



# Outreach

January 2016



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. — Matthew 2:1-12

## Scriptures for January

January 3—Matthew 2:1-12 • January 10—Luke 3:21-22 • January 17—1 Corinthians 12:1-11 • January 24—Ephesians 5:15-20 • January 31—Luke 4:21-30

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united methodist church

*growing closer to God*

**Our Identity** *Standing together hopeful, thankful, worshipful* • **Our Mission** *A loving, welcoming Christian community moving closer to God* • **Our Vision** *A Christ-centered, multi-generational family that values: faith-filled worship, spiritual growth, mission outreach, celebrating individual's gifts*

**open hearts, open minds, open doors**



A Reconciling Congregation

**Montavilla United Methodist Church**

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# Thoughts From Our Pastor

I never was much of a drinker. A beer before bed, on occasion, if I thought I would have trouble sleeping. A glass of wine at a party, or maybe one at home if we were having a fancy dinner. But all things being equal, my consumption of intoxicants would never have registered on anybody's list of prayer concerns.

Still, if I am completely honest, I always felt just a little uncomfortable when I drank. Alcoholism exists in my family, and somewhere along the way, I had picked up a few disturbing habits. For example, I heard once that an alcoholic always knows what drinks are in a room. When Elizabeth and I were with friends, I could close my eyes, at any time, and tell you exactly how much was in every glass. And if someone were to get up to leave and his or her glass was not drained, it would get under my skin. I also can never remember having one beer where a part of me didn't want a second, though I seldom indulged.

On my first Sunday at Lincoln Street church, one of the old guard came up to me and asked if I had ever "taken the pledge." I had no idea what he meant. He explained that, knowing I was a Presbyterian, he wasn't sure if I, like all Methodist pastors were once required, had ever pledged not to drink alcohol. I said I had not, and he countered, "Would you?"

It's been over fifteen years since I've had a glass of wine or an alcoholic beer. I will take communion in an



submitted by Rev. Tim Winslea



Episcopal church, use cooking wine, have a non-alcoholic brew, and gargle with mouth wash. Not being an alcoholic, I don't worry if the cider has sat in the fridge a day or two after being opened. Still, I consider myself "temperate." And temperance has been a great gift in my life. Simply put, if you don't have the first drink, you don't have to struggle with the question about the second. It's also nice not noticing how much is left in your glass.

There was a time when the Methodist church was known for its clear, simple theology about intoxicants. Yes, perhaps we were a little too judgmental and strident. But just because we were not always temperate in our temperance doesn't mean we should toss out the baby with the bubbly. Whether or not you ever choose to "take the pledge" is entirely up to you. However, it is still the church's duty to ask you, on occasion, to consider it.

In line with that I am pleased that we will have Michelle Mannix in worship with us on January 24. Michelle teaches mental health and addiction recovery for Portland Community College and had been a case manager at Central City Concern, before coming to work at St. Vincent Medical Center. I have had the great pleasure of working beside her for close to six years, and I encourage you to invite anyone whom you think might be interested to join us for worship on the 24th.  
—Blessings, Timothy

## UMW Corner

submitted by Janice Stevens

January is Montavilla United Methodist Women's month. We will highlight the mission work of UMW through the years, as well as the amazing work done by our own women. UMW members will usher, greet, read scripture, and on Sunday, January 3, conduct worship service. On Sunday, January 17, the newly-elected officers for 2016 will be consecrated during worship service.



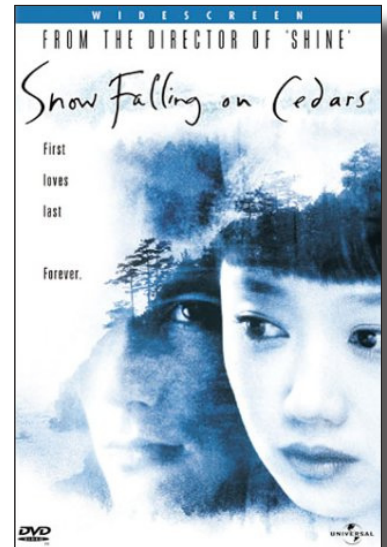
All women who have received Special Membership pins are invited to wear them during the month.

