



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

# THE SPIRE

January 2020

## Office and Building Closures for January

### • Wednesday, January 1, 2020

New Year's Day, buildings and offices closed

(NOTE: Buildings and offices closed beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31.)

### • Monday, January 20, 2020

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, buildings and offices closed

## Creation Care — Special Tree Planting Opportunities Friends of Trees Activity - Expand Our Tree Canopy

The people and friends of United Methodists have an opportunity this year to work with families, schools, and environmental groups on the greening of Salem. *Contact Pattie Sloan at 503-949-3357 or peach918@msn.com to sign up for these important events!*

### Schedule of Events for the New Year:

Saturday, January 11, at Wallace Marine Park, West Salem

Saturday, February 22, at Cascade Gateway Park, Southeast Salem

Saturday, April 4, at Geer Park, Northeast Salem

Saturday, May 2, Tree Care Event

## Generations Potluck & Program

**Meet and Greet the Open Door Churches Pastors  
Wednesday, January 15, 11:30 a.m., FUMC Dining Room**

This active 50+ group has the special privilege of having all the Open Door pastors join us for our January gathering. Please come for this casual time and visit with the wonderful Open Door leadership we have!

Bring a dish to share (and a serving utensil) for the potluck. Beverages and table service will be provided.

**See page 4 for the article about Saturdays of Service scheduled for January 18!**

**See page 4 for special giving to support the upcoming solar panel work!**

## Sunday Worship

### Regular Worship Times

8:45 a.m.

MICAH (Praise Service)

11:15 a.m.

Sanctuary (Traditional Service)

### Sermon Series:

*Light in the Midst  
of Darkness*

**January 5, 2020**

**Epiphany  
Communion Sunday**

*Gift of Light*

Isaiah 60:1-6 & John 1:1-9

**January 12**

**Remember our Baptisms**

*Spirit of Light*

Isaiah 42:5-9 &

Matthew 3:13-17

**January 19**

**Human Relations Sunday**

*Signs of Light*

John 1:29-42

**January 26**

*Seeing the Light*

Matthew 4:12-23



# Christian Education & Family Ministries

## Sunday Schedule for Children

Children will gather again at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, January 5, for choir; Godly Play resumes on Sunday, January 12. Email [Christianedfumc@wvi.com](mailto:Christianedfumc@wvi.com) for more information.

## New Library Resources!

We have several new books in our Library. Look for these and more in the “New Materials” section in the Library (northeast corner of the Dining Room). Take one home to read and bring it back when you’re done!

- *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions* by Marcus Borg and N.T. Wright
- *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans
- *The Happiness Project* by Gretchen Rubin

## Adult Christian Education Classes!

We have several adult classes meeting on Sundays during the 10:00 hour and some special classes coming up in 2020.

Look for the Christian Education insert in January’s bulletins or check out our website for more information.

## Music & Worship

### Attention Bell Ringers and Wannabes! “Come on Ring that Bell...”

If you’re interested in learning to ring or would like to hone your ringing skills, please join our Mission Bells players in the Sanctuary beginning January 8.

We meet on Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m. and will be preparing for the next part of the church year as we all look ahead toward Holy Week and Easter.

Email Glenda Serex at [glendaserex@gmail.com](mailto:glendaserex@gmail.com) if you have any questions, or you may call the church office and leave a message for Glenda, 503-364-6709.

## Children have Sunday School Holiday Break

There will be no Sunday School for children on December 29. Children will gather again on Sunday, January 5, for choir!

## Friendship and Fellowship (Young Adults at FUMC) Two Sundays a month

This group meets twice a month to connect with each other and talk about faith and life. Contact Heather Ingersoll at [christianedfumc@wvi.com](mailto:christianedfumc@wvi.com) to get more information or to be added to the contact list for upcoming events.

## Youth Sunday School Sundays, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., Youth Room, MICA

Youth Sunday School (6<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> grades) meets every Sunday in the Youth Room from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. The Youth Room is located in the lower portion of MICA, 680 State Street.

