



SALEM **First  
Christian  
Church**

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

# THE CHURCH SCROLL

Volume 83 Issue 24 December 4, 2025

Sunday Services 8:30 & 10:30 am • Children's Church 10:30 am

## Christmas Eve Services



**December 24**

**6:00 pm**

**Newer and traditional  
carols, praise team,  
family-friendly**

**11:00 pm**

**Traditional service,  
carols and choir**

**Both services include  
special music, candles  
and communion.  
All are welcome!**



### Thanksgiving!

Always a beloved favorite! Our All-Church Thanksgiving dinner! We had 100+ in attendance, with meals delivered to Norma Stofiel and Gaylon & Lois Bledsoe! Thank you to all who helped with tables and chairs, decorations, table place settings, pie cutting and plating, food serving, kitchen dish washing and our drivers for home deliveries! A special Thank You to Chef Chris Walle (Café 22) who prepared our meal again this year! It is always a pleasure to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ!

~With gratitude from your Caring Ministry Team  
Kim Resch, Jessica Steele, Arty Day and Nduta Nyoro-Cayton



... where love leads community



## **Pastor's Message from Co-Senior Minister, Michelle Harris-Gloyer**

**Happy New Year, God's Beloved!**

The new year always comes around, ready or not. But for Christians, we get multiple new year's celebrations. The beginning of the Christian liturgical year begins with Advent!

Advent is a season observed in most Christian denominations, beginning four Sundays before Christmas. It is a time of waiting and preparing to mark Jesus' birth at Christmas. It is a time during which we enter into the mystery of God being enfleshed in the world through the Christ child— and a time to wonder about how God is still entering and moving through the world.

Our SFCC theme this Advent is "Abide with Us." It's the title of both our worship series and our Advent devotional provided by our Teaching Ministry Team. "Abide" may seem like a word from another era. You might only hear it if you are in church, reading or talking about the Bible, or watching the movie "The Big Lebowski" (which I've actually never seen but still know the movie quote: "The dude abides!"). "Abide" is a verb that means "to accept or act in accordance with" (dictionary.com).

In a world so quick to get distracted, disconnected, pulled away, and segregated—from one another and from God—maybe we can use some abiding now more than ever.

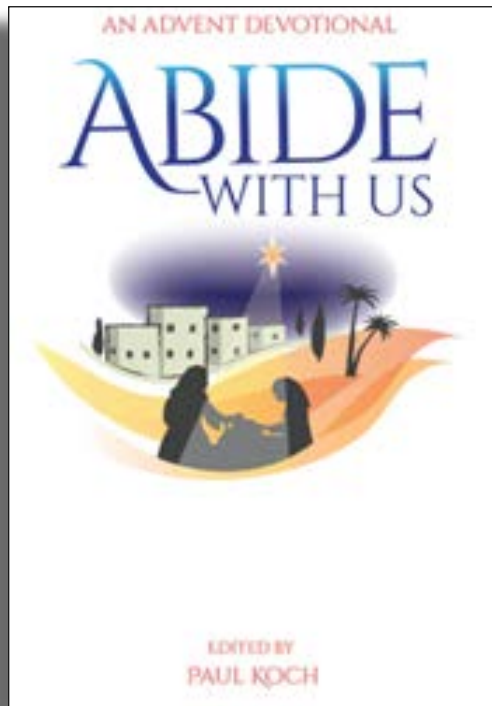


In this Advent plea of "Abide with Us," it is a prayer and a kind of new year's re-start, reset, revival

plea. It is a readiness to receive Christ's presence. More than to agree with or accept us, it is a prayer for Christ to dwell both within us and among us. In the fourth verse of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" we sing, "O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!" As you breathe deep Holy Spirit breaths, may it be so for you this Advent.

Waiting, preparing, and breathing with you.

~Pastor Michelle



At the Board meeting November 30, your representatives faithfully served you and our church. We are in solid financial shape for the upcoming year, with the Giving and Sharing team still seeking giving estimate information. We accepted the 2026 Revised Budget. Our banking will change from U.S. Bank to Willamette Valley Bank, with 3% interest offered on all accounts.

Those church members attending on November 23 approved the list of nominees for 2026 leadership positions at our Annual Church Meeting. The Board approved the list of 2026 Deacons.

We approved a Quasi-Endowment fund of \$1.4 million dollars through the Christian Church Foundation. The monies in this fund will continue to grow annually, but are available for major emergencies; retrieval rate was established at 3.5%.

