



# CHRISTIAN VISITOR

January 2010

First United Methodist Church of Ellensburg, Washington  
Incorporated 1883

## *From the Pastor's Desk...*

### **Surviving the Winter**

I've always thought of winter as an in-between time. Fall holds the excitement of harvest, the start of school, the beautiful colors of the leaves, and the cool, invigorating air. Spring trembles with new life: leaves budding on the trees, flowers starting to bloom, the unexpected warm day to hint of summer's coming. But winter? Cold that saps our energy, heating bills that deplete our bank accounts, grey skies, bitter winds, icy roads that keep us from going anywhere, and long, long nights. We huddle in our homes and wonder if it's ever going to end. Even Christmas – once a joyous feast day – can be just another set of stressful obligations.

We do know, of course, that spring will come eventually. But only after weeks of rain and storm, when the snow turns to slush and everything gets muddy and the wind blows even more tiles from our leaky roofs. Only after we've forgotten what a warm day really feels like, and that we once complained of too much heat.

Meanwhile, we live in between. All around, we see the dead and dying reminders of what has gone: bare trees, shriveled plants, dead leaves. We trust that spring will come, but in this moment, we see no evidence of it. The old is gone; the new has not yet arrived. We stumble and slip through the weary days, struggling not to fall on the frozen, unforgiving ground.

Like the earth, our lives have winter seasons. We look back towards the warm familiar place we used to be, but it's fallen away with the autumn leaves. We look around us, and everything we see reminds us of our loss. Mom's place at the table, now filled by someone else. The faces of friends we're leaving behind. The happy couple holding hands as we used to do before our marriage ended. Even when our loss is by our choice, those in-between times can feel very cold and bleak.

Sometimes I wish that our lives would hold only temperate climates, where leaves don't fall and the ground never freezes. If only the future were always as tangible, as easy to see and hold, as the place we are now. But we all know life doesn't work like that. Sometimes we have to leave the past behind without knowing for sure what the future will be. In such times, it's much easier to see what we're losing than to trust in good things to come.

This congregation now faces the need to downsize – to go to a part-time pastor, or sell the parsonage and/or the church building, or perhaps all three. Unless we could double our giving – which seems unrealistic to expect – it's the only way to cut costs and be able to pay the bills.

We know what the loss looks like. I'll have to move; you won't have a full time pastor. Our beautiful building might be sold and torn down. Our tenants would lose their spaces. The parsonage, that people worked so hard to build, would belong to someone else. But the good? I don't know where I'd be sent. You don't know the new pastor yet. We haven't seen the new building. We don't know where the tenants would relocate.

Somehow, in spite of it all, we need to hold to our faith. We need to trust that God has a way for us through all of this. Meanwhile, in this winter of ours, we need to light the fire of the Holy Spirit, and hold on to each other for warmth, remembering the promise: that spring will come, that the tears will end, that in Christ there is always abundant life.

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## December Church Council Highlights

1. Leadership Development is looking for someone to be a liaison between the Clothing Bank and the church Trustees. Please let Kathy know if you are interested.
2. The Virtual Rest Stop is coming in January. Figure out how many hours you do NOT want to freeze while handing out coffee and donate to this fundraiser.
3. UMW is looking for officers for next year for the overall group that meets for lunch the first Wednesdays of each month.
4. There are several large outstanding bills to be paid by year's end. Our treasurer is concerned about how we will make this deadline.



## Food Bank Needs...

**PEANUT BUTTER**  
**Mac and Cheese**  
**TUNA**  
**Canned Meats**  
**Cereal (cold or hot)**  
**Fresh fruits and vegetables**

*the "Helpers"*  
**Canned soups**  
**Egg Cartons**  
**18 count EGG CARTONS**  
**Personal Hygiene Products**

## Committee Meeting Schedule

<b>Church Council</b> <b>Tuesday, Jan. 5</b> <b>7 p.m.</b> <b>Conference Room</b>	<b>Trustees</b> <b>Friday, Jan. 8</b> <b>1 p.m.</b> <b>Walk-Through</b>	<b>Trustees</b> <b>Sunday, Jan. 17</b> <b>After Worship</b> <b>Conference Room</b>	<b>Worship Committee</b> <b>Tuesday, Jan. 26</b> <b>2:30 p.m.</b> <b>Pastor's Office</b>
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## United Methodist Women Circle Schedule

**UMW General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 6th,**  
**11:30 a.m.**  
**Dakota Café**

**Afternoon Circle**  
**Wednesday, January 20th**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
 Hostess: Lyda McKeeman  
 Place: 607 N. Sampson St.  
 925-1153

**Evening Circle**  
**Wednesday, January 20th**  
**7 p.m.**  
 Hostess: Julie Large  
 Place: 490 Brown Road  
 962-6556




# January 2010

Intergenerational Sunday School, 9 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship Service at 10 a.m.