All youth are welcome to join us for fellowship and conversation. If you would like more information you may contact Rev. Jeff Lowery at [revjlow@yahoo.com](mailto:revjlow@yahoo.com) or leave a message for Jeff in the FUMC office, 503-364-6709.

## Let’s Get Acquainted Class! Sunday, January 19, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. MICA Conference Room

New to Salem FUMC? Our Get Acquainted hour is a great opportunity to meet others and enjoy some treats while learning more about the church, upcoming events, and ways to get involved.

Light refreshments will be provided, but please feel free to come early and order a latte on us at the Mission Café before arriving (located in the Dining Room on the first floor of the Historic Building). Childcare is available through our children’s ministries.

Watch our bulletins and email news for future membership classes. Contact [welcome@wvi.com](mailto:welcome@wvi.com) for more information!

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & DONATIONS

## November 2019 Financial Statement

	Budget	October	November	Year to Date	91.66%
	2019	2019	2019	2019	of Budget
<b>Total Income</b>	\$ 581,657.00	\$ 58,302.46	\$ 55,760.94	\$ 543,461.22	93.43%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ 586,641.00	\$ 47,268.94	\$ 47,821.88	\$ 532,118.01	90.71%

### Happy Holidays (still!) from your Finance Committee!

Cooler mornings and the hint of rain... Christmas right around the corner (when this was written) and the joy of the season is upon us...

I will be brief this month as we approach the end of our budget year. Looking back over previous months, some of you may recall that we had some larger variances in a few categories and had been running a few thousand dollars under budget during the year. As the year went along, your Finance Committee felt confident that we had a good handle on the cash flow of the church and the expected income arrived as promised.

So, great news!! Of course there is lots of great news in December but finance-wise, October and November's income nicely exceeded expenses and we are \$11,343 ahead of budget at month-end.

And remember, if we reach the end of the year with an excess, those excess funds go into our reserves and can be requested by any of our committees or staff to be used for a one-time expense or need that may not be in our budget.

Thank you all for everything you do for our church and the community. We have much to be thankful for!!  
Steve Horning, Finance Committee Chair

Just a reminder about year-end giving, if you would like your gift to be counted in 2019 for tax reporting purposes, the church office **must receive it by MONDAY, December 30, 2019**. The office closes at 4 pm. Thank you!

### Contributions to the Jason Lee Food Bank

Through the month of November we have received donations totaling 34,666 pounds in for the Jason Lee Food Bank. By the end of November 2018 we had received 35,923 pounds of food.

Bring your donations to the stations at MICAH or in the Dining Room on any Sunday. Help make sure families have the food and nutrition they need for a healthy start to the year! Thank you, thank you!

**Thank you to all who supported the Alternative Christmas Market in December!  
It was a successful event and it wouldn't happen without the hard work of volunteers and your support!**

## Reaching Out in Service - Volunteer and Donation Opportunities

### January is Solar Month!

The Administrative Council has designated January 2020 as *Solar Month*. This is not because there are huge expectations of a bright, sunny month. It is because the Open Door Churches are preparing to install solar panels on our buildings at five locations in Salem and Keizer. You will receive lots of information about our project in January including:

- Why are we turning to solar power?
- What are the economic and social advantages for each church?
- What are the costs?
- How much money do we need to raise? (spoiler alert: \$100,000)
- Why is this a great investment for all of us to make?

You will be given the opportunity to give *boldly and generously* toward this project, so please take time for prayerful thought into the New Year about how this project is important to you, to your church, and to the world around us.

Looking forward to January!  
*Your Open Door Solar Committee*

P.S. If you don't want to wait until January to give to the solar project, we will gratefully accept your gift in 2019. Please put "Open Door Solar Project" on the memo line of your check and get it to the business office by December 30 at noon!

### Saturday of Service January 18

**Sign up online or use form insert in worship bulletin. Online sign ups begin January 2!**

**Please join us for our next Saturday of Service on Saturday, January 18, from noon to 3:00 p.m.**

Meet at the church for a light lunch and then we will divide into groups to serve our community for a couple of hours of fun and service!

