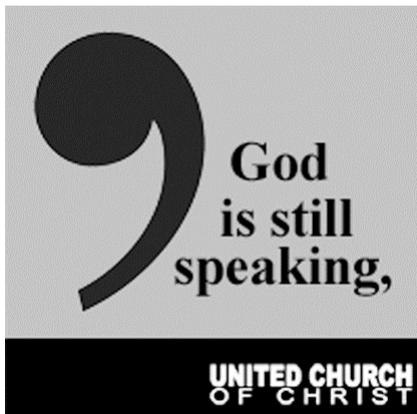


Chewelah United Church of Christ
 PO Box 378 East 10 Webster St.
 Chewelah, WA 99109

(509)935-8046

Address Service Requested



Chewelah United Church of Christ

CREEKSIDE GAZETTE

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

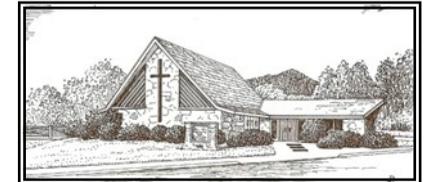
Pastor: Rev. Judith Holloway

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."

December 2016

Inside This Issue:

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Pastoral Reflections: Celebrating the "Other New Year"

Happy New Year!

What new year? You're probably wondering – has our pastor gotten her Gazette articles confused? This is December and Christmas, not January and New Years!

Not all that many people know that the church has its very own yearly calendar – one that begins now! The first Sunday of Advent is the beginning of the "other new year" – that new year we (slightly out of step) liturgical Christians celebrate and begin anew a year of holy days and sacred seasons.

This little known parallel universe calendar starts off where we are now: in Advent, pregnant with expectation of the birth of Jesus – Immanuel, God with us – on the holy night of Christmas. We then follow Jesus' journey to his death and resurrection of the Christ in everything, and the arrival of the Holy Spirit during Pentecost, concluding with that long season we refer to as "ordinary time" – which is anything but ordinary when we let the Holy Spirit of God in.

This yearly rhythm and progression invites us into a spiritual practice of unfolding through the Spirit into a greater wholeness of being. As we begin this new year of faith we are helped to let go of our old patterns of fear and selfishness (and any of the barriers we put between ourselves and God) and open ourselves to this flow of religious seasons and celebrations that help us grow in our love of God and one another.

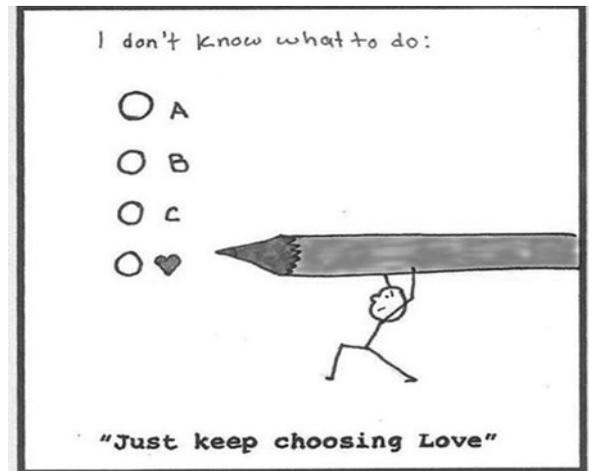
When we combine this seasonal flow of grace with the scriptural progression of the life and journey of Jesus, transformation of body, mind, and spirit are possible through immersing ourselves in the deepening spiritual and religious rituals of our faith. If we wholeheartedly enter into the journey our year of faith can become the spiritual wind at our backs. In order to receive the gifts and the grace of following this yearly pilgrimage, it is necessary to engage the Spirit, to practice love, and generally to throw ourselves into our coming holy year with anticipation and joy!

The journey to a new and reborn you begins in this time of Advent and the birth of Christ in all of creation and in our hearts.

Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Judith

Judith's Office Hours

Mon: 12:30-2:30,
Tues: 10-1, 3-5,
Thurs: 10-1,
Fri & Sat: by appt.
Church-935-8046,
Cell 510-684-8809



Christmas Family

It has been a tradition at Chewelah UCC to sponsor a family in need in the community during the Christmas season. We receive the information from staff at Gess Elementary and are not given names or personal information

Once again we will be sponsoring a Chewelah family. Gifts can be purchased and placed in the box near the fireplace or cash can be given to Mission and Stewardship members listed below. Checks should be given to Mitch indicating "family" .

Information for 2016 Christmas Family

11 year old girl; enjoys art projects and girly items

5 year old boy; likes trucks and cars or other age appropriate gifts

3 year old girl; wants a baby doll and other age appropriate gifts

Mom and Dad could use generic gifts--gloves, socks, lotion, or gift cards, treats

Mission and Stewardship Committee

Chris Johnson --chair

Dede McAuliffe

Carmen Deal

Mary Hagstrom

Holly Peterson

Good Intent

Long Term Care Service of Hymns
Every 3rd Sunday 3-3:30

November saw 10 ladies making a drive into Christ's Kitchen in Spokane. We were joined by church member Jean Merrill, who now lives in the city, and her daughter Joan White for lunch. Nice to see both of them.

Our December meeting is Wed the 7th at noon. This is our Christmas potluck and program. The Gess Elementary Choir under the able direction of Jeff Kersey will surely delight us. This is Jeff's first year in this position after Chris Carpenter's retirement. Let's all make him most welcome. Thanks to Holly for securing December's program.

NUTS 2-U SALE:

The nuts are here at UCC ! (in case anyone was wondering) The nutty lady and her friends are setting up their display for sales in the fellowship hall after services.

Great for holiday baking and just plain snacking!

Wishing you and yours a blessed Advent and Christmas season!

...be not just hearers of the word but be as doers



Hello Dear Congregation,

Mission and Stewardship

We of the Mission and Stewardship Committee want to thank you all for your efforts with the Community Free Dinner. We served about 82 people from all over the community, and had positive responses from so many that appreciated all your efforts. There were a HUGE number of our congregation that helped in some way to make this a success. THANK YOU.

Thanks, too, for your responses with the Time and Talent Sheets, and your annual Pledges. We will be accepting your pages until the end of the month, before compiling all of them completely; so if you haven't turned yours in, please continue to place them in the box located in the Fellowship Hall, or mail them in. THANKS.

We would also like to thank every contribution you made towards the Holiday Food Baskets. We are helping five families this year for Thanksgiving, and hope to help five families with Baskets for Christmas, too.

The last of our Five Congregational commitments will be "The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund". As one of our four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ, every contribution helps those who have faithfully served our Church and now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. Last year our Church was able to contribute \$1,528,481 to this offering! THANK YOU EVERYONE!! The Christmas Fund envelopes will be placed in the bulletins the Sunday before Christmas, on December 18th.

As the list of missions continue to grow in our church for our congregation, our community, and our world, please consider joining our Mission and Stewardship Committee in the coming year. We so appreciate all you do to show the Love of Christ among us.

Thank you all, The Mission and Stewardship Committee.



Annual
Free
Dinner



.Church Finances 101: FYI- Funds have not been available to pay the church's obligation toward the Pastor's Annuity Fund and as it stands \$3800 from 2016 along with the 2017 amount will be on the 2017 budget. Although adequate funds have been given by church members this year, a large portion have been designated toward special projects (local outreach, landscaping, etc) and not to the general fund out of which the annuity would be paid. This is a generous congregation but some realignment of priorities may be in order.

Submitted by: Susan Chamberlin- Treasurer

Council Minutes Nov. 1

Cheri opened. There were 11 present.
Holly read a devotional.

Minutes were approved.

Financial: Susan had a new format for her report. Checkbook balance on Oct. 31 before payroll was \$3228. See treasurer's report.

