

# The Lamplighter

A Newsletter of **Community Presbyterian Church**  
529 NW 19th St. Redmond, OR 97756  
541-548-3367 www.redmondpc.org



*The greatest  
GIFT  
to the world*



*Growing In Christ and Loving One Another*

CPC Friends,

Thanksgiving is already behind us and we are on the cusp of the Advent season that starts Sunday, Dec. 3rd. The gift Thanksgiving offers us can be good preparation for the upcoming season that is so often overloaded with internal and external expectations. Giving thanks is a resetting discipline that can ground us in life-giving ways.

Scripture and science tell us that gratitude is a transformative practice that changes us. The worship imperative to "give thanks to the Lord for he is good..." and the perpetual call to "give thanks in all circumstances" force us to reflect on the ordinary and overlooked blessings of our lives and life together as the church. We seek to do this each time we gather together in God's presence, and it's a discipline we all need each and every day in between to remain alive and awake to the living God at work in, among, and through us. Otherwise we can become fixated on what is wrong in us, in our families, in our nation, in our church, or in our world - and there is no end to that quest.

Paul's letters to the various churches he helped start or strengthen around the Mediterranean world of the 1st century always begin and end with thanksgiving - acclamations to the grace of God in Jesus Christ, and to the people living out that grace in their ordinary, imperfect life together as the Body of Christ. Of course, he's not afraid to confront the unhealth of any given church, but he does so always in a spirit of love and thanksgiving for who the church is in Christ, and in hope for who it is becoming in Christ, by God's grace.

At the end of his letter to the churches in Rome, for example, he lists the friends and coworkers with whom he is blessed to partner in the Gospel, thanking them for their partnership (*koinonia*, fellowship) in the gospel. Here at CPC it's a good time to lift up thanks for some of the friends and partners in the Gospel who have helped remediate and re-floor most of the main level - no small task, and a matter that involved a lot of deliberation, problem solving, and patience(!).

First, I want to thank the members of Session's task force: Kathi Hayward, George Johnson, Todd Peplin, Rick Hoffman, Karen Baldwin-Kuntz, and Luann Johnson, who all put in countless hours. Don Sheets, Joan Sheets, and Don Kuntz all made major, mission-critical assists to keep the work moving forward. Curt Nitschelm and other members of Property accomplished an unbelievable scope of painting in a relatively short period of time, and the Friday morning men's group moved a lot of furniture around. Gina, Ramiro, and Nancy were instrumental throughout the process, in countless ways. Thank you to all these folks - and many more - for that faithful service that is ongoing.

Our staff, elders, deacons, and committee members are obviously indispensable, but the truth is each one of you reading this is indispensable to the health and well-being of our shared mission and ministry. We need one another, and we need to help one another grow in God's grace, with eyes ever more open to the expansive blessings we have received. David Brooks once said "Gratitude happens when some kindness exceeds expectations, when it is undeserved. Gratitude is a sort of laughter of the heart that comes about after some surprising kindness."

By the time you read this we will be beginning our preparations to celebrate the most surprising, beautiful, and profound kindness the world has ever known: that God in Jesus



(continued)

Christ would take on human flesh for the sake of love, to heal our world, to heal us. As we prepare over the next many weeks to celebrate that miracle, we'll do so with deep gratitude and genuine repentance befitting the wondrous gift of love offered for us in the Christ child.

*With Advent Hope and Expectation, Kevin*

## Music Ministry December 2023

Advent begins on December 3rd, and with it comes a busy yet joy-filled time for our church and community musicians. This year's theme for Advent is "Waiting on God's Promises". Each week, through music, prayer, scripture, and the word, we will explore the biblical promises of hope, peace, joy, and love. On December 24th, the Christmas Eve services will be at 10 am and 7 pm. Both will have variations of a Lessons and Carols format. Come help us rejoice in God's keeping of his promise through the birth of Jesus.

December 31st, at the 10 am worship service, the Choir will present the cantata, "The Promise of a King." This work begins with the words "Have faith for I will do as I have promised" and ends with "The King has come. He has come to bring us peace, and joy, and life!" It is an inspirational message to get your new year off to a great start. We still have openings for anyone who would like to join us. Practice is every Sunday from 9:00-9:45 am, with a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 30th, from 9 am to noon. There are vocal practice tracks available. You can email Karen at [musicdirector@redmondcpc.org](mailto:musicdirector@redmondcpc.org), if you would like more information.