UMW Circle Meetings: Tuesday, 1/5 Simple Gifts at the MUMC library, 6:00PM • Wednesday, 1/6 Mary Circle, location to be announced, 10:00AM • Wednesday, 1/6 Martha/Miriam Circle at the MUMC library, 10:00AM • Sunday, 1/17 Lydia Circle at MUMC, 9:00AM

# Jesus at the Movies

Montavilla UMC will host a screening of the film *Snow Falling on Cedars* on Wednesday, January 20. Ethan Hawke stars as a local newspaper reporter covering a murder trial in a small, fictional Pacific Northwest town in 1950. The defendant is a Japanese-American man, accused of murdering a local fisherman against whom he carried a grudge over property confiscated during the period of internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. His wife was the reporter's high-school sweetheart; theirs was a romance which might have blossomed if the war had not intervened. The film uses flashbacks, overlapping dialogue, half-understood events, and flashes of memory to weave a powerful tale about the persistence of hate and the power of love. The running time is 127 minutes.

*Jesus at the Movies* is an educational program of Montavilla UMC. This year's selections focus on ordinary people growing in faith, grace, and understanding as they engage with social, cultural, and justice issues. Film screenings are regularly held on the third Wednesday of the month at 6PM in the church library. Please feel free to bring a snack and to invite a friend. Discussion follows each screening.



# WOW (With or Without) Group Event

The January WOW event will occur on Saturday, January 9, with our annual Game Night at the Shirley's house. This is a kid-friendly event and will start at 6:00PM. Please bring an appetizer to share, as well as any drinks you would like (there will be soda and sparkling water). Also, bring any games you think our group would enjoy playing! Please RSVP to event coordinator Kate Shirley at [katefshirley@gmail.com](mailto:katefshirley@gmail.com). *Coming up next month: Bowling & Dinner! Are you interested in being a member of this group? The coordinators for the WOW group at MUMC are Kate Shirley and Lisa Johnson; please contact one of them if you have questions.*



# Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program

submitted by Turella Woods

You can help Montavilla United Methodist Church earn money just by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card! Each year Fred Meyer donates \$2.5 million dollars to non-profits in Alaska, Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Here is how the program works: If you have an existing Rewards Card with Fred Meyer, go to [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards). Sign in with your password and email address; click on your name in the top right hand corner; scroll down to Community Awards and enter our MUMC account number 80249.

If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store. Every time you show and use your Rewards Card, you are helping MUMC earn a donation. You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points and Rebates, just as you have been doing. If you have questions, please see Turella Woods. Each quarter when our church receives their part of this \$2.5 million, we will let you know as we watch our donations grow!



**Scrip:** Have you ever thought of using scrip to purchase items for our Open Hearts Food Pantry? If you buy Fred Meyer, Safeway, Albertsons or New Seasons scrip, then use it to purchase food for the pantry, the church receives a portion and the pantry receives food! A great way to do two terrific things at the same time. Scrip orders are sent in the first Monday morning of the month through the church office. It's easy to pick up a form in the folder in the library, fill it out, attach your check, and put it in the file for "completed" scrip orders. Your scrip cards will be delivered to you the following Sunday. Any questions, please see the church office.

MONTAVILLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CALENDAR—JANUARY 2016



WELCOME TO THIS PLACE OF REST, LAUGHTER, AND GROWTH.

WE COME HERE BECAUSE OUR QUESTIONS ARE RESPECTED, OUR INSIGHTS ARE ENCOURAGED, AND OUR HUNGER FOR MISSION IS SHARED.

MEMBERS OF THIS COMMUNITY— WHO INCLUDE PEOPLE OF VARIOUS ETHNIC GROUPS, INCOME LEVELS, LEVELS OF ABILITY, RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS, SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS, AND GENDER IDENTITIES— INVITE YOU TO MAKE THIS YOUR HOME.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2
3 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:00am) WORSHIP, COMMUNION, CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL, & YOUTH GROUP (10:30am)  SCRIP ORDERS DUE	4 BROWN BAG LUNCH BIBLE STUDY (12:00pm)  BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING (7:00pm)	5 SIMPLE GIFTS @ MUMC LIBRARY (6:00pm)	6 EPIPHANY UMW CIRCLES MEETINGS (10:00am)  MISSION COMMITTEE MEETING (6:30pm)	7 CHOIR (7:00pm)	8 XYZ GROUP MEETING (12:00pm)	9 M&M PLANNING POTLUCK (12:00pm)
10 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:00am) WORSHIP & MONTAVILLA SINGERS (10:30am) SPRC MEETING (11:45am) SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH	11 CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING (6:00pm)	12 PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE MEETING (7:00pm)	13	14 CHOIR (7:00pm)	15 OPEN HEARTS FOOD PANTRY (5:00-6:00pm)	16 OPEN HEARTS FOOD PANTRY (10:00am-12:00pm)
17 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL & LYDIA CIRCLE (9:00am) WORSHIP, CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL, & YOUTH GROUP (10:30am) FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING (11:45am) OUTREACH ENTRIES DUE	18 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY OBSERVED	19	20 UMW BOARD MEETING (10:00am)  UMW BOOK GROUP (1:15pm)  FINDING JESUS @ THE MOVIES (6:00pm)	21 CHOIR (7:00pm)	22	23
24 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:00am) WORSHIP & MONTAVILLA SINGERS (10:30am)	25	26	27 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING (6:00pm) TAIZÉ SERVICE (7:30pm)	28 CHOIR (7:00pm)	29	30
31 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:00am) WORSHIP, CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL, & YOUTH GROUP (10:30am) FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCK						

