

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

Dec. 26, 2017

Stanwood United Methodist Church
27128 - 102nd Drive NW

Mail to PO Box 296

Stanwood, Washington 98292

Phone: 629-9555, M-Thursday, 10-4

Email: sumc@stanwoodumc.org

Website: www.stanwoodumc.org

Daniel K. Sailer	Pastor
Carol Fullagar	Office Manager
Mary Lu Conley	Pianist
Jeff Highland	Organist
Nancy High	Choir Director
Kris Johnson	A/V Tech
Linda James	Nursery
Carl Libbey	Bookkeeper
Kristina Wiederhold	Volunteer Safety Officer

Stanwood United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 296
Stanwood, WA 98292

Return Service Requested

Non Profit Org.
Postage Paid
Stanwood, WA
Permit #22

Worship Service Hours

9:00AM	Traditional Worship Service in the Sanctuary
10:00AM	Fellowship Time
10:45AM	Contemporary Worship Service in Wesley Hall with refreshments. Children's Church also during this time.

DECEMBER

Roberta Danielson	1
Jim Meicho	12
Linda James	13
Bob Cole	19
Susan Cole	26
Marcia Campbell	29
Kim Hanlon	30
Helga Moran	30



JANUARY

Pat Logen	3	Janet White	20
Nolan Mongar	3	Lorel Bresko	22
Donna Kallicott	5	Reg Head	27
Kathy McKee	7	Lucy Armstrong	29
Scott Cole	10	Jeff Highland	29
Mary Margaret Haugen	14		



Stanwood United Methodist Church

"A Progressive Church for Thinking People"

December 2017

The Messenger



The mission of Stanwood United Methodist Church is to love and honor God by committing our lives to Jesus Christ and inviting others to this commitment.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

A December to Remember! Sunday, December 3, is the First Sunday of Advent

There are many events for church members to attend this month. Let's list them in chronological order so we don't miss any of them:

First, our annual Neighborhood Christmas Party at The Floyd Norgaard Center, Friday, December 8, starting at 6:30pm. The community is invited for a lovely meal (provided by us), so please make a generous main dish, side dish, salad or dessert for the party.

The Fellowship Committee is in full swing, making sure decorations are up, gifts are wrapped and everything is ready for the big night. Each child will get to spend a few minutes with Santa and each child will receive a gift. Church members are asked to contribute an unwrapped gift suitable for infant to youth (about 12 years old). Thank you for your donations of wrapping paper; it looks like we have plenty now, but are still in need of green or red ribbon. Deadline for gifts and ribbon is Sunday, December 3. You may leave gifts and ribbon in the Christmas box in the narthex. Please invite your family and friends to this Christmas celebration!

On Saturday, December 9 at 2:00pm, the Stanwood/Camano Chorale will perform their Christmas concert here. The Stanwood-Camano Chorale, with small ensemble Trouvere, will present "Christmas Down Under". The director is Steve Jensen. A free-will offering will be gratefully received. The public is always invited.

Next, our annual Musicale will be on Sunday, December 10. We will have one combined service at 9:00am. This is an all-music service that has long been a tradition in December. The Handbell Choir and others will play. If you would like to participate, please contact our Choir Director, Nancy High.

You won't want to miss **Pastor Dan's annual Open House on Saturday, December 16 from 1-4pm.** His dining room table will be loaded with all the good things you want to eat this time of year! Christmas carols will be playing from his sound system and there will be plenty of time to chat with other guests and admire the tree and decorations. Christmas sweaters optional, but always fun. A good time awaits all!

Blue Christmas will be held this year on Thursday, December 21 at 2PM. This worship service is for those experiencing grief and other personal pain. During this season of joy and celebration, many who are dealing with the loss of a loved one, family crisis, health or financial issues, may not feel the joy in the holidays. This service acknowledges their loss while also being a time of reflection and remembrance.

Worship services at 9:00am and 10:45am on Sunday, December 24th. **And then the two lovely candle light services held that evening, December 24, at 5:30pm and 9:00pm.** The 5:30pm service will be in Wesley Hall and is a casual service for families and children. The 9:00pm service will be held in the sanctuary and is a traditional service. Special music by Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir.

**Financial Report
Through October 2017**

	October	Year to date
Income	\$18,570	\$166,079
Expenses	\$17,839	\$177,245
Net Income	\$ 731	\$ -11,166

Year to date gross income of \$166,079 was over budget by \$9,199.

Year to date expenses of \$177,245 were under budget by \$402.

