



A monthly newsletter of The First United Methodist Church-Salem, OR

THE SPIRE

February 2018

Open Door Ministries Youth Fundraiser Auction Mardi Gras!

Saturday, February 10, doors open at 5:30 p.m., MICAH

This annual event has something for everyone. Live music! Yummy food! Classy auction items! New for 2018 is a guest auctioneer! Bring your friends and family for this fun night.

Tickets are on sale now! Purchase your tickets either after church services or online at <http://squareup.com/store/salem-united-methodist-youth-auction>.

Get Acquainted Coffee

Would you like to know more about the people and ministries of First United Methodist Church of Salem?

Please join Director of Volunteer Ministries Leta Brewster at the Mission Café (Dining Room, Main Sanctuary Building) on Sunday,

February 4, at 10:00 a.m. for a latte and an informal get acquainted time. Members will share about our church history, our ministries, and outreach in the broader community and answer your questions. Leta will discuss programs, upcoming events, and ways to get involved. A volunteer will take you on a tour of the historic church and the Archives.

Childcare Volunteers for Nurseries

Our young families and their children need you!

Please inquire at the Nursery on Sundays or call the church office (503-364-6709) and we will connect you to Mora Carpenter, childcare coordinator.

Be a Sunday School Helper

Are you hearing God's call to help shape the faith lives of our young ones? There are a couple of classes in need of helpers in the children's Sunday School. Please contact Steve Dickey at stevedickey77@gmail.com if you are interested or for more information.

Worship Schedule Sundays

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m. MICAH Worship Center (Praise Service)
11:15 a.m. Sanctuary (Traditional Service)

February 4

Communion Sunday

Are We There Yet?
Mark 1:29-39

February 11

Transfiguration Sunday

Listen to the Wind
Mark 9:2-9

February 14

Ash Wednesday

Morningside UMC, 7:00 p.m.
Where is Your Heart?
Psalm 51:1-17; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 18

First Sunday in Lent

Turning Our Hearts
Mark 1:9-15

February 25

Second Sunday in Lent

A Willing Heart
Mark 8:31-38



Street Dancing in Nepal

I've been reflecting on the spiritual practices that prepare me to recognize God with us in the world. Through dancing or while hiking, I've been more aware of God's presence. This was made evident as I hiked up a 9,000 foot pass at the end of the monsoon to visit the children, parents, and teachers in the remote villages of Shyala, Khadi, and Patagau in a district where we've been working on a child empowerment project.

The highlight celebrated International Children's Day with a child-led parade through the fields of corn that surround the city of Khadi. Parades are an important part of both Nepali culture and spirituality. Accompanied by flute and drum we danced to celebrate the children's accomplishments in the games and essay competitions.

Student leaders in the Child Clubs from the three villages also came together to write their first *Wall Magazine*, a hand-written school newspaper the entire adult community can read as they walk by the school. This was part of the training for teachers on how to engage local resources in an environment for learning.

Our Christmas appeal introduced in 2017 was to improve more classrooms to be bright, comfortable, safe, and inclusive and where every child feels loved and respected. It costs about \$300 to outfit one classroom with carpet, tables, book shelves, story books, educational toys and materials, a water filter, and bright paint. Work as a congregation to furnish one or multiple classrooms. Christ's presence in the world was announced with the songs of angels. Like the shepherds, we are invited to respond.

As I reflect on dancing with the children of Nepal, I am reminded again of being a child and welcoming God in the birth of the Christ child.

Your sister in service for Christ,

Katherine Parker

Bring your contribution to the Mission Café any Sunday, and deposit it in the container marked "Nepal Children." Thank you and bless you.

Kenya Mission Trip Organizational Meeting

If you are interested in being part of a mission group to Maua Medical Clinic in Kenya, please plan to attend an important organizational meeting on Wednesday, February 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the MICAH Conference Room. At this meeting we will discuss costs, fundraising, and leadership roles for each team member.

The mission trip is scheduled for February 7-23, 2019.

RSVP to Leta Brewster at leta-brewster@yahoo.com or 503-364-6709 if you plan to attend.

Alternative Christmas Market Raises \$18,802

The Social Concerns Ministry Group is happy to report that the 2017 Alternative Christmas Market raised \$18,802.20 for 17 local, regional, and global charities. Thank you so much to all the volunteers and shoppers who contributed time, energy, ideas, materials, and money for the 29th Annual Alternative Christmas Market.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the 30th Annual Alternative Christmas Market happening on Saturday, December 1, and Sunday, December 2, 2018.

