

# December 2025

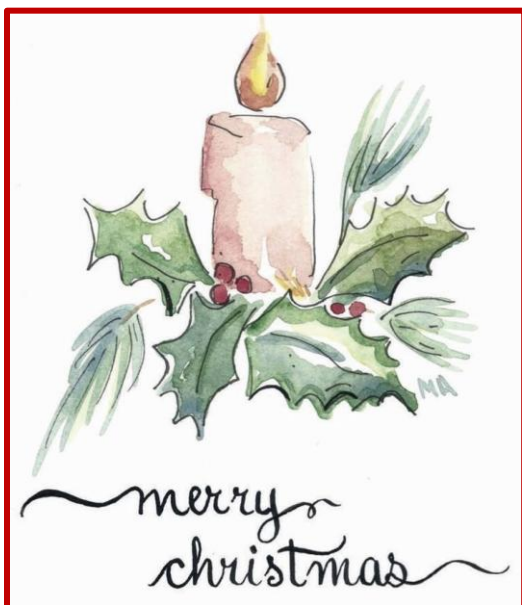
## Advent Sundays

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
**HOPE** ... November 30

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
**PEACE** ... December 7

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
**JOY** ... December 14

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
**LOVE** ... December 21



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# A Message from Pastor Leslie

Dear Church,

The day after Halloween, sleep deprived and suffering from a sugar hangover, Luca asked if it was Christmas yet? We were able to hold him off until the Bazaar, when he excitedly walked into the church and declared, “It’s Christmas!” Since that day, we’ve had on music, movies, and repeated requests to put up the tree.

For many people, once the Thanksgiving dishes are cleared, the Christmas fun begins. I also have an affinity for the season. I like the lights, the music, the 1,000 movies about a woman who leaves her successful career in the city to move back to her small town and marry the owner of a bakery/coffee shop/tree farm (the true meaning of Christmas). Then, there are the events. We already have a packed calendar of parties, family visits, outings, and preschool concerts to attend over the next month.



As busy as December gets, it’s often easy to miss what the season of Advent is actually about. Waiting. For a whole month, we wait. We aren’t just waiting, we are preparing.

I’ve recently entered the “nesting” period of pregnancy. Last week it was absolutely imperative that I re-organize our bookshelves in order to welcome our new child. But as many books as I organize, cabinets I clear out, and things I scrub, there is nothing I can do to grow this kid faster. He is going to join us when he gets good and ready and I just have to wait. Nesting is actually a great picture of advent. We may not be literally preparing for a new baby to arrive in our home, but we are preparing again to remember that God is in our world.

# A Message from Pastor Leslie



Sometimes it sounds trite, God coming into the world, but the season of Advent allows us to space to sit with what that actually means:

*I bring you good news of great joy !*

Christmas was when everything changed. But we aren't there yet. During the next four weeks, as we prepare and remember, I hope you take some time to sit in the expectation of Christmas. The waiting can be hard, but thankfully we have this time to prepare for the moment when everything changes, and nothing will be the same again. I hope you experience the anticipation of advent and the power of Christmas this month. Amen.

I know that this season is also one that is lonely and hard for many people for many reasons. Please reach out if you need prayer, support, or just someone to have a hot tea with. I am praying for you.

It is a joy and honor to be your pastor,

*Pastor Leslie*



# Giving ~ October



## Ways to Give

### MAIL

WUMC \* PO Box 12 \* Washougal,  
Washington 98671

### ONLINE

[washougalunitedmethodistchurch.org](http://washougalunitedmethodistchurch.org)

## INCOME

General Fund Giving	\$ 9,092.62
Endowment Operations Transfer	895.98
Ministerial Housing Transfer	2,000.00
Checking Account Interest	.80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$11,989.40</u></b>

## EXPENSES

Personnel	\$10,286.08
Apportionments	1,590.00
Other Expenses	2,281.12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$14,157.20</u></b>

## NET DEFICIT

<\$ 2,167.80>

## HOLIDAY BAZAAR SALES REPORT

Total Sales & Donations	\$19,386.05
Expenses	<1,264.18>
Treasure House Donation	<2,000.00>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$16,121.87</u></b>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact

