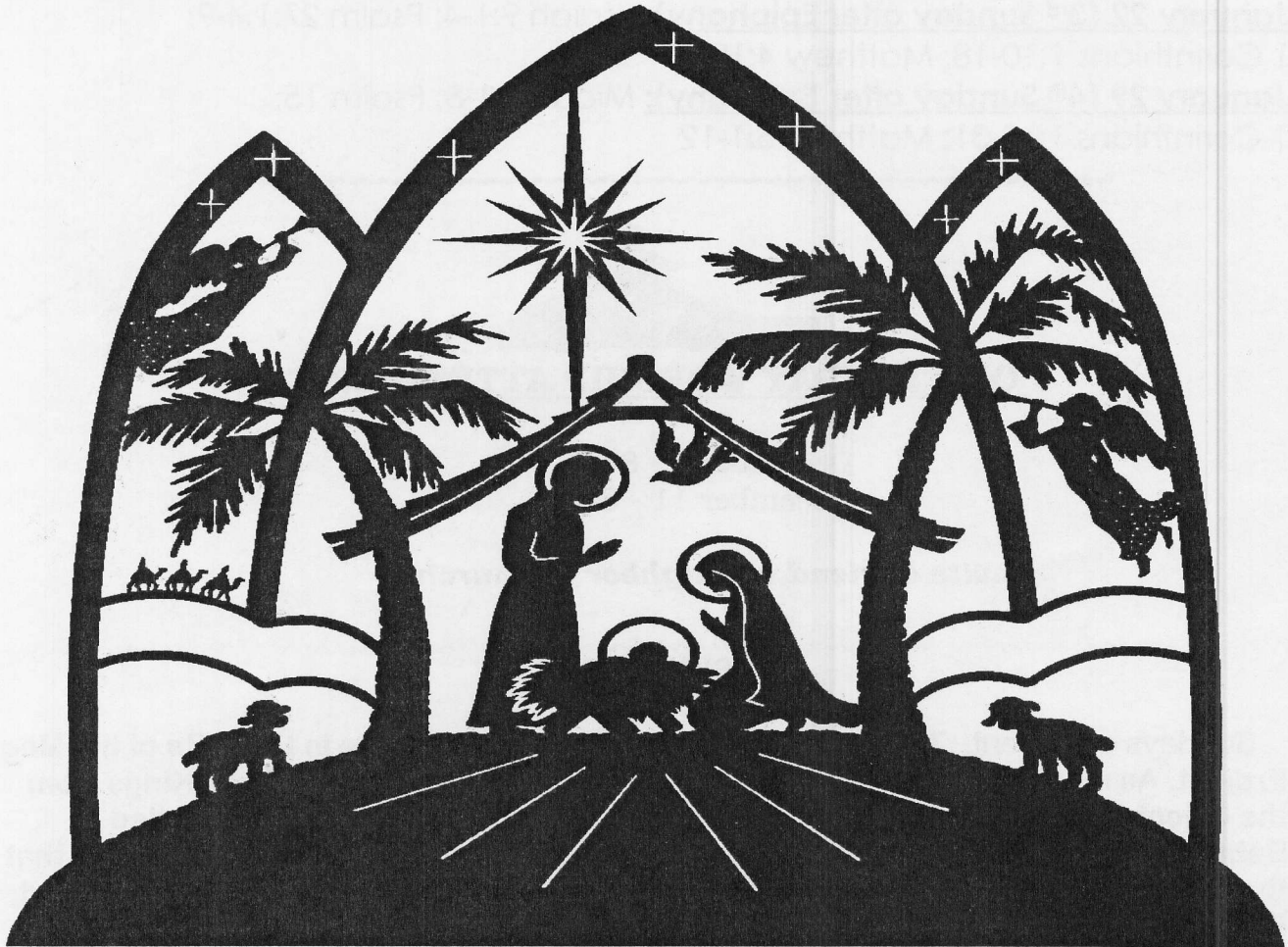


PCS NEWS
NEWS AND COMING EVENTS OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE SIUSLAW

VOLUME SEVENTEEN

NUMBER ONE

JANUARY 2017



Christmas Eve Service at 5 p.m.
Christmas Day Service at 10 a.m.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas!

