

Florence United Methodist Church

Tide-ings 2024



December Newsletter

Florence United Methodist Church
333 Kingwood, Florence, OR 97439

Office: (541) 997-6025

florenceoregonumc@gmail.com
New Website Under Construction



Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Serving the People of God:

District Superintendent: Wendy Woodworth

Pastor: Reverend Patty Evans, Interim

Governing Board Chair: Beth Evans

Finance Chair: Kathy Yelle

Trustees Chair: Scott Philben

SPRC Chair: Jim Waterman

Office Administrator: Courtney Zietzke

Ministers: All Members

Newsletter Editor: Diane McCalmont



We Welcome Our New Staff Member

Over the past few months the Church Council has been carefully discerning the administrative needs of our congregation and recently made the decision to create a part time position to help manage these needs. After an extensive search for the right person to fill this important job the council was delighted to hire Courtney Zietzke who began his work with us on November 25.

Courtney holds a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master of Education degree. He has extensive experience working with Zoom, Google, MS Teams, desktop publishing and Power Point. He has had over 22 years as a financial controller and Chief Financial Officer. His references tell us that Courtney is very talented, a hard worker, has great teamwork skills, is proficient in technology and is a people person. Each reference reported that he is a wonderful person to work with.

Courtney is semi-retired but wants to stay busy doing the work he enjoys. He reports that teaching part time in online classes to students in China and South Korea in the evenings and working with 15 hours a week with us during weekday mornings is right up his alley!

For the time being, the Church Office will be open Tuesday through Friday between 9:30 and 12:30 pm. Courtney will work an additional 3 hours a week on a flexible schedule as needed.

Be sure to drop by the office to welcome Courtney and introduce yourself!

WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

Pastoral Care/Concerns:

Patty Evans, 541-905-4248

Unlocking the Buildings:

Renee' Hansen, 541-999-9487

General Questions: (such as clerical assistance, reserving the Fellowship Hall, clarifying meeting times): Peggy's cell - 541-901-9847;

Cindy's cell - 541-991-7290

General Church Concerns: Beth Evans, 541-760-3021

Building Problems/Key Requests: Scott Philben, 530-949-8464

Financial Questions: Kathy Yelle, 541-305-1495 (such as making a purchase, getting reimbursed, making a donation)





Keeping in Our Prayers

Ann & Bradley Scharf; Linda Rosendaul; Sharon Belvill; Kathy Waterman; Rosie, Butch and Machel Goodwin; Tim Williams; John & Lila Hyder; Carolyn Munson; Karen Baylis; Betty Livingston; Judy Jones and family; Donna Embree and daughter, Barbara; Ray Feay and Aaron Gallegos; Sandy & Terry Woodward; Laura Merz; Hazel Vacura; Georgia Garrett; Ursula Sears; Patrick McCalmont; April McCalmont.

We ask God's blessing on these people and those in need, but not named.

For our planet in this global pandemic and economic crisis for so many.

Soldiers everywhere in the world and those who wait for them to come home.

Note: To receive the electronic prayer chain, contact kathywaterman10@gmail.com.



DECEMBER

Date	Liturgist	Usher/ Greeter	Counters	Flowers
1	Cindy Hughes	Judy Jones	Sharon Gallagher Pat Kirkpatrick	
8	Ann Scharf	Patt Rollins	Pat Kirkpatrick Nu Williams	
15	Brooke Shafer	Caroline Mesman	Caroline Mesman Diane McCalmont	
22	Jim Waterman	Peggy Simington	Peggy Simington Nancy Rhodes	
29	Service at New Life Lutheran			



Advent Happenings...

Advent Reflections

“Words for the Beginning” Advent Reflections will be held each Monday from 1:00 - 2:00 pm. This time of study, prayer, and sharing is being sponsored by our church, New Life Lutheran Church, and the Presbyterian Community Church with the respective pastors of each congregation leading the sessions. Advent devotional books which offer art, reflections, poetry, and music to guide our Advent journeys, will be distributed and will provide content and activities for each gathering. The schedule is as follows:

Monday, Dec. 2, 1:00 pm - Florence United Methodist Church, Pastor Evans leading

Monday, Dec. 9, 1:00 pm - New Life Lutheran Church, Pastor Yokum leading

Monday, Dec. 16, 1:00 pm - Presbyterian Community Church, Pastor Woods leading

Monday, Dec. 23, 1:00 pm - Florence United Methodist Church, Pastor Evans leading

Call the church office or sign up on the Advent/Christmas Celebration Sign Up Center at worship on Sundays if you would like to receive a devotional book and attend **Advent Reflections**.

