

*Florence United Methodist Church*

# *Tide-ings* 2020



## December Newsletter

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Florence United Methodist Church

333 Kingwood, Florence, OR 97439

Office: (541) 997-6025

Sunday Worship

Sunday Services: Video taped services at this time



[florenceumc@florenceunitedmethodist.org](mailto:florenceumc@florenceunitedmethodist.org)

Visit us at [www.florenceunitedmethodist.org](http://www.florenceunitedmethodist.org)

Serving the People of God:

District Superintendent: Rev. John Tucker

Pastor: Reverend Dr. Karen Love Baisinger

Lay Leader: Patt Rollins

SPRC Chair: Patti Johnson

Finance Chair: Terry Woodward

Ministers: All Members

Newsletter Editor: Diane McCalmont

Pastor Karen:

[revdrkarenlove@gmail.com](mailto:revdrkarenlove@gmail.com)

(541) 915-0335 cell (ok to text)

## From Our Shared Heart...



Happy, safe and healthy holy-days,  
Beloved Community!

It's early evening on Thanksgiving Day as I write this. Alan and I just finished a virtual family gathering with my daughter Kara and her family in Eugene and my son Rick and his sons in Seattle. Like millions of others, we had to change our plans and give up our preferences for the holiday due to tightened restrictions and more stringent travel advisories in both OR and WA. As I look ahead to Advent and Christmas, I realize the same kind of "unprecedented" times are ahead, most likely, for all of us.

One of my biggest gratitudes is for our church and how we have done the best we could in these times. We continue to gather, although virtually instead of in-person, we continue to make a difference in the lives of others, and we continue to function amazingly well under these trying circumstances. Your commitment and love for our church have kept us afloat financially and in every other way.

Another of my gratitudes this season is for the generous donation you made to the Heifer Project recently in my honor

for Pastor Appreciation Week. Yesterday, the Hand family and I met by Zoom and picked out \$600 worth of animals: we

are helping 12 families internationally through donating 2 flocks of chicks; 2 flocks of ducks; 3 hives of bees for 3 villages; a goat; a sheep; and an alpaca. Best of all, during this season, there are donors who match whatever is donated by others. So we were able to double the \$600 and make a \$1200 difference in the lives of so many families. To find out more about the Heifer Project, one of my favorite charities, go to [www.Heifer.org](http://www.Heifer.org). Every year, I donate in honor of my grandchildren and to have received such a generous donation in my honor from you was truly a heart-warming blessing!

As we move into the Advent season and closer to Christ, let's prepare our hearts for the unexpected graces and gifts of our loving God. In everything that happens, God is with us, God is for us. That is the witness of our Scripture and our Christian tradition. Let the miracles begin . . . as always, again and again!

Love and blessings,

Pastor Karen



Since the pandemic restrictions started back in mid-March with the closure of our facilities and the cessation of in-person worship by our Bishop, our staff has been working mostly from home, remotely.

To better support and ensure adequate self-care and boundaries, we are now closing our “home offices” two days a week. Linda Yoder, our Administrative Assistant, will be taking Sunday and Monday as her days off. Pastor Karen will continue to take Monday and Tuesday off for hers.

The church (“home”) office will be closed on Mondays. Pastor Karen will still be available anytime for emergencies.

There may be occasions when Pastor Karen or Linda have doctor appointments or other necessary things to handle on their work days in which case they may need to shift to working on one of their days off instead, but usually, they will work their normal schedule.



### *Keeping in Our Prayers*

Jasmin Crump; Vicki Hough (Peggy Wilson’s daughter); Larry Gallagher; Pat Balzell; Kollette and Al Longworth; Jonathan Yoder; Kathy & Bruce Yelle; Reverend Karen; Donna Embree; Peggy Simington; Shirley Ross; Kathleen & Jacob Wenzel; Jim Waterman; John & Lila Hyder; Kim Holden & family; Georgia Garrett; Laureli; Betty Cline; Ursula Sears; Jean Parr; Janice Bell; Gerry & Nancy Cedarleaf-Grey; Bonnie Kelly; Patrick McCalmont; April McCalmont.