This quarter's projects include helping assemble food for backpacks for schoolchildren and card-making at the church, helping at Family Building Blocks, and sorting food at the Marion Polk Food Share.

Please watch to sign up online from the church website starting January 2 or signup with a volunteer after church services on January 5 and 12.

Money is also needed to pay for food to fill the backpacks; we feed approximately 70 children with a weekend's worth of food every 3 months. Just designate a gift to Backpack Buddies and put it in the collection, send it to the church office, or donate using Square after services.

*Thank you* for all that you do to help serve our community neighbors!

***Congregations Helping People is requesting volunteers for reception or positions on the board. Please contact Becky Strader at [rebecca.strader@chpsalem.org](mailto:rebecca.strader@chpsalem.org).***

### Congregations Helping People - Think about CHP for your New Year Giving Plan

It is time to make plans for your New Year giving -- we hope that you include CHP as part of your ministry to our neighbors in the Salem-Keizer area in crisis! There is much need helping with housing, electricity, or transportation to work, to school, to medical appointments. We can also help people get essential identification for access to hiring paperwork, housing programs, establishing medical care, and obtaining medication.

Our neighbors come to us in states of illness, family brokenness, unemployment, prison release, debilitating depression, and extreme poverty. We do what we can, including listen, for our neighbors in poverty. When the funds we use come from our supporting congregations, I let the clients know that churches in Keizer and Salem provide this assistance. The list of participating churches is displayed prominently at CHP so that our clients know that you love your neighbors in this way and have a commitment to keeping CHP open.

After 13 years of assisting people, we reached the \$1,000,000 mark this month (federal and local dollars). We may be small, but we make a difference!

# OPEN DOOR CHURCHES - United Methodists of Salem-Keizer

## January Open Door Churches Youth Group Schedule

- January 5 (Sunday) - Youth Group at Keizer Clear Lake UMC, 12:30-2:00 p.m.
- January 12 (Sunday) - Youth Group at Keizer Clear Lake UMC, 12:30-2:00 p.m.
- January 18 (Saturday) - Youth volunteer at Saturdays of Service, Noon-3:00p.m. (FUMC)
- January 19 (Sunday) - No regular Youth Group meeting
- January 26 (Sunday) - Youth Group at Keizer Clear Lake UMC, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

### Save the Dates:

February 15-17 - Suttle Lake Winter Retreat  
February 22 - Youth Auction "Puttin' On The Ritz"

## Open Door Churches Young Adult Ministry

Together the Open Door Church Young Adult Group has met and shared thoughts on the future of The United Methodist Church - including sharing their hopes and fears regarding that future.

This group meets regularly and has made many connections!

Open Door Young Adults take a break at the end of December and meet again on Wednesday, January 8. Please contact Pastor Alyssa [alysabaker08@gmail.com](mailto:alysabaker08@gmail.com) or see our social media pages for times and places.

Thank you for your continued support of the Open Door Churches Young Adults. Please follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and other social media.

## Youth Auction News - Donation request

The Annual Youth Auction is Saturday, February 22, starting at 5:00 p.m. - a little earlier this year!

Join us for an evening of fun and inspiration as we support our wonderful Open Door Youth. The Auction Committee is currently seeking donations of items for our silent and live auctions. Of particular interest are experiences such as hikes, BBQs, tours, or other things to do. We thank you for all the support you give for youth ministries!

**Open Door Churches is a cooperative ministry of six United Methodist faith communities in Salem and Keizer.**



**Open Door Churches  
Youth Director**

**Rev. Jeff Lowery -**  
[revjlow@yahoo.com](mailto:revjlow@yahoo.com)

(youth group meets on at rotating locations: First UMC, Morningside UMC, and Keizer Clear Lake UMC.)

**Inglesia Metodista Unida Las Naciones**

**Rev. Arturo Fernandez (Interim)**

[salemhispanicumc@gmail.com](mailto:salemhispanicumc@gmail.com)

Worship: 12:30 p.m.