Advent Vespers

Our church will join New Life Lutheran Church and Presbyterian Community Church in a time of heart warming, spirit filling, creative worship the first three Wednesdays of Advent, December 4, 11 and 18. The vespers will be held from 4:15 to 5:00 pm as follows:

December 4 - “Kindling the Flame in a Dark Time”

Florence United Methodist Church

Creating an Advent Candle Holder for your home.

Celebrating with song and prayer the light of Christ

December 11 - Jazz Vesper

Presbyterian Community Church

Celebrating the music of Advent & Christmas

December 18 - “Panis Angelicus”

New Life Lutheran Church

Praying for peace with music and movement

Christmas Cookie Baking and Sharing

Join the fun of baking Christmas cookies together and then sharing them with our homebound friends and others. All helpers will be able to take home a collection of cookies for their celebrations. To participate, call the church office or sign up on the Advent/Christmas Celebrations Sign Up Center in the sanctuary on Sunday. Flour, white, brown and powdered sugar, milk, eggs, butter, baking soda, baking powder, salt and vanilla will be provided. Bring your favorite recipe plus any of your recipe's additionally needed items with you on **Saturday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m.** Extra cookie sheets, cooling racks, bowls or mixers will be helpful. Even if you don't have a recipe to prepare you can join the fun and help decorate and pack cookies! Call Sharon Gallagher at 541-590-3676.



Christmas Sunday Worship

The fourth Sunday of Advent (**Dec. 22**) is Christmas Sunday and the Candle of Love will be lit with special sacred readings, Christmas carols, and prayers. If you have a special nativity scene you would like to display for the morning, please contact Pastor Evans at the church office. Small nativity sets will grace the window sills in the sanctuary and we will have display tables up in the office lobby to hold.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Ringing Christmas In!

A lovely, candlelit vesper service will be held in our sanctuary at **4:00 pm on Wednesday, December 24**. This service of light and hope will bless your celebration of the birth of Christ and will include favorite Christmas Carols, special music and a reading of the old sacred story. It will be brief enough for everyone to be able to get home in time for their Christmas Eve family dinner. Bring a bell to worship with you and we will ring in the joy of Christmas following our candlelight singing of "Silent Night."

First Sunday of Christmastide - December 29 at 10:30 a.m.

The First Sunday of the holy season of Christmastide (**Dec. 29**) will be a joint service where Florence United Methodist Church, New Life Lutheran Church, and Presbyterian Community Church will worship together at the Presbyterian Church 3396 Highway 101 in Florence at 10:30 a.m. This informal, ecumenical service will be full of the joy of Christmas as we sing our favorite carols one more time and share stories and remembrances of Christmas celebrations. All three pastors and a collection of lay leaders will lead this festive, inspiring service. Offerings intended for our ministries at the Florence United Methodist Church can be mailed or dropped off at the church office. Offerings received at the service will be dedicated to compassionate ministries in Florence.



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith News

UWF will meet next on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Executive Board will be hosting. Jean Hefty will lead us in devotions, and Donna Embree will delight us with a book review. The program will include installation of the 2025 officers and discussion on disbursement of funds this year.

Pecan sales continue, with quite a few bags of plain baking pecans. The funds raised will go to help support the charities and organizations our group supports. Contact Judy Jones or Diane McCalmont.

Hey Ladies - put on your ugliest Christmas sweater and bring a white elephant gift to the annual UWF Christmas party. Being held in the fellowship hall at 1:00pm on Saturday, December 7. Refreshments will be served along with lots of love and laughter. All are invited and we hope to see you there. Happy Holidays!