PLEASE CHECK THE CHURCH WEBSITE ([www.montavillaumc.org](http://www.montavillaumc.org)) FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION, AS WELL AS EVENT DESCRIPTIONS AND LOCATIONS.

# 2016 General Conference

from the Oregon-Idaho General Conference  
(For more information, and to read the entire letter, go to <http://www.umoi.org>)

Portland is going to be hosting one of the most significant events in United Methodism. As you may have heard, the General Conference, the policy making body of our entire denomination, is coming to Portland in 2016 for the first time in 40 years. The Conference will bring together as many as 5,000 United Methodists from all over the world. They will meet May 10-20 at the Oregon Convention Center. While they are here, they also will be exploring Portland and worshiping at local churches. This is a great opportunity for you and your church to be involved in a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Here's how:

- Volunteer to help host the event. There are many roles we will play in providing that extravagant sense of hospitality and welcome that the northwest is known for. You can volunteer online at [gc2016pdx.org](http://gc2016pdx.org).
- Invite people to worship at your church on May 15, Pentecost, or May 8 for early arrivals.
- Participate in General Conference Volunteers Sunday on November 22. (Details will come in a separate message.)

Now is not too soon to begin planning. We are already getting inquiries from people about their time in Portland.

What an amazing opportunity we have to participate in our church's General Conference, and to interact with our brothers and sisters in faith. Thank you for your interest. God bless.

William R. Haden, Chair, General Conference 2016 Host Committee

Rev. Tim Overton-Harris, Coordinator, City Services Team



## Joys

We are filled with the joy of the Christmas season and the anticipation of blessings to come in the new year.

## Concerns

We lift up Kelley Hanrahan, who is recuperating after receiving a pacemaker last month, and Verlene Ross, who recently suffered a heart attack and is recuperating at the home of her son.

## Thank You

I wish to extend special thanks to all my friends at Montavilla United Methodist Church for the beautiful cards I received recently, when my husband passed away unexpectedly, as well as for your prayers and comforting phone calls. I am so grateful! (Also, thank you for the birthday celebration at HomeTown Buffet.)—Kathy Minger

Thank you all very much for the gala event at Hometown Buffet for my 90th birthday. I so appreciate all of you and thank God constantly for leading me to such a wonderful church.—Wanda Adams

Jennifer and Joe Greenley would like to thank everyone who contributed to their wedding gift fund. They were both surprised and humbled by your thoughtfulness and generosity.

## Spirit Alive: Sometimes it Just Takes a Word

by Lowell Greathouse, retrieved from <http://www.umoi.org/blogdetail/2788707>

With Heart, Soul, and Mind Holiness in a Single Word: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." —John 1:1

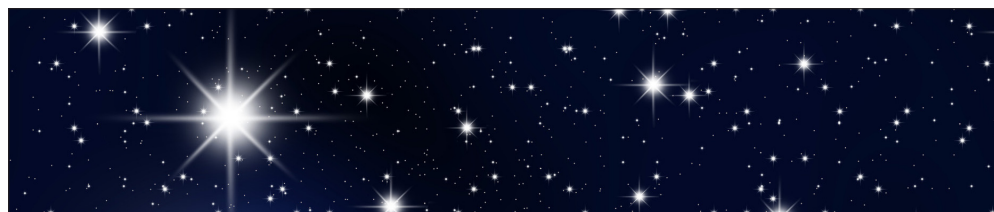
Sometimes less is more. Perhaps this is why the exhausting commercialization of Christmas simply doesn't ring true within our spirits. Words matter, and sometimes we use too many of them. I'm often guilty of this.

The ancient Japanese tradition of haiku can provide a breath of fresh air within us and create a moment for the mind to stop and the heart to open. It is said that to appreciate haiku you must not rush the words. As Margaret McGee writes in her book *Haiku-- the sacred art: A Spiritual Practice in Three Lines*: "As a listener, it's your job to simply be present with an open heart and hear what's offered." Good advice when contemplating the gift of "the Word made flesh" as well.