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

Pray 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:** On the last page of the UMW yearbook, as well as the inside back cover of the Church Directory, the Prayer Chain is listed. To receive the electronic prayer chain, contact [rayfeay@hotmail.com](mailto:rayfeay@hotmail.com).



## UMWomen News

Yes, it's December and time is of the essence to know if items in United Methodist Women's Budget can be paid this year. If you're one of the nineteen active members who wish to make a donation, contact treasurer Kathleen Wenzel at 541-999-4353 and do it soon. The World Thank Offering is an optional gift. The Committee on Nominations is working on officer responsibilities for 2021 after which members will be contacted to affirm their report or not.

A continuing fundraiser by United Methodist Women is having Rada cutlery items available to purchase. Currently on hand, we have paring knives, mini-servers, cheese knives, stirring whisks, veggie peelers, and flexible cutting boards. If you wish to order pieces, Jean Hefty can and will provide you with a catalog. There are already many happy customers of Rada cutlery in our community.



Jean Hefty

## UM Staff Parish Relations COMMITTEE

Our long time tradition at Christmas, of passing around a brown manila envelope during church to gather funds in appreciation for our staff, has to change a bit this year. While we tried to "secretly" pass the envelope though the pews, it was never very quiet or secret, but it was fun and done in the spirit of giving back and recognizing our church staff. This year, we have to do something different, which means: sending a check in the mail (make sure to note "staff appreciation" in the memo line) or donating on our website using the donate button (there will be a drop down box available).

The last eight months have been very stressful for our staff. Pastor Karen, Linda Yoder, and Sharon Belvill have worked many extra hours to ensure the virtual service was available to all. Now we have a chance to show our appreciation.

Holiday Blessings,  
Patti Johnson and SPRC

## Adult Sunday School During Advent



We are continuing our new exploration of “Adult Sunday School” on a day other than Sunday as we move into Advent!

We will be using a short study by New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine with a four-lesson series, “The Light of the World.” This series on the Amplify Media site, available through the Church subscription, is an exploration of the Christmas story as told by Matthew and Luke in their Gospels. Just watch the week’s session before we meet on the ZOOM portal on Fridays at 2:00 pm. If you have not received an email with the links to the series and the Zoom meeting, please notify the church office to get on the notify list.

We began meeting on Fridays, Nov. 27, but you will be able to enjoy the presentations and discussion even if you have missed this first session.

A link will be sent via email to the church mailing list before Friday each week. If you do not receive this communication, please notify the Church office to be sure you are on that email list.

The Adult class, currently meeting via Zoom on Fridays, will not meet on Christmas or New Years Day. Watch for January’s newsletter for information on our study to begin in the New Year.

Bert Schniepp



Church Council will be held Sunday, Dec. 13 at 11:30 a.m., following Virtual Coffee Hour. Committee reports, if applicable, are due to Linda Yoder [lindayoder@hotmail.com](mailto:lindayoder@hotmail.com) by Friday, December 11.



### **Advent Is Upon Us; Try Something New!**

Although we have been looking toward producing an Advent Devotional booklet, that did not seem to be of major interest to many of you. Sincere thanks to all who sent in material, and perhaps we will be able to use it at another time. Nevertheless, the Nurture committee has decided to suggest something new!

Frequently an Advent Calendar is used by families and children in the season leading to Christmas each year. Each day, a window/door/package/box is opened and inside is a small gift for the person opening it. It is a wonderful way to help children and the young-(impatient?)-at-heart to count the days until Christmas.

Our suggestion is for you to reverse this process, and with each day “open a new door” and put *in* something, instead of taking out something. Begin with an empty box, and on each day add some non-perishable food item (can of vegetables or fruit, box of macaroni and cheese, etc.), so by the end of Advent you will have a box filled with food to be donated to Food Share. Many will then benefit from your reverse Advent Calendar! Wouldn't it be wonderful if each family could “gift” a box of food to Food Share in the couple of days before Christmas?

