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First Christian *Chimes*

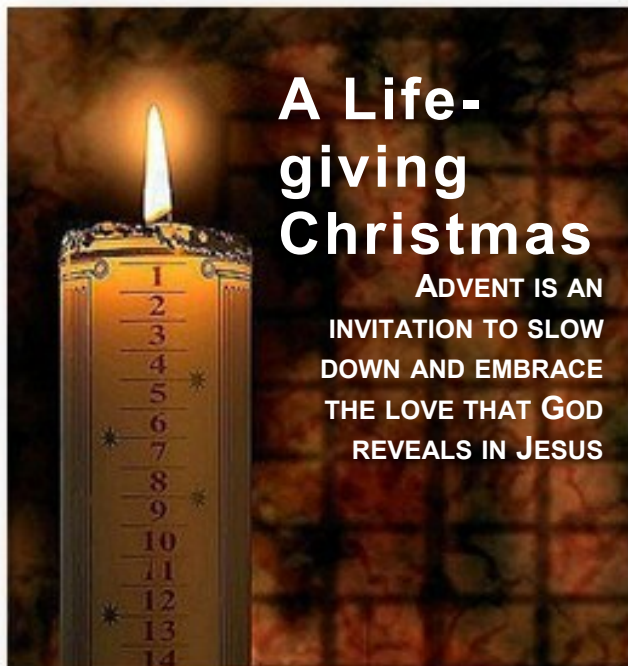
...CALLED BY GOD TO LIVE AS A BLESSING...

In the craziness

that can be December holiday celebrations, it is easy to be swept up in all of the festivities, only to find ourselves on December 26th wondering if we missed Christmas altogether. The ancient tradition of observing Advent offers us the opportunity to catch our breath and in doing so allow God to give us the gift of new life.

Advent is not another task to add to your holiday to-do list. In the four weeks leading up to Christmas, Advent asks us to stay awake, to pay attention to our lives. As we practice the intentional act of looking for God's presence in our day to day living, we discover that God is not far off, but rather God is in the midst of our everyday activities.

This Advent season join us in worship each Sunday as we journey through this holy time. In the waiting that is Advent, may we discover anew the welcoming presence of God.



Make this special Christmas service part of your holiday tradition. You won't want to miss classic service, as we listen to sacred Scripture, sing treasured carols, and share in communion together.

Our Christmas Eve Candle Light Communion service is a memorable way to welcome the gift of Christ. Invite friends and family, neighbors and coworkers along as we celebrate God's love for all the world.

Stay Awake—Be Ready!

ADVENT: A TIME FOR SEEKING OUT CHRIST

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us to “stay awake... and be ready” for the coming of the Son of Man! Advent challenges us to listen for his voice in the crowds and carolers at the mall; to see his face in the stranger who just snatched the last purple sweater; and to recognize him in our family when we visit. We can see and hear Christ in the cards we send and receive, the gatherings we attend, and in the quiet of our hearts and minds when we lay down to rest. This state of being awake and ready culminates in the joyous celebration of Christmas.

What the Advent and Christmas seasons bring to mind is sustained through the spiritual practice of stewardship.

Stewardship challenges us to remain awake and ready. Every moment of every day is gratefully lived, conscious of our faith and responsibility as Christian stewards. We are not only called to see and hear Christ in the everyday, but to be Christ in the everyday.

We are his eyes, ears, voice, heart and hands. Let us prepare well for this awesome gift of Christ that has been entrusted to us all.

—www.stewardshipli.org

fcc giving

October 30

General Fund* \$ 933.00

November 6

General Fund* \$2,407.20

November 13

General Fund* \$1,720.00

Freezing Nights..... \$ 500.00

November 20

General Fund* \$ 974.00

Crib donation \$ 100.00

Poinsettias \$ 55.00

Thanksgiving Offering..... \$ 55.00

November 27

General Fund* \$1320.50

Crib mattress donation..... \$ 40.00

Poinsettias \$ 121.00

*To meet 2011's budgeted General Offering income, weekly General Fund giving must average \$1346.15.

As the first month of the new season of Freezing Nights homeless ministry at FCC got underway, we quickly realized the numbers of guests were much higher right away rather than the past trend of creeping up over time. Because of the higher numbers we'll need more volunteers than ever and we're going through certain supplies much more quickly. Listed here are some of the items in high demand for weekly use or Bingo prizes:



Toiletry & First Aid: Shaving cream, Kleenex (small packs), feminine items, cough drops, Tums, fungal cream.

Travel Size: Toothpaste, foot powder.

Groceries: Sandwich meats, breakfast meats, cheese, eggs, crackers, chips.

Bingo prizes: Puzzle books, T-shirts, lighters, underwear, flashlights.

We appreciate any items or time you can contribute!

FCC Puyallup Freezing Nights Coordinators
Terry Forslund & Bonnie Goddard

Holiday shopping?