*LouAnn Wittler*

Financial Secretary

[joeandlouann@comcast.net](mailto:joeandlouann@comcast.net) ~ 360.606.2833



# Happy Birthday



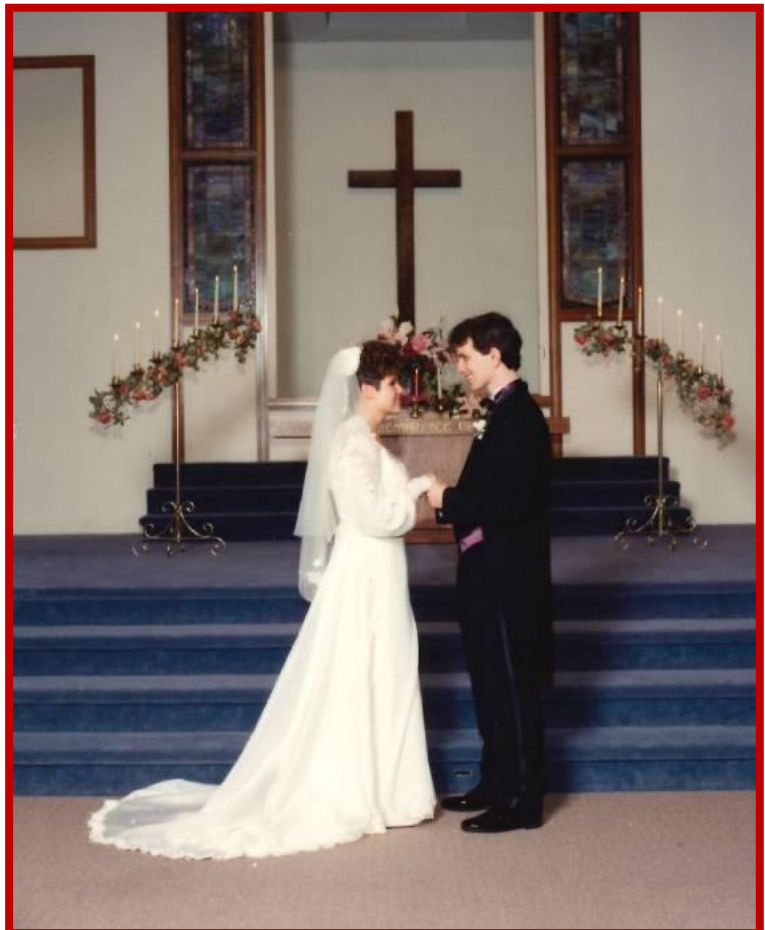
Barb Crozier	12/07
Bill Revett	12/07
Susi Nichols	12/14
Ryan Gould	12/17
Cleta Gilman	12/21
Jim Fisher	12/24
Jesus	12/25

HAVE A  
VERY  
MERRY  
BIRTHDAY

# Happy Anniversary

Ryan & Robin  
Gould

December 29, 1995



# Thank You Volunteers

The words “Thank You” don’t seem big enough to express my gratitude to **everyone** who helps this church function as well as it does; all from behind the scenes. Things just seem to happen. Suddenly there’s TP in every bathroom, tissue boxes at every pew, Fellowship Hall banquet room tables decorated for every season, refrigerators stocked to the gills with everything needed for Coffee Hour every Sunday, recycling and trash automatically placed below for collection on Thursdays, the narthex decorated year round, deposits magically ran to the bank and reconciled month after month, Post Office mail picked up, floors vacuumed and bathrooms cleaned; it’s as if there are Christmas Elves all year round making sure everything is taken care of. I, for one, could not possibly do it without your consistent willingness to serve your church.



Gratefully ~ Trustee Chair

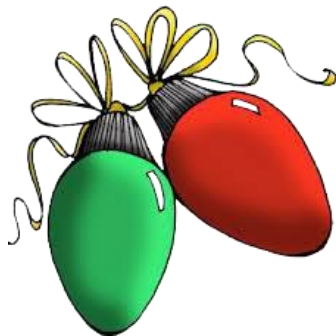
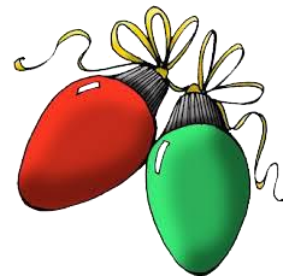
Joe Wittler

