

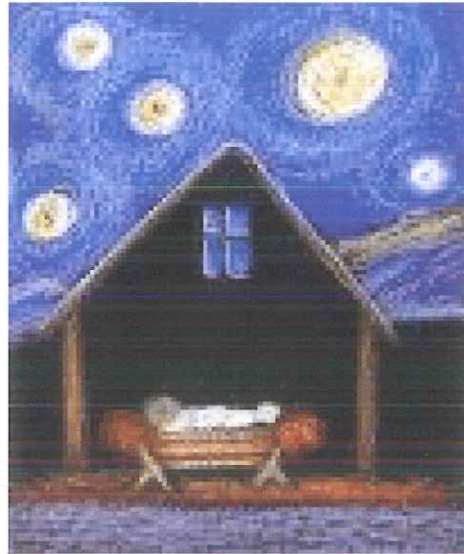
# Advent Harbinger

Medford First Christian Church

*(Disciples of Christ)*

November 16, 2017

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| Sat., Nov. 25 | Gather the Greens, meet in the church parking lot at 9:00 AM   |
| Sat., Dec. 2  | Prepare the Greens, meet in the narthex at 10:00 AM  |
| Sat., Dec. 2  | Elders Christmas Party, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM at Brian's house, for all Elders  |
| Sun., Dec. 3  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Peace Sunday, Hanging of the Greens during worship   |
| Sun., Dec. 10 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Christmas Special Offering received during worship, Church Christmas Party following worship                                   |
| Sun., Dec 17  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Christmas Special Offering received during worship, Kid's Swim Party, 4:00 PM at the Pastor's house, all children are invited! |
| Sun., Dec. 24 | Christmas Sunday, morning worship at 10:30 AM, Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 PM  |
| Mon., Dec. 25 | Christmas Day!   |
| Sun., Dec. 31 | Service of Carols, 10:30 AM  |
| Sun., Jan. 7  | Epiphany Sunday  |

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We are making new Chrismons!

Over the next few weeks we will be gathering after worship to make new Chrismons for the Chrismon tree. Each week we will focus on two or three of the symbols in order to fill up the tree. Join us during coffee hour on November 26th and December 3rd.

## Season of Advent at MFCC

### Gathering of the Greens

**Saturday, November 25. Meet at the church by 9 a.m.**

Everyone is invited to head to the hills and collect greenery which will be used to decorate our sanctuary during Advent.

### Preparation of the Greens

**Saturday, December 2, narthex, 10:00 a.m.**

All are invited to help assemble the wreath and boughs that will hang in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall during Advent. Bring gardening gloves, a long sleeve "work" shirt, and pruners if you have them.

### First Sunday of Advent

**December 3, 10:30 a.m.**

Join us for worship on the First Sunday of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

### Hanging of the Greens

**First Sunday of Advent, December 3, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service**

There will be a festive procession and hanging of the evergreen wreath and boughs, placement of poinsettias, and hanging ornaments on the Christmas tree. Invite your family and friends to this glorious decoration in preparation of our Lord's birth!

### Peace Sunday

**First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 10:30 a.m.**

All Disciples congregations are encouraged to focus on the call from the Prince of Peace to be peacemakers.

### Christmas Special Offering

**Sundays, December 10 & 17**

Your gifts go toward the work and ministry of our region.

### All Church Christmas Party

**Second Sunday of Advent, December 10, following worship in the Fellowship Hall**

This is a wonderful event to invite your friends and family to. There will fun activities for all ages, including making cards for our Dear Hearts, caroling, and a visit from Santa Claus.

### Christmas Sunday

### Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24

We will celebrate the approaching birth of baby Jesus in our 10:30 a.m. worship service.

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Sunday, December 24, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

Join in this beautiful service of joy, peace, and hope. Light a candle, pray, sing, and reflect on the coming of our Lord Jesus. Invite your family and friends!

### Merry Christmas

**Monday, December 25**

Celebrate the birth of our Savior and mentor, Jesus Christ!



### A Sunday of Carols

**Sunday, December 31, 10:30 a.m.**

Join us for a service filled with carols of the season. Our Chancel Choir will take the Sunday off, and the congregation will enjoy a carol fest.

### Epiphany Sunday

**January 7, 10:30 a.m.**



Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of God to the world and the journey of the magi, as well as the baptism, life and ministry of Jesus.

### Music of the Season

Our Chancel and Bell Choirs are hard at work preparing for our Advent season. We hope you will join us each Sunday during Advent and enjoy the special music this special season has to offer!







## Holiday Activities In Our Community

### Gingerbread Jubilee

Saturday, November 18, 10 am to 6 pm  
Sunday, November 19, 10 am to 6 pm  
Monday, November 20, 10 am to 4 pm  
Craterian Theater

Admission: \$3

The GingerBread Jubilee is one of the Rogue Valley's favorite holiday celebrations. Bring your family, friends and neighbors to the tour of the fantastical gingerbread creations. It's a festive way to launch the holiday season and you might even be inspired to begin your own family gingerbread tradition!

### Victorian Christmas Celebration Jacksonville

**Saturday, November 25, 5:00 - 5:45 pm**

Christmas Tree Lighting & Caroling

**Saturday, December 2 10:00 am**

10:00 am Victorian Christmas Parade

11:00 am - 4:00 pm Father Christmas, Carolers,  
Town Crier, hot cider & Jolly Holly Trolley Rides

12:00 - 3:00 pm

-Beekman House Holiday Tours

-Historic Saint Joseph's Rectory Open House

-Beekman Bank Tours

### A Charlie Brown Christmas

Tuesday, November 28, 7:00 pm

Craterian Theater Tickets: \$38, \$35, \$32

Since 1965, the award-winning animated classic, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, has held a special place in the hearts and memories of millions.