**West Salem UMC - TBA**

503-363-3035

Worship: 11:00 a.m.

**First UMC of Salem - Rev. Dan Pitney**

[dpitney@wvi.com](mailto:dpitney@wvi.com)

Worship: 8:45 & 11:15 a.m.

**Morningside UMC - Rev. Wendy Woodworth**

[pastorwendymumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwendymumc@gmail.com)

Worship: 10:00 a.m.

**Keizer Clear Lake UMC**

**Rev. Allysa Baker**

[office@kclumc.org](mailto:office@kclumc.org)

Worship: 10:00 a.m.

**Trinity UMC - Rev. Sandra Kimbrow**

[skimbrowp@gmail.com](mailto:skimbrowp@gmail.com)

Worship: 9:00 a.m.

# United Methodist Women • In Memoriam

## UMW Circle Meetings

The **Ruth Erbele Circle** will hold its January gathering at Noon on Monday, January 13, in the Carrier Room. Please contact Joan at 503-364-6204 or Emily at 503-304-4410 for information. Hope to see you there!



The **Katherine Parker Circle** will *not* meet during the months of January and February. Instead, those who wish to may join the Ruth Erbele Circle for those two months.

The Katherine Parker Circle will return to its normal time and meeting place at the church in March when the weather is better.

## UMW Mission Giving

Now that 2020 is upon us and a new year as begun, you might like to see where your pledges and donations went in 2019.

• District pledges	\$ 1,200.00
• Congregations Helping People	500.00
• Shelly's House	500.00
• Family Promise	500.00
• Nellie Thompson/Dorothy Patch Fund	500.00
• FUMC/WU Community Dinner	100.00
• Youth Summer Camp	300.00
• Hod Cook Memorial	50.00
• FUMC Backpack Buddies	500.00

*Total* \$ 4,150.00

Let's all greet 2020 with open hands, open hearts, and open minds to the future that awaits everyone, young and old alike. May the blessings of Jesus Christ be with you now and forever!

## UMW Bright Lights News of good work by UMW

The UMW Sisters of Sewing Circle at Keller UMC in Keller, Texas has formed a bond with the Congo Restoration Sewing School in Eastern Congo. Each fall and spring they teach sewing skills to 40 women.

The graduates receive a certificate, a sewing machine, and a sewing bag containing sewing notions. The Sisters of Sewing Circle makes and donates the zippered sewing bags for the graduation.

This program teaches skills to women of Eastern Congo and gives them opportunities to support themselves and their families.

Imagine evenings of storytelling, painting, drumming, and being immersed in Native American Art and you have the Native American Art Camp at Wilshire United Methodist Church Native American Fellowship (now called Great Spirit United Methodist Church) in Portland.

Funds for the camp are provided by a grant from the Isobel F. Zimmerman Fund of the Oregon-Idaho Conference United Methodist Women's Committee on Charter for Racial Justice Policies. The Zimmerman Grant is to be used for leadership development of Native Americans or African Americans or in support of a UMW foreign mission project.

### We thank God for the lives of:

#### **Marvin (Marv) Heater**

August 31, 1929 - November 30, 2019

*The Heater family has scheduled a memorial service for January 11 at 1 p.m. in the Historic Sanctuary.*

#### **Kenneth Amend**

December 29, 1940-December 1, 2019

*We hold Ryan and Aimee Larsen-Amend in our prayers, as they grieve the loss of Ryan's father.*

### The family of Richard Bennett places plaque in his memory - "How Great Thou Art" by John Richens

Doris Bennett and her family have placed a plaque designating the wall sculpture in the Dining Room as a memorial to Doris' husband, Richard Charles Bennett. The beautiful, metal wall sculpture was commissioned in his memory and has been gracing the walls of the Dining Room for many years.

**Recurring Weekly Events**

**Sunday Worship**

8:45 a.m.  
MICAHA Service  
(Contemporary)  
  
11:15 a.m.  
Sanctuary Service  
(Traditional)

**Sunday Classes**

10 a.m.