Judy Jones, Co-President



Scrooge Visits the Adult Class in December

During the Sundays in Advent the Adult Sunday School class will be visited by Ebenezer Scrooge to look at his redemption. Most of us remember the story by Charles Dickens, his visits during his sleep by a number of ghosts, and the major change which these entities brought about in his life. Were these visitors a result of "some undigested bit of beef" or "an underdone potato"? Or were they something else, of perhaps a more consequential origin?

In a series of videos, The Redemption of Scrooge, featuring Matt Rawle, we can perhaps find some of God's work on what seems completely uncaring human beings, showing us that the Christmas birth may bring consequences to even the most unfeeling heart.

Come join us for this series of videos and discussion about The Redemption of Scrooge in the Sunday School room at 9:00 am Sunday mornings for the four Sundays of Advent. All adults are welcome

Bert Schniepp



PFLAG holds holiday White Elephant party December 9

PFLAG kicks off Christmas with its annual "White Elephant" gift exchange on Monday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

A "White Elephant" exchange is a way to give and get a gift by drawing a number and selecting a wrapped present on a table or "taking" a gift from someone who's already made a selection. We limit our "gifts" to an item under \$5, or something fun you find around the house and want to "unload." Just wrap it up, bring it in, and take your turn choosing a wrapped item brought by someone else – or taking a gift won by and already unwrapped by another.

Bring a friend. Our meetings are always free and there are always refreshments. If you don't have a gift, don't let that stop you from coming. We always have "extras."

Our membership year began in October. Dues are \$30 per year. Membership is not required to be active in the group. It's simply PFLAG's way of continuing to provide support and education in the community. We are not a lobbying group, but a 501(c)3 charitable organization. All donations, including dues, are tax-deductible.

You can send a check to PFLAG-Florence at P.O. Box 1074, Florence, OR 97439 or use the PayPal secure link at the bottom of the home page on our website, www.pflagflorenceoregon.org.

Linda Yoder

White Elephant Exchange



**December 9
6:30 – 8 p.m.
Florence United
Methodist Church**


**It's free and all are
welcome.**

**Bring a wrapped gift –
preferably something
you want to recycle
(nothing new over \$5)**

Holiday Refreshments will be served.

No gift? No problem. We always have extras.

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
1 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Church Svce	2 1:00-2:00pm Advent Beginnings	3 10:30am-12:30pm Office Hrs 11:30am Free Lunch	4 1:00pm UWF Mtg 4:15-5pm Advent Vespers	5 10:30am-12:30pm Office Hrs 11:30am Free Lunch
8 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Church Svce	9 1:00-2:00pm Advent Beginnings 6:30pm PFLAG	10 10:30am-12:30pm Office Hrs 11:30am Free Lunch	11 11:00am-1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:15-5pm Advent Vespers	12 10:30am-12:30pm Office Hrs 11:30am Free Lunch
15 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Church Svce	16 1:00-2:00pm Advent Beginnings	17 10:30am-12:30pm Office Hrs 11:30am Free Lunch	18 2:00-3:00pm Homeschool class 4:15-5pm Advent Vespers	19 10:30am-12:30pm Office Hrs 11:30am Free Lunch
22 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Church Svce	23 1:00-2:00pm Advent Beginnings	24 10:30am-12:30pm Office Hrs 11:30am Free Lunch 4:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Svce	25 	26 10:30am-12:30pm Office Hrs 11:30am Free Lunch
29 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Church Svce at Presbyterian Community Church	30	31 10:30am-12:30pm Office Hrs 11:30am Free Lunch		



	Fri	Sat
Office Hrs	6 10:30am-12:30pm Office Hrs 1-2:30pm PALS meet 4:00-5:00 pm Homeschool Art Class	7 1:00pm UWF Christmas Party
Office Hrs	13 10:30am-12:30pm Office Hrs 1-2:30pm PALS meet 4:00-5:00 pm Homeschool Art Class	14 10:00am Cookie baking
Office Hrs	20 10:30am-12:30pm Office Hrs 1-2:30pm PALS meet 4:00-5:00 pm Homeschool Art Class	21
Office Hrs	27 10:30am-12:30pm Office Hrs 1-2:30pm PALS meet 4:00-5:00 pm Homeschool Art Class	28

Birthdays

- 3 Peggy Hughes
- 11 Nicolai Ramsey
- 19 Jesse Holden
- 18 Ann Scharf
- 20 Georgia Garrett
- 23 Mike Bones
- 31 Annie Van Horn
- 31 John Hyder

Anniversaries

- 4 Mike & Kathy Bones
- 21 Jim & Kathy Waterman
- 23 Terry & Kathleen
Van Balligooijen

If I've missed your birthday or anniversary, please send an email to Diane at quiltinggma5@yahoo.com, to let me know.

