

The Evangel

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

www.staytonumc.org
e-mail: fumcs@wvi.com

Volume 16, Issue 1

January 2020

“The Way to God”

When we look at Christ, we also see the truth about God. In Jesus, we see the very nature of God, Whose love for us is unearned, and undeserved. We too are to love, to forgive, to show mercy, and to welcome each other. As followers of Christ we are to continue Christ's great work, and to be representatives of the truth about God.

It is in knowing Jesus as "the way and the truth" that we are able to experience God as "the life." Because without Jesus, and left to our own devices, there is very little hope for us. And, in fact, that too is the message of scripture.

So how do we come to know the way and the truth of God in Jesus Christ? How do we experience abundant life and help others to do the same? The key is faith. It is faith that brings God's blessings to life for us. It is faith that takes us not to the foot of a mountain, but to the feet of God. It is faith that enables us to see the truth about our lives and to embrace the truth about God. It is faith that brings God's gift of life to us. And it is faith that enables us to continue Christ's great work, and share the blessings of God with others. Faith comes from trusting in Jesus' word, living with God, following Christ's example, and continuing Christ's work. Through faith in Jesus Christ, everyone can come into God's presence. That is the gospel; it is God's promise to us.

In Jesus, we have "the way and the truth and the life" and not only us but the whole world. That's why Jesus says, "Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in Me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these." Amen.

Pastor David

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to each of you who turned out for the Hanging of the Greens on December 7. Everyone pitched in and found a project to work on. The result was a beautifully decorated church to inspire us through the Advent season. We also thank Sandra Philippi for supplying the very lovely poinsettias that grace our narthex. People who bought poinsettias may take them home at any time.

In gratitude,
Judy Halse and the Worship Committee

Trustees Change

John Mohny is now the chairman of your Trustee Committee. As the outgoing chairman I want to give a big thank you to all the people who served as a Trustee, and to everyone who helped the Trustees.

A lot was done to our church building and grounds over the last several years. We would not have been able to do everything without a lot of team work. Thanks to all.
Robert Bushman

United Methodist Women Activities

Thank you to all who so generously donated specialty items which were included with the Christmas food boxes. We were able to supply toiletries and other necessities for 79 people.

Donations amounting to over \$400.00 were given to the World Thank Offering in November. These funds go to improve the lives of women, children and youth around the world. Thank you for your contributions.

At 10:00, Wednesday, January 15th United Methodist Women will have a business meeting and discuss budget for 2020. This month's Ladies' Luncheon will follow at 12:30, at Neufeldt's Restaurant in Aumsville. For those wanting to car pool, we will meet at 12:00 at the church.

Bazaar crafters will not meet in January, but will meet monthly beginning later in 2020. Meetings will be announced in the Evangel.



Book Study Group

Our January book is "An American Marriage" by Tayari Jones. Newlyweds Celestial and Roy are the embodiment of both the American Dream and the New South. He is a young executive, and she is an artist on the brink of an exciting career. But as they settle into the routine of their life together, they are ripped apart by circumstances neither could have imagined. Roy is arrested and sentenced to 12 years for a crime Celestial knows he didn't commit.

Though fiercely independent, Celestial finds herself bereft and unmoored, taking comfort in Andre, her childhood friend, and best man at their wedding. As Roy's time in prison passes, she is unable to hold on to the love that has been her center. After five years, Roy's conviction is suddenly overturned, and he returns

to Atlanta ready to resume their life together. This love story is a look into the hearts and minds of three people who are at once bound and separated by forces beyond their control.

Our next book is "The Silk Roads - A New History of the World" by Peter Frankopan. This book realigns our understanding of the history of the world, pointing us eastward. It was on the Silk Roads that East and West first encountered each other through trade and conquest, leading to the spread of ideas, cultures and religions. From the rise and fall of empires to the spread of Buddhism and the advent of Christianity and Islam, right up to the great wars of the twentieth century—this book shows how the fate of the West has always been inextricably linked to the East. The vast region stretching eastward from the Balkans across the steppe and South Asia has been thrust into the global spotlight in recent years. Frankopan teaches us that to understand what is at stake for the cities and nations built on these intricate trade routes, we must first understand their astounding pasts.