Unfinished Business: The free dinner is looking good for food and helpers.

Norstar bill for the second boiler is due. **Ron moved to pay the Norstar bill. Seconded and passed.**

New Business: A sign up sheet will be posted for those wanting to attend Thanksgiving dinner at the church.

The first budget meeting for the 2017 budget will be held before council on Dec. 6 at 5:45 with a second meeting planned for Jan. 10 from 6-8 PM. All committees need to have a representative at these meetings. The annual meeting will be Feb. 5.

Hanging of the greens will be Dec. 3 at 9 AM.

Reports:

Diaconate: There is a vacancy on this committee. **Susan moved to have Roberta fill this vacancy for the remainder of the year and start a full term next year. Seconded and passed.**

Kathy reported they are working on Advent. The longest night service will be Dec. 21. Susan will fill the pulpit on Jan. 3 for Judith's vacation, Mike Denton on Jan. 22 and Kim on Jan. 24. Called to Care program is coming along. We would like to have a liaison to work with Quail Hollow and the Long Term Care. The church service on Christmas is planned for 3 PM.

Mission and Stewardship: Holly reported they will be mailing the time and talent letters along with the pledge cards. We will dedicate them on Nov. 13.

Christian Ed/Youth Group: Rachel reported they are shifting the classes. Rachel will teach 5th grade and up while Carmen teaches up to 5th grade. The Christmas program is scheduled for Dec. 18. The Youth group will have their scavenger hunt on Nov. 13.

Trustees: Roger reported the new addition bathrooms need to be treated with drain cleaner. He took leaves to the city composting from the parsonage. Pastoral Relations will address the parsonage leaf problem.

House: Mary Ann reported that SCAN supervised visits has changed their hours to MTTh 12:30-5.

Good Intent: They will be going on a field trip to Christ Kitchen in Spokane.

Campership: Laura reported there is \$380 in the account towards next year.

Choir: Ron reported they would like to find another soprano.

Pastoral Relations: They will be meeting Nov. 3.

Pastor's Report: Judith is attending Michael Dowd's presentation. She is appreciative of the time allowed for her sabbatical opportunity. She has done lots of visitations.

Concerns: Judy Bean, Rutherford family, Shelton family, Jeremiah, Toblers, Bell-townes, Roger Stone, Cheri and Mitch, Ashley and Carolyn, DaVee, Lu and Bob, Randy and Carol, Bill and Susie, family of Don McLaughlin

Respectfully submitted, Laura Rutherford, Clerk

Pastoral Letter for Advent and Christmas

Dearest Family in Christ,

I feel it is important that I bring to your attention something new that has emerged from the National Office of the United Church of Christ; I'm thinking of it as the best Christmas present, ever! It is, I feel, deeply inspired by the activity of the Holy Spirit in this body of the Living Christ – a call from God to all of us to respond with love to the division and brokenness of our world, and the brokenness of our lives.

We, the United Church of Christ, have just adopted new purpose, mission, and vision statements.

The new *purpose statement* comes directly from the Gospel of Matthew (it's a quote): To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.

Mission statement: United in Spirit, and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.

And the *vision:* United in Christ's love, a just world for all.

As usual in the UCC, these calls to a re-newed purpose, mission, and vision have not been arrived at arbitrarily, nor are they dictated from a single source of authority from on high, but are the result of months (really, years) of prayerful and careful reflection and conversation of multiple voices in UCC service and leadership, including our youth.

The words are simple and amazingly brief for a UCC statement – but they are powerful, containing the essence of what it means to be a Christian, to follow Jesus, and to hear and do the call of God's Spirit "to do the work of repairing damages in our deeply wounded and fiercely broken body." (Paraphrase: http://www.ucc.org/a_pastoral_letter_to_a_united_church_in_a_divided_country_11092016_)

I too will keep this simple, inviting every single one of us as children of the living God, to take these simple, clear, and powerful statements into the hearts of our lives, our churches and our communities and see the kinds of transformations that the Spirit has in mind for us when we put loving God and each other, and just LOVE, first.