Words for the Beginning

Our theme for this Advent is “*Words for the Beginning*” and on December 1, the first Sunday of Advent, we will light the Candle of Hope as we celebrate this season of preparation. This is such an appropriate theme for our congregation because we are entering a time of new beginnings. We will have a whole new church staff with Carol Cooper at the piano, Courtney Zietzke serving as our new Administrative Assistant and a very good chance that we will be welcoming a new pastor as early as January! Our pews are nearly full on Sunday mornings but we rejoice that visitors are finding their places along with a warm welcome each week. We have received new members twice in the past few months. We have dedicated a new sound system and a new piano, expanded our internet service with state of the art fiber optics, installed a new office computer and completed a very successful Stewardship Campaign which boosted our hoped-for giving significantly. Our commitment to vibrant, life transforming, loving ministry in our community and world is strong and we are ready and able to explore new ways of being Christ’s Church in Florence. Beginnings and new life abound!

Our Advent devotional for the season introduces our Advent theme well. It reads: “Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ’s birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings - large and small, personal and political But Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new...When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown.” -from “Words for the Beginning” from A Sanctified Art.

So this Advent season we will explore “Words for the Beginning” Go in our Advent and Christmas worship, as we share in study and prayer through Advent Reflections on Monday afternoons and as we engage in midweek faith exploration and worship through Advent Vesper services on Wednesdays. In addition, we will make space for joy as we engage in both fellowship activities and service opportunities. Look for the list of Advent/Christmas opportunities in this newsletter and know that all the programs and projects planned are open to everyone.

Sharing in Advent and Christmas Worship & Programming

If you would like to participate or share in any of the Advent/Christmas worship or vesper services or other holiday events at the church be sure to check the Advent/Christmas Celebrations Sign Up Center in the sanctuary between now and December 21. There is so much happening and knowing who the folks are who are planning to attend or participate will be very helpful to our leaders. So if you would like to do a reading in worship, plan to bring a poinsettia for sanctuary, would be interested in going caroling, baking cookies together, or donate Christmas craft items for our creative adventures, just check the Sign Up Center. All it takes is your name and contact information and someone will be gratefully in touch!

Needed for our Advent Season!

We have a wonderful Advent season planned and need supplies for some of the activities. If you can donate any of the listed items, please bring them to the church during office hours or on Sunday morning.

- * cookie tins
- * decorating “doo dads” and floral picks to adorn handmade Advent wreaths
- * Christmas ribbon
- * artificial greens and garland to cut up for wreaths
- * battery operated mini light sets
- * Christmas boxes with lids

Reverse Advent Calendar- Get Your Boxes Ready!

*“For everything we know about God’s Word is summed up
in a single Sentence: Love others as you love yourself.
That’s an act of Freedom.”
Galatians 5:14 The Message*



The Nurture Committee has a tradition of sponsoring a ***Reverse Advent Calendar*** throughout December. Advent starts after Thanksgiving and most Advent calendars are made to open a window and receive something each day. However, with our

Reverse Advent Calendar, an item of food or a necessity is placed *into* a box each day of Advent. Everything collected will go to the Florence Food Share. At the end of Advent, we will have a wonderful selection of boxes filled with not only food, but love. Feel free to decorate your boxes if you so desire. We’ve had fun doing our boxes the last few years. Last year, I added gloves and some small toys as well.

