



**JANUARY
FEBRUARY
2019**

**Banks
Community
United Methodist
Church**

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Pastor's Column New Year 2019

*"I have wiped
out your
transgressions*

*like a thick cloud
And your sins like a heavy mist.
Return to Me, for I have redeemed
you."* (Isaiah 44:22 NASB)

There is a popular idea that once we have turned to God and received the great gift of rescue from sin and death, we have done it all. Many view a renewed sense of calling and blessing as impossible. But John Wesley, George Whitefield along with many other preachers of the Great Awakening in England learned that renewal of faith and devotion to the Lord is possible. The preachers of the eighteenth century evangelical movement saw again and again, preaching in the streets and lanes of the British Isles, people kneeling and receiving what is called a "Second

Blessing." Renewal and refreshing of devotion to Jesus is possible – even probable when we ask Him for it.

In 1755 John Wesley held the first Covenant Renewal Service of Worship. This same service was reshaped over the decades to suit the changes in liturgical style, until it has, three centuries later, the form we use today. We use current language, and a shorter service. This suits the needs and tastes of congregations in the United Methodist Church around the world.

Greg Buchner writes:
"Wesley found the service rich and meaningful, as expressed in his Journal: "Many mourned before God, and many were comforted" (April 1756); "It was, as usual, a time of remarkable blessing" (October 1765); "It was an occasion for a variety of spiritual experiences ... I do not know that

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ever we had a greater blessing. Afterwards many desired to return thanks, either for a sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for a fresh manifestation of His graces, healing all their backslidings” (January 1, 1775). In London these services were usually held on New Year’s Day. Around the country the Covenant Service was conducted whenever John Wesley visited the Methodist Societies.”

We are experiencing a much-updated version of what has come to be called Watchnight Service this year on the first Sunday (Jan 6th, 2019). The renewal of vows to God is woven into the Service of Holy Communion. The centerpiece of this service is John Wesley’s prayer of surrender.

Participating in this wonderful service is the best way to begin the New Year. I pray you will come expectantly to first Sunday worship with a heart and mind open to what God has for you, your church and your community in the next twelve months.

Best of New Years!

Yours in Christ,
Margot



CALENDAR FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY:

01/07, 7:00 PM: We are beginning our study of the Book of Revelation at Leola’s house. Study books will be given and we will orient ourselves to Dr. Mulholland’s simple, direct approach to this amazing Bible book.

January

01/05 Samantha Medinger

01/08 Mariana Knifer

01/12 Laurel Medinger



February

02/26 Sandi Bond



01/09, 10 AM: Women’s Bible study at Dianne Harrang’s home.

01/13: Administration Council meeting follows the service.

01/20, 5:00 - 6:00 PM: Banks Community United Methodist Youth Group meets, for students grades 3-8.

02/06, 12 noon: Senior Lunch

MONDAYS:

7:00 PM: Fall bible study at Leola Stigleman’s home.

WEDNESDAYS:

9:30 AM: OGC a “retired guys fellowship” meets at the Trailhead Café.

10 AM: Women’s Bible study at Dianne Harrang’s home.

SUNDAYS:

First & third Sundays, 5 - 6 PM: Banks Community United Methodist Youth Group meets, for students grades 3-8. Contact Mariana Haboush Knifer, Sarah Howard Boswell or Jimmy Boswell for more information.

CANNED FOOD OF THE MONTH AND RECYCLING

The Food of the Month program has added greatly to our supply of items that go into our Christmas food boxes and we thank you. We hope you enjoy bringing in the listed foods each month to help build up our supply. For this year the items and months of collection are as follows:

January – chili

February – peanut butter

March – canned fruit

April – jello

May – pork and beans

June – tuna

July – refried beans

August – diced tomatoes

September – hearty soups

October – stove top stuffing – chicken

November – chicken broth

December – cranberry sauce



The collection of recyclable cans and water bottles is on-going and we appreciate your “contributions”. Keep bringing in those empties! These funds keep growing and will help immensely with the purchase of foods for the Christmas food boxes when it comes time to shop, and we thank you.