Trustees Chair

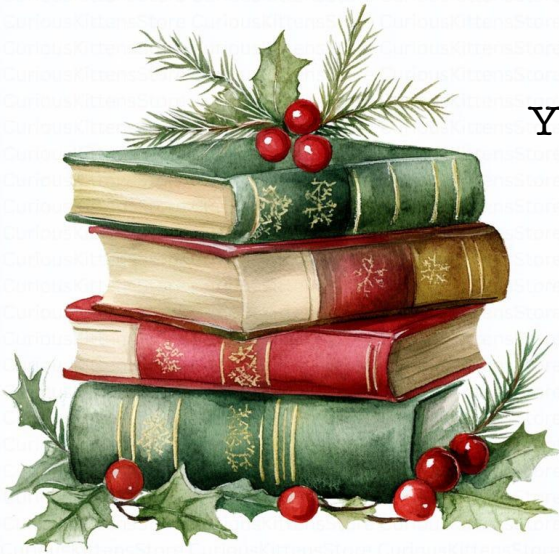
THANK YOU  
volunteers



# Hanging of the Greens



# Page Turners



You Are Cordially Invited To Join The  
Page Turners Potluck  
Christmas Party  
**TUESDAY**  
**DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**NOON**  
The Fellowship Hall

We will gather with our favorite Potluck appetizer or dessert or snack  
food to share while we discuss this month's book,  
Jan Karon's Shepherds Abiding

This Book Club is open to anyone who would like to join us. Male or Female. Being a member of WUMC is not required. Ask your friends, family & neighbors if they have an interest in forming a social connection with likeminded folks – readers to be specific. It offers an affordable way to connect with others and socialization helps sharpen your memory and cognitive skills, which in turn leads to an increase in your sense of happiness and well-being. By simply gathering with people interested in reading the same books as you, the Page Turners Book Club can serve as a great way to get you outside your comfort zone and around people you may not have had the opportunity to interact with otherwise.

We usually have a little gift exchange.  
It's certainly not mandatory and please, keep it under \$20.



For more information, call Judy Whetzel  
360.600.9796



# Christmas Eve Eve



Washougal United Methodist Church  
Is hosting a **BLUE CHRISTMAS** Service  
In conjunction with Orchards United Methodist Church

**Saturday ~ December 20**  
**4:00 pm**

A Blue Christmas service is a gathering that acknowledges the sadness and grief that some people feel during the holiday season, offering a space for comfort and healing and to provide a place to reflect on loss, hardship, and darkness, as well as find hope. These services are open to anyone who is struggling with issues like grief, loss, loneliness, or stress during what can be a difficult time.

It's a place where it's "okay to not be okay".



It is a long standing tradition of the  
Washougal United Methodist Church  
to hold a special Christmas Eve Eve Service on December 23

Grab your family, friends and neighbors and join us

Tuesday  
December 23  
6:00 pm

*All Are Welcome*





# Happy Chrismukkah



Chrismukkah is a holiday that combines the traditions of Christmas and Hanukkah. The term originated in 19th century Germany with German Jews, who called it Weihnukkah, a combination of the German word for Christmas, Weihnachten, and Hanukkah. The holiday became popular in the United States after World War II.

This year Hanukkah begins on the evening of Sunday, December 14, 2025, and ends on Monday, December 22, 2025. Christmas.

## Sunnyside Schoolhouse

Our Sunday School Room has been transformed into an actual School Room! Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm six (6) K-5 classmates are being homeschooled by teacher Erin Johansen. Erin says her foremost roles in life are wife and mother. She's been a substitute and full time teacher in public schools and has taught for homeschool co-ops, tutored private students and holds a teacher's credential in the state of Washington.









Until the newly renovation "Outpost" on Evergreen is made available for Sunnyside Schoolhouse, we are privileged to provide a safe place for learning for the 2025/26 School Year.

At Sunnyside Schoolhouse, a sense of wonder for God, learning and the world we live in is the main focus along with memorization, recitation, math rotations, language arts, science/nature, history, geography and fine arts.



# December Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Worship 10 Lunch 11	Men's Coffee 9 Heartfelt Quilters 10-2					
2 <sup>nd</sup> Advent 7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship 10 Lunch 11 Barb Crozier BD Bill Revett BD	Men's Coffee 9 Heartfelt Quilters 10-2					
3 <sup>rd</sup> Advent 14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship 10 POTLUCK  Susi Nichols BD	Men's Coffee 9 Heartfelt Quilters 10-2	Page Turners Christmas Party 12 Fellowship Hall	Ryan Gould BD	Church Council 3	Ugly Sweater Day 	Blue Christmas Service 4
4 <sup>th</sup> Advent 21	22	23	24	Jesus BD 25	26	27
Worship 10 Lunch 11 Cleta Gilman BD	Men's Coffee 9 Heartfelt Quilters 10-2	Christmas Eve Eve Service 6	Jim Fisher BD			
28	29	30	31			
Worship 10 Lunch 11	Men's Coffee 9 Heartfelt Quilters 10-2  Gould's Anniversary		New Years Eve 			

Church Offices will be closed for the Holidays  
December 24-26, 2025 and December 31-January 1-3, 2026