When Christmastime is here, experience the enduring genius of Charles M. Schultz in this "sweet and touching, live-action version that is itself an instant holiday classic" Then, to make sure you're really in the Christmas spirit, join in the post-show holiday sing-along featuring Schroeder's band.

### Rogue Valley Symphony

Friday, December 1, 7:30 pm

Craterian Theater Admission: \$15 - \$48

Many holiday selections.



### 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Providence Festival of Trees



Friday, December 1

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Saturday, December 2

10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 3

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Medford Armory

Admission \$5, 2 & under free

Friday is Senior day, 60+ receive free admission.

Sunday is Kids Day, 12 and under receive free admission.

### Annual Candy Cane Hunt & Marshmallow Roast

Saturday, December 2, 4:30 pm, Pear Blossom Park, Medford.

### Downtown Medford Winter Light Festival

Saturday, December 2, 5 - 7 pm, Pear Blossom Park. Tree lighting, music and Santa! Free event.

### Rogue Valley Chorale

Saturday, December 2, 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 3, 3:00 pm

Craterian Theater Admission: \$10 - \$20

This holiday concert features two splendid works: John Rutter's *Gloria* with brass, organ and percussion and Daniel Pinkham's beautiful *Christmas Cantata*. Also enjoy seasonal favorites and a merry holiday sing-along with brass.

### 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Home Tour

Sponsored by Soroptimist International of Medford

Sunday, December 3, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

A nice variety of homes will be on tour

Minimum donation \$15 per person, for tickets speak with Sherrie 541.621.1349

### Tomasenn Foley's A Celtic Christmas

Saturday, December 23, 3:00 pm & 7:30 pm

Craterian Theater

Stories, music and dance celebrate Irish culture.

Master storyteller Tomáseen Foley has been "a keeper of the flame for a priceless piece of Irish culture" for almost two decades. In *A Celtic Christmas*, Foley and award-winning Celtic musicians, singers and dancers take you on a Christmas Eve journey to a West Ireland farmhouse where neighbors converge to share "gifts of music, song, dance and story." Don't miss your chance to revel in the joyful tradition and narrative magic of the Irish Rambling House.



## Christmas Special Offering of the Christian Church

*(Disciples of Christ)*

Your gifts received for the Christmas Offering will benefit the work and ministry of the Oregon Region of our denomination. A few of the ministries supported by your Christmas Offering are women's retreats, ministerial placement, support to Ecuador, leadership training, technical support and youth camps. The Christmas Offering will be received on Sundays, December 10 & 17.

## Angel Tree

Once again MFCC will sponsor an Angel Tree. The Angel Tree will be in the narthex, decorated with tags that have the names and ages of boys and girls in Jackson County.

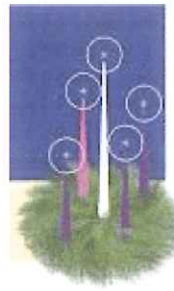


Each year families come to the Salvation Army seeking assistance for Christmas. Last year Salvation Army provided new toys and clothing to over 2,000 children in Jackson County due in part to your generous support. Teenagers are now included in the program, making the need that much greater.

Salvation Army volunteers write the name and age of each child on a tag, then the tags are distributed to local businesses and organizations who wish to host an Angel Tree. Then those of you who desire to participate in the program, take a tag or two from the tree, write your name next to the tag number on the sign-up sheet, buy a gift for the child on your tag, and then bring the unwrapped gift with the tag taped to it, to the church office by 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 13. Donations of Christmas wrap, tape and gift bags are also appreciated.

Each tag will have several suggested gift ideas for the child listed. You may use the ideas as a guide when gift shopping or select a gift not listed, it's up to you. The gift you purchase will be given to the child listed on your tag and not placed in a gift pool. The Salvation Army will distribute your gift to the children's parents so the gift can be placed under the family Christmas Tree.

## Advent Wreath



The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World — he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four

Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.

## What's so amazing about Christmas?

Consider this: God loved the world so much that he came visiting. God slipped into the world as a helpless baby, without fanfare or heraldry.

Think of it: The baby, born of humble parents, the man a carpenter, the woman still in her teens, scholars say. Jesus was born in a backwater town called Bethlehem, in a stable reeking with animal smells.

It took years before people fully comprehended God's self-revelation. Even John the Baptist, sitting in Herod's prison, sent a message to Jesus asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" (Matthew 11:3, NRSV). Jesus then explained that he was working miracles and bringing good news to the poor.

That became even more clear when Peter concluded that Jesus was "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16, NRSV).

What's amazing about Christmas is that it began in a manger. And today more than 2 billion people around the world celebrate Jesus' birth.



## Red Chalice Chicks Christmas Party

The Red Chalice Chicks Christmas Party is planned for Thursday, December 14, 11:30 a.m. at Carolyn Haahein's house. Speak with Sally or Carolyn for more information.

Medford First Christian Church  
*(Disciples of Christ)*  
1900 Crater Lake Ave.  
Medford, OR 97504

**2017 ADVENT SEASON**



**DATED MATERIAL**

**MEDFORD FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

*(Disciples of Christ)*

1900 Crater Lake Avenue • Medford OR 97504  
(541)772-8030

E-MAIL: [mfccor@gmail.com](mailto:mfccor@gmail.com)

**WORSHIP SERVICE:** Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday - Thursday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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**Minister**.....All the people  
**Pastor**.....Rev. Stacy Shelton  
**Minister of Music & Accompanist**.....Janet O'Donovan  
**Song Leader**.....Kathy Williams  
**Business Administrator**.....Katherine Goin  
**Bookkeeper**.....Chris Peters  
**Small Steps Director**.....Teresa Fiuren  
**ACCESS Pantry Managers**.....Denise Frelin & Buttons Cummings

