

# CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 61

Issue 1 Jan 2017

Serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

## Change

As we march towards the celebration of Christmas and the time of Epiphany, we also approach 2017. When I was growing up, I paid far more attention to the approaching new year than I do now. The approaching new year promised a birthday celebration and chance to do new things that I could not do the year before. Now that I am older, approaching birthdays do not promise the chance of doing awesome, new, and exciting things simply because of being a year older. The thrill of knowing that you will be getting a driver's license, be able to vote, or enjoy a glass of wine, simply because you had a birthday is not quite there anymore. This is not to say that I do not enjoy my birthdays – I do. It is just that as I have gotten older, the bristling excitement that used to come with each new year is not there. It seems routine.

Humans are creatures of routine. Many of us have our set daily rituals and expectations. We often get up at a certain time each morning and we have daily routines that come with practice and experience. Some of us brush our teeth when we first get up, others wait until after eating breakfast. But, generally speaking, whatever our preference, we generally follow our routines day in and day out.

Churches have routines as well. Not only is there the repetition of the liturgical year, but there is also the routine that comes with the service starting at the same time each Sunday, people sitting the same pews, and the choir practicing the same time on Wednesday evenings. The routine becomes ingrained in us – almost to the point we do not even notice it anymore. Until, of course, the routine is disturbed. For me, if a daily routine is disturbed, it may not alter the day, but it forces me to consciously go back and remember what tasks I accomplished and what I still need to do. Not all routines are created equal; and, therefore, when something changes, our reactions differ.

In November, our church's routine was disrupted with Roger and Brenda Harwerth leaving to take a new call. Our church now has to face "change." However, as with many things, we need to change, otherwise we will not grow or adapt to the environment around us. While I was sad to see Roger and Brenda go to another church, I am happy for their new church. I am also excited for our church. As we look forward expectantly waiting for something we do not know, we need to remember this is not the first time our church has faced the task of calling a new pastor, nor will it be the last.

It is my prayer that this will be a time of spiritual growth in our church. With the leaving of our pastor, we have already seen members of our community showing their talents and leadership in this time of transition. It is important that we recognize that we have amazing, talented people in our congregation who are blessing us and will continue to bless us with their willingness to lead us in the Lord's Supper, lead us in the singing of our hymns on Sunday morning, the writing of the Sunday liturgy, the removal of snow, the opening of the church on Sunday, and other tasks. We are truly blessed and we need to recognize how God has and continues to bless us.

As a church of believers, we need to rely on God in this time of uncomfortable change and realize that God is with us. The next months and year may not be easy and there will be difficult decisions to make, but as long as we trust and rely on God in this process, our congregation will thrive. **Evan Hansen**

**A Note from Session-** It was on October 2<sup>nd</sup> that Roger announced he would be leaving for Bellevue, Washington and November 6 when he preached his last service at our church. Your session and staff have been busy filling in the gaps and preparing for our next steps. In conjunction with Linda Toth, the general Presbyter of the Eastern Oregon Presbytery, Session is in the process of selecting an interim pastor. So far there have been two potential candidates identified. Materials are being put together to follow up with them. The entire process of selecting an interim pastor is expected to take at least a few months. In the meantime, the worship commission continues to provide pulpit supply for Sunday worship services. An interim minister will help guide us and maintain continuity as we then begin the search process for a head pastor.

Presbyterians believe that God uses committees, papers, procedures, and the church's form of government, sprinkled with a generous measure of prayer, scripture, and worship, to help discern who it is that God is calling to be our pastor. This call is confirmed as the pastor, the church, and the presbytery each say "yes" to the relationship. It is expected to take from 18 to 24 months to receive a new pastor. First steps include conducting a mission study to better discern the needs of our congregation. A Pastor Nominating Committee will then be selected, approved and set on the course of contacting interested ministers. As we move through this process, Session is committed to keep the congregation apprised of the status of the search. Members of the congregation are encouraged to contact any member of session whose photo is on the reader board outside of the church office.

