

## Weekly Update – November 23, 2016

### A Personal Word ... From Jim Pollard

*First...give thanks.*

We were in a church meeting room in Washington, DC. The junior high youth we had taken to Washington on a mission trip were preparing to help distribute surplus food that had been supplied by area markets that, otherwise, would have been discarded. They had spent time peeling off wilted lettuce leaves to reveal the still edible inner portions, sorted potatoes, inspected carrots and celery, stacked up loaves of day-old bread, and made preparation to receive the people who, an hour early, had lined up along the sidewalk outside the church entrance.

The doors opened, and the people filed in. All ages, all races, multiple languages, some of them no-doubt homeless, others barely scraping by. Joining with volunteers from the church, the youth assisted with greeting, keeping the table supplied, placing items in bags, chatting with the people from the community.

After the last persons were served and the doors closed, we sat in circles and talked about our experiences. What the youth remarked about was how polite and thankful the people were. They noted that individuals took only what they needed for themselves – no one took too much. In fact, when offered extra, the refused, concerned that there might not be enough for others. And they said to each helper, “Thank you, thank you.”

Thank you. Thank you. On Thanksgiving Day, on every day...first...give thanks.

*In Christ's service, Jim*

### Report from the Focus Group discussion of the Draft Purpose statement

First, thanks to all who participated. Seven focus groups convened between Nov. 13 and Nov. 17, with 42 participants, plus members of the Planning Team. Meeting on Sunday, Nov 20, the Planning Team heard reports from the groups, and the purpose statement was revised as follows:

***Christ Church: making connections and creating opportunities for faith, love, and service.***  
Next steps: setting of goals and strategies for the next two to three years. Stay tuned. More opportunities to be involved are ahead.

### CHURCH CONFERENCE SET FOR DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 AM

An Annual Church Conference is an important gathering for a United Methodist Church. It is a time when church leaders and staff report to the church members on the life and ministries of the church of the most recent year, and report goals and directions for the year ahead. Presiding at the church conference will be District Superintendent, Rev Wayne Butler –

his presence embodying the accountability of the local United Methodist Church to the Annual Conference, and the “connection” that each United Methodist Church has with every other United Methodist Church through the annual conference.

The Church Conference will include an update on the Consultation and Planning Process, an overview of the church’s ministries from the Church Council and Ministry Teams, a report from the Staff-Parish Relations Team and action on resolutions establishing pastoral compensation, reports from our church staff and interim pastor, financial reports, and reports from the Board of Trustees and the Endowment Team. The agenda also includes election of church leaders and Trustees.

All church members have voice and vote at the Church Conference. Come. Participate in shaping the life and ministry of Christ UMC for the coming year.

## **Daily Bible Reading – 2016      Shaping Our Life Experience**

Excerpts from both the Old and New Testament are included each day. This is a great way to support your ongoing growth in faith and the Christ Church community as well.

November 23: Ezekiel 29-31; James 5

November 24: Ezekiel 32-33; 1 Peter 1

November 25: Ezekiel 34-35; 1 Peter 2

November 26: Ezekiel 36-37; 1 Peter 3

November 27: Ezekiel 38-39; 1 Peter 4

November 28: Ezekiel 40; 1 Peter 5

November 29: Ezekiel 41-42; 2 Peter 1

## **In Our Prayers**

**JOY!** – To welcome the Ishiupunda Family who arrived from the Congo last week. Keep them in your prayers as they begin a new life.

**JOY!** –**Gio Castellino** received a gift Bible from the church on Sunday.

Keep the families of Alice Schmidt and Gaetano Castellino Sr. in your prayers.

Also:

Al Tolsma- recovering from eye surgery, Richard Mestler, Jean Ericson, Mary Landel, Joyce Moser, Bob Kreib, Rita Arnold, Carol Teresi, Patty Keller, Charles Terranova, Carolyn Day, Janet Hill, Elvira Gonzalez, Florence Stengel, Fred & Lynda Painton

Janelle Martin’s grandmother hospitalized following a stroke

Keep the church consultation process and planning team in your prayers as we continue to discern God's purpose for Christ Church for the coming years.

Pray for the healing of the nation and all nations.

Pray for Chris Maliken, Alex Dunbar, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson – all serve in the US Navy

## **This Week at Christ Church**

**Church Office – Mon., Wed., Fri. – 9 am to 5 pm, Tues. & Thurs. – 9am to Noon**

Wednesday, November 23 - 7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 24 - **Happy Thanksgiving! Church office closed Thursday & Friday**

Friday, November 25 - 7 p.m. - Game Night in Wesley Room

Saturday, November 26 - Altar Guild set up for Advent

Sunday, November 27 - **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent**

9 am – Casual Praise

10 am – FaithXpress – Christmas Pageant prep

**God Is With Us – Advent Study Group for Adults**

With David Pliss; Wesley Room

11 am – Traditional Style Worship

## **Opportunities to Make A Difference**

**Singers! - You are invited to sing in the choir for Christmas Eve!!**

Come to rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. The first 45 minutes of each rehearsal will be devoted to preparing the Christmas Eve anthems.