Start each shopping trip at the FCC Puyallup website's Amazon page—for each item ordered the church will receive an average of over 6%!



december birthdays

| | |
|---------|----------------------|
| 3..... | Joyce Riffe |
| 5..... | Danae Rouse |
| 5..... | Harold Phillips |
| 6..... | Nancy Gowler Johnson |
| 6..... | Stephanie Knieriem |
| 8..... | Bonnie Goddard |
| 10..... | Tasha Cruz |
| 13..... | Cathy Foster |
| 15..... | Ercie Borrowman |
| 17..... | Wolf Patton |
| 19..... | Del Stack |
| 20..... | Emma Forslund |
| 22..... | Sara Jarvis |
| 22..... | Terri Maas |
| 26..... | Sherman Squires |
| 27..... | Betty Gowler |
| 27..... | Mike Kereluck |
| 28..... | Betty O'Brien |
| 28..... | Corky Peterson |
| 31..... | Ginny Docker |

december anniversaries

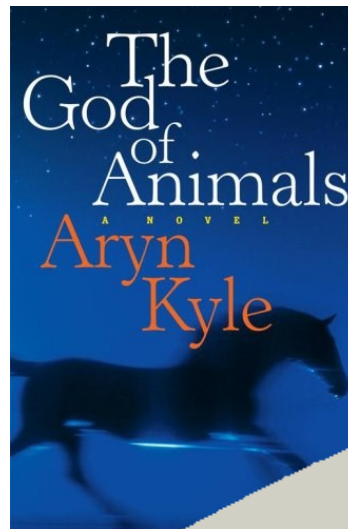
| | |
|---------|----------------------|
| 12..... | Bonnie & Ron Goddard |
| 20..... | Vicki & Ray Smith |

remember your baptism

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| December 5, 1954..... | Viki Pearson |
| December 13, 1959..... | Don Turner |
| December 13, 1959..... | Doris Turner |
| December 15, 2002..... | Emma Forslund |
| December 18, 2005..... | Megan Stanhope |
| December 20, 1981..... | June Armstrong |
| December 21, 2003..... | Tyler Pasola |

Book Pick in December

COMING OF AGE DURING A SEMINAL SUMMER



"A memorable novel gracefully compares and contrasts the vast landscapes of the human condition—people butting up against each other, their natural surroundings and, most significantly, themselves. To find these elements expertly handled in a debut novel—as in *The God of Animals*—is reason to rejoice."

-- Carol Memmott,
USA Today

Book Clubbers meet first Tuesdays monthly at 7 pm. The 1/6/12 meeting to discuss *The Walk* will be at church.

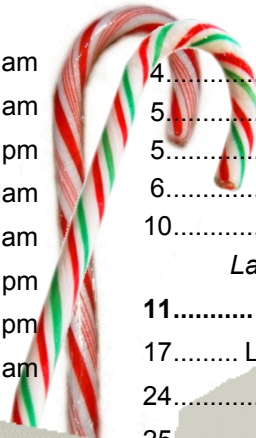
Book Club picks can always be found at the FCC Puyallup website's Amazon page.

First Christian Church of Puyallup (Disciples of Christ)
623 - 9th Ave. SW
P.O. Box 516
Puyallup, WA 98371
(253) 845-6232

Life of the Church in December

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|---|
| Sunday Studies..... | Sundays - 9:45 am | 4..... | LKP Second Time Around Sale |
| Worship Service..... | Sundays - 11 am | 5..... | Custodian position application deadline |
| Cub Scouts | Mondays - 6 pm | 5..... | PVCNS Board Meeting - 7 pm |
| Women's Study (BRB)..... | Wednesdays - 10 am | 6..... | Book Club Discussion <i>at church</i> - 7 pm |
| SO & SEW Study & Ministry | Thursdays - 10 am | 10..... | Friends in Fellowship (Singles 21+) - 2 pm <i>Laura Vogel's home, 1912 Tacoma Rd, Puyallup</i> |
| Men's Study | Thursdays - 7 pm | 11..... | Congregational Budget Meeting - 12:15 pm |
| Freezing Nights..... | Fridays - 7 pm | 17..... | Lunch with a Friend <i>at Peace Lutheran</i> - 10 am |
| Building Cleaning Crews..... | Saturdays - 9:30 am | 24..... | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 4 pm |
| | | 25..... | No Sunday School Christmas morning |
| | | 25..... | Christmas Day Worship - 11 am |
| | | 31..... | New Year's Eve |

Visit our official calendar for updates at
www.fccpuyallup.com/calendar
& sign up for e-mail memos in the narthex.



Making Spirits Bright

CREATE A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS THROUGH OUR GIVING TREE

On Christmas morning a simple gift can make all the difference to a family in need: Pick a card off our Christmas Giving Tree, shop for the item listed inside, wrap the gift and tape the card on top, and place it back under the tree. Thanks to you, a family's Christmas morning will be full of smiles!

The deadline for returning gift items to the church is Wednesday, December 21st. Call the church if you can't get in to pick a card.

We'll add families and items as cards disappear—so check the tree often! Contact Giving Tree coordinator Bonita Goatz or the church office for more information. Place cash donations marked "Giving Tree" in the offering; they'll be used to purchase more items for deserving family members.