



**NOVEMBER/  
DECEMBER  
2019**

**Banks  
Community  
United Methodist  
Church**

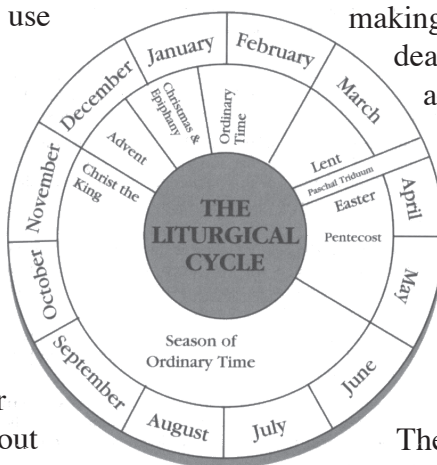
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## Pastor's Column

You have heard the phrase, "Oh, he or she marches to a different drummer." Sometimes we say, "He/she waltzes to a different tune." When somebody is different from the usual, we use such language to describe their way of being. This means the person hears a special, even other-worldly source of inspiration. Now, near the end of the calendar year, let's think about how Jesus-followers intentionally live a life that sounds forth the rhythm of Christ – the divine heartbeat – the music of the heavenly band. We do dance to a different tune – march to a different beat.



The Christian year begins with Advent, the Season leading up to Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birth into the world. We are remembering and bringing to our fellow human beings the "Good News of Great Joy." Over the centuries people of faith have changed culture everywhere by making a big wonderful deal of the miracle of a virgin girl bearing a heavenly child, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The first Sunday of Advent is day one of the Jesus-follower's year.

The Feast of Christmas is followed by Epiphany (when the wise men visited the Holy Child), the Baptism of the Lord (when John Baptist baptized Jesus) and the Season of Ordinary Time (when the Lord Jesus was present in

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the world). In the spring, Christians turn their hearts and minds to Jesus' journey to Jerusalem to offer Himself as a sacrifice for all peoples and all of creation. We keep the Season of Lent until the great Feast of Easter – the glorious day of Christ's resurrection from death to New Life. We celebrate the Feast of the Ascension (Jesus' return to His heavenly home) and almost immediately we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost (when the Holy Spirit entered the world to guide the people of God).

The world barely notices the great wonder of the coming of the blessed Holy Spirit into their lives (celebrated in May or June). Jesus-followers stay mindful of that universe-shaking event by keeping the Season after Pentecost for about half the calendar year. For us, at this moment (November and December) the Season after Pentecost is coming to an end. We dress the altar and the other furnishings of the church in green during this time, to symbolize the promise of eternal life given to us in Jesus by the sacrifice He made for us.

Here we are, just four weeks away from the Feast of Christ the King (the last day of the Christian Year). December 1st we will begin the Season of Advent – in joyful anticipation of Christmas Day, the celebration of our Savior Jesus Christ's birth. We tune our lives to the rhythm of Christ every day of the year. This is our way of celebrating the Good News of the Lord Jesus at all times.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Margot*

# CHRISTMAS HAPPENINGS!



## HANGING OF THE GREENS

Sun., Dec. 1

followed by a Soup & Bread Lunch  
BCUMC

## CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Sun., Dec. 1, 6:30 PM

Greenville City Park, Banks

## CHRISTMAS TEA & SILENT AUCTION

Sat., Dec. 7, 3 PM

Tickets \$15, \$100 for table of 8

Available by calling

503-324-2655

## GIFT WRAPPING EVENT

Sat., Dec. 14, 9 AM

North Plains Elementary School

## CHAMBER BAZAAR

Sat., Dec. 14, 10 AM - 5 PM

Schlegel Hall

## YOUTH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Sun., Dec. 15

followed by a Finger Food Potluck  
BCUMC

## CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER:

**Sat., Nov. 2:** Verboort Sausage and Sauerkraut dinner. Opens for tickets at 9 AM

**Sat., Nov. 2:** Homemade Holidays Banks Public Library 11 AM Holiday Craft making.

**Sun., Nov. 3:** Daylight Savings ends.

**Wed., Nov. 6, 12 noon:** Fall Senior Lunch

**Sat., Nov. 9, 10 AM - PM:** St. Francis Bazaar, Roy. Lunch served 11:00 AM

**Sun., Nov. 10:** Dexter Danielson will be giving the Message

**Sun., Nov. 17:** Blessing of the BCUMC OCC Shoeboxes during Worship.

**Sun., Nov. 17, 1:00-4:00 PM:** BCUMC will host a meeting to discuss *A Way Forward for the UMC*. Tim Overton-Harris will preside and we will provide refreshments.

