

# The Good News

From the Goldendale United Methodist Church 109 East Broadway, Goldendale, WA  
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As members of God's family, we endeavor, as a diverse community of disciples of Jesus Christ ~  
to develop a creative supportive fellowship; to participate in global and nurturing ministries; and to  
build relationships that empower all people to experience the grace of God.



## *Special Interest Articles:*

*Pastor's Column*

*UMW News*

*UMM News*

*Prayers for Our  
People*

*And Much, Much  
More!*

## Pastor's Pen

It's a classic childhood skit, one you have doubles heard many times...The first messenger rushes across the stage with the excited news that the Infantry is coming, 10 miles back. That messenger is followed soon by a second proclaiming the Infantry 5 miles away...followed by another and another until, across the stage marches a proud youngster with an Infant Tree.

The pun, of course, is that infant tree said in an excited voice sounds very much like infantry. The first time we experience this classic skit, we are probably led to expect a result very different from the tiny tree being paraded across the stage.

Chances are you have also heard many times that Advent is from the Latin and means, 'to come.' Like the classic skit, our preparation for Christmas will be influenced by our understanding of what it is that is 'to come.' Helpless child, awe, how cute.

Future King, in a manger? A gift through whom God will reveal God's self and God's best hopes for all our futures...intriguing. An expression of love, unique. Savior! Whoa!

How will Christ come to your house this holiday season? Are you ready to be surprised?

## Office Hours/Contact Information

Pastor Ben is normally in his office at the church Tuesday - Friday 9am-Noon, or by appointment. He is usually 'in-and-out' in the afternoons. He can best be reached on his cell phone (509)250-3875.

Lynn is normally in her office at the church Monday - Friday 1pm - 4pm. The church phone number is as it has been: (509)773-4461.

**THANKS FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE!**

**Don't forget that you can find the December 2011- calendar on-line at <http://w3.gorge.net/gumc>**



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Our November meeting was blessed by Dr. Ogden being with us and sharing a program on his trip to Cambodia last spring. It was a wonderful program and we learned a great deal about the culture and life of those who live in that part of the world. While he was with us we talked about the possibility of him offering one of his fantastic meals in conjunction with our UMW Bazaar. It was decided that we would postpone our Bazaar until December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dr. O will be serving breakfast beginning at 7:30 that morning and he is getting in touch with the school to see if we can have the band here that day as well!

It should be a great time to come in for a hot meal, some good music and fellowship as well as an opportunity to purchase some great Christmas gifts from United Methodist Women. We will see you there!!

Scholarships are available for the Western Quadrennial Jurisdiction Event to be held in Portland, OR, June 1-3. If you are interested in applying for financial help, see Linda Hay for an application (due Dec. 11, 2011).

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men's group will meet on the second Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM at Sod Busters. Join us for discussion and fellowship. All men are welcome! Contact Larry Gourley with any questions - 773-3015.

## CHURCH COUNCIL NOW MEETS ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY!

The November 9<sup>th</sup> church council was very busy and among many decisions that were made, we decided to meet on the first Wednesday of the month from now on. The main reason for this is that it makes it easier to assess church finances. Therefore, our next meeting will be on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The time remains the same... 5:30 pm. The choir will meet at 5:00 pm. Be sure to bring a light snack to share with everyone. We hope to see you there.

## OTHER CHURCH COUNCIL DECISIONS

As noted, the November church council was busy (and longer than usual). A brief rundown of the most important items:

- **Finances:** A pay increase for our custodian was approved by council vote: from \$9.45 to \$10.00/hour. Also approved, a change in the pastor's compensation: Professional expenses have been raised from \$1,000 to \$4,545.
- **Educational Ministries:** The council agreed to transfer \$200 from the Scholarship Fund (which is "fat" right now) to providing financial support for GUMC to send six individuals to the Congregational Leadership Development workshops which began on November 20 and will continue for six months. PLEASE SEE THE NEXT ARTICLE!
- Also under Educational Ministries, we have a possible program for next summer's Vacation Bible School: Twinlow Camp offers a traveling Day Camp complete with three instructors that would be an exciting offering for this event. The challenge is that the cost would be \$1,200 for the week. Also, we would need volunteers to house the instructors in their homes. We will further explore this possibility in January or February.
- **Worship:** Put December 4<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for the "Hanging of the Greens" (decorating the church). This will happen right after Second Service. After the decorating there will be soup and bread to share! Donations are being accepted for homemade bread, and soup fixings: mushrooms, tomatoes, onions, hamburger, or maybe a can of corn or beans.

## CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

There were four of us (Pastor Ben, Sharon Williams, Rob Blevins and myself - Larry Gourley) who attended the November 20<sup>th</sup> Congregational Leadership Development workshop held at the First United Methodist Church in The Dalles. It was five hours of discussion, prayer, fellowship and learning what may be in store for mainline Christian denominations such as United Methodism and Lutheranism. In fact, this workshop was represented by four UMC denominations were represented among the five churches that sent attendees. Those participating have committed to attending at least five of the six sessions to be held once each

month (except December), and to read six books - one for each session. The first book was *Recreating the Church*, by Richard Hamm. Each book is authored by someone who has led a church into fruitful renewal. It is hoped that this will enable the seven attendees in this congregation to acquire tools to help in our own renewal that was initiated at the church retreat held at Brooks Park last spring.

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

Goldendale United Methodist Church has stepped up to the plate again! This time it is sponsoring the Kid's Camp afterschool program at the Goldendale Primary School. The program lost its sponsorship and we said "yes". The transition will mean that the program will begin again in January - the 3<sup>rd</sup> to be exact and will be on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from the end of class to 5:30 PM. The cost is a nominal \$25 per month, per family (no matter the number of kids per family). We are looking for volunteers to help. Anyone interested please contact Larry Gourley at 773-3015 or [legmlg@gorge.net](mailto:legmlg@gorge.net).

As mentioned last month, Back Packs For Kids is currently packing snack sacks for the weekends for approximately 400 children in Goldendale, Roosevelt, Wishram, and Klickitat. Donations to the Back Pack Program can be sent to: Brian Wanless, Treasurer 304 Fish Hatchery Road Goldendale, WA 98620.

## UPCOMING ADVENT EVENTS!

- December 4<sup>th</sup> - "Hanging of the Greens" right after Second Service. Soup and bread will be shared after the decorating.
- December 14<sup>th</sup> - Learning Ladder Christmas Program in the sanctuary, 7 pm
- December 17<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Cantata performance at Maryhill Winery
- December 18<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Cantata performance here at GUMC at 6:00 PM.
- December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 PM.
- December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day Service - ONE service at 10:00 AM.

## PRAYERS FOR OUR PEOPLE

Please offer prayers of thanks for God's blessings: Ervin Anderson who is now at Columbia Basin Center in The Dalles and doing much better! Erv will hopefully have some options on how to deal with his medical situation but in the mean time is taking care of/"hanging out" with Max, a cat at the center. He appreciates visitors. Alan and Carmon Bryan who were able to get to the November 27<sup>th</sup> church service! The recent (November 28<sup>th</sup>) anniversary of Chuck Williams and Pat Brim-Williams (which didn't get into November's newsletter.)

Please keep these people in your prayers: The family of Harold Gray who passed away on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Mary and Garry Shane: Mary's sister-in-law passed away recently and Garry's step dad is very ill. Dave Anderson, who is at Klickitat Valley Health, battling cancer. Visitors are very welcome. Claudia Moore who has ongoing health concerns. Ernie House with back problems.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

12/1 Jim Hill	12/2 Erv & Linda Anderson
12/4 Kayla Anderson	12/5 Mary Rice
12/9 Matt Lefever	12/9 Brittany Allen
12/9 Ruth Bruns	12/14 Paul Gourley
12/15 Skyler Gray	12/15 Jack Runyan
12/16 Linda Gray-Carter	12/18 Dan Lefever
12/20 Mavis & Ernie House	12/21 Tammie Cook
12/23 Ray Gosney	12/23 Bill Barnes
12/29 Linda Anderson	

## AND FINALLY.....

Oh God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry;  
When I have work, help me to remember the jobless;  
When I have a warm home, help me to remember the homeless;  
When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer;  
And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency  
And bestir my compassion.

Make me concerned enough to help, by word and deed,  
those who cry out for what we take for granted.

Samuel F. Pugh

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me..."*

*Matthew 25:35*