Bert Schniepp

\*Editor's note: If you can, please take a picture of your filled box. Email it to me at quiltinggma5@yahoo.com. I'll put as many as I can in the January newsletter.

**Holiday Giving 2020**  
**Three Ways of Giving to the Wesley Foundation**



1. Make a one-time donation via check or money order.

Please make out the check to "The Wesley Foundation"  
and mail it to: The Wesley Foundation  
2520 Harris Street  
Eugene OR 97405

2. Contact the Wesley Center via email for a secure link to using a credit or debit card. Our email address is [uowesleycenter@gmail.com](mailto:uowesleycenter@gmail.com).

We use a well-known company, Vanco, for secure giving. More than 40,000 churches, faith-based groups, nonprofits, schools and educational organizations trust Vanco to securely complete transactions every day.

3. You may use the AUTHORIZATION FORM to set up direct giving.

Please fill out the form, attach a voided check, and mail to:  
The Wesley Foundation  
2520 Harris Street  
Eugene OR 97405

No surprise for 2020, but we need your help. We are busier than ever. Please consider helping today.

*Colette Moore*, President, The Wesley Board and Corporation,  
*Warren Light*, Campus Minister, and amazing student interns, staff & helpers:  
*Christina, Hollie, Sohni, Brett, Adana, Karley, Kaylen, Caelyn, and Evelyn*

For more information, please contact Warren at [uowesleycenter@gmail.com](mailto:uowesleycenter@gmail.com)

# DECEMBER

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu



# MERRY CHRISTMAS



Open Hearts,  
Open Minds,  
Open Doors...

The people of the  
United Methodist  
Church

## Why am I a Methodist? Or Why did I join THIS church?

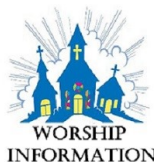
If you'd like to give a "testimony," please get hold of Patt Rollins or Linda Yoder. This doesn't have to be a video production. A few sentences will suffice, and they can be written or audio-recorded. Your choice. We'd like to offer one or two of them during the "Greeting" part of our on-line service. We can run your statement with your directory photo (unless you have another one you'd rather use). Contact: [pattiandpatt@comcast.net](mailto:pattiandpatt@comcast.net) or [lindayoder@hotmail.com](mailto:lindayoder@hotmail.com).



Fri

Sat

# MAS!



### **Remote Worship Continues for the Time Being**

We've been posting worship videos on YouTube and making the link available on our Facebook page and via email to our interest list. If you haven't received an email message, let the church know by emailing us a message. We'll be happy to put you on the list and send you a link.

If you don't use the Internet, we can mail you a DVD of the service. Call Linda Yoder 541-590-0944 for copies. We're holding "virtual coffee hour" on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. via Zoom. If you're on our email list, you will get a link to the meeting.

Linda Yoder

### *Birthdays*

- |    |                 |
|----|-----------------|
| 2  | Tom Pfeiffer    |
| 3  | Peggy Hughes    |
| 6  | Brad Anderson   |
| 11 | Nicolai Ramsey  |
| 19 | Jesse Holden    |
| 20 | Georgia Garrett |
| 21 | Janice Bell     |
| 23 | Mike Bones      |
| 26 | Eileen Beck     |
| 30 | Jacob Wenzel    |
| 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](mailto:quiltinggma5@yahoo.com), to let me know.



## A Word From Your Lay Leader...

As fall is passing and winter is rapidly approaching, my reoccurring thought is “2020, What a Year”! I do not believe I will live long enough to witness such craziness in our world as 2020, but you just never know. Let’s pray that 2021 will be better, much better. Such heavy thoughts to entertain, as the Advent season approaches.