**Mon., Nov. 18 - 25:** OCC National Collection Week

**Sun., Nov. 24:** Ad Council meeting and Church Charge Conference follow the service.

**Sun., Dec. 1:** Hanging of the Greens and a Soup & Bread Lunch follow the service.

**Sun., Dec. 1, 6:30 PM:** Christmas Tree Lighting, Greenville City Park, Banks

**Sat., Dec. 7, 3:00 PM:** 10th Annual Tea and Auction.

### November

11/06 Laurelen Jabbour

11/14 Ane Fonua

11/30 Jeannie Cochrane



### December

12/07 Sarah Boswell

12/13 Julian Medinger

12/16 Dianne Harrang

12/23 Helen Schuman

12/31 Don Bake

**Sat., Dec. 14, 10 AM - 5 PM:** Chamber Bazaar at Schlegel Hall

**Sun., Dec. 15:** The church youth will present a Christmas Skit during the service. Everyone is invited to join in a Finger Food Potluck following the service.

**Sat., Dec. 21, 9:00 AM:** Packing Christmas Food Boxes.

### SUNDAYS:

**9:00 AM:** Adult Sunday School continues the study of Hebrews.

**9:00 AM:** Youth Sunday School

### WEDNESDAYS:

**9:30 AM:** OGC a "retired guys fellowship" meets at the Café 47.

**10:00 AM:** Wednesday morning ladies' Study Group.





## “CHRISTMAS BY THE SEA” TEA AND SILENT AUCTION

Our teas are fun, the auctions are successful and we are looking forward to this year’s event set for **December 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM**. The tea foods have been planned, ladies have volunteered to decorate the tables, and the men have offered to serve.



If you are handy with knitting needles, crochet hooks, a sewing machine, an oven,

woodworking tools, now is the time to handcraft some items for our silent auction. You may also donate purchased items, gift certificates, and items appropriate for youngsters to bid on. Talk to Andy or Gail if you have items to donate.

It is so enjoyable to come together and participate in good conversation while being



served delectable foods. It is also such fun bidding against friends over a special item and raising funds for the church at the same time, and you may just find that perfect Christmas gift for someone special on your list. So, invite your friends,



neighbors and family members, help with set-up or clean-up, donate auction items and contribute to the success of this fun afternoon.

Tickets are \$15/person or \$100 for a table of 8. You may make reservations and purchase your tickets from Leola. Talk to Gail if you have any questions.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



### SENDING GOOD NEWS AND GREAT JOY TO PARAGUAY AND SURINAME

Four-year-old Jonathon came to an Operation Christmas Child outreach event in Paraguay along with his two brothers. Their father had abandoned them and the boys had few resources. Jonathon arrived barefoot, but a ministry partner said, "The excitement this child had to simply hear the Word of God was indescribable."

After listening to the Gospel message, Jonathon opened his shoebox gift to find a beautiful pair of shoes. When a volunteer asked him if he liked his items, he hugged her and said with tears in his eyes, "God is good." Jonathon put on his new shoes and a big smile came across his face!

Individual stories like Jonathon's are happening all over the world through Operation Christmas Child. More than

1,800 miles to the north of Paraguay in the nation of Suriname, churches are working together to minister to the indigenous people in the area. The congregations hosted an outreach event to share the Gospel and distribute shoebox gifts to nearly 500 children. Of this group, more than 175 children also participated in The Greatest Journey, our follow-up discipleship course. Nearly all of these boys and girls completed the 12 lessons of the program, learning how to faithfully follow Christ and share Him with others.



In 1998 Anna Shimer, a former Pastor's daughter, introduced our church to Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox program and the people of this church started packing shoeboxes. In 2007 our church became a drop-off location for receiving shoeboxes throughout Western Washington County. As an individual church early on and with the boxes received from our neighbors, we have seen over 12,000 shoeboxes come through this church. For over 20 years we have been sending hope and joy in the way of simple gifts in shoeboxes to children who might not otherwise have any hope or joy. Just as Jonathan received a shoebox, over 12,000 children have received shoeboxes from the people of this church and our neighbors.

We are now in the season of packing shoeboxes for this year and we hope that

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you are planning to be involved in this fun and vital mission. Some of you have already purchased and packed your boxes or are in the process. Some of you are just starting the process. Whatever situation, you will know your children receive and the opportunity they will have to meet Jesus.



