



November 20, 2019
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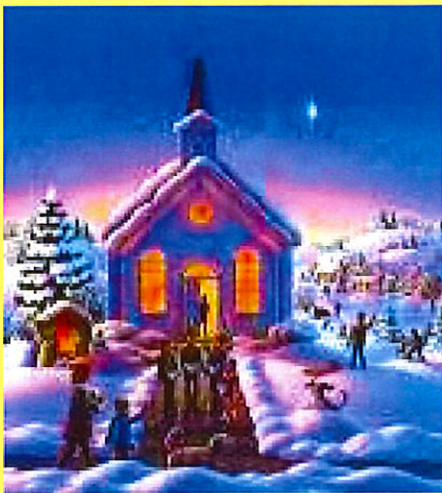


Harbinger

A publication of Medford First Christian Church

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-Idaho Region of our denomination. A few of the ministries supported by your Christmas Offering are the women's retreats, ministerial placement, support to Ecuador, leadership training, technical support and youth camps. The Christmas offering will be received Sundays, December 8 & 15.



ADVENT 2019

Sunday, December 1: First Sunday of Advent, World AIDS Day

Sunday, December 8: Second Sunday of Advent, Peace Sunday, Hanging of the Greens, Christmas Special Offering

Sunday, December 15: Third Sunday of Advent, Christmas Special Offering, Church Christmas Workshop

Saturday, December 21: Blue Christmas Service. Time TBA

Sunday, December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00pm

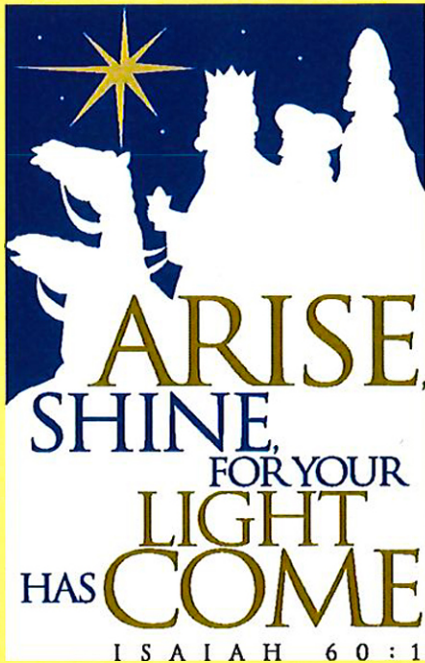
Wednesday, December 25: Christmas Day

Sunday, December 29: Service of Carols, 10:30am



Do You Enjoy Christmas Carols?

Do you enjoy singing our Advent and Christmas hymns? If you do, worship is the place for you this Advent season! Each Sunday hymns and carols will be sung as we move through our worship services. Bring friends and family. Perhaps they would enjoy finding a place of worship and song this Christmas season.



Letters to Santa

How excited would your child or grandchild be to receive a letter from Santa Claus? Bring your child's letter and place it in the Special Delivery North Pole mailbox at the Santo Community Center, or mail it to:

Medford Parks & Recreation
 ATTN: Santa
 701 N Columbus Ave.
 Medford, OR 97501

The child's letter must include a stamped, self addressed envelope. Santa mails back a personalized letter in time for Christmas. To ensure a timely response, letters are accepted through, Friday, December 6.

Season of Advent at MFCC

Preparing the Greens, Saturday, Dec. 7, 9am

In the narthex. Dress in grubbies and bring pruning sheers if you have them.

Hanging of the Greens, Sunday, Dec. 8

During the 10:30am worship service.

Church Family Christmas Workshop, Sunday, Dec. 15, following worship

Fun activities for all ages, including a craft table, photo booth and card making.

Caroling, Sunday, Dec 22, at a retirement complex, time & place TBA

Shelton/Reid Holiday Open House, Sunday, Dec. 22, time TBA

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 7:00pm

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

Service of Carols, Sunday, December 29, 10:30am

Join us for a service filled with carols of the season!

Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 5, 10:30am

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.

An adult Sunday School class is planned during Advent. More information to come.

Community Activities

Medford 2019 Winter Lights Festival will be held in Pear Blossom Park. Bring the whole family for a night of holiday fun! Tree Lighting, Photos with Santa, Live Performances, Booths & Activities and Fireworks. Saturday, December 7, 3:30 – 7:30pm.

Candy Cane Hunt, kick off the season at the annual Candy Cane Hunt. Special prizes will be awarded in each age group for finding the marked candy canes. Saturday, December 7, 4:30pm, Pear Blossom Park. Free event. Ages 1-12.

Home for the Holidays, the Rogue Valley Chorale will be joined by the Cantare Choir to present a variety of holiday homecoming music. Saturday and Sunday, December 7 & 8, Craterian Theater.

Christmas Lights Tour, enjoy the holiday lights and decorations around our valley in the comfort of a RVTD bus. Pre-registration required. Friday, December 13, 5:30pm, \$6 person. Pay online: playmedford.com or call 541.774.2400 to pay over the phone.

Angel Tree

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

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

Tags are distributed to local organizations and businesses who wish to host an Angel Tree. Those of you who desire to participate in the program can take a tag or two from the tree, write your name next to your tag number on the sign-up sheet, buy a gift for the child on your tag, drop your gift off in the church office making sure your tag is taped to the gift. Gifts should be unwrapped. Donations of tape, gift wrap and gift bags are also needed. Please bring your gifts to the church office no later than 11:00am, Thursday, December 12.

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



**All Churches
Thanksgiving Potluck**
Following worship Sunday,
November 24.

Volunteers are Needed
Volunteers are needed
before, during and after the
Thanksgiving Community
Dinner. Please see Marsha
ASAP to sign-up.



Gather the Greens
Friday, November 29. Meet
at 9am in the church
parking lot, to carpool to the
hills to gather the greenery
that will be used to
decorate our sanctuary this
Advent. Please let Marsha
know if you plan to help.



Join us for Thanksgiving Dinner

You are invited to Thanksgiving Dinner, Thursday, November 28. Dinner will be served between 2:00 – 4:00pm.

A traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings will be served. Why not invite friends and family or a neighbor who might be alone. Dinner is free.

Medford First Christian Church
1900 Crater Lake Ave.
Medford, OR 97504



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541.772.8030

mfccor@gmail.com www.mfccor.org

Worship: Sundays, 10:30am

Access Food Pantry: Mondays, noon – 2:00pm

Thursday Night Community Dinner: Thursdays, 5:00 – 7:00pm

Pastor: Rev. Stacy Shelton

Accompanist: Jen Dykstra

Song Leader: Kathy Williams

Church Office: Katherine Goin

Small Steps Director: Teresa Fiuren

Food Pantry Co-Managers: Buttons & Marsha Cummings