I am inspired by what the United Church of Christ National Officers have to say about our new statements:

Dear United Church of Christ, we were built to heal bodies broken and divided. This is our calling. Our core values of love, hospitality, and justice for all must be fully embraced in the days to come. It could well be that we were called into being for just such a time as this.

It is with this humility and faith that we can fulfill our mission: to build a just world for all. We stand in the face of fear and hate and proclaim that "love wins!" We rise up and respond to public derision of "the other" with a full embrace of and warm welcome for all God's beautiful children. We confront the injustices of the powerful with a steady drumbeat of justice.

December Lectionary

Dec 4: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Lesson 1: Isa 11:1-10

Lesson 2: Rom 15:4-13

Psalm: 72:1-7, 18-19

Gospel: Matt 3:1-12

Dec 11: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Lesson 1: Isa 35:1-10

Lesson 2: James 5:7-10

Psalm: 146:5-10

Gospel: Matt 11:2-11 or Luke 1:47-55

Dec 18: 4th Sunday of Advent

Lesson 1: Isa 7:10-16

Lesson 2: Rom 1:1-7

Psalm: 80:1-7, 17-19

Gospel: Matt 1:18-25

Dec 24: Christmas Eve

Lesson 1: Isa 62:6-12

Lesson 2: Titus 3:4-7

Psalm: 97

Gospel: Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20

Dec 25: Christmas Day

Lesson 1: Isa 9:2-7

Lesson 2: Titus 2:11-14

Psalm: 96

Gospel: Luke 2:(1-14) 15-20

Christian Education

Preparations are underway for Advent and the Christmas Program

Our Sunday school Classes finished the fall lessons as the Season After Pentecost, or "Ordinary Time" in our church year concluded on Reign of Christ Sunday, November 20th. Sunday, November 27th was the first day of the new Christian year and the first Sunday in Advent. Work on the Christmas program began then and will continue on December 4th and December 11th during church. Dress rehearsal will take place at church at 9:30 in the morning on Saturday, December 17th. The Christmas program will be given on the fourth Sunday in Advent, December 18th, during the 10:30 worship service.

We would love to have all of our Sunday school students featured in the performance and will need them at church for the practices. After dress rehearsal on December 17th, everyone in the program, helping with the program, and/or working on the food preparation/clean-up for the lunch is invited to join the cast for lunch. If you would like to help with the dress rehearsal lunch (providing food and/or serving and cleaning up) please talk to Rachel Kristianson or Carmen Hartill.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all and thank you to everyone who has helped with Sunday school classes, youth activities, and other donations of time and energy for the kids of our church. Your involvement is needed and greatly appreciated.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All.

Carmen, DaVee, Laurel, and Rachel

Excerpt from “Have We Forgotten the Point of Christianity?”

Sojourners (<https://sojo.net/articles/have-we-forgotten-point-christianity>)

By Stephen Mattson 10-13-2016

Followers of Jesus — especially those living in the United States right now — must ask themselves an important question: What’s the point of Christianity?

Because in the big scheme of things, is the purpose of having a Christian faith primarily for gaining political power, or creating and enforcing laws, or hoarding wealth, or living as comfortable a life as possible? Or is it ultimately about bettering — and saving — humanity?

God is not glorified by preventing refugees from receiving a life-giving avenue of escape.

And God is not glorified by deporting immigrants.

And God is not glorified by xenophobia.

And God is not glorified by sexism.

And God is not glorified by systemic racism.

And God is not glorified by rejecting the maligned.

And God is not glorified by fear, hate, shame, and pride.

So when we’re confronted with national questions regarding refugees, immigrants, racism, national security, the economy, and social justice issues, we must remind ourselves of the old adage: “What Would Jesus Do?” because we already know what he did, and it’s our responsibility to do the exact same thing. God help us.