"Caroling isn't about religion – it's about community", but it is also a great way for our church to reach out to our community, so we will have our second annual "Caroling the Community" on Sunday, December 17th. After the service, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall to hand out caroling books, and then we will begin a pleasant stroll (weather permitting) from the church to Juniper Springs, singing carols as we go. We will return to the church to share a chili luncheon. A sign-up sheet and a request for folks to provide chili, crackers, bread, green salad, and dessert will be available in the narthex on December 3rd. The group had a great time last year, and I'm hoping we have an even larger bunch this year. Keep singing His praises!



*Karen Baldwin-Kuntz  
Director of Music Ministries*

## It's Not Too Late - Deacons Angel Tree

There is still time to bless local families this year by sending in a monetary donation to our Deacons Fund (write "Angel Tree" on the memo line of your check) or utilize the Virtual Angel Tree on the CPC website. Follow the link below and click on an ornament amount and follow the instructions to complete your donation.

Some delightful children will benefit from your giving to our Deacons Angel Tree.

[Redmondcpc.org/angeltree](http://Redmondcpc.org/angeltree)

*Roxanne Duman  
Angel Tree Deacon Coordinator*



## Important Finance Notes

**Donations:** If you want to ensure an end of the year donation is credited to 2023, make sure it is in the CPC office by Wednesday, December 27th! That will be the last official deposit of 2023.

**Invoices & Reimbursements:** Tuesday, December 19th is the last check run of 2023. Submit all of your invoices and reimbursement requests no later than December 19th at 9 am. The 2023 books will close on January 2nd. After January 2nd, CPC cannot reimburse for 2023 expenditures in 2024 after the financial books are closed.



## Notes From Session

Session met from 6 pm to 8 pm on Tuesday, Nov. 21st, and approved the Presbytery's Sexual Misconduct Policy and Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Safe Conduct Policy. All Session members must sign off on these policies. There is a Sexual Misconduct Report Form that is available in the hallway, across from the office, at all times.



Session unanimously approved Nancy Patterson as Clerk of Session for 2024, with gratitude for her willingness to serve and commitment to train a successor over the year. The work in the building is accelerating, and we should be back in the sanctuary with new floors and a sound system in place early in the Advent season.

It has been a joy to worship together in the Fellowship Hall. The hard floors have improved acoustics, and we expect the same in the sanctuary - the collective voice of the congregation is amplified, which lifts us all up in worship and will help those worshipping with us virtually as well. It also helps that we are sitting closer together.

We pray that pledges will increase in both level of commitment and number - we have been lagging the trend from years past, which makes budgeting very difficult. We encourage all members and regular attendees to give generously as we close out 2023 and to turn in a pledge for 2024 if you have not already done so. Thank you!

*CPC Session*



### 2024 Stewardship Update

On November 26th, we dedicated the pledges we have received. The campaign progresses slowly, with 42 families pledging to support the 2024 budget. We greatly appreciate those who have already turned in pledge cards. The campaign does not end with Dedication Sunday. We will gratefully accept pledges at any time.

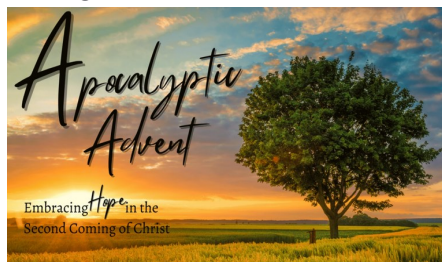
Pledges help us prepare the budget for regular CPC expenses, such as staff salaries, utilities, insurance, committees, etc. Projects, such as the current church renovation, are not funded by the budget. They are funded by a Capitol Improvements fund, which may not be used for annual budget expenses. If you have any questions about the pledge campaign, please contact Kathi Hayward.

## Apocalyptic Advent Devotional: Embracing Hope in the Second Coming of Christ

We live in a world filled with anxiety, uncertainty, and conflict. What word does Jesus have for us in this space? How can we adapt and plan for what is coming? These are the questions that Teri McDowell Ott asks in her 2023 Advent devotional.

This devotional will highlight and reflect upon apocalyptic passages of the Hebrew Bible and New Testament passages that refer to the second coming of Christ. Some Christians use these texts as weapons, stoking fear of end-time judgment to convert people. This devotional highlights how marginalized people turn to end-time prophecies for hope. These voices, along with biblical scholars who offer helpful historical and cultural context, will be the focus of this devotion.