Consider these words from one of the pioneers of American haiku, Raymond Roseliep:

*birthcry!*  
*the stars*  
*are all in place*

Blessings on your journey, Lowell



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3 Candy Siel
- 6 Kathleen Baker
- 6 Barb Kaiser
- 7 Nancy Burge
- 10 Paul Walker
- 12 Bob Simonis
- 12 Trent Wilson
- 14 Leroy Johnson
- 14 Willie Olandria
- 16 Karen Edmonds
- 16 Ben Shirley
- 17 Ellen Duffield
- 18 Diana & Rich Smith-Covey
- 21 Michael Johnson
- 25 Kate Fine
- 27 Tony Slaven
- 31 Dick Green
- 31 Maxine Kaer



# A New Year, New Beginnings for the Christian Steward

from The International Catholic Stewardship Council, retrieved from catholicstewardship.com

The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3000 years. The start of a New Year gives us the feeling of a fresh start, a new beginning, and new opportunities. It is a time when people feel that they can begin anew with their lives. Common New Year's resolutions are to lose weight, exercise more and eat healthier; or to spend more time with family. Still others include managing money better and being more organized.

Although there is nothing in the Bible or notable in Christian tradition about New Year's resolutions, many good stewards take advantage of this time of year to become closer to the Lord. They may re-commit themselves to pray more, to read the Bible, or to attend Mass more regularly. If you are looking for some helps in your New Year's resolutions, here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Practice gratitude – Cultivating a grateful heart is the hallmark of a Christian steward. Every day, express thankfulness to the Lord and to others. Seeing the good in your life will allow you to keep your heart compassionate and loving.
- Encounter the Lord each day – Find time to be with the Lord each day, whether it be for an hour or ten minutes. Have a conversation with the Lord. Give your joys and worries to Him as well. Allow God's love to transform them. Our encounters will keep our eyes and ears open to the presence of Christ in our midst.
- Be present to others – There is much celebration and mourning, joy and sorrow in peoples' lives. What a blessing it is to be able to share those times and not let others experience them alone. The gift of your presence to others is much more valuable than you realize.
- Resist overwork – There is a pressure to produce, meet goals, be successful. But activities that lead us to overwork, constant fatigue and worry do not give glory to God. What God calls us to do we can do well. Be mindful that life requires balance, down time and letting go of unrealistic goals.
- Nurture friendships – Our friends are those we choose to be with, those with whom we spend our evenings, with whom we vacation, to whom we go to for advice. Friends are gifts from God who give us a greater appreciation of God's love for us. Friends need our time and love.
- Give more – Good stewards realize that everything they have is entrusted to them as gift to be shared. There is no better place to begin than sharing with the community that gathers around the Lord's table at Mass. Consider what you are giving to your parish and local diocese and commit to an even greater contribution as circumstances allow.
- Make a difference in your parish community – Believe it or not, your parish community can use your talents. Offering your talents to your faith community is one of the most effective ways to feel useful and connected to others, and it is a potentially life-changing New Year's resolution.
- Consider living more simply – We cannot find fulfillment in possessions. They add nothing to our self-worth. Jesus blessed the "poor in spirit" in his Sermon on the Mount; and Saint Francis of Assisi urged us to live with only what was necessary, for that is how we begin to find God.
- Get healthy – Studies show that most people in North America are accelerating their own decline into premature old age, owing to poor diet and lack of physical activity. Be a good steward of your body. Plan a complete overhaul of your diet and exercise habits.
- Don't give up – People give up their New Year's resolutions because of perfectionism and unrealistic expectations. So take it slow, be kind to yourself and keep trying. Resist the urge to throw your hands up and quit. You succeed through small, manageable changes over time.
- Turn to the Lord – Ask the Lord for guidance, strength and perseverance in achieving your resolutions. In his letter to the Philippians, Saint Paul writes: "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" (Phil 4:13). If God is the center of our New Year's resolutions, they have a better chance for success.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# January 2016



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## Church Staff

**Pastor**, Rev. Tim Winslea  
**Director of Music**, Barton Rippe  
**Administrative Assistant**, Christopher Gunther  
**Children's Choir Director**, Audrey Voon  
**Youth Director**, Jennifer Greenley  
**Child Care Providers**,  
Sharon Nellist, Pre-K to Grade 1  
Cassidy Cortez, Grade 2 to 5  
JoAnna Taylor, Nursery Care  
**Outreach Editor**, Kate Shirley

## Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00AM to 1:00PM  
Pastor available other hours by appointment