#### **Presbyterian Women Meet:**

##### **Wednesday, January 11th beginning at 9:30 am**

Brunch, Bible Study, and Business Meeting. Meet in the Rogers Fellowship Room for brunch hosted by Judy Wilkins and Sandy Gall, and then on to the Vert Room for Bible Study #4. Business meeting to follow. All women of the church are welcome to participate.

##### **Wednesday, February 8th**

Ruth Circle, and the Marion Cochran Guild will meet together in the Vert Room of the church for Bible study #5. There will be no business meeting.



## ADULT EDUCATION

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS IS MOVING TO MONDAY AT 11:00-

We will meet at Bucking Bean, Jan. 9th at 11:00 to look at the curriculum for the year and make final decisions for where and when we will meet. Please join us for a fun and educational program with guest speakers and studies. We encourage those in the choir and bells to join us for a great year! I will see you all there! Viki Lange



## House & Grounds

Your House & Grounds committee has been busy. A year ago, the church started an effort to repurpose the former church manse (aka youth house) into a transitional home for youth ages 18 – 21 coming out of foster care. The maximum number of youth in the house will be two of the same sex. The state foster care program is set up such that youth must “age out” of foster care at age 18. CAPECO operates an Independent Living Program assisting youth coming out of foster care to become self-sufficient adults. This provides an opportunity to learn valuable skills necessary to make a successful transition from state or tribal custody to living on their own in the community. Residents in this program are required to have 40 hours of activity per week comprised of work, education, and volunteer activities. Occupancy in the house will vary depending on those needing the housing. The church will receive \$325/month for each resident and CAPECO will pay the utilities when occupied.

To prepare for this activity, our house has been upgraded with new electrical, the kitchen has received new flooring and countertops, new flooring and toilet in the bath the rain gutters have been replaced and interior was painted throughout. Kudu's to many volunteers who donated some of the furnishing and did the work to get the house to where it is today. On December 27 beginning at 8 AM we have a work party set up to finish some touch up paint and general cleaning. Another work crew will be tap to paint the outside next spring. Our first resident will be moving in early in January.

### **Glenda's Verse:**

2 Corinthians 9:8

<sup>8</sup>And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

**Next Steps for Selecting Pastoral Leadership:** On December 13<sup>th</sup> the Session met with representatives of our Presbytery's Committee on Ministry to begin the process of selecting new pastoral leadership for our congregation. As is typical for we Presbyterians, the process will require a substantial amount of time and involve multiple steps with many opportunities for input from the Congregation. Prior to his leaving, Roger provided the Session with a memo entitled "What to Expect During the Transition of Pastors" which states:

"The journey from the resignation of one pastor to the installation of another often feels frightening and unstable. Paradoxically, when the journey is complete and a church looks back over the months just past, it often feels a burst of new confidence in itself, its lay leaders, and its pastoral leadership. The Presbytery hopes to work with the congregation to reduce the anxiety, to add stability, and to help the church move from past to future with confidence." Copies of this memo and one entitled "Leadership Options for Churches in Transition" will be available through Alice in the Church Office.

The first step for the Personnel Commission (Mike Muller, Marie Hall & Dale Wilkins) is to input our Pastor Salary financial information into the Presbytery's system which is used to search for an interim pastor. Once Presbytery has this information next week, they will begin a search process and notify us if there are any interested interim pastor candidates.

While Personnel Commission begins the interim pastor search process, the Nominating Commission of Session will start the work of selecting a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) which will be responsible for preparing the "Ministry Information Form (MIF) and be placed in the central computer in Louisville. This information describes our church and its mission, and is used in calling a new pastor for our congregation.

So, the process has begun. Personnel Commission will notify you of any interested Interim Pastor candidates, and the Pastor Nominating Committee will be asking for all of us to come together over the next several months to give input required to describe who we are as a church and what type of characteristics we desire of the individual who we will call to lead us in our spiritual journeys.

