannot be the light of Christ without his music sounding deep in our hearts. My prayer for each of you is that the music which is the love of Jesus for each and every one of you brings you the peace, joy, love and hope of Christ amidst and within us.

Pastor Janine



BAZAAR 2018 FINAL REPORT

Sending out a very special thank you for everyone who helped with this year's bazaar. Thank you to each one who made crafts, set up tables and displays, made sandwiches and provided the foods for the lunches, brought baked goods, washed dishes, cashiered, did the clean-up and the tear-down, and especially the publicity. It was a successful bazaar as always with everyone applying a lot of energy. Each little thing you did counted in every way.

The event made a grand total of

\$11,031.26. The bazaar cleared \$8,521.26 after giving the police department \$2,510.00 from the spaghetti feed. Well-done, everyone. Thanks again!
The United Methodist Women

IMPORTANT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S BUSINESS MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, SAVE THE DATE!

All women are invited to attend a very important business meeting of United Methodist Women. We will be discussing the 2019 budget and the distribution of large surplus mission monies from previous bazaars. A nomination committee needs to be selected to acquire new officers for the coming year. The 2019 programs need to be scheduled. **YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT.**

CRAFTERS will resume meeting Wednesday, January 16, at 9:30. All women are invited to join in the bazaar crafting fun, we have new items to begin creating. Ladies' luncheon will be held at Gardner House, Stayton. Carpool from the church at 12:15 or meet at the restaurant at 12:30.

A BIG THANK YOU to all those who contributed donations of specialty items and helped pack the bags which were included with the Christmas food boxes. We were able to supply toiletries and other necessities for 102 people.



Book Study Group

Our January 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.

Our next book is "The Mountain Between Us: A Novel" by Charles Martin. On a stormy winter night, two strangers wait for a flight at the Salt Lake City airport. Ashley Knox is an attractive, successful writer, who is flying East for her much anticipated wedding. Dr. Ben Payne has just wrapped up a medical conference and is also eager to get back East for a slate of surgeries he has scheduled for the following day. When the last outgoing flight is cancelled due to a broken de-icer and a forthcoming storm, Ben finds a charter plane that can take him around the storm and drop him in Denver to catch a connection. And when the pilot says the single engine prop plane can fit one more, if barely, Ben offers the seat to Ashley knowing that she needs to get back just as urgently. And then the unthinkable happens. The pilot has a heart attack mid-flight and the plane crashes into the High Uintas Wilderness-- one of the largest stretches of harsh and remote land in the United States. As the days on the mountains become weeks, their survival become increasingly perilous. How will they make it out of the wilderness and if they do, how will this experience change them forever? "The Mountain Between Us" will reaffirm your belief in the power of love to sustain us. This book has been made into a motion picture starring Kate Winslet and Idris Elba.

We will meet to discuss "Wonder" on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 2 pm in the home of Valerie Capps; note the earlier time for short winter days.

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.



Thank You

I want to take a moment to thank everyone for your kind thoughts, prayers, offers of help, calls and cards during this round of illness. Your kindness has touched me deeply and reminded me why I love working here at the church. You are all such a blessing to me and to the world. “Thank you” seems so small for what everyone does for each other, but it is heartfelt. So, thank you.
Angel

Special Offering: Human Relations Day Sunday, January 20

United Methodists from across the connection help bridge the gap between church and community by participating in the Human Relations Day offering. Human Relations Day is one of the denomination's six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings. It is observed annually on the Sunday before the national observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

The offering for Human Relations Day supports three programs:

57%

Community Developers
Program of the General
Board of
Global Ministries

33%

United Methodist
Voluntary Services
Program, also
administered by Global
Ministries

10%

Youth Offender
Rehabilitation Program,
administered by the
General Board of
Church and Society.

Your gifts to Human Relations Day nurture a variety of ministries, such as:

- ♦ Child Care
- ♦ Children's after-school and summer initiatives
- ♦ Domestic Hunger and poverty
- ♦ Economic development
- ♦ Education, including tutoring
- ♦ Emergency Services
- ♦ Employment
- ♦ Gang intervention
- ♦ HIV/AIDS and other health issues
- ♦ Homelessness and housing
- ♦ Older adults
- ♦ Parenting
- ♦ Prison outreach
- ♦ Restorative justice
- ♦ Substance abuse and rehabilitation
- ♦ Youth, especially at-risk teens
- ♦ Technological empowerment

The Angel Tree Fellowship had another successful year. We had seven families and twelve kids ranging from four to seventeen years old. Thanks to all of you who donated so generously to making Christmas special for these children.