When you contribute through these 2 forms of giving you are blessing many individuals with the gifts of food and love.

Thank you.

BANKS UMC YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The youth group we formed a few months ago, with funds available from a grant Margot and Mariana applied for, is going really well. The months of November and December were spent talking about being thankful, discussing what gifts God has given us to share with others, and how we can help out in our community.

Youth group meetings always involve a snack, a gathering activity, a story and discussion. The ages range from age 5 through middle school. We have great support from the parents who bring their kids.

With the December focus being on helping in the community, four of the families were represented at the Packing of the Christmas Boxes on December 22nd. My kids were involved as well as three other moms and five of their kids. It was really neat to see everyone dive in to get the job done. One mom was especially blessed to know she could lend a helping hand in our little community. As a group we worked to donate all of the food needed to fill one family box. It felt good for all to be able to give our hands and hearts for others in need.

Mariana



My goal for 2019 is to accomplish the goals set in 2018 which I should have done in 2017 because I promised to in 2016 and planned to do in 2015.



9TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA AND SILENT AUCTION

Once again we put together an amazing, a fun, and a successful event and blessed our guests with an elegant tea and a wonderful auction.

On December 8th we hosted 80+ guests to an afternoon of fun, fellowship, delectable foods and an opportunity to bid on items in the silent auction. Foods were dished up with eye-pleasing appeal, the men served with finesse. The behind-the-scenes food preparation and plating up of the serving platters was especially nice this year in our newly completed kitchen.

Proceeds from this year's event, \$2579.00, will go into our Building/Maintenance Fund.

Thanks to all who gave of their time and gifts of foods and auction items, and to those who attended, to make this year's tea and



We had a birthday celebration, ...

auction another successful event. It truly couldn't be done without you all.

Gail



...great food and exciting items to bid on.



KITCHEN ADDITION

With the completion of the new kitchen addition back in July it is hard to imagine what the old kitchen looked like and how it was to work in. The ground work began in September, 2016, the framing was done in August, 2017. Securing loans and gifts from church members and friends of the church we were able to get the cabinets and counter tops installed and the flooring put down around the end of April 2018. The Ladies bathroom was repainted, new flooring put down, new cabinet and counter top installed by the end of August, in time for Mini Hearts Pre-School to start classes.

It is such a joy to have room to work and to have so much storage space. People who had

not
seen
the



completed
facility come
to us with awe
and amazement
saying how
beautiful and
spacious it is.



To all who
helped and
contributed in
any way, we
say thank you.



CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES

Once again, as in the many years past, everyone gave of their hearts and hands to help provide a Christmas meal with all the trimmings of turkey, pies, produce and enough food for a couple weeks. This year we served 41 family units, a total of 217 people.

Foods for these boxes were procured with funds from your recycling of bottles and cans, donations of the Food of the Month program, and individual donations, such as the one that was designated for all the turkeys and other meats. We received donations from community members and Jim's Market donates all the fresh produce. Andy is also able to purchase foods throughout the year through the Oregon Food Bank for a very minimal price.



On December 22nd we had a crew of about 40, three quarters of those being from the community, who came together to fill all the boxes. We finished in good time and were

ready to welcome the family members coming in to receive their boxes as well as Christmas gifts donated by Lucky to Serve, and to wish them all a Merry Christmas. We enjoyed a hearty lunch provided by Leola, cleaned up and said “a job well done” to serve those in need and show God’s love by serving others.

This outreach is the biggest mission of our church and we thank you all for your participation and we look forward to many

more years of providing the same love and provisions to those in our community who need a little assistance.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

For 21 years our congregation has been packing shoeboxes to send to far off places, reaching children who are greatly blessed by our efforts and given a chance to come to know Jesus through The Greatest Journey Bible course.