We will be blessing our shoeboxes during Worship on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Please be praying as you shop, as you pack your shoeboxes, for the logistics of all the shipping and transporting of these boxes and for the children who will be receiving these shoeboxes. Bless you all for your continued participation in this vital mission project reaching out to so many children around the world in the name of Jesus Christ.



## CHRISTMAS BOX APPLICATIONS

Christmas Box Applications are in the Food Bank and the Banks Public Library. Due dates are November 15th for gifts and December 16th for just food.

## YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

The youth at Banks Community United Methodist church is on a journey through The Action Bible by Jeremy V. Jones. The students are working their way through a 52-week devotional of God-Inspired adventure.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, right? The Action Bible is all about the pictures – cool pictures, comic pictures. Those pictures bring the stories of the Bible to life in whole new colorful ways, without having to use so many words. You can see the action jump off the page.

Students are encouraged to dig deeper with focus on a Key Verse from the Bible story each week. X-Ray Vision discussions bring meaning to daily life situations, and the “Your Mission” and “Your Debrief” activities that show kids how to walk out their faith each day. The group time is engaging and a lot of fun for the leaders and students alike!



## Christmas gift suggestions:

**To your enemy, forgiveness.**

**To an opponent, tolerance.**

**To a friend, your heart.**

**To a customer, service.**

**To all, charity.**

**To every child, a good example.**

**To yourself, respect.**



## CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES

For over 50 years, one of the outreach ministries of this church has been providing a “Christmas food box” with all the ingredients for a nice Christmas dinner with all the trimmings and extra food to last about a week, and gifts for all children 12 and under provided by Lucky to Serve. It is difficult to describe the blessings YOU receive while participating in this outreach. It could be as simple as a smile, a hug from a friend or stranger, and a chance to meet some of our



community members as we work side by side filling the boxes with canned foods, produce, turkey and more.

As we start to plan for this year's Christmas food box packing please be praying about ways YOU can participate. You can buy some canned goods, participate in the Food of the Month donations, recycle your bottles and cans, donate money to help with the purchases, and of course pray for the families of our community about to receive our love and these gifts.

This year we will be packing boxes on Saturday, December 21st starting at 9:00 AM. Please consider helping with this rewarding task and advise Andy of such.

## CHRISTMAS HOPE

By Dave Veerman



When I hear . . .

*hateful screams, caustic derisions,  
posturing pols fostering divisions*

I know . . .

*Love's humble descent, Bethlehem birth,  
divine intervention rescuing earth*

When I see . . .

*storms, fires, floods, hurricane's power,  
suffering mounting, earthquakes devour*

I know . . .

*the Father's promises, always fulfilled,  
mercy, grace ever reaching, sovereign willed*

When I sense . . .

*self imperfection, faults, weakness, sin,  
battered, scarred, broken, condemned within*

I know . . .

*countless changed lives, forgiven, free,  
Christ's holy work in others and me*

When I feel . . .

*aging aches, waking nights, future fears,  
impatience with life, grief, anger, tears*

I know . . .

*This life is fleeting, my Savior awaits,  
with home celebration at heaven's gates  
Wait lifted, day breaking, I embrace the Son  
the rest in my life has just begun!*

*Blessed is the season which engages the  
whole world in a conspiracy of love.*

*(Courtesy of "Mikey's Funnies")*

## CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

By Jan Humphrey

On a starry night long ago  
Was born to the world a Savior  
The Beloved Child of God,  
On whom God showed His favor.

A new tradition was also born,  
To celebrate this Blessed Christ Child,  
By sharing the story with everyone  
Of the love that made God smile.

Generations have continued the tradition,  
With friends and family far and near.  
Even random acts of kindness  
Can spread a little Christmas cheer.

Amidst the joy and happiness  
Might come an urge to shed a tear,  
Especially when circumstances  
Make for a difficult year.

Experiencing the loss of a loved one

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### 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.

(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.

Whether expected or unforeseen  
Can cast shadows on celebrations  
No matter how joyful the scene.

That's when God sends special angels  
To remind us of memories gone by.  
Cherish your happy times together,  
And know that it's okay to cry.

Christmas is the season of giving  
And spreading love all around,  
And that Bright Star also sends peace,  
While reminding that hope can be found.

So, as 2019 comes to an end,  
Hold close to each work of God's art  
And take comfort in each memory  
For they'll always be in your heart.



### 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.