

Our Vision: Here at the heart of Beaverton, Christ calls us to feed our community, body, mind and Spirit.



Our Mission: Knowing that our works change our community and ourselves, we seek to ensure that no one in the Beaverton area goes hungry, investigate the teachings of Christ through research and communion with others, and respectfully share the love of God with all.

The Witness

December, 2015

Pastor's Message

 "Hark the Herald, Angels Sing!" That's my favorite Christmas carol! But, I also love "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "What Child is This?" And, of course, "O Come, All Ye Faithful!" I first learned to sing in Latin while singing "O Come, All Ye Faithful!" Don't you just long to be among the faithful coming to the stable when you sing those words?! But, wait! "Joy to the World!" Christmas Eve is never complete until we've sung "Joy to the World!" And I love, "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "He is Born," "God Rest Ye, Merry, Gentlemen," "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice," "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"...

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas! Yes! I have Christmas carols on my mind, and for very good reason! "Carols of the Season!" is the theme for this Advent and Christmas season. Part of the great joy of this season is the music. The carols reach deep inside us and bring to the surface memories and emotions we seem to feel only at this time of year.

For example, I never sing "Angels We Have Heard on High" without hearing my sister, Nancy and I, singing that song together, in harmony, when we were both teenagers. Years later, Nancy was truly my angel when she chose to donate stem cells to me so I could have a life-saving stem cell

transplant. Was it a coincidence that the song we used to sing together was "Angels We Have Heard on High," or was that a "God-thing," God's way of letting us know how close to the angels we really are?

The songs celebrating Christ's birth are songs of deep and abiding faith – the belief that Jesus came into our world for a reason. We become somewhat jaded, I think, by the hustle and bustle of the season and too often sing the words of these familiar songs without really hearing them or taking into account their deeper meaning. So this year we're going to sing them AND look into their meaning and why they are such a cause for joy!

Perhaps the most famous, and most familiar story behind a carol is, "Silent Night." On a Snowy Christmas Eve in a beautiful little church in the Austrian village of Oberndorf, the local priest, Joseph Mohr had a problem. The pipe organ was broken (mice!). Mohr had written an inspirational poem about the birth of Christ and he took it to a local music teacher and church organist who wrote a simple tune which he could accompany on his guitar and *voila!* "Silent Night!" A simple story, familiar and famous, yet it always touches a deep place in individual's faiths. Look, and feel carefully, the words of the third verse,

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face

With dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus Lord, at Thy birth,
 Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

It is the ancient story, and the truth.
 It is the story found again and again in
 Christmas carols new and old. God has
 sent us the light of love, redeeming grace,
 unconditional forgiveness, eternal peace for
 soul and mind. But not because we deserve
 it. Jesus' coming is God's great act of
 compassion and mercy for the people that
 God loves. It is given, just as all such gifts
 are given, without any strings attached, just
 because we need it so desperately.

Come celebrate with me the greatest
 Christmas gift of all, in poem and music,
 the gift of love!

On The Path Together,
 Pastor Kathy



Gift Cards for the Students at Merlo Station High School

Risk Taking Missions has decorated the Giving Tree with gift card ornaments! This is a reminder for those that wish to purchase a gift card for the homeless/needy students at Merlo Station High School. Gift cards in any amount from **Fred Meyer and/or Target** will be collected each Sunday until December 13, 2015. The cards may also be dropped by the office until Wednesday, December 16. We will take the gift cards to Geri, the coordinator at Merlo Station. Geri will distribute them to the students to buy food, shoes, personal items, school

supplies or whatever they may desperately need. Last year BFUMC's contribution to this Giving Tree was \$1,085. Our special star on the Giving Tree is from those students we helped. Please take a card off the tree to remind yourself to pick one up as you are out Christmas shopping this season. BFUMC is the only one helping these students at Merlo Station. We can make a difference with this Christmas Blessing.



Birthdays



Kali Taufouu	12/09
Dan Gray	12/10
Patti Guptill	12/10
Lois Newton	12/11
Tupou Taufouu	12/12
Marc Muramatsu	12/13
Mary Beth Elliott	12/14
Barbara Berger	12/15
Norman Berger	12/18
Jeanne Fast	12/20
Andy Wilson	12/23
Ken Anderson	12/27
Yarrow Stampley	12/30
Phyllis Conant	12/31

Anniversaries



Neal Haines & Pat Lidrich 12/24



Tuesday December 8th will be our church's day to volunteer for Meals on Wheels at Elsie Stuhr Senior Center. Drivers should be at the Elsie Stuhr Center at 10:00 AM. Please call Pat Tervooren at 503-644-7475 for information regarding this program

Food Pantry "Item of the Month"

Thank you for continuing to take note of the "item of the month" and placing them in the large basket located in the Fireside Room. Your donations are much needed food items that are given to **Merlo Station HighSchoolers** who are experiencing very difficult times.

December Item:
Instant Oatmeal – Single Serving Packets

Don't Forget ...

The Beaverton Tree Lighting – December 4
Help us "Celebrate with Cider"

The Beaverton Christmas Tree Lighting is a favorite tradition in our community and Beaverton First UMC is located right at the heart of it all. We have started our own tradition - our annual Hot Cider Booth where we offer a warm drink on a cool evening, beginning at 4:30 PM.

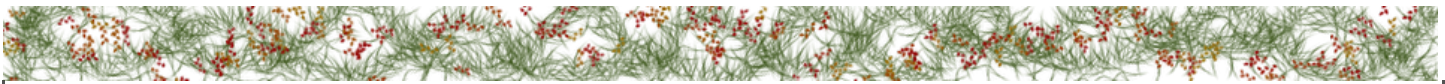


It's a great opportunity to get involved with our community and make new friends!

If you would like to help, please come to the church to join us. We will be setting up and warming the cider from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM. Serving the cider starts at 4:30 PM.

You may also help by bringing cider to the church at any time! **We will need lots of help and lots of cider!**

This event is great fun and we hope you will be there!



December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 2:30 PM Christian Education Team Meeting	2 10:00 AM Missions Team Meeting 7:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal 7:30 PM Te Deum Choir Practice	3	4 Pastor Kathy's Sabbath 3:30 PM Celebrate with Cider - Beaverton Tree Lighting	5
6 Second Sunday of Advent 10:30 AM Sunday Worship 12:00 PM Seafood Lunch	7	8 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels	9 7:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal 7:30 PM Te Deum Choir Practice	10 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting	11 Pastor Kathy's Sabbath	12 3:00 PM Annual Holiday Concert!
13 Third Sunday of Advent 10:30 AM Sunday Worship	14 2:00 PM Hospitality Team Meeting 6:30 PM Finance Team Meeting	15	16 7:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal 7:30 PM Te Deum Choir Practice	17	18 Pastor Kathy's Sabbath	19
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:30 AM Sunday Worship	21	22	23 7:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal 7:30 PM Te Deum Choir Practice	24 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Early) 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Late)	25 Christmas Day Pastor Kathy's Sabbath	26
27 10:30 AM Sunday Worship	28 Church Office Closed for Year End 6:30 PM SPRC Meeting	29 Church Office Closed for Year End	30 Church Office Closed for Year End 7:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal 7:30 PM Te Deum Choir Practice	31 Church Office Closed for Year End	1 Happy New Year 	2