Here is a list of items especially needed for Food Share: ***peanut butter, canned meat (tuna, chili), canned fruit, Ramen, canned vegetables, sugar, potatoes, oatmeal, mac-in-cheese, flour, canned soup, coffee, milk, eggs, dog food, cheese, and diapers. Additionally, items for Holiday meals would be appreciated such as a turkey, a ham, napkins, plates, etc.***

We would like you to deliver your boxes to Food Share before Christmas. If you need someone to deliver your box for you, please call me, Kathryn Waterman at 661-472-0855, or Bert Schniepp at 541-902-1364. Make sure when you deliver your boxes, you let Food Share know that the donation is from ***Florence United Methodist Church, and ask them to tell you how much your donation weighs! Please text or call me with your donation amount!***

***With Gratitude,
Kathryn Waterman, Nurture***



Church Council Update

I am writing this the morning after our Thanksgiving potluck. Thirty-six people attended, including two regular visitors and one new visitor to church services. The food was wonderful - and plentiful! I feel so blessed to be a part of this wonderful community.

The Council has a lot of promising news to share with you. We have hired an office administrator. Courtney Zietzke started November 25 and will be working in the office fifteen hours a week. Patty is telling you about Courtney in her part of this newsletter, so I will leave his introduction to her. What I can tell you is I have watched Patty deal with administrative issues almost daily since she has been filling in as pastor. As a church, we know we want a pastor who can focus on preaching, pastoral care, and other ministerial duties, and less on managing the church. We believe Courtney will be a great partner with our new pastor. As you come to the church for different things, drop by the office, introduce yourselves, and welcome him.

We are getting closer to having a pastor! DS Wendy has been screening a promising applicant. The candidate interviewed with the Superintendents November 18. I have heard that the interview went well. There are a few more steps before an appointment is made, but I am hopeful we will have a pastor in the new year.

You will be receiving a calendar of all the Advent and Christmas services and activities. This is such a special time of year and I look forward to sharing it together.

Beth Evans

Florence United Methodist Church **FINANCES**



October 1-31, 2024: Receipts: \$ 9,135.54
Expenses: \$ 9,010.16
November income through the 23rd: \$ 6,550.86

Provided by Kathy Yelle, Treasurer



From the Pastor Radiant Giving Stewardship Campaign Update

Beloved in Christ,

During the month of November we have immersed ourselves in the beauty and wonder of these radiant fall days. Nature reminds us in every season, but overwhelmingly so in the Autumn, of the radiant beauty of giving. God's world pulls up from the earth and draws from the sky the fullness of its life force to try and match the generosity of God. It calls out, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" as leaves float from the trees, dance on the damp earth and scurry away to blanket fallow fields preparing for a long rest.

This month we have explored the many ways God inspires, equips, and empowers us to be a radiantly beautiful church. Each Sunday we have dedicated bright leaves that have borne witness to the ways we have experienced joy in giving this year and ways we hope to invest in radiant hope in the year ahead.

On Thanksgiving Sunday we received and dedicated our 2025 Intentions of Giving. We are still hoping to receive more responses before we announce and celebrate the end of the campaign. If you have yet to share an Intention of Giving and would like to be included in that tally, you can bring or mail your card to the church office. With this anticipated income plus all the other ways people joyfully give their lives we will move forward in faith with grateful hearts and give heartfelt thanks for every radiant gift and giver!

Gratefully serving Christ with you,

Pastor Patty Evans



Thanksgiving Potluck



Peggy's 90th Celebration



Recipe Corner

Slow Cooker Hawaiian Chicken

Submitted by Amanda Weaver



Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. of chicken, cut into chunks
- 1 cup pineapple juice
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup soy sauce

Directions:

Mix the pineapple juice, soy sauce, and brown sugar in your slow cooker; stir until sugar is mostly dissolved. Add the chicken and stir to coat in the sauce. Cook on low for 6-8 hours or high for 3-4 hours. If you want the sauce to be thicker, mix in corn-starch slurry about 30 minutes before the end of the cooking time. Serve over rice.

PALS



1:00-2:30 p.m. Fridays
Tedd Powell Fellowship Hall
All women are welcome!

P... Prayer
A... Action
L... Love
S...Sharing



Jane Salomone
1600 Rhododendron Dr, Spc. 32
Florence 97439

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



Florence United Methodist Church
333 Kingwood St., Florence, OR 97439

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Office Phone: (541) 997-6025

florenceoregonumc@gmail.com

Online: Website Under Construction

Directory Update

**Do we have your current address,
phone number, and e-mail address?**

Please forward them to:

florenceumc@florenceunitedmethodist.org

**If you do not wish to receive this
Newsletter, please notify the church office.**