**Adults:**

- Adult Bible Study
- Prayer of the Heart
- Digging Deeper
- Modern Christian Life
- Raising Up Family

**Children:**

Ages 3 to 5th grades

**Youth:**

Ages 6th to 12th grades

For more information about events, activities, and classes, check out our Christian Education Connection booklet!



# Salem First United Methodist Church

## January 2020

For more details or updates, please check our Facebook page:  
Salem First United Methodist Church

And our web calendar at:  
[www.salemfirstumc.org](http://www.salemfirstumc.org)

NOTE: Committee members please check with your committee chairs for January meeting information

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Buildings and offices closed New Year's Eve at 1:00 p.m.; New Year's Day; & Martin Luther King Day on January 20.		<b>Dec. 31</b> New Year's Eve  Buildings and offices close at 1:00 p.m.	<b>1</b> Happy New Year!  Buildings and Offices are closed	<b>2</b> *7:30 a.m. Men's Group @ Taproot  6:30 p.m. Praise Band	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Epiphany Communion  8:45 a.m. Praise Service 11:15 a.m. Sanctuary	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 5 p.m. Bridges 5:15 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>9</b> *7:30 a.m. Men's Group @ Taproot  6:30 p.m. Praise Band	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> *FRIENDS OF TREES PLANTING ACTIVITY (see front page of newsletter for info)
<b>12</b> Worship  8:45 a.m. Praise Service 11:15 a.m. Sanctuary	<b>13</b> *Noon Erbele Circle	<b>14</b> 5:30 p.m. Trustees	<b>15</b> 11:30 a.m. Generations  5 p.m. Bridges 5:15 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>16</b> *7:30 a.m. Men's Group @ Taproot 6:30 p.m. Praise Band  7:00 p.m. Ad Council	<b>17</b> <i>SPIRE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i> FOR FEBRUARY PUBLICATION	<b>18</b> SATURDAY OF SERVICE NOON TO 3:00 P.M.
<b>19</b> Worship  8:45 a.m. Praise Service 11:15 a.m. Sanctuary	<b>20</b> Buildings and Offices closed for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 5 p.m. Bridges 5:15 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>23</b> *7:30 a.m. Men's Group @ Taproot  6:30 p.m. Praise Band	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Worship  8:45 a.m. Praise Service 11:15 a.m. Sanctuary Service	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 5 p.m. Bridges 5:15 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>30</b> *7:30 a.m. Men's Group @ Taproot 6:30 p.m. Praise Band	<b>31</b>	(*indicates off-site)



**First United Methodist Church**  
600 State Street  
Salem, OR 97301

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
P A I D  
Salem, Ore  
Permit No. 99

Name or current resident:

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**Location**..... Corner of Church and State Streets in Salem, Oregon  
**Phone**..... 503-364-6709  
**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**

**Ray Lewallen**  
**Melissa Berry**

**Pastor**

**The Rev. Dan Pitney**

**Director of Open Door Churches Youth Ministries**

**The Rev. Jeff Lowery**

**Director of Christian Education**

**Heather Ingersoll**

**Director of Music Ministries & Sanctuary Choir**

**Aimée Larsen-Amend**

**Director of Mission Bells**

**Glenda Serex**

**Director of Praise Band/CrossFire Youth Band**

**Jennie Pitney**

**Organist/Choral Accompanist**

**Jon Stuber**

**Children’s Choir Directors**

**Sarah Pitney-Torres**  
**Courtney Karns**

**Director of Congregational Life**

**Rachel Joy**

**Childcare Coordinator**

**Christina Gordon**

**Church Administrator**

**Kathy Pressler**

**Business Administrator**

**Judy Allen**

**Front Office/Publications**

**Katie Carpenter**

**Stephen Ministry Coordinator**

**Fran Eriksen**

**Campus Custodian**

**Adam Somodi**

**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).

**2020 Spire deadlines:**

February issue -- January 17  
 March issue -- February 14

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*.