As a church we packed and prayed over 65 shoeboxes. The Banks Drop-off Location received 1273 boxes, one of our best years ever. The greater Portland area received 26,445. We are still waiting to hear the final tally from worldwide and national collections and are praying for good numbers. This year the boxes from the West Coast will be sent to Philippines, Indonesia and to Native

Americans. We can be praying for the children in these countries who will be overjoyed with excitement upon receiving our shoeboxes jammed full of surprises and love.

What a joy it is for us to realize how we can bless so many children with such a simple gift of a shoebox and offer them the opportunity to come to know Jesus. We thank you for your



participation in this great mission project and look forward to another great year come next November.

Andy & Gail



Gospel Light's
KINGDOM of the SON
A PRAYER SAFARI
VBS 2018

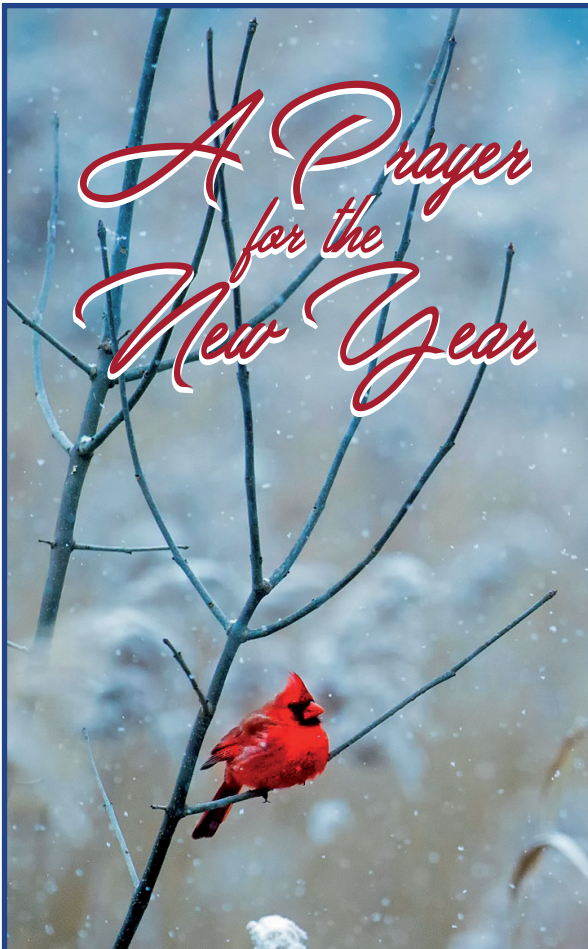


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SINGING IN THE HOLIDAYS

We were asked to sing Christmas Carols at Jim's Thriftway in December! It was so much fun to walk around the store like little Christmas elves, singing and bringing Christmas joy to shoppers.

It's a big day at Jim's. They offered lots of free samples and had a special "cake walk" for foods. We had a good turnout of carolers and sang carols for about an hour.



God of the ages, you have blessed
us with another year.

Help us to make room for the blessings
that are in store for us in the coming months.

May we be open to learn the right lessons,
even if they hurt a little.

Help us to be patient so that we
won't miss divine opportunities.

Show us how to be fulfilled without
material possessions, so that we will not
miss what it means to be a blessed people.

Enable us to be a blessing so you will
recognize us as the ones who gave you bread
when you were hungry, drink when you were
thirsty, and clothes when you were naked.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Adaptation of a prayer by the Rev. Kevin B. Smalls

I AM THE NEW YEAR

By Pastor Barry Black

Deuteronomy 11.12

“...the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year.”

I will help you to say goodbye to the previous year filled with “yesterdays” and comprised of

Disappointments and surprises

Losses and gains

Failures and Successes

Defeats and victories

A year which may be remembered by recalling...

Fleeting moments

Delightful memories and good times

The sobering reality of missed opportunity

The insight gained from daily living

The unexpected surprise of reconnecting with old friends.

The joy of sins forgiven

Golden words fitly spoken (Proverbs 25:11)

And the fruit of obedience and pleasing the Lord

Yes, the old year is a time in which we can recall with gratitude...