When suffering looms large, and we are overwhelmed by the problems of our world, what can we learn from texts that turn us to the future? What can these texts illuminate about how we can and should move through our current context? How can these texts prepare



and inspire us for a new beginning come Christmas? Learn More! Get the complete devotional through the e-news or contact Gina in the office.

## Wellness Ministry Update

**WELLNESS MISSION STATEMENT:** *To help the congregation attain, maintain, and/or regain the best possible health, wellness of mind, body, and spirit that can be experienced. This is realized through education, guidelines, screenings, and providing ongoing support. Lois Millspaugh, Chairman*

### Wellness Ministry

The Wellness Ministry of Community Presbyterian Church strives to support members and friends, of all ages in our church, by encouraging more physical exercise, healthy nutrition, spiritual awareness, and love of family, both church and personal. We are working on programs to support all of these endeavors and invite anyone interested in working with us to achieve these goals to join our team. The next Wellness Ministry meeting will be held at the church on Tuesday, December 12th, at 1:00 pm. If you would be interested in participating in this special ministry, please contact Lois Millspaugh.

### Attention All Singles ~ Singles Lunch Group

For December, we will enjoy a wonderful lunch at the Olive Garden restaurant in Bend on Thursday, December 7th. We will meet at noon and have lunch at 12:30 pm. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the church's Narthex, so we have adequate seating planned. For additional information, please contact Lois Millspaugh.

### Free Blood Pressure Screenings

Our Free Blood Pressure Screening for the month of December will be held on the second Sunday of the month from 9:30 – 10:00 am in the Eby Room. If you are interested in knowing your blood pressure, our nurse is there to help you. Remember, high blood pressure is a silent killer; see your doctor with any concerns. If you are a nurse and are interested in helping with this program, please contact June Isaak.

### Hospital Equipment

The Wellness Ministry has an inventory of equipment to be loaned out to anyone needing assistance following a health issue. We have walkers, crutches, knee scooters, shower chairs, and numerous other items to support our church members and friends. If you need equipment, please contact Lynda Talbot, our equipment coordinator.

Wellness Ministries has purchased a second knee scooter to replace the scooter that was taken without being checked out. We also have purchased an infant car seat to be loaned out to anyone with a small visitor and needing proper seating for a short time, along with a pack-and-play for sleeping babies. These items will be for short visits only.

\*\*\* All equipment that is loaned out needs to be coordinated with Lynda Talbot. She is willing to deliver the equipment and pick it up if you need assistance in this matter.

### Parkinson's Support Group Christmas Party

The Parkinson's Support Group will enjoy a Christmas party on Monday, December 11th at 1:00 pm in the church Fellowship Hall. Reach out to Ginny Weeber for more information.

### The Dementia Interaction Group Christmas Party

The Dementia Interaction Group will meet on December 21st at 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall for a small Christmas party. Both caregivers and persons with dementia are invited to join in the festivities. Contact Steve Thorp for details.



## Have a Healthy Holiday Season



Brighten the holidays by making your health and safety a priority. Take steps to keep you and your loved ones safe, healthy, and ready for the holidays.

1. Wash hands often to help prevent the spread of germs.
2. Bundle up to stay dry and warm.
3. Manage stress.
4. Don't drink and drive or let others drink and drive.
5. Be smoke free.
6. Fasten seat belts while driving or riding in a motor vehicle.
7. Get exams and screenings.
8. Get your flu vaccinations.
- 9 Monitor children – keep potentially dangerous toys, food, drinks, household items, and other objects out of children's reach.
10. Practice fire safety.
11. Prepare food safely; wash your hands and surfaces often.
12. Eat healthy, stay active, and remember the blessed time of the year that we are celebrating.



## Quilters Quips December 2023

Christmas blessings to you all from the quilters!

Last month we toured Shepherd's House on their opening. It is a beautiful facility which will be used for the benefit of those less fortunate. The staff was very appreciative of the colorful quilts we donated.

Two hundred and twenty two quilts have been made by the quilters this year with another month to go. Thank you, ladies, for all your hard work.

We will have a Christmas luncheon at the church on Thursday, December 14th, at noon. We will have a soup and salad potluck and of course dessert.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

December 7th distribution of quilts

December 14th luncheon at noon

December 25th Merry Christmas!

December 28th No QUILTING!