**Mike Muller, Chairman-Personnel Commission**

<b>Elders:</b>	<b>Deacons:</b>
Marcia Brown	Meagan Sims
Mary Davis	Rene Levy
Dave Powell	Steve Muller
Diana Zimmerman	Carol Noe
Sandy Gall	Bob Hall
Lisa Patterson	Rod Nixon
John Turner	Connie Talboy
Barbara Wright	EIRae Wells
Bob Blanc	Barbara Clark
Mike Muller	Viki Lange
Marty Platt	Sharon Simons
Chuck Wood	Luann Soderstrom

### **Your Pledge to the Church**

If you have not yet made your pledge to the church for the 2017 budget year it's not too late. There are many changes in our future and your pledge will make some of those changes easier to deal with. A Pastor Nominating Committee will be convening soon to begin the process of finding us a new pastor. One of the questions that will come up is how our church finances are doing. We would like to be able to say we are in good shape but at this time pledges are down from last year. If you've never pledged before and have questions about pledging, please see any member of the Stewardship Commission: Bob Blanc, chair, Judy Wilkins, Mike Hachquet, or John Turner. Blank pledge cards are available in the narthex or contact the church office at [fpcp@pendletonpresbyterian.com](mailto:fpcp@pendletonpresbyterian.com) or phone 541-276-7681.

## Christian Education and Youth News

Thanks for Donating Warmth!

Thank you from the CE Commission for Children and Youth for your Advent contributions of hats, gloves, and scarves for the Mitten Tree. This month, these items will be donated to Pendleton Schools, Pioneer Relief Nursery, and Salvation Army to provide warmth to those in need.

**Activities**

### College Care Boxes Coming Up

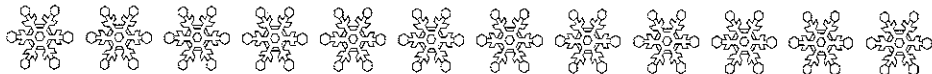
It's time to remember our college students! If you have a son or daughter who is pursuing an undergraduate degree, please call the church office and give us their current address. Boxes to be filled for college care packages will be placed in the Roger's Room at the end of January and will remain there until they are mailed after President's Day. Donations of nonperishable food items, school supplies, goodies, and personal notes are much appreciated, or you can donate money and we will purchase items for you. **Thank you.**

### Family Game Night

Christian Education Commission will host a Family Game Night January 22 from 4-6pm. CE will provide sub sandwich trays and ask families to bring other snacks to share. Please bring your favorite games and join us in fellowship!

**The Mission Commission** seeks a dedicated individual to head up the Salvation Army monthly lunches. This effort, now in its 19th year of ministry, requires some preplanning, purchasing, and a morning of time for cooking. We have people who can chop, stir, lift and carry, but we need an individual to commit to the planning process. Many people in our church have helped over the years—far too many to name, and we thank them for their service.

The Mission Commission wishes to continue to provide a hot, comforting meal on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, but needs some new leadership. If you would be willing to step up, please contact Mary Davis or Judy Wilkins. **Thank you!**



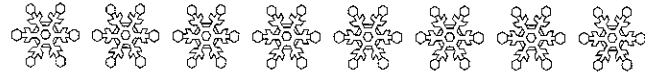
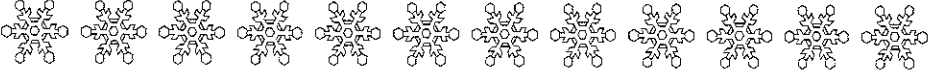
**Church Security is Everyone's Job!**



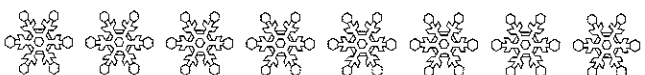
Please ensure that doors are secure when you leave the church. This is an old building and some of the doors no longer close automatically just by letting them fall. Please press on the door to make sure it is really closed.