Give the world a gift!



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

New Class Opportunity

Steve Dickey (contact him at stevedickey77@gmail.com) is leading a new class focusing on the Apostles Creed at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays in Room 108 of the Main Sanctuary Building. *Creed: What Christians Believe and Why* by Adam Hamilton will provide the basis for discussion. The book and Kindle versions are available at Amazon.com.

SENIOR MINISTRIES



Generations Monthly Potlucks

Third Wednesday of the Month
February 21, Noon
Dining Room – Main Building

Bring a dish to share and join our active age 50+ group for a speaker and potluck each third Wednesday of the month. Information about this month's program will be available soon in Sunday bulletins and the FUMC weekly email update.

Even if you're not a cook, please come! We will offer an opportunity to donate towards expenses.

Coffee, cups, plates, napkins, and silverware will be provided, but please bring a serving utensil for your shared dish.

Lenten Book Study

Open Door pastors have chosen Adam Hamilton's book *Final Words From the Cross* as an area-wide study during Lent (February 14–March 31). Despite the pain and difficulty, Jesus made seven final statements on the cross. Each chapter of the book explores those statements and the meaning for our lives today. If you would be willing to lead a book study group, please get in touch with Leta Brewster at letabrewster@yahoo.com.

Watch for a variety of class meeting times and locations coming soon!

Fits 'n' Giggles Class

Do you enjoy eating crumbs off the floor and stealing a few moments of time on your phone while a toddler destroys your house?

Well this group is for you! But seriously, Fits 'n' Giggles meets every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the nursery suite area on the second floor of MICAH to talk, listen, learn, and be in community with each other. We share stories, support each other, and tackle thought provoking topics. Oh, and we have snacks! Come, join us!

January 28

Lectionary Discussion
(fourth week of Epiphany, Micah 6:1–8, Psalm 15,
Mark 1:21–28) and/or Topic Jar

February 4

“The Masks We Live In” parenting discussion

February 11

Lectionary Discussion and/or Topic Jar

February 18

“Gender Stereotypes” with special guest speaker
Annie Snow

Saturday, February 24

All-Family Gathering
hosted by Margaret and Thanh Gander-Vo!

February 25

No adult Sunday School class

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Notes from the Finance Committee

	2017 Budget	October	November	December	Total	100% of Budget
Total Income	\$567,134.00	\$50,783.72	\$45,229.06	\$64,031.00	\$588,344.67	103.74%
Total Expenses	\$566,766.00	\$46,638.35	\$53,579.63	\$48,650.92	\$575,715.59	101.58%

The church ended 2017 with a flurry of financial activity and in the black again. Here are some numbers, thoughts and opinions, and a look ahead to 2018's budget.

1. 2017 annual income exceeded expenses by \$12,400 with annual general giving exceeding budget estimate by \$11,900.
2. Part of this late giving could have to do with the pending changes in the tax law and how deductions and itemization calculations are going to be made going forward. Five members gave between \$1,000 and \$3,000 more than normal in December and we had several members prepay all or part of their 2018 pledge in 2017.
3. Christmas giving was ahead of budget and was part of a special ask by Dan for World Community Service. We will be sending a check for the full amount given right away.
4. A great start to 2017 taking advantage of several unbudgeted building rentals early in the year propelled us to exceeding our projected income for building rentals.
5. We received an unexpected \$15,000 gift in the first quarter of the year. \$5,000 allocated to kitchen needs, \$5,000 into reserves for any unexpected expense, and \$5,000 to a restructure in Family Ministries job titles and duties.
6. This included hiring another employee part way through the year. Wages were funded for 2017 through a special ask to particular members and this position will be added into the general budget for 2018.
7. For the last several months, I have been letting everyone know that we had underestimated our Main Building and MICAH utilities by several thousand dollars. NW Natural and electricity cost for both buildings exceeded budget by a combined \$6,100.
8. We again paid 100% of our apportionments obligation.
9. We finished the year with \$71,000 in our reserves with the goal of always maintaining a minimum of \$50,000. Of the \$21,000 excess over \$50,000, we will be sending about \$5,400 immediately to fulfill our Christmas ask commitment.