We will meet to discuss "An American Marriage" at 2 pm on Sunday, January 19, 2020 at the Church, hosted by Carol Robinson and Shirley Hardee. 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.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

History of United Methodist Women

Since 2019 is the 150th anniversary of the United Methodist Women, we have decided to print a series of articles here in the Evangel to celebrate our beginnings and to show how we are continuing the journey begun by our faithful and courageous foremothers. Information is from unitedmethodistwomen.org, Living the Legacy: The Continuing Journey of Women in Mission.

Roots of United Methodist Women

Our roots come from the faith and work of women's missionary societies of eight denominations. The highlights are as follows:

1869 The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society is formed in Boston, MA at the Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church. Isabella Thoburn and Clara Swain leave for India in November, 1869 as the Society's first missionaries. 1880 The Woman's Home Missionary Society is organized and Lucy Webb Hayes is elected president. 1910 The Woman's Societies of the M. E. Church, South are joined under one Woman's Missionary Council and made part of the general missionary organization of the church. Belle Harris Bennett is elected president and serves until 1922.

Without the woman's mission organization in the church, the work of mission would not have had such strong support spiritually or financially. The women who guided the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Societies were firmly united in devotion to a task they believed to be of supreme importance to the church, the community and to the world. The desire of women in the various missionary societies to have a special part in the missionary work of the church grew rapidly during the early years of the organizations. They delighted in the fact that they could raise funds, manage administrative details, train and deploy missionaries to foreign lands. Their efforts were far reaching. Between the years 1869 and 1903 missionaries were sent to India, China, Mexico, South America, Bulgaria, Sierra Leone, Japan, Italy, Malaysia, Korea, and the Philippines. Upon arrival in the countries assigned, women missionaries founded schools and orphanages for girls and boys, established medical clinics, taught English as a second language, worked with women on health issues, and supported the work of Bible women.

Our next installment will explore the origins of UMW mission work within the United States.



Movie Day **Sunday January 12 3:00 PM**

Movie and discussion is at Jim and Mary Kruger's house this month. Call Mary 503-779-7029 to let us know if you plan to come. The Oscar winning movie is *Life is Beautiful*. It is a touching story of a Jewish father and son in detention during World War II.

Please join our group to watch inspiring movies and participate in interesting and timely discussions. Movie suggestions are always welcome.

Save the Date!

Saturday, February 14th will be the United Methodist Men's Annual Valentine's Dinner. More information to come.



January Assistant Child Care Attendants:



5 CAROL NORTH
12 CAROL NORTH
19 TBA
26 MARY FERGUSON

Living Nativity

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the first annual Stayton UMC Living Nativity! Our volunteers included 28 actors, 5 parking attendants, and the kitchen team. Countless others showed their support in costume preparation, construction of set, provision of props and refreshments, words of encouragement, and prayer. Even though the attendance may have been less than expected, we look forward to building the program year by year!

Mary Kruger and Patty Martizia





BLESSED SACRIFICES

Blessedly, it did not rain the night I sat out by the stable with seven others – two shepherds, two kings, an angel, Mary, Joseph. But as the darkness became darker, the cold became colder until we were thoroughly frosted. The two alpacas, however, arrogantly maintained their toasty warm demeanor.

As I uncomfortably sat and stood there, I pondered stewardship. Mary and Joseph were given the greatest stewardship responsibility of all – care of the Son of God, God Incarnate. Their acceptance of that task certainly called for far greater sacrifice than my enduring the cold night air for a couple of hours.

Yet, as it so often is with sacrifice, Mary and Joseph reaped great joy.

And Mary said,
My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God
my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the
lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations
will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great
things for me,
and holy is his name.

-- Luke 1: 46-49 (NRSV).

So, whatever sacrifices we make – whether it is committing to the tithe, showing up every week to teach Sunday school, volunteering to read scripture in the worship service, attending the worship service even when we don't feel like it, singing in the choir, serving on committees, bringing food, washing dishes, responding to God's call to mission – we can take comfort in knowing that God will provide joy to go along with the challenges.

The joy I received from sitting out in the cold was derivative of the joy the children got from seeing and petting the alpacas, which animals would not have been there had we not put on a “living nativity.” That sort of joyful experience enhances a child’s view of church and makes it more likely that he or she will continue as a member of the community in later life.

May the new year be filled with opportunities for sacrificial stewardship and may we all experience the resulting joys.

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

1450 Fern Ridge Road SE
Stayton, Oregon 97383

Web Page: www.staytonumc.org

E-mail: fumes@wvi.com



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 Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Coffee Hour following the Service



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!