Year to date net Income of -\$11,166 compared to a budgeted net income of -\$19,963 reflects a better than budgeted year-to-date position, although it does reflect a substantial shortfall. Our checking account balance at Coastal Community Bank at the end of the month was \$20,239.89. We currently have \$42,161.09 in reserves at the Northwest United Methodist Foundation. Reported by Annette Slaybaugh, Finance Chair

Volunteer at the Food Bank!

Pastor Dan's ConneXion Group has begun volunteering at the Food Bank once a month. They have found it fulfilling, needed and enjoyable. They are inviting anyone from the congregation to join them in volunteering during Advent, especially during this season of giving. Join them on the first Thursday of the month for one hour, 1-2:00pm. Tasks vary each month. If you'd like to participate, just meet at the church at 1:00pm on the first Thursday.



Communication!! Volunteer Opportunities in the Church

With so many activities going on within committees, ConneXion Groups, and by individuals, the Missions' Committee thought it would be wonderful to communicate to the congregation those activities and any need for supplies or volunteers by posting that information on the Mission's board.

If you are coordinating an activity and you need help, volunteers, or items donated, please post that information on the Mission's board. The Missions Committee will be putting up a list of current activities and who to contact to rally support and volunteers and provide a venue where members of the congregation would enjoy looking at the many activities currently happening in the church and explore a list of volunteer opportunities.



United Methodist Men

Our next meeting will be Saturday, December 9 at 8:00am in the dining room of the Suites at Josephine. Enjoy a complimentary breakfast and good fellowship. This month we will take a Christmas offering to be donated to the Resource Center which provides help to so many.

Did you know. . . UM Men recently donated money to purchase a new drum set for the Contemporary Service. Many thanks to Ed Johnson who researched the purchase and personally contributed as well.

We always meet the second Saturday of the month at Josephine. We hope you can join us regularly!

Dick Black, President



Our Condolences. . .

Sadly, two of our members passed recently: Ray Useldinger on November 19 and Anna Lee Lund on November 23.

Anna Lee's service will be here Thursday, December 7 at noon.

Ray's service will be here on Sunday, December 17 at 1:30pm.



Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 13 at 11:30am. The Out-To-Lunch Bunch will join us for our Christmas Party. This will be a potluck, so please bring a dish to share.

UM Women Wish Everyone A Merry Christmas!



United Methodist Women's Books Are In!

Several new books in the UMW Reading Program are in the church library available for checkout. They can be found on the cart. Be sure to sign the books out and put the cards in the small box. Here is some info on the books.

Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism: Theologian and blogger Drew Hart places everyday acts of racism within the larger framework of white supremacy. Hart offers concrete practices for churches that seek solidarity with the oppressed and are committed to racial justice.

The Book of Joy: written by the Dalai Lama and Bishop Desmond Tutu, because of their years of exile and hardships they are the most joyful people on the planet. These great leaders offer the reflection of people who have discovered a level of peace, of courage, and joy to which we can all aspire.

Hiding in the Light (Why I Risked Everything to Leave Islam and Follow Jesus): Rifqa Bary recounts events leading up to her decision to leave home, and consider what it means to sacrifice for faith. We have to ask ourselves how far we would go to live out what we believe.

On Pluto: Inside the Mind of Alzheimer's: Author Greg O'Brien, diagnosed with Early-Onset Alzheimer's, reported this monster of a disease that is akin to having a sliver of your brain shaved off every day.

50 Women Every Christian Should Know: Women who have boldly stepped out in faith and courage leaving their indelible mark on those around and on the kingdom of God, from pioneers to women of today.

Growing Peace: a story of farming, music, and religious harmony: Why should people be enemies because of their religions? A Ugandan musician and coffee farmer was in New York on 9/11/2001. He finds a way to share goals and a cooperative venture between Jewish, Muslim, and Christian families.



Generous Advent Giving for Interfaith Family Shelter

For the past two years during Advent, our church members have given much needed items for the Interfaith Family Shelter *Welcome* and *Best Wishes* boxes. We are again asking our members to provide these essential items for the Welcome Boxes that are given to the homeless families entering the shelter and then for the *Best Wishes* boxes after they have found more permanent housing.

We are celebrating the completion of five years of service to the Family Shelter. During those years, we have provided 148 Welcome boxes and 127 Best Wishes boxes!

Our congregation members have provided a different item on each of the four Sundays in Advent. This year we are asking for the following items:

The first Sunday, December 10, we are asking for a set of towels (wash cloth, hand towel and bath towel)

December 17, a computer flash drive

December 24, an oral thermometer and 10 postage stamps

You may give these items on any one of the four Sundays in Advent. At a recent delivery of the *Best Wishes* boxes, the director of the shelter said how much these boxes mean to the people living there. They look forward to receiving their boxes!