Looking ahead to 2018 and categories with larger changes or variances:

- We again have agreed to take a conservative approach when estimating our income. This includes taking our pledge amounts plus non-pledge amounts (members that do not give us a pledge card and we assume will give at least the same amount) and discounting that 3% to account for changes beyond our control in members' lives during the year. We do give all our prepaid pledgers plus ACH monthly givers full credit for their pledges.
- We only consider signed leases or committed building rents. There have been multiple conversations with different groups since year-end but they had not committed by December 31, 2017.
- We approved hourly increases for Business Administrator and Facilities Manager.
- We approved a substantial budget savings by hiring our current custodian and eliminating paying the company as the middle man. Our facilities manager will manage this employee.

... continued from page 5

- We approved adding the new employee to our general budget and increase the size of our Family Ministries Education team.
- We allocated more resources to increased childcare support. This includes more time available for our coordinator to work on gathering and maintaining volunteers.
- Payroll taxes will be higher with additional staff expense.
- Our church operational expenses will be significantly lower in 2018 with the trustees taking over a special program especially designed for churches through Xerox, a new equipment lease where we bring printing/color in-house which is a significant savings on printing supplies. For example our Sunday Bulletins are much nicer and cost us less.
- Church and MICAH building utilities/expenses are projected to be lower this year as NW Natural had dropped the amount of level pay for both buildings.
- Apportionments showed a substantial savings for 2018.
- There is still hope that we do receive additional rental income not yet counted.

The bottom line is we are projecting a very small \$436 deficit at the time of these notes and I personally believe we will see some additional income to offset that amount... over and above our conservative income estimates. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Steve Horning, Finance Committee Chair

Big Questions Over Lunch at Willamette University

The Willamette University Office of the Chaplains is pleased to announce the first of three sessions of our Spring 2018 offerings of the popular program Big Questions Over Lunch. The session will be held Tuesday, February 6, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the Cat Cavern on the 2nd floor of the Putnam University Center. Bring your lunch (the Cat Cavern is no longer open for food service) and join us for this engaging topic!

Our presenter will be Professor Ellen Eisenberg, Dwight and Margaret Lear Chair in American History. Her presentation is entitled "The Jewish Oregon Story: 1950-2010." She will examine the Jewish community of Oregon during a time of dramatic growth and change, exploring how Jewish Oregonians both contributed to and were shaped by the "Oregon Story" of the late 20th century. She will highlight the emergence of what she calls the Jewish Oregon Story, including the dramatic expansion of the Portland community, the rebirth of smaller communities around the state, and the embrace of post-denominational Jewry, spirituality, and a distinctive progressive ethos of environmentalism and inclusion.

Parking information may be found at <http://willamette.edu/offices/safety/parking/index.html>. For more information about the program, call 503-370-6213.

Food Bank Ministry

Sunday, February 4, is Super Bowl Sunday. Let's make it a SOUPER Bowl Sunday each week in February by bringing a variety of soups for the Jason Lee Community Food Bank. Chili and stew also count as soup. Also, soup can always be extended by adding canned vegetables. Warm some hungry bellies this month with stick-to-the-ribs goodness. Thank you for your generosity!

NOTE:

In 2017 we donated a total of 58,004 pounds of food to the Jason Lee Community Food Bank.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW Circle Meetings

Ruth Erbele Circle

The Erbele Circle will meet on Monday, February 12, at Noon in the Carrier Room. Visitors are always welcome and we hope to see you there. For more information, please contact Emily Broussard at 503-304-4410.

Every Member Enrichment Event

The Mia Adjali Circle will not meet at their regular time this month, but instead will serve as hostesses at the Every Member Enrichment Event (EMEE) being held at First UMC of Salem on Saturday, February 24. This district-wide event will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end no later than 3:00 p.m. Missionary Janet Lahr-Lewis will be our speaker. There will be books to buy, food to eat, and friends to meet. District officer training workshops (president, secretary, treasurer, and others) will be open to all persons interested in them. Other information will be forthcoming in Sunday bulletins. If you have questions, please call Dolores Middleton at 870-403-6399 or email her at doloresmiddleton@gmail.com.

FUMC United Methodist Women's Giving in 2017

Center for Hope and Safety	\$ 175.00
FUMC latte machine	200.00
Legacy Fund	145.00
Willson House Birthday Party	58.00
UMCOR-Sager Brown Flood Buckets	60.00
UMCOR-Hurricane Relief	40.00
FUMC Library	92.34
World Thank Offering	50.00
Union Gospel Mission	50.00
Cascadia District Mission pledge	<u>1,000.00</u>
	\$1,870.34

Infant & Toddler Play Group

Join us from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, February 23, (and the last Friday of each month) in our beautiful childhood rooms which are filled with fun and developmentally appropriate toys.