So, let’s lighten the conversation by taking a moment to reflect on our Thanksgiving holiday. It will likely have been much different than any we have celebrated in our lifetime. We all might have had events that occurred during the Advent season that were very memorable, but we have never experienced Thanksgiving and the Christmas Holiday in the middle of a pandemic. Yes, I said it, P-A-N-D-E-M-I-C. I am so in hopes you took the opportunity to celebrate with a phone call, a note, email, Face Time or a Zoom call with friends and family.

I hope you shop locally for your holiday dinner fixins’ as our small merchants need your business. That is about all we are able to do as we quarantine until Dec.5. **Except, wear your mask, wash your hands, socially distance, and stay at home.** And equally as important, let others know you care and you are thinking of them. What would Jesus do?

One of my favorite Mark Twain quotes is, “The two most important days of your Life are when you were born, and when you find out why”. So, as you read this note, I’m assuming you have been born. Right? So the question I leave you with is: Are you clear about “why” you’re here on God’s green earth? Was it to live through a pandemic, civil unrest, political unrest, a looming environmental collapse, or above all, to show grace and mercy to those around you? To forgive beyond measure? To love without boundaries? To Do No Harm, Love Justice and Walk Humbly with your God? With these thoughts in your head, I am sure you can answer the question “why”. It is a very personal response, and only you can answer it. It is your journey and it could be your legacy.

Advent blessings your way,  
Patt Rollins

## Free Lunch News

Free Lunch has now served 1,675 Subway voucher meals and is currently distributing an average of 20 meals per lunch.



After receiving a grant from *Fill Your Pantry*, we have purchased \$250 of emergency food for our pantry. I have cleared out surplus kitchen equipment from the pantry to the Sunday school room (4 electric roasters; 4 of 5 extra crockpots; and miscellaneous coffee and restaurant equipment) to make room. If you'd like to claim any of these items, contact Paula Z at 541-603-6948. Otherwise, I intend to donate them to the Humane Society and St. Vinny's.

Since Thanksgiving fell on a Thursday and Subway was to be closed, we made sure all our customers knew about the Free Turkey Community Dinner provided by Kiwanis at the Elk's. We learned that all of the food was going to be served to-go and cold! Linda of Linda's Thrift loaned us a microwave, a Kiwanis dad brought a generator and two Elks warmed up the food for the un-kitchened walkers or those on bikes for around 20 of "our people". They served a total of 467 full Thanksgiving meals in 35 minutes!

Paula Z

## Florence United Methodist Church FINANCES



October 1-31, 2020:      Receipts: \$ 7,309.58  
   Expenses: \$ 6,469.91

November income through the 24th: \$ 2,945.29

Provided by Kathy Yelle



Greetings!

Thank you, FUMC, for your support and helping EcoGeneration to have a successful event Sunday, Nov. 1, and enabling EcoGeneration to hold future events next year!

The event went GREAT! Perfect weather, a good turn-out, and a kind group of people who care about our planet and were careful with following Covid regulations.

If you haven't seen the FB posts, Siuslaw News, or City of Florence articles, I'm copying (on the next page) the City of Florence Newsletter.  
Thanks everyone!

Nancy Rhodes



## Trustees Report

The Fellowship Hall sustained some minor roof damage when a tree limb fell during one of our windstorms and took out the power lines connected to the building. Repairs are underway.

Scott Philben

## **From the City of Florence Newsletter:**

### **Florence Plastics Hit the Road**

EcoGeneration, Lane County, Master Recyclers and generous businesses and local individuals partnered to provide plastics recycling in Florence Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup>. Since most plastics stopped being collected curbside in 2018, Lane County has promoted opportunities for plastics collection throughout the county. The latest event is that hosted by Ecogeneration. These recycling events keep material from being sent to the Short Mountain landfill, saving county residents and businesses money by extending the life of the landfill. They also make these plastics available for recycling into other plastic products saving the expense of producing raw materials to manufacture new goods. Below are the highlights of the event:

- 640 lbs of # 2-4-5 plastics were screened and collected
- an additional 250-500 lbs of assorted materials across a dozen categories collected for reuse and recycling collected
- 200 families served
- 3 county staff, county truck
- 2 EcoGeneration volunteers
- 1 Cottage Grove Master Recycler
- 9 Florence Master Recyclers
- 4 Florence community volunteers
- Truck loan from Brad's in Cottage Grove
- financial support from generous individuals in Florence

Because Florence Master Recyclers promoted event sponsorships and these three organizations stepped up (Florence United Methodist Church, Central Coast Disposal and County Transfer & Recycling) EcoGeneration was able to commit to three Recycling Take Back events in Florence for 2021. Florence Master Recyclers Britte Kirsch and Nancy Rhodes helped produce the November 1 Recycling Take Back event. More support from the Florence community will be needed to ensure the success of upcoming collections. Check out the new Florence page on the Ecogeneration website: <https://www.ecogeneration.org/florence> to learn more about how to recycle your plastics or how you can participate in and support the events.

Wendy Farley Campbell, AICP  
Planning Director | City of Florence

## ***Noteworthy News...***

### **Directory**

A revised directory will be available online in early December. A paper version will be mailed to those listed in the directory without an email address. If you are aware of a correction, please let us know. Contact [lindayoder@hotmail.com](mailto:lindayoder@hotmail.com) or 541-590-0944.

### **Electronic Giving**

We continue to offer online giving through our trusted church partner, Vanco. To use the service, you set up a “customer profile,” much as you do for any online shopping. Giving options include credit/debit card or withdrawals from checking/savings accounts. In addition to “general fund” giving, the site allows you to choose other options, including UMC special Sundays gifts. As we add to the site, the options will include Free Lunch, Heifer Project, and other organizational favorites of the congregation.

### **Home Touch**

Home Touch materials continue to be available online and in hard copy. If you’ve received copies by mail in the past, this will continue unless you request to be taken off the list. If you do not receive these resources, but would like to have them, please contact [lindayoder@hotmail.com](mailto:lindayoder@hotmail.com) or 541-590-0944.

### **PFLAG**

We’re trying to keep our Facebook Page alive, and we’re inviting previous members to “re-up” with National “on us.” Being unable to gather, we are hoping to keep our members connected to the national organization and to its resources, including a new chatroom, which will be launched in December. We will offset the cost with resources saved in local programming, which is on hold. We always welcome contributions, but we’re not requiring a gift to stay under the PFLAG flag.

# *Go Camping*

**Here's a great way to go Christmas caroling this year, despite COVID-19...**

**2020 Online Great Hymns of the Faith--Christmas Edition!**

**Site: Alton L. Collins Retreat Center**

**Date: 12/10/20**

**Cost: \$0**

This unique program has been inspiring and entertaining participants for over 11 years now, but this is the first year (due to the constraints of the coronavirus pandemic) that we've done it online! If you're wondering how you're going to get to "go" Christmas caroling this year, then this free program is perfect for you. We'll not only sing Christmas carols together, but we'll also get to hear stories and insights about the music, poetry, and theology of our heritage of congregational song--all mixed together with a healthy dose of amusing anecdotes and historical trivia. The founder and leader of the series is the Rev. Laura Jaquith Bartlett, an ardent lover of all things hymn-related.

If you're not sure how to navigate a virtual Zoom gathering, there are step by step instructions at [gocamping.org](http://gocamping.org). Go to the page that describes this camp event and there is a link towards the bottom that says "*Click here for tips on making the most of the Zoom Great Hymns event*".

*I'm "going", how about you?*

Diane

**Register at [gocamping.org](http://gocamping.org)**

# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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Office Phone: (541) 997-6025  
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Online: [www.florenceunitedmethodist.org](http://www.florenceunitedmethodist.org)  
Directory Update  
Do we have your current address,  
phone number, and e-mail address?  
Please forward them to:  
[florenceumc@florenceunitedmethodist.org](mailto:florenceumc@florenceunitedmethodist.org)  
If you do not wish to receive this  
Newsletter please notify the church office.