Blessings, protection, and rewards from the Providential hand of God

*Grace that was sufficient for our every need
Mercy received when justice would have just as easily been fitting for us.*

And realizing that even bad things that happened could have been worse...much worse.

May your past productively transition to the future as you experience...

*The warm daylight of lessons hard learned,
and the fading sunset of the pain that was long*

endured while living through them.

*The priceless value found in genuine friends,
and the sober understanding of the shackles of superficial people who merely use us.*

The glorious journey of...

The unmatched wealth in reading and studying the Bible

The unparalleled stability of Christian fellowship

And the unrivaled enjoyment of serving the Lord.

And as you experience the wise departure from...

The comfortable enticement of procrastination

The deceptive decoy of excuses

The childish pleasure of pettiness

And the dull applause of mediocrity.

I AM THE NEW YEAR.

I am...

The challenge of new goals

The desire for spiritual growth

The continual burden for lost souls

The anticipation of answered prayer

And the eager expectation of Christ's soon return for His Bride, the Church.

I am the New Year, I may only be lived one moment at a time.

I am replete with the unknown and rife with...

Opportunities to trust

Unexpected moments of blessing and delight

Satisfaction for spiritual truth and hunger

Motivations to give of your time and effort to people and projects

And the joy and privilege of serving the Lord in new and exciting ways.

YES, I AM THE NEW YEAR!

(Courtesy of “Mikey's Funnies”)

OLD AGE IS A GIFT

I am now, probably for the first time in my life, the person I have always wanted to be. Oh, not my body! I sometime despair over my body - the wrinkles, the baggy eyes, and the sagging rear. And often I am taken aback by that old person that lives in my mirror, but I don't agonize over those things for long.

I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, my loving family for less gray hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I've become more kind to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend. I don't chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or for not making my bed, or for buying that silly cement gecko that I didn't need, but looks so avant garde on my patio. I am entitled to overeat, to be messy, to be extravagant. I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging. Whose business is it if I choose to read or play on the computer until 4 a.m. and sleep until noon?

I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 40s, 50s, 60s, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love ... I will.

I will walk the beach in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the bikini set. They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten

... and I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when a beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turn gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver. I can say "no" and mean it. I can say "yes" and mean it.

As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself anymore. I've even earned the right to be wrong.

So, to answer your question, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day.

(Courtesy of "Mikey's Funnies")

RECIPE CORNER

Loaded Cauliflower

cauliflower - mix well

Ingredients:

1 1/2 - 2 large heads cauliflower (cut into 1-2 in pieces)
6-8 slices cooked bacon, crumbled
6 TBSP chopped chives
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1/2 cup sour cream
2 cups colby or cheddar cheese
8 oz sliced mushrooms (sautéed in butter)

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 425°
2. Boil water in large pot, cook cauliflower 8-10 minutes, drain and let cool
3. In large bowl combine sour cream, mayonnaise, 1/2 of crumbled bacon, 3 TBSP chives, 1 cup cheese, mushrooms and

4. Place mixture in 2-3 quart baking dish and cover with remaining 1 cup cheese and bacon crumbles.

5. Bake 15-20 minutes, until cheese is melted. Top with remaining chives and serve.



This dish is one Sally made for our Garden Club potluck and everyone was asking for the recipe. I thought all you folks might enjoy it too.

Thanks, Sally, for sharing.

PASTOR MARGOT'S OFFICE HOURS

Banks Community UMC

Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. - noon
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Thursday - 10:00 a.m. - noon
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Cornelius UMC

Monday - 10:00 a.m. - noon
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday - 10:00 a.m. - noon
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(At all hours, and any day Sunday through Thursday, please use her cell phone number.) She is also available for urgent or emergency matters at all times via cell.

BANKS TELLER

All submissions to the *Banks Teller* are **DUE BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH** preceding the month you wish it to run. The *Banks Teller* is published every two months.