



Chewelah United Church of Christ CREEKSIDE GAZETTE

No matter WHO you are or
WHERE you are on life's journey,
You are WELCOME here!!!!

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 A.M. Sunday Children's Christian Education: 10:30 A.M.

Church Phone # 935-8046 Website:

www.chewelahucc.org

Find us on Facebook as "Chewelah UCC"



Mission Statement:

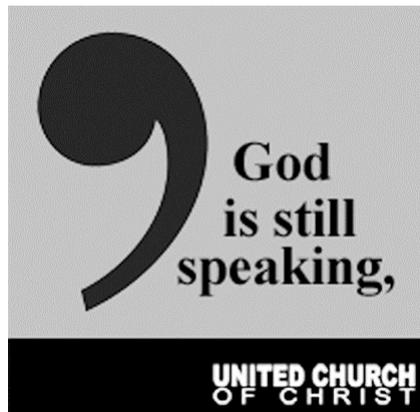
"As children of God, united in our belief in Christ,
we are called to love one another as God loves us;
helping each other to live as givers, to be as doers,
to pray as believers, and always to serve."

January 2018

Chewelah United Church of Christ
PO Box 378 East 10 Webster St.
Chewelah, WA 99109

(509)935-8046

Address Service Requested



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Greetings!

As I reflect on our time together during Advent, culminating on Christmas Eve, I was struck by the warmth and genuine sense of community that I felt with all of you this year, in worship, as we remembered Jean Merrill with great fondness, and with our young people when they performed their wonderful and creative play for us. Many thanks go to each of you, who gave of yourselves to help make this Advent season so lovely and memorable.

Church can be about a great, many things, but ultimately, it is about community.

Certainly, we come together to explore our own individual faith journeys, but to do so in church means that, by definition, we come to learn from each other what we each have experienced of hope, love and possibility this past week. Sometimes, when life has torn us to pieces, we come so that others might "faith it," for us.

Faith is more verb than noun, more something we do, than simply something we have. As such, one of the most profound gifts that we can offer each other is our own story, for in doing so, we share out of ourselves not just our ideas and opinions, but our experience of "faithing it," when we felt like doing anything but.

Christmas is a beautiful time, and yet a very tender time for many, if not most of us. I give thanks for the people of Chewelah United Church of Christ, who are so clearly and poignantly on the journey of "faithing it," in this time and this place. Thank you for the times you have "faithed it" for me.

Here's to 2018!

Peace,

Steve

Good Intent

Just a note that all women of the church are welcome to our monthly meetings. Attendance has been low—there were only 11 women at our December meeting—and we would like to see more women attend. Thank you, Alma Stone.

Christian One Liners

Don't let your worries get the best of you; Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, middle of the road, and back of the church.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on the front door forever.

Quit griping about your church; If it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

If a church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has.

We're called to be witnesses, not lawyers or Judges.

God Himself doesn't propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?

Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Peace starts with a smile.

I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?

Be ye fishers of men. You catch 'em - He'll clean 'em.

Stop, Drop, and Roll won't work in Hell.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

God grades on the cross, not the curve.

God loves everyone, but probably prefers 'fruits of the spirit' over 'religious nuts!'

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

He who angers you, controls you!

If God is your Co-pilot, swap seats!

Prayer: Don't give God instructions, just report for duty!

The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

We don't change the message, the message changes us.

You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him/her.

The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

How's the Weather?

Lillian Daniel

"Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!" - Psalm 148

It's the day after Christmas, and I have no idea what the weather is wherever you are reading this. Perhaps there is snow and frost all around you, and you're getting ready to do some shoveling. Perhaps you are somewhere warm where sea monsters frolic in the salty deep, and you get to work on your tan. Maybe there's a storm coming your way, or a fire raging in a forest nearby. All this reminds us, it's God's world and we just live in it.

Where I live, the lovely snowy scenes can get old pretty fast. We shovel and shovel and still slip on the ice. And then when the snow melts, you don't want to see what my yard looks like as it thaws, and we see all that two dogs produced over the winter. It's no Christmas card, let me tell you.

Weather is humbling, and reminds us of all we don't control. Yet when the power goes out after a storm, neighbors check on each other. A brush fire brings out heroes and rescuers. A tornado in one place brings healing rain to another. Weather intrudes, reminding us that we are not in charge, nor should we strive to be.

So when the snow cancels your plans, or the frost causes you to stay home from a game, or the rain changes the course of a party, listen for God in the natural interruptions. Perhaps God wants to spend some time with you, through the snow, the rain, the sun and the wind.

Prayer

For all the people whose lives depend upon the weather, I pray today: for the farmers, the construction workers, the wedding planners and the snow shovelers. Be with the parade planners, the beachcombers, the skiers, and the forest fire fighters. Be with all of us whose lives are affected by weather, and let us see your power in this remarkable world you have created. Amen.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COUNCIL MINUTES

DECEMBER 5, 2017

Judy opened. Pastor Steve offered a prayer. There were 14 present. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Useable income for October was \$5922. We need \$7000 per month to make payments (this includes the loan payment). Roland reported payments out of \$6927. The T&M bill has not been received. Discussion followed and will be on-going. See separate reports.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Steve thanked the council for moving rapidly to get the mold problem in the parsonage repaired. He reported the transition team has been selected: Denny, Roland, Chris, Bonnie, Jennifer, Patty, Rana, Erma, Lynn, Holly, and Rich, with Kathy, Judy, and Roberta as ex officio members. There will be training for this team in early January. They will be bringing a monthly report to the congregation.