2017 Budget Planning: The budget planning for the upcoming year will be led by the church treasurer, Susan Chamberlin. Susan has been your church’s treasurer for the past 3 years and also from 1997-2003, a total of 9 years. Financial Secretary, Mitch Freeman will be providing income information and pledge totals.

There will be three planning meetings.

The executive board and a delegate from each committee are asked to meet at **Tuesday, December 6 at 5:45 PM** (before church council) to go over the process and will be given year to date expenses and information for folks to go over with their committees.

A year end budget review will be available **on Tuesday, January 3 at 6:00 PM** before the church council meeting at 6:30.

The final budget planning meeting will be held **on Tuesday, January 10th from 6:00-8:00 P.M.** The goal of this meeting is to create the final budget to be presented for approval at the 2016 Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 5th after the worship service.

All are welcome to sit in on this process, the executive board and committee delegates are encouraged to take information provided at the first meeting back to their committees for input to present at the final meeting.

It is unreasonable, of course, to expect that we will be perfect in this loving as God does, as Jesus does – we will not! But we can get up every morning with a song of resolution in our hearts to put God first, to put love first, asking for God’s help in all we think, feel, and do – especially in the ways we connect with others. When enough of us do this, put love first, our world will be transformed.

I invite all of us to put love first this day, this Advent season. As each of us go about what ever our day brings, let us sing these words in our hearts and radiate them out to everyone we meet: I love my God, with all my heart, mind, soul, and strength and my neighbor as myself.

May the love of Christ be born in our hearts this Christmas,

Pastor Judith



Celebration Sunday



Thanksgiving



TRUSTEES: This past month several ongoing maintenance projects have been accomplished. **Thank you to fall cleaning participants: Roberta, Joan, Bev, Carmen D., Holly, Rachel, Susan, Roger, and Mary Ann.** Bob Chamberlin replaced two of the burned out ballast in the kitchen and fellowship hall along with several light bulbs. As part of the Capital Improvement project in the maintenance/furnace room area, donated tools have been added and boxes of long stored boxes have been sorted and usable items placed in the drawers, cabinets and shelves. We will be continuing through 2017 to go through storage areas to discard/reorganize materials.

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	1 Advent Meditation @ 11:30-12	2 Women Together @ 6	3 Hanging of Greens/Youth Ornament making @ 9
4 Worship @ 10:30 Communion Food Pantry Sunday	5 Worship team @ 10 Bible Study @ 11:15	6 Mission and Stewardship @ 10:30 Budget Info Mtg 5:45 Church Council 6:30	7 Good Intent @ Noon	8 Advent Meditation @ 11:30-12	9	10
11 Worship @ 10:30 Birthday Sunday Book Group @ 12:15	12 Worship Team @ 10; Bible Study @ 11:15	13	14	15 Advent Meditation @ 11:30-12	16	17 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
18 Worship @ 10:30	19	20 Open Office @ 10-12	21 Longest Night Service @ 7	22 Advent Meditation @ 11:30-12	23	24 Christmas Eve Services @ 7 & 11
25 Worship @ 3:00 Word/Art/Songs	26	27	28	29	30	31

December Worship Ministers

December 4th	Communion
Greeters	Chris Johnson
Ushers	Mary Ann, Laurel, Schroders
Worship Assistant	Cheri
Hospitality	Carmen, Linda
December 11th	Birthday/Cookie Sunday
Greeters	
Ushers	Joey, Debbie T.
Worship Assistant	Roxanne
Hospitality	Joan, Cheri
December 18th	Christmas Program
Greeters	Chris Johnson
Ushers	Lynn
Worship Assistant	Sunday School
Hospitality	Bonnie, Janice
December 25th	Christmas Day
	If you are here, please help out
January 1st	Communion Sunday
Greeters	
Ushers	
Worship Assistant	Cheri Freeman
Hospitality	Holly Peterson, Jim Jensen

Sign up to be a
worship volunteer.
See bulletin
board.



light (remix)

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