Thank you



If you are in need of pastoral care, two of our local, Pendleton clergy have made themselves available to us while we search for a new pastor for First Presbyterian Church. Rev. Charlotte Wells of Redeemer Episcopal, (541)969-1395 or (541)276-3909, and Rev. Travis Larsen of Peace Lutheran, (503)504-8452 or (541)276-7592 are both willing to serve as needed.



## Part 2 "When Incivility Becomes the Norm"

*A statement by Rev. Dr. J Herbert Nelson II, Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) General Assembly*

*This statement is a response to the violence on America's streets after the election of Mr. Donald Trump as President-Elect of the United States of America.*

Just as the doors of the Church are open, so too are the doors to the movement for justice. We invite you to join us in our steadfast commitment to stand with the marginalized and our humble desire to contribute to strategy and vision that will help create the kingdom of God.

On the pages below are some of the ways General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have voted to affirm our commitment for a fair electoral process.

### **1. We must advocate for campaign finance reform.**

In 2010, the 'Citizens United' Supreme Court Case concluded that corporations are considered as individuals, having the same rights in the electoral process.<sup>[2]</sup> Although corporations cannot vote, they are allowed to contribute unlimited funding into the political process through super PAC's (political action committees, groups "able to accept unlimited political donations"). No wonder we are witnessing so many wealthy people with political influence advocating for laws that cause damage to whole communities of people. These same laws swell the pockets of corporate wealth. Once politicians are elected, their votes are guided toward paying back the corporations or wealthy individual donors through their votes. Former Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons wrote a response regarding the Citizen's United Case.

"I am concerned about the pressures this decision puts on individual candidates and office holders and on the integrity of the election system as a whole," Parsons said, noting that the decision undoes decades of federal campaign finance legislation and "historic Presbyterian wisdom about the dangers of corruption by special interests."

Parsons' statement outlined recent General Assembly statements on campaign finance and electoral form, concluding "this decision is likely to reshape the political process in profound ways, and to reduce the voice of citizens, churches and other groups without unlimited money."<sup>[3]</sup>

In this most recent election, both presidential candidates were tied to financial contributions that impacted their political positions on issues from Palestine/Israel to immigration; wage scales to environmental issues; engaging war to peacemaking; and more. Politics is controlled by big money contributions on every side. The Prophet Jeremiah was willing to speak boldly before a powerful institution of his day. He challenged the temple priest who beat him and locked him in the temple storehouse for refusing to retreat from his committed discipline of telling the truth about God's righteousness. He spoke, "I feel a fire shut up in my bones" (Jer. 20:9, NRSV). We Presbyterians who have a history of declaring God's Word must possess this same faithfulness in the current day.

### **2. Advocate for Reinstatement of the Full Voting Rights Act**

"Our mutual responsibilities for love of self and neighbor, peace and justice (right relationship), affirmed repeatedly by covenant [communities organizing themselves], from Exodus to the Pauline and pastoral letters, to reflect the ... greatest commandment to 'love God with all your heart, mind, and soul, and neighbor as thyself.'"<sup>[4]</sup>

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act in 2013. In a 5-4 decision, the Court ruled that the conditions over the past fifty years had changed and it must be proven that a half-century of advances still placed us in a similar position as in 1965.<sup>[5]</sup> The court left it up to the Congress to make the case and sign the full bill into law. The Congress has not made any significant attempt to reinstate the Voting Rights Act. This decision gave states the latitude to engage in racial exclusion through gerrymandering, and to establish voter ID laws (including photo ID's) in order to vote.

The same Supreme Court that gave corporations the ability to be viewed as individuals in the political sphere determined that historical protections for persons historically disenfranchised from voting were no longer needed. These types of laws are established in some states where there have been very few (if any) cases of voter fraud in years. These laws make it more difficult for persons who have struggled with the court system (formally incarcerated and those who have experienced police intimidation and abuse) to register due to fear and feelings of intimidation. With the high number of African Americans being killed in police shootings in the United States, and educational and economic disenfranchisement, one can make the case that historically disenfranchised communities still live under a veil of discrimination.