Trustees: Roger reported the exit light signs will have to make a change to LED bulbs at \$10 each. They will have a longer life and a battery backup. The current bulbs cost \$4. There are a few of these left. Roger turned in a notice of resignation from the trustees.

Church safety: The choir loft has no safe exit as the door swings the wrong direction. The outside steps have also pulled away from the building. An idea was suggested to put the pews in the chapel and use chairs in the choir loft.

Communication Plan: The question was raised about guidelines for using the church, altar decorations, using the calendar. Many churches have a congregational covenant in place to clarify these things. Discussion followed. Please use the calendar so that information is readily available. Committee meeting dates need to be sent to Sara if possible.

The web site has been redone by Sherrie. It might be possible to video the sermons and post them to the site. Holly will look into setting up a link to the Fig Tree on Facebook or the web site.

Diaconate: Roberta reported that Advent readers are in place. They are still working on the Christmas eve service.

Christian Ed: Rachel reported play rehearsal will be on the 9th with the play to be performed on the 10th. There will be a group setting up the stage on Thursday.

Mission and Stewardship: Holly reported it's been a busy month with stewardship and Christmas events. They will be putting together Christmas baskets and will deliver the gifts for the Christmas family in the 18th. Christmas fund offering will be taken during regular service on the 24th.

House: They are still looking for people willing to check the security of the church in the evening, mainly Sunday. Contact Mary Ann if interested.

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Music: Ron reported that eight of our congregation sang with the community carolers. The choir will not be singing at the Christmas eve service. He is still working on this.

Campership: Laura reported the camp bill of \$1150 has been paid, leaving a balance of \$110 for next year.

Faith Resource Group: Holly reported the funding for this group has been through St. Mary's in the past. They would like to transfer their money to the UCC. As they do not have 501c3 status they would have to go under the UCC umbrella. They would have a separate checking account. Discussion followed and we agreed to look into the process.

Budget Planning: Information will go out to the committees on Jan. 2. Try to have committee budgets back by Jan. 9. A meeting to finalize the budget will be held on Jan. 11 at 5 pm, potluck.

Annual meeting will be held on Feb. 4

Concerns: Ashley and Carolyn, David Combs, Mitch and Cheri, DaVee Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Laura Rutherford, Clerk

THANK YOU CHEWELAH UCC

Thanks to your generous donations, we were able to give four food baskets for Christmas. These were families who needed a little extra, and once again our church was able to provide this.

The family we adopted for Christmas received gifts for everyone, as well as food for Christmas dinner.

The Christmas Fund offering for retired clergy was taken December 17, which generated \$86 for this fund through the national UCC.

Thanks to everyone who contributed, especially to Kim Powers, who donated one of his carvings for a raffle with the proceeds going to the Christmas Family.

Mission and Stewardship Committee

CHURCH SECURITY – Please continue vigilance. Twice in the past 2 weeks the front door has been unlocked, a sanctuary window was open and several lights were on. Remember to tug at the back door after locking as it doesn't always catch in the winter. Thank you, Mary Ann

January Worship Helpers

SIGN UP TO HELP OUT

Remember to sign up to usher, be a greeter, and do hospitality. The sign up sheet is on the big bulletin board by the front door. Remember only the second Sunday is designated. "Treat" Sunday. You are welcome to provide treats other Sundays, but it is optional. You are responsible to serve coffee and tea, and bring juice for kids. You also need to do clean up. If spaces are not filled before each Gazette, Sara will fill in the blanks from the time and talent sheets.
Thanks!

January 7th	Communion, Food Sunday
Greeters	Patricia West, Roger West
Ushers	Mary Ann Lachiewicz, Greg & Laura Rutherford, Lynn Hume
Worship Assistant	Bonnie Rail
Hospitality	Sally Beane, Joey Locke
January 14th	Birthday/Anniversary Sunday
Greeters	Holly Peterson, Mary Ann Lachiewicz
Ushers	Janice Burya, David Combs, Carmen Deal, Roland Frye
Worship Assistant	Roberta McMillin
Hospitality	Judy Bean, Joan Blubaugh
January 21st	
Greeters	Greg Rutherford, Laura Rutherford
Ushers	Chris Johnson, Mary Ann Lachiewicz, Roberta McMillin, Linda Moyer
Worship Assistant	Holly Peterson
Hospitality	Anneliese Hume, Janice Burya
January 28th	
Greeters	Linda Moyer, Mary Ann Lachiewicz
Ushers	Lynn Hume, Greg Rutherford, Laura Rutherford, Laurel Shelton
Worship Assistant	Bonnie Rail
Hospitality	Roberta McMillin, Chris Johnson
February 4th	Communion, Food Sunday
Greeters	Lynn Hume, Janice Burya
Ushers	Bev Heidlebaugh, Bonnie Rail, David Combs, Roland Frye
Worship Assistant	Roberta McMillin
Hospitality	Holly Peterson, Bonnie Rail

VOLUNTEERS—Because there were not many time and talent sheets returned, I did not receive a very big pool of volunteers to draw from to make the above list. That is why you may see your name many times over the course of the month. For example, only 4 people volunteered to be a worship assistant, and one is out of town during the winter, so I only have 3 names to draw from. Sorry—Sara