LECTIONARY

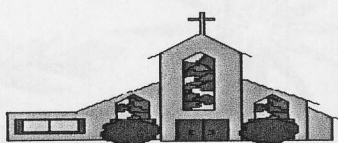
January 1 (1st Sunday after Christmas Day): Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

January 8 (Baptism of the Lord): Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:15-17

January 15 (2nd Sunday after Epiphany): Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9a; John 1:29-42

January 22 (3rd Sunday after Epiphany): Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1,4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

January 29 (4th Sunday after Epiphany): Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12



OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

December 4 - 84
December 11 - 87

Invite a friend or neighbor to church!

MISSION REPORT

Sundays of Advent. This season we are inviting you to share in the **Gifts of the Magi Project**. As most of us are familiar with the New Testament Story- Three Kings from the Orient follow a bright moving star in the eastern sky to a small town called Bethlehem. There in a humble manger they found a newborn baby. Recognizing that the child was the Holy One. They bowed down and presented the finest gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. This Advent as we follow in the steps of the Magi on our own journey to find the "Christ child let us share our finest gifts with those in need.

On the Four Sundays of Advent we invite you to bring gifts of Love. We will have a Large Basket in the narthex.

On Sunday, November 27-we collected dry foods such as: macaroni, dry beans, pancake mix, cornbread mix, crackers, soup mix, spices, instant potatoes, rice, tea, coffee, hot chocolate. Etc....

Sunday December 4—Grooming, toiletries and Home goods: toilet paper, Kleenex, laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid, body wash or soap, tooth brush and toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, combs, Band-Aids, disposable diapers, baby wipes. Etc.

Sunday December 11-Canned Goods, Peanut Butter,

Sunday December 18- New hats mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, for kids and adults. These gifts will be for Food Share and SOS.

Please consider volunteering to deliver these items to the appropriate agency.

Feel free to drop them off any Sunday in December or on Weekdays during office hours.

Blessings and Thank You!

CHANCEL CHOIR NOTES....

Another year has flown by and the Chancel Choir has continued to be in wonderful voice throughout this holiday season. At Pastor Greg's suggestion, the Chancel Choir tried something that we haven't done in the advent season for a long time. We prepared a beautiful Christmas Cantata, "Rejoice Believers" which we sang as part of the Sunday service on the 18th of December. I would like to thank all the Chancel choir members and their families who allowed me to rehearse an extra half hour throughout Nov. and Dec. so that we could learn all the extra cantata music. It was sometimes difficult but also very beautiful once we had it learned. The Chancel Choir and I hope it brought you joy and gave you a chance to be part of the Biblical Christmas.

Although the calendar year will change to 2017, our musical year is only half over and we have already been in practice for January and February. Now is the time for all our New Year resolutions to come to fruition and you know that one of them is to join the Chancel Choir and sing on Sunday mornings. We welcome all levels of musical ability. Come join our musical family and worship with us in 2017 through song.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jean Gottschalk, Chancel Choir Director

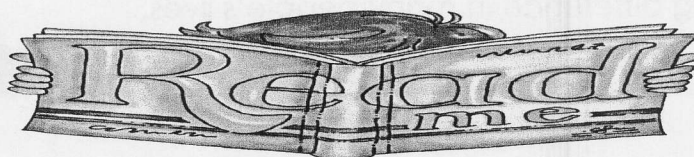


THE BOOK GROUP

The Book Group met December 2 to discuss *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. We decided besides being an "elderly" curmudgeon Ove had a warm heart and was a lovable character. Our movie critic said the movie followed the book closely and was worth watching.

We will start the new year reading *The Neon Bible* by John Kennedy Toole. He wrote *The Neon Bible* for a literary contest at the age of sixteen. "This story of a poor boy growing up in a small, claustrophobic, closed-minded Southern town in the 1940s, is an astonishing accomplishment for an adolescent. Narrator David lives with his mother, who is never fully herself after his father dies in World War II. The story is familiar and believable, a tantalizing reminder of the talent that has been lost."
(From Library Journal)

The Book Group will meet January 6, 2017 in the church library at 10:00 a.m. Coffee and treats will await those of you who wish to join us.



NOVEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Total active membership on October 31 was 104.

Session minutes and the Church Register were reviewed by the Presbytery and approved without exceptions.

Greg Wood is now the Moderator of the Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter, replacing Bob DuBose. The shelter will operate this winter. The Methodist and Presbyterian churches have been given \$2000 each from shelter funds for expenses of operating the shelter.

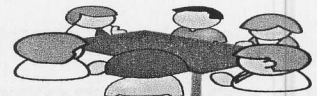
Community dinners are continuing; 33 meals were served on November 16.

Judy Madsen was accepted as a new member; she has transferred from Calvin Presbyterian Church in Tigard, Oregon.

Exterior cameras and an intercom have been installed for increased security of staff working alone in the building.

The Finance/Admin/Personnel Committee made salary recommendations for our paid staff members.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 15, 2017. New elders will be elected to serve on session, and new congregational members of the Nominating Committee will be elected.



KUDOS TO PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Earlier this year, I found out my dear friend, Eileen (who lives in the San Francisco Bay area), was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. As many of you know, most of the time once it's discovered, it's too late to treat and it's terminal. Luckily, she lives in an area where there's many treatment opportunities. She faced a round of chemo, surgery, and another round of chemo. She finished her treatments about a month ago and has been deemed cancer free.

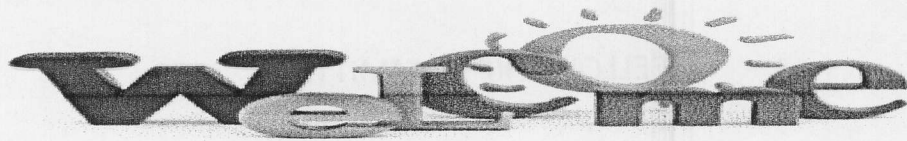
Early in her treatments, I was able to procure and send to Eileen a prayer shawl from our church's prayer shawl ministry. She recently sent me a note with the following addition:

"I want you to know that along with the prayer shawl you sent, I received another. Every chemo I took them with me, alternating week to week. I know the positive energy they held helped me to heal. Thank you so much for that gift."

So, from me and my friend Eileen, thank you prayer shawl ministry and know that your works makes a big difference in many people's lives.

Susan Nofrey





MEET ONE OF OUR NEW MEMBERS....

New member Cynthia J. Wright recently moved to Florence from Lemoore, Calif., where she and her husband had lived for 13 years. Prior to Lemoore, the family lived in San Diego for 17 years. They also lived in Virginia and Puerto Rico. Cynthia is a Navy veteran and her husband, Joe, is retired Navy. Joe served in the Navy for 31 years, retiring as a Command Master Chief (E-9). Cynthia was born and raised in Oakland, Calif., and Joe grew up in Bakersfield, Calif.

Cynthia and Joe have been married for 35 years (on Dec. 11). They have two adult children and one granddaughter. Daughter, Kelly, is 34 and her daughter, Alison, is 19 months old. They both still live in Lemoore. Son, Matt, is 31 and he lives in San Diego. He is also a Navy veteran. Cynthia's mother and father were both Navy veterans of World War II, and Joe's father was a Navy Veteran of the Korean War. It has sort of been the family business.

Active in churches all her life, Cynthia is transferring her membership from the Lemoore Presbyterian Church, where she sang in the choir and was an elder on session. Cynthia grew up in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and attended DOC churches most of her life. This is a denomination that was born out of the Presbyterian church on the American Frontier, so she feels quite at home in the Presbyterian church.

Now retired, Cynthia most recently worked for the Social Security Administration. Prior to that she worked as a reporter for newspapers in Hanford and Selma, Calif., and as managing editor of the Lemoore newspaper. She also has worked as a freelance writer and wrote for two Christian magazines, Just Women and Disciples World, for several years.

Other past work experience includes writing contractual policies and procedures for a non-profit social services agency, editing technical manuals for a U.S. Navy contractor and administrative work in the business field. Her first "real" job was as an active duty member of the U.S. Navy. She was a Parachute Rigger and worked with flight aircrew survival equipment for five years.