For ages infant through three years old. Please no older siblings. If you have questions and/or to RSVP, call Heather Hawkins at 503-602-800.

Nut Lovers UNITE!

For the nut lovers in the church UMW has an assortment of packaged nuts available on a continuing basis. To place an order, contact Barbara Alexander by calling 503-930-9267 or email her at barba@wvi.com.

A Reminder & Thank You

Remember to plan ahead and schedule your meetings and activities (any building use) with Facilities Manager Kathy Pressler. (And don't forget to contact her if that meeting or activity has to be cancelled.)

Open Door Churches: United Methodist Ministries of Salem-Keizer

Englewood UMC
The Rev. Sandra Kimbrow
ewoodumc@comcast.net
Worship: 11:15 a.m.

Keizer Clear Lake UMC
The Rev. Alyssa Baker
Office@kclumc.org
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Morningside UMC
The Rev. Wendy Woodworth
pastorwendymumc@gmail.com
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

First UMC of Salem
The Rev. Dan Pitney
dpitney@wvi.com
Worship: 8:45 & 11:15 a.m.

Las Naciones UMC
The Rev. Jorge Rodriguez
salemhispanicumc@gmail.com
Worship: Noon.

Trinity UMC
The Rev. Sandra Kimbrow
skimbrow@aol.com
Worship: 9:00 a.m.





Mardi Gras

DINNER & AUCTION

Saturday
February 10, 2018
5:30 p.m. Doors Open

Salem First United Methodist Church
MICAH Building
680 State St.
Salem, OR 97301

Youth Group Fundraiser!

Come enjoy live entertainment, mocktails, appetizers, dinner and desserts! There are also over 40 donated auction items to bid on.

There will be a video, slideshow, youth speakers, and a paddle raise.

In total, the event will raise close to \$20,000 for our youth ministry!!

BUY YOUR TICKETS

\$13 Adults
\$5 Children (under 12)
\$40 Per family
\$15 At the door



 OpenDoorChurches.com

Open Door Youth Group

will meet at Keizer Clear Lake UMC (7920 Wheatland Road N) for the month of February. It's been great to move youth group around to all three of our church locations this year. We continue in our series "I Doubt It: Asking Questions about our Faith." February 10 is the youth auction. We hope to see many of you there in support of our wonderful youth program.

~Blessings
Jeff Lowery

Youth Ministry

February 4
12:30-2:00 p.m.
Keizer Clear Lake UMC

February 10
Youth Auction
Salem FUMC
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

February 11
No Youth Group

February 18
12:30-2:00 p.m. at
Keizer Clear Lake UMC

February 25
12:30-2:00 p.m. at
Keizer Clear Lake UMC



During the month of February, the young adult group will meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30–8:30 downtown at IKE Box. Together we will share in community and conversations around different aspects of our spiritual lives.

February 7

Let's Talk About Lent – How does the season of Lent take shape in our spiritual lives? What does it mean for us to give things up during this season? Have you ever tried taking on something new during Lent rather than giving something up?

February 14

As this is Ash Wednesday there are 2 options for group. You can go to IKE Box for a study evening or you can attend the Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. at Morningside UMC. If you would like to attend the service but need a ride, please contact Pastor Alyssa.

February 21

Spirituality and Stress

February 28

Spiritual Practice Night

MUSIC MINISTRIES

The First UMC Music Ministries will hold their “Spring Offering” annual fund raiser concert on Sunday, March 11, at 3:00 p.m. in the MICAH Worship Center.

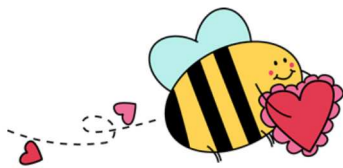
The theme for this year’s Spring Offering is “The Magic of Disney!”

Come enjoy a variety of great music from our five music groups, plus special solos and small ensembles. An array of yummy desserts will be provided as well!

All proceeds from a freewill offering support costs throughout the year such as purchase (or rental) of music, hiring guest musicians, equipment maintenance, and other expenses not covered in the current budget.

Come bring family and friends for an afternoon of music, food, and fun on March 11!

Save the date!!