We should have learned a lesson from the voting debacle in Florida during the 2000 presidential election. Hanging chads and voting machine errors in Florida were at the center of the George W. Bush and Al Gore race for the White House. The Supreme Court decided the winner of the election. The outcome was questioned largely because of malfunctioning voting machines and practices that made voting more difficult at polls located in underserved communities. It would seem that this lesson learned in a flawed election would be enough evidence to enforce better precinct oversight, rather than placing more burdens on voters through picture identification laws, especially when voter fraud is not an issue.

### 3. Advocate for the Full Emancipation of Felons Who Have Served their Sentences

Professor, writer, and civil rights advocate Michelle Alexander and others have documented the laws that prohibit persons from voting. She documents the impact of mass incarceration and felony charges as an impediment to voting among both current and former inmates. Race is a central theme in her writing due to the long sentences issued to African Americans (particularly males) for drug charges during the war on drugs. Many of the charges in the 1980s primarily gave African American men felony charges and stripped them of their right to vote, even after serving their time and being released from prison. These men and women should not be punished for the rest of their lives after serving the required sentences by the court. Today, some of these same drug charges would not even warrant a felony conviction.

Alexander tells this story to illustrate the injustice:

Jarvious Cotton cannot vote. Like his father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather, he has been denied the right to participate in our electoral democracy. Cotton's family tree tells the story of several generations of black men who were born in the United States but who were denied the most basic freedom that democracy promises—the freedom to vote for those who will make the rules and laws that govern one's life. Cotton's great-great-grandfather could not vote as a slave. His great-grandfather was beaten to death by the Ku Klux Klan for attempting to vote. His grandfather was prevented from voting by Klan intimidation. His father was barred from voting by poll taxes and literacy tests. Today, Jarvious Cotton cannot vote because he, like many black men in the United States, has been labeled a felon and is currently on parole.<sup>[6]</sup>

Irrespective of our class standing in the United States, we are reminded in biblical scripture of our mutual responsibilities for love of self and neighbor, peace and justice (right relationship), affirmed repeatedly by covenant communities, from Exodus to the Pauline and pastoral letters, which reflect the double or greatest commandment to "love God with all your heart, mind, and soul, and neighbor as thyself."<sup>[7]</sup>

Multinational corporations and wealthy donors paid for this election, as they have over many years. We will remain in a debilitated condition after every election until we raise the consciousness of our communities across this country regarding the electoral process. It is not enough to weep and expect pastoral letters from Church leaders when our candidate is not elected. We must vigorously put feet on our prayers and reclaim democracy in the United States. Simply put, commit to capturing the energy from the streets and transforming it into a long-term strategy to change the system, so that liberty and justice for all will have a new meaning in our lifetime.

] "Over 200 Incidents of Hateful Harassment and Intimidation Since Election Day" <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2016/11/11/over-200-incidents-hateful-harassment-and-intimidation-election-day>.

[2] How Citizens United Has Changed Politics in 5 Years

The controversial Supreme Court ruling has remade how campaigns are run in the U.S.

By Gabrielle Levy | Political Reporter Jan. 21, 2015, at 12:26 p.m. <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2015/01/21/5-years-later-citizens-united-has-remade-us-politics>.

[3] PC(USA) stated clerk issues statement on Supreme Court's election finance decision

Parsons: Unlimited spending by corporations 'challenges democratic ethos'

FEBRUARY 3, 2010 <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2010/2/3/pcusa-stated-clerk-issues-statement-supreme-courts/>.

[4] *Lift Every Voice: Democracy, Voting Rights and Electoral Reform*. The Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 2008, p. 3.




[5] *Ibid*. How Citizens United Has Changed Politics in 5 Years.

[6] Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. <http://newjimcrow.com/about/excerpt-from-the-introduction>.

[7] *Lift Every Voice: Democracy, Voting Rights and Electoral Reform*. p. 4/Lk. 10:27.



## JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship - Communion <b>11:00 AM</b> Fellowship	<b>2</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>3</b> <b>3:00 PM</b> Adult Education "Wired Word" - Prodigal Son <b>5:15 PM</b> CE Children/Youth Commission meets	<b>4</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> Bells of Joy rehearsal (as required) <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir rehearsal	<b>5</b> <b>1:15 PM</b> Stewardship Commission meets	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:20 AM</b> Sunday School <b>11:00 AM</b> Fellowship <b>11:15 AM</b> House & Grounds Commission meets <b>2:00 PM</b> PEO - Rogers Room	<b>9</b> <b>6:15 PM</b> Westminster Woods Commission meets <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scout Troop meets	<b>10</b> <b>3:00 PM</b> Adult Education "Wired Word" - Prodigal Son <b>6:55 PM</b> BSF Women's Bible Study Group	<b>11</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Presbyterian Women Bible Study - Vert Room <b>5:30 PM</b> Bells of Joy rehearsal (as required) <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir rehearsal	<b>12</b> <b>3:00 PM</b> Mission Commission meets <b>4:00 PM</b> Oregon Trail Manor Board Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Session	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Oregon Music Teachers Assoc meets
<b>15</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:20 AM</b> Sunday School <b>11:00 AM</b> Fellowship	<b>16</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Church Office Closed <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scout Troop meets	<b>17</b> <b>3:00 PM</b> Adult Education "Wired Word" - Prodigal Son <b>5:15 PM</b> Personnel Commission meets <b>6:00 PM</b> Board of Deacons meets <b>6:55 PM</b> BSF Women's Bible Study Group	<b>18</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> Salvation Army Lunch <b>5:30 PM</b> Bells of Joy rehearsal (as required) <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Helping Hand @ St. Mary's <b>12:00 PM</b> Circuit Rider Deadline	 <b>10:00 AM</b> Snow Play Date - Westminster Woods
<b>22</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:20 AM</b> Sunday School <b>11:00 AM</b> Fellowship <b>4:00 PM</b> All Church Game Night	<b>23</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scout Troop meets	<b>24</b> <b>3:00 PM</b> Adult Education "Wired Word" - Prodigal Son <b>6:55 PM</b> BSF Women's Bible Study Group	<b>25</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> Bells of Joy rehearsal (as required) <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir rehearsal	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Baroque Festival - Sanctuary
<b>29</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:20 AM</b> Sunday School <b>11:00 AM</b> Fellowship	<b>30</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scout Troop meets	<b>31</b> <b>3:00 PM</b> Adult Education "Wired Word" - Prodigal Son <b>6:55 PM</b> BSF Women's Bible Study Group	<b>1</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> Bells of Joy rehearsal (as required) <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir rehearsal	<b>2</b> <b>1:15 PM</b> Stewardship Commission meets	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

First Presbyterian Church  
201 Southwest Dorion Ave.  
Pendleton, OR 97801



## January Birthdays

- 1 Jessie Patterson
- 3 Rob Collins
- 5 Jim Houle
- 5 John Blanc
- 6 Evan Hansen
- 7 Shaun Simpson
- 7 Michael Rosselle
- 10 Hannah McIntyre
- 10 Jesse Erskine
- 11 Kristen Blanc Lewallen
- 11 Rene Levy
- 12 Sandi Ball
- 13 Tommy Brown
- 17 Mark Hogge
- 19 Joanne Williams
- 21 Kate Bottorff
- 22 Judy Wilkins
- 22 Jane Kuizenga
- 23 Jacob Heideman
- 23 Barrett Turner
- 24 Betty Jean Holmes
- 25 Marilyn Lieuallen
- 27 Donna Perkins
- 27 Sue Nelson
- 29 Steve Bjerke
- 29 Diane Nelson
- 29 Tiah DeGrofft



## Coffee Hour Hosts

January 2017  
Caring Connection  
February 2017  
CE/Adult  
March 2017  
House & Grounds