Cynthia is a published author and co-wrote the book "Images of America: Lemoore" with Judy Cox-Finney, by Arcadia Publishing. She enjoys writing prose and poetry, reading, camping, traveling, watching crime dramas, singing, and listening to most types of music. She also greatly appreciates it when her middle initial, J, is included as part of her name whenever appears in print. She is named for her mother's two sisters, Cynthia and Joanne.

She loves her new home in Florence and her new church home at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw. (Which she thinks is a really cool name for a church.) ☺

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**Join us for our Christmas Eve Candle Light Service at 5 p.m.**



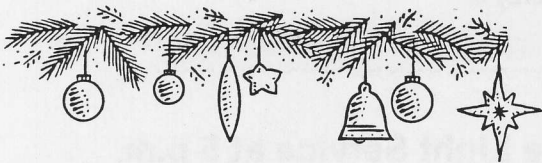
## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

It's hard to believe the year is almost over and are looking forward to a new year with many changes. Much needed new elders will be announced and initiated in the coming weeks. For those of you who aren't on any committees, please consider adding your time and talents to one of the church's groups.

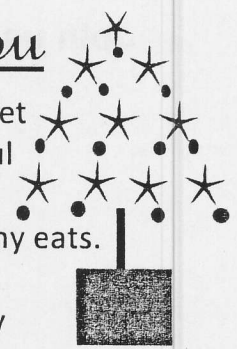
The fellowship team is always in need of other's inputs and help. We have a wonderful group: Alice Collier, Sharon McKee, Doris Russell, Beverly Hopps and Glenda Ryall. Some will be moving to other committees in the coming year so we could use more help. We not only do the fellowship hour and other social events but are responsible for the church's scrapbook, membership board and display case. Please consider joining us. Our next meeting will be on January 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the church library.

I would like to take a minute to especially thank two people who have done so much to make our responsibilities easier. Beverly Hopps is in the kitchen every Sunday to help set up and clean up after fellowship hour. Her always being there with her deeds as well as her big smile make it so much easier for everyone hosting fellowship hour. In our efforts to update the membership board outside the church office, Ken Stone has done a wonderful job of taking pictures and printing them out for us. We couldn't have done it without you, Ken. Thank you both for your extra deeds.

Susan Nofrey, Chairperson



Thank You



Our Annual Church Family & Friends Christmas Dinner has come and gone, yet the memories live on! THANK YOU to Jennifer Weier for caroling music, Paul Guthmuller for sharing in song, CROW Entertainment, and the Culinary Arts Class of Siuslaw High School under the leadership of Kyle Lewis for the yummy eats. THANK YOU to the Planning Committee – Susan Nofrey, Nancy Gardiner, Pat Dickson, Nancy Vogel, Sharon Pryor, Doris Russell, Joan Skarta and Marty Palmer. Your input was much appreciated!! Special THANKS to Susan for table cloths, Sharon for center pieces, Doris for selling tickets, Joan for cooking vegan stuffed shells and to all for decorating and supporting and sharing in the fun!!



# A church of small groups



*Supper for Six* groups will be shuffled in January 2017 to begin

meeting in February. If you would like to take part in a monthly supper small group, please sign up on the sheet outside Pastor Greg's office. You can also email or call Norma Wood at [normakaywood@gmail.com](mailto:normakaywood@gmail.com) 804-439-1775

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## AFTER CHRISTMAS..... ☺

Twas the month after Christmas and all through the house nothing would fit me not even a blouse. The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste. All the holiday parties had gone to my waist. When I got on the scales there arose such a number! When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber).

I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared; the gravies, the sauces, the beef nicely rared, the wine, and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese and the way I did never said "no thank you, please") as I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt and prepared once again to do battle with dirt. I said to myself as I only can "You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"

So--away with the last of the sour cream dip, get rid of the fruitcake, every cracker and chip, every last bit of food that I like must be banished- Till all the additional ounces have vanished. I won't have a cookie--not even a lick. I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick. I won't have hot biscuits, or cornbread, or pie, I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry....I'm hungry I'm lonesome and life is a bore--- but isn't that what January is for? Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.

Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet! ☺