First United Methodist Church of Salem

FEBRUARY 2018

For more details or updates:
Salem First United Methodist Church
 on Facebook AND check out our website at
salemfirstumc.org

*indicates off-site

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m.
 MICAH Service

11:15 a.m.
 Sanctuary Service

Sunday Classes

- Various classes are available for all ages.
- Bridges, a time for adults with developmental delays, meets at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday and at 5 p.m. every Wednesday evening for activities such as art & crafts & movies.

MUSIC

REHEARSALS

Wednesdays
 5:30 p.m. Mission Bells
 7 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursdays
 6 p.m. Praise Band

Sundays
 as scheduled...
 CrossFire
 Youth Band

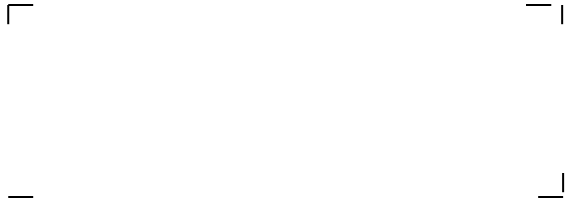
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OPEN DOORS YOUTH GROUP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feb. 4 - at Keizer Clear Lake UMC, 12:30-2 p.m. • Feb. 10 - Youth Auction Fundraiser—No Sunday Youth Group • Feb. 18 - at Keizer Clear Lake UMC, 12:30-2 p.m. • Feb. 25 - at Keizer Clear Lake UMC, 12:30 - 2 p.m. 				1 *7:30 a.m. Men's Group	2	3
4 Communion 10 a.m. Get Acquainted	5	6	7 5 p.m. Bridges	8 *7:30 a.m. Men's Group	9 NOON Social Concerns	10 Youth Auction Fundraiser <i>Mardi Gras</i> 5:30 p.m.
11	12 Noon Erbele Circle 5:30 MICAH Team	13 7 p.m. Finance	14 5 p.m. Bridges	15 *7:30 a.m. Men's Group 7 p.m. Ad Council	16 <i>SPIRE NEWSLETTER</i> DEADLINE	17
18	19 BUILDINGS & OFFICES CLOSED FOR PRESIDENTS DAY	20 *Trustees Meeting 6:30 p.m. Youth Council Meeting	21 Noon Generations Potluck 5 p.m. Bridges	22 *7:30 a.m. Men's Group 7 p.m. SPRC	23 10 a.m. Infant & Toddler playgroup	24 UMW EVERY MEMBER ENRICHMENT EVENT AT FUMC - STARTING AT 9 A.M.
25	26 10 a.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting	27 6 p.m. CHP Board Meeting	28 5 p.m. Bridges			



First United Methodist Church
 600 State Street
 Salem, OR 97301

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Location..... Corner of Church and State Streets
Phone..... 503-364-6709
Fax..... 503-364-7268
Prayer Line..... 503-362-8149
Email..... **Church:** salem1st@wvi.com
Dan Pitney: dpitney@wvi.com

Web page..... www.salemfirstumc.org
Office hours..... Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Friday 9:00 a.m. to Noon

FUMC STAFF

Lay Leaders Fran Eriksen and Ray Lewallen
Pastor The Rev. Dan Pitney
Director of Youth Ministries. The Rev. Jeff Lowery
Director of Preschool Family Ministries..... Heather Hawkins
Director of Music Ministries Dr. Kerry Burtis
Mission Bells Director Glenda Serex
Praise Band/CrossFire Director Jennie Pitney
Organist Zachary Duell
Rejoice! Kids' Choir Directors..... Amanda Rich and Brenda Bateman
Director of Volunteer Ministries Leta Brewster
Facilities Manager Kathy Pressler
Childcare Coordinator Mora Carpenter
Business Administrator Judy Allen
Office Manager Katie Carpenter
Stephen Ministry Coordinator Fran Eriksen
Campus Custodian Adam Somodi
Newsletter Design Rebecca Cozart

Spire deadlines

Please submit your articles by **NOON of the deadline date**. Articles received after the deadline will be held for the next issue (if appropriate).

2018 Spire deadlines:
 March issue—February 16
 April issue—March 16

E-mail articles for *The Spire* to the church office, salem1st@wvi.com

Please include the word "*SPIRE*" and the subject of your article in the subject line. Be sure to include a phone number with your article. Articles longer than 300 words *may be edited to fit*.