Merry Christmas

Jane



Movie Day Sunday January 13 at 3:00 PM

Movie and discussion is at Jim and Mary Kruger's house this month. Call Mary to let us know if you plan to come. The movie is God Grew Tired of Us about the "lost boys" of Sudan, and their experiences as refugees. It follows three boys as they find their way to America. Please join our group to watch inspiring movies and participate in interesting and timely discussions.

Save the Date!

Saturday, February 16th will be the United Methodist Men's Annual Valentine's Dinner. More information to come.



January Assistant Child Care Attendants:

JANUARY 6	CAROL NORTH
JANUARY 13	TBA
JANUARY 20	CAROL NORTH
JANUARY 27	MICHELLE MILLER

Church Council Minutes December 17, 2018

Attending: Don Robinson, Jerry Caps, John Mohny, Bob Bushman, Sid Halse, Janine De-Launay

The candle was lit acknowledging the presence of the Holy Spirit.

After the opening prayer, Janine asked the group to reflect on one of the most significant church moments from the past year, and a hope they had for the coming year.

Report from the Chair.

Don reflected on his time as council chair and the challenges involved. Janine and others expressed gratitude for his leadership in challenging times.

Pastor's Report.

Janine gave an update on Advent services, health concerns needing prayer, and coverage for her absence while getting a guide dog.

Finance. Bill was not available, but we had November statements showing that we had an income to date of \$160,320 with expenses of \$166,925. Our budget expenses were projected at \$197,276.

By consensus, we will not pay apportionments again this month.

Sid reported on pledges to date. We are significantly below the previous year. Sid reported a year end gift from a former church member and Janine stated we had received a check from the conference for \$1500 or so. Our financial status is of concern and we will need to meet in January to decide on a plan for the coming year.

The council reviewed the proposal for a new laptop for the sanctuary and approved the recommendation made. A check was given to underwrite this expense.

Pastoral Change.

Jerry, next year's Council chair, presented information about the consultation with Tim, the DS, and what the church needs to do ahead of time. He is asking for a group of 10, 5 from the Church Council and SPRC to work with Tim. They will need to meet together prior to the consultation with Tim on January 27.

Next Council meeting will be January 21, 2019.



A Matter of Faith

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5: 7 (NRSV)

Do you sometimes find yourself struggling with making a pledge? It has been that way for me regarding my 2019 commitment. Why? Because again and again the Church (the Church as a whole, not just our church) somehow seems irrelevant in the face of the divisiveness that plagues our nation. In fact, the Church sometime appears to be a substantial contributor to the hatred wreaking havoc on our society. I certainly don't want to throw my very limited funds away or, worse yet, voluntarily support destructive behavior. In short, couldn't my money be put to better, more effective, uses than supporting a church? Maybe some of you have faced the same quandary.

Thankfully, a couple of events on Consecration Sunday provided good direction. First was Pastor Janine's sermon. She said, "Tithing is a spiritual discipline . . . it is about our relationship with God, with one another, with our neighbors." With those words, Janine drove home the truth that giving to the church is a matter of faith, of trust in God that my gift will be used for God's purposes, even if I don't clearly see how.

The second event was the after-worship session with our district superintendent, Rev. Tim Overton-Harris. In answer to a question about the future of the Church in these difficult times, he said, “We can be a loving presence in the midst of the divisiveness.” Tim’s statement took me back to my core belief that the loving way of Jesus is the way of life. This is the message of the Church – however imperfectly it is proclaimed – and without the Church, the message is in danger of falling silent.

My response to the current crisis, therefore, should not be to reduce or withhold my pledge. It should instead be to trust in the will of God to bring good and for me to work to help my church be a loving presence in the community.

What say you?

Don Robinson

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 100. Articles and items are due by the 23rd of each month.

Editor: Angel Miller

Support Staff: Kyle Rumley

Thank you to all our contributors.
Become one!

The people of the

Stayton United Methodist Church

welcome you!

OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS

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