February 5th - 8th Winter Quilt Bee

Becky Dennis



## Hanging of the Greens

**Saturday, December 2nd, 9 am**

Each year, on the Saturday before the beginning of Advent, we gather to decorate the church for the Christmas season. Join us as we beautify the church.

Coffee and goodies will be included!



## CPC White Elephant Christmas Party

The CPC White Elephant Christmas party is on December 9th from 11 - 2. Get ready for it! Search the closet, under the bed, or the garage. There's something there you haven't used in years, or you forgot what it is for. Wrap it and bring it - even that roll of Christmas toilet paper you got at the last White Elephant party.

Everyone who wants to participate must bring a wrapped gift and we are also asking for everyone who can to bring an Hors D'Oeuvre or finger food (hint - cookies are finger food).

Congregational Life will furnish the drinks that you can enjoy at church.

Please sign up in the narthex (lobby). Contact George Johnson for more details.



*"For you have experienced the extravagant grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was infinitely rich, he impoverished himself for our sake, so that by his poverty, we become rich beyond measure."*



## Angel Fest December 3rd

11:00-12:30

The Mission Team is sponsoring a modified Angel Fest to raise funds to support Jericho Table on Sunday, December 3rd. We will be serving soup and rolls to the congregation after church. Please sign up to bring sale items: baked goods, crafts, or good white elephants, so we know how many tables we need.



The sign-up form is on the Kisauni display table in the narthex, and remember, all sales proceeds will benefit Jericho Table. Contact Connie Stoaks with questions.

## The Legend of the Candy Cane

Look at the candy cane,  
what do you see?  
Stripes that are red like  
the blood shed for me,  
White for my Savior who's  
sinless and pure,  
"J" is for Jesus,  
my Lord that's for sure!  
Turn it around and a staff  
you will see,  
Jesus my shepherd is  
coming for me!

### Reminder - 6 For 6 Starting in January!

Suppers for Six has changed its name to 6 for 6. We want to make this open to everyone, and the group will decide what they want to do.



One example is game night, or everyone attends an event together. The new groups will start in January and they will run through June.

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex (lobby).

George Johnson  
Congregational Life

## Deacon of the Month for December is Lynda Talbot

*The Deacon of the Month is On Call to Help With Special Needs.*

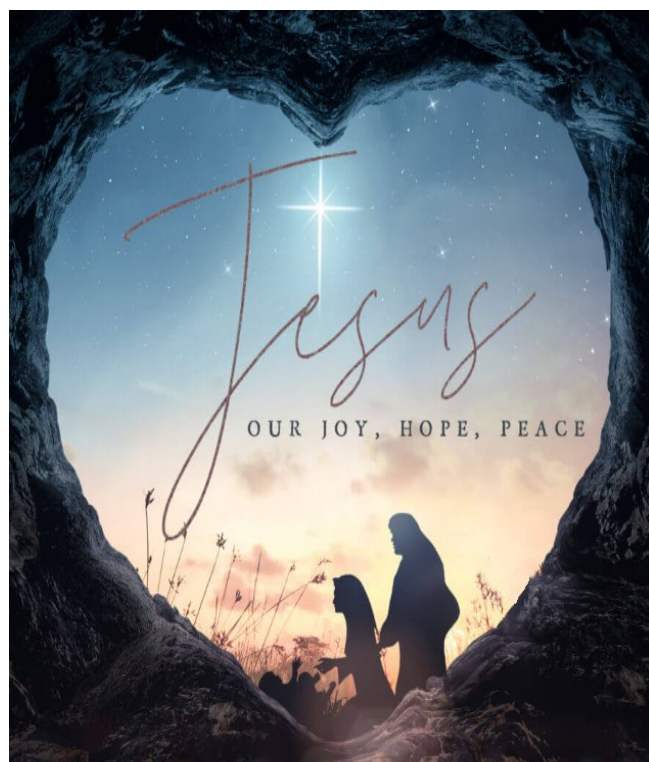
Our Deacon of the Month for December is Lynda Talbot. Lynda is serving her second year as a Deacon and is the Liaison to the Health and Wellness Team. Lynda and her assistant, Bodie (pictured), will be available to assist with special needs this month.

Lynda loves to cook and is often busy preparing a hot meal for the folks at the Redmond Cold Weather Shelter or Central Oregon Veterans Ranch. Lynda also volunteers at Brightside animal shelter.

In her spare time, Lynda enjoys reading, and spending time with her family, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. We are thankful for Lynda and her heart for serving our community.