## **Discretionary Fund –**

Last week we met a gentleman named Allen who came to the church in need. He lost his job, is temporarily staying with a friend and hopes to keep his car on the road so he can find new employment and afford to rent a room to live in. He has worked at the church for two days helping Dave Wolf with chores around the church. Occasionally people need a helping hand to get through difficult times and turn to the church. These needs require financial help in an emergency or temporary provision beyond food needs. If this kind of care & support

moves you to make a financial contribution, please mark it **Discretionary Fund**. *Please keep Allen in your prayers as he hopes and works toward a new and better life.*



UMC #GIVINGTUESDAY

GLOBAL MINISTRIES  
The United Methodist Church

[umcmmission.org/give](http://umcmmission.org/give)

Give light • Give love • Give life

Give to any of the more than  
800 Advance projects and more than  
300 missionaries around the world on  
UMC #GivingTuesday, Nov. 29, 2016.  
Thank you.

## UMC #GivingTuesday: NOVEMBER 29

As a passionate disciple of Jesus Christ, your participation is vital to living out God's mission through The United Methodist Church. Every day you are giving light, giving love, and giving to a world in need through your prayers, presence, gifts, and service.

November 29, you are invited to come together with thousands of United Methodists to support the work of Advance projects and missionaries on UMC #GivingTuesday.

The Advance remains committed to sustaining a strong foundation that allows projects and missionaries to build relationships and empower their ministries. In the past, we were fortunate to offer matching funds to motivate giving. This year, while matching funds will not be available, we remain confident that generous supporters will continue their commitment to vital ministry. We have witnessed your ability to utilize The Advance to change your communities positively. To keep this momentum going, The Advance continues to allocate 100% of all giving to the designated project and missionary.

**Food Pantry** – Thank you for your donations!

**November 20 – Canned meats, stews, tuna**

**November 27 – Toiletries – soap, shampoo, deodorant**

All food items are always needed to help stock local food pantries. Paper products and toiletries are welcome anytime. Grocery carts are available in the church for your donations.

**Giving Tree – in the Parlor**

Gift tags for recipients at Gateway Longview, Haven House, Primera Iglesia, Family Justice Center and Veterans will be available on the tree. Return gifts unwrapped by December 4. Contact Diane Klenk with questions (651-0236).

### **The Café is a connecting place**

Sign up on the bulletin board in the Café to host some Sunday morning! Invite your family, friends, ministry team or group to join you! Share in this Café ministry of hospitality and welcome. Donations are welcome in the Café for use on Sunday mornings – baked goods, half & half, OJ, fruit & cookies are useful!

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## **Christmas Pageant – Sunday, December 18 11 am Worship**



**Merry Christ-Mess...  
...Beyond Time**

***Only God can turn a mess into a message!***

***Followed by the Open The Door party  
Everyone welcome!***



***Coming Soon...Mark your calendar***

### **Advent Fridays – Give yourself the gift of peace**

5:30 – 6 pm – Music & Meditation Taize style\*

*(\*Contemplative form of prayer, meditation, music, silence and candles)*

### **Advent Sundays – Adult Study Group with Dr. David Pliss**

**ADVENT STUDY: GOD IS WITH US – Sunday mornings at 10 AM in the Wesley Room**

A look at the scripture readings for the Sundays in Advent using the study book God Is With Us, by Robin Wilson. Participants will be led by David Pliss, beginning on Sunday, November 27, the first Sunday in Advent. Study books are available at the church.

**Saturday, December 3 - Red Blazers** Male Glee Club Concert  
3 pm at Christ Church

**Sunday, December 11** – Concert by the *Buffalo Brass*  
5 pm at Christ Church

Sunday, December 18 – Christmas Pageant 11 am  
**Merry Christ-Mess!**...*Beyond Time*  
*Only God can turn a mess into a message!*  
**Open The Door Party** following the pageant

**Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve 9 pm**  
**Service of Lessons & Carols**  
*Candles & Choir*

**Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day Worship**  
1 worship service at 11 am

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**First Sunday of Advent Isaiah 2:1-5**

*“The word that Isaiah, son of Amoz, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.”* In chapter 1 Isaiah graphically laid out what he had seen: violence, bribery, unfaithfulness, desolation, trampling on the poor. There are brief interruptions as God calls for repentance and offers glimpses of hope, but they are drowned out by these pictures of violence and rebellion.

Then Chapter 2 opens as though Isaiah is starting all over again -- or God is. What Isaiah sees is not taking place now, but “in the days to come.” People of every nation will stream to Mt. Zion, including those who were enemies of Israel and Judah. God’s instruction will go forth from Jerusalem; God will judge between the nations. The people will be transformed by this teaching. **Can you see it?**

~Barbara Lundblad; Prof. Union Theological Seminary