Nursery is available

A Fellowship Coffee hour follows

*All Are Welcome*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Bible Study at Hearthstone, 11 am 	2
3 Iglesia Apostolica, 4 pm 	4	5 Faith Baptist Kids, 5 pm	6 Faith Baptist Bible Study, 6 pm Iglesia Apostolica, 6 pm	7	8 Redevelopment Task Force Meeting	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18  <b>Office Closed</b>	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## *Birthdays and Anniversaries for January 2010*

4, Gerry Sorenson  
 9, Ken Gamon

12, Michael Lasik  
 18, Glen Richeson

19, Susana Rosales  
 22, Susan Galvin

## *Please remember these congregations in your prayers this month:*

January 3 Pray for God's children of all faiths  
 January 10 Methow Valley Church and Pastor Steve Schroeder  
 January 17 Monitor Church and Pastor Mike O'Neal  
 January 24 Moses Lake and Pastor Stephen Rice  
 January 31 Okanogan and Pastor Rick Weber

# Opportunities for Service

<b>Upcoming Worship Highlights</b>		<b>Ministry Opportunities</b>	
<b>January 10</b>	<b>Baptism of the Lord</b> <b>Knowing Who We Are</b> What defines us? How do we know who we really are and what our purpose is? <i>Psalm 29, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22</i>	<b>January 10</b>	Liturgist      Larry Lowther Greeter Usher          Bob Johnston Altar          Betty Holmes Coffee Hour    Carmen Knoke
<b>January 17</b>	<b>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</b> <b>We're All "Gifted Children"</b> All God's people have spiritual gifts. What's yours? <i>Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11</i>	<b>January 17</b>	Liturgist      Ruthi Erdman Greeter Usher          Bob Johnston Altar          Barbara Tate Coffee Hour    Ruthi Erdman
<b>January 24</b>	<b>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</b> <b>We Need Our Differences</b> Differences of opinion, abilities, experience and perspective help to make our community complete. <i>Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a</i>	<b>January 24</b>	Liturgist      Betty Holmes Greeter Usher          Bob Johnston Altar          Diane Ota Coffee Hour    Julie Large
<b>January 31</b>	<b>4th Sunday after Epiphany</b> <b>Love Matters Most</b> We may have different spiritual gifts, but the most important one is available to all—love. <i>Psalm 71:1-6, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13</i>	<b>January 31</b>	Liturgist      Susan Barrigan Greeter Usher          Bob Johnston Altar          David Cross Coffee Hour    Aeimee Chen-Stinson
<b>February 7</b>	<b>5th Sunday after Epiphany</b> <b>It's All About Priorities</b> To follow Jesus, the fishermen left behind the biggest catch they'd ever gotten. Why? <i>Psalm 138</i> <i>Isaiah 6:1-8, Luke 5:1-11</i>	<b>February 7</b>	Liturgist      John Lasik Greeter Usher          Bob Johnston Altar          Betty Holmes Coffee Hour    Karen Lasik
		<b>February 14</b>	Liturgist      Larry Lowther Greeter Usher          Bob Johnston Altar          Barbara Tate Coffee Hour    Janette Tureman



*Fifth Sunday Potluck*  
**Sunday, January 31st**  
*After Church*

## *This and That*

### *Volunteer Opportunities*

**Finance Chairperson**

**Food Bank Meal Servers**

If interested in either position, please contact  
Kathy Makus: Office — (509) 962-9257  
Cell — (509) 929-6842



It is getting increasingly hard to get the newsletter out on time.

If your articles aren't into me by 15th of the month they will NOT be included in the current newsletter. I will, however, include them in the next one, if they aren't time sensitive.

I know that part of the problem has been my erratic work schedule, but I'm trying to rectify that by getting back to a regular schedule.

Thank you for your patience,  
Barbara

### **Our Faithfulness...**

October 25	47	2205
November 1	37	1804
November 8	48	1289
November 15	45	1315
November 22	50	731
November 29	36	724
December 6	41	3688
December 13	52	2575
December 20	47	1510
December 27	28	2034

Needed per week to meet our obligations,  
**\$2,341.**

### **Social Principles of the United Methodist Church Water, Air, Soil, Minerals, Plants**

We support and encourage social policies that serve to reduce and control the creation of industrial byproducts and waste; facilitate the safe processing and disposal of toxic and nuclear waste and move toward the elimination of both; encourage reduction of municipal waste, provide for appropriate recycling and disposal of municipal waste and assist the cleanup of polluted air, water, and soil. We call for the preservation of old-growth forests and other irreplaceable natural treasures, as well as preservation of endangered plant species. We support measures designed to maintain and restore natural ecosystems. We support policies that develop alternatives to chemicals used for growing, processing, and preserving food, and we strongly urge adequate research into their effects upon God's creation prior to utilization. We urge development of international agreements concerning equitable utilization of the world's resources for human benefit so long as the integrity of the earth is maintained.

We are deeply concerned about the privatization of water resources, the bottling of water to be sold as a commodity for profit, and the resources that go into packaging bottled water. We urge all municipalities and other governmental organizations to develop processes for determining sustainability of water resources and to determine the environmental, economic, and social consequences of privatization of water resources prior to the licensing and approval thereof.

## *Mission Statement*

The Ellensburg First United Methodist Church welcomes all and serves as a beacon of love and justice in the community. We seek to discern and act upon God's will through worship, service and study.



### **First United Methodist Church**

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Rev. Katherine Makus, Pastor  
Barbara Olexsy, Secretary



a Reconciling Congregation