Lynda shares "Be strong and courageous, and do the work.

Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you."  
1 Chronicles 28:20 NIV





# December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed 8:00 Men's Bible Study	2  9:00 Hanging Of The Greens
3  10:00 Worship 11:00 Bible Study 11:00 Angel Fest 5:00 Sermon Zoom Discussion	4	5 9:30 Women's AA 7:00 Boy Scouts	6 6:30 Cub Scouts	7 9:30 Women's AA 10:00 Quilters 12:00 Singles Lunch 4:30 Spiritual Growth Zoom	8 Office Closed 8:00 Men's Bible Study	9 11:00 White Elephant Party 
10 9:30 Blood Pressure Check 10:00 Worship 11:00 Bible Study 5:00 Sermon Zoom Discussion	11 7:30 Property Mtg 100 Parkinson's Group Party 3:00 Deacons Mtg	12 9:30 Women's AA 1:00 Wellness Mtg 3:00 Worship Mtg	13 2:00 Mission Mtg 3:00 Finance Mtg 6:30 Cub Scouts	14 9:30 Women's AA 10:00 Quilters 4:30 Spiritual Growth Zoom	15 Office Closed 8:00 Men's Bible Study	16
17 10:00 Worship 11:30 Caroling the Community 5:00 Sermon Zoom Discussion 	18 7:00 Boy Scouts	19 9:30 Women's AA 6:00 Session 7:00 Boy Scouts	20 6:30 Cub Scouts	21 9:30 Women's AA 10:00 Quilters 12:00 Lamplighter Articles Due 3:00 Dementia Group Party 4:30 Spiritual Growth Zoom	22 Office Closed 8:00 Men's Bible Study	23
24 10:00 Worship 7 pm Christmas Eve Service 	25 Christmas Day Office Closed 	26 CPC Office Closed 30 Women's AA 7:00 Boy Scouts	27 CPC Office Closed 6:30 Cub Scouts	28 CPC Office Closed 9:30 Women's AA 4:30 Spiritual Growth Zoom	29 Office Closed 8:00 Men's Bible Study	30
31 10:00 Christmas Cantata 11:00 Bible Study 5:00 Sermon Zoom Discussion						 The Promise of a King

*"I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you, my church family, for your thoughts, prayers, calls, and especially the cards (because I can keep them forever!) during my recent crisis involving my son Jeff as well as my health issues most likely tied to that crisis.*

*I have always attempted to send cards, but sometimes life gets so busy we forget until now; as they say, "until you walk in another pair of shoes," you don't know how significant that call, visit, or, as I said "that card" really is. I will not forget - so thank you all. It meant the world to me!"*  
 Love, Peggy Waggoner



### The Unhanging of the Greens

What goes up must come down!  
 Please join us for the  
 Unhanging of the Greens on  
 Saturday, January 6th, at 9 am.  
 Thank you in advance.



*"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*  
 ~ John 8:12 NLT

### Can & Bottle Return

Thank you for all the offerings.  
 In November \$123.00 was collected for the  
 CPC Mission Team!

There are three ways to give cans and bottles to the Mission Team.

- 1) **Drop them off behind the church underneath the vehicle canopy.**
  - 2) Drop them off at Walt Taylor's home at 1849 SW Canyon Dr. Leave on the north side of the house on the sidewalk.
  - 3) Call 541-548-4472 and Walt will pick them up.
- Thank you for your support of the CPC Mission Team!

Walt Taylor



### December Birthdays

- 12/04 Judy Hetrick
- 12/10 Michelle Duff
- 12/12 Adam Barr  
 Connie Stoaks
- 12/14 Heather Gedrose
- 12/15 Sharon Byrum  
 Terry Schliep
- 12/17 Jeanne Kosanovic
- 12/18 Amy Fabbrini
- 12/19 Chris Slabaugh
- 12/22 Rocky Johnson
- 12/26 Truman Grandey
- 12/31 Doug Bellew

### December Anniversaries

- 12/09 Garry & Diane Wilson
- 12/14 Irv & Liz Nygren
- 12/22 Steve & Viki Cross
- 12/28 Rick & Susi Nissen
- 12/30 Craig & Becky Dennis

The next Lamplighter news **due date** for the January issue is **Thursday, December 21st, at noon.** Articles for publication should be sent to Gina at: [frontdesk@redmondcpc.org](mailto:frontdesk@redmondcpc.org). You will receive a reply letting you know your contribution was received. Thank you!