The Board thanks you for your continued trust and faith.

~Penny Blackwell, FCC Board Chair



Happy Birthday To You!

### December 4-17

JD Day .....	December 4
Sherry Highfill .....	December 8
Libbyanna Resch .....	December 10
Henry Adams .....	December 10
Caden Hammond .....	December 12
Christy Knox .....	December 12
Landon Kinkaid.....	December 17

### Call for Musicians & Singers!

Is this holiday season calling you to more boldly proclaim your faith?

Our Praise Team, AMPT, invites you to consider bringing your instrumental or vocal talent to this dynamic ministry. With convenient Sunday morning rehearsals, and flexible scheduling, this just might be the ideal next step in your faith journey!

Contact Brian Smith or the church office for additional information:  
503-363-9273



### Prayers For

**Leslie Carlisle**, pancreatic cancer

**Susan Crom**, pancreatic cancer

**Judy Gilbertson**, open heart surgery at OHSU on January 5, 2026

**Joyce Richter**, healing from hip replacement

**Chris Whitehead**, healing from knee replacement

### Advent Series "ABIDE WITH US"

**December 7**  
**Peace through the Fire**

**December 14**  
**Joy in God's Purpose**

**December 21**  
**Love Made Flesh**

### Thank You

Margaret and Allan Cleveland would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your prayers, cards, calls, visits, and uplifting thoughts during the recent surgeries and healings. Margaret has seen her surgeon and been released to normal activities with continued PT. Allan is continuing in PT, showing great improvement. Both are praising the Lord for the support you have provided during this difficult time.

### Debbie Hegr Memorial Fund

A memorial fund has been set up at First Christian Church in memory of Debbie Hegr. If anyone wishes to make a donation, please write your check out to: First Christian Church and note in the memo line- "Debbie Hegr Memorial Fund."

### Worship Attendance

<b>November 23</b>	in-person	online
8:30.....	20	
10:30 .....	120.....	167
<b>November 30</b>	in-person	online
8:30.....	18	
10:30 .....	99 .....	119





## THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

### **How your gifts support ministry in Oregon and SW Idaho**

- Disciples Women – Two retreats a year
- Summer Camp Programming for grades 3-12 – Every summer children and youth deepen faith and friendships at Suttle Lake.
- New Church and Church Development – 9 Disciples Churches are in formation in Oregon and SW Idaho.
- Regional Ministers visiting the congregations on Sundays and available for consultation with ministers and congregational leadership.
- Search & Call – Guidance for churches seeking pastors
- Anti-Racism/ Pro-Reconciliation Training – Our team of trainers works with congregations to deepen our understanding of how racism affects our lives and congregations.
- Healthy Boundaries Training – available to pastors
- Guidance and Nurture of Clergy and Seminarians - 20 ministers or seminarians are under care of the Commission on Ministry for ordination or commissioning.
- Retreats, Workshops, Assemblies – to deepen our faith and nurture friendships.



### **Welcoming Ministry Greeters Opportunity**

The Welcoming Ministry needs people willing to greet one Sunday each month at one of our two greeting locations, the Chalice or the Narthex entrances. The Welcoming Ministry has had a great team of greeters who have served over the last year, thanks to each of you. The new year is approaching and we have a need for 10 people to greet for 2026, eight to serve one Sunday a month and two who will serve on fifth Sundays (these occur 4 or 5 Sundays a year).

Greeter duties are easy: Arrive 20 minutes prior to 10:30 am service, welcome each person as they enter, hand out communion elements and a Sunday program, direct visitors to the Sanctuary. Wear a smile and your name tag.

If you would like to continue to serve as a greeter or would be interested in joining the Welcoming Ministry, please text, call, or email me at 503-508-4231, or [rosealeeclemens@yahoo.com](mailto:rosealeeclemens@yahoo.com). I am happy to answer any questions.

*~Rosealee Clemens, Welcoming Ministry Chair*



### **Christmas-At-Noon Concerts**

Join us for free fabulous concerts on the next two Wednesdays of December!

**December 10 • Iris Duo**

Piano Duets

**December 17 • Just For Fun Singers**

Chorus

## Giving Trees

### RK Foundation

A Kenya Vihiga County Community Empowerment program and resource center for school children.

School Supplies: pencils, pens, erasers, sharpeners, crayons, colored pencils, art drawing books/tablets, markers, wood or sturdy plastic rulers.



### Hope – Center for Hope & Safety

Hygiene kits for women: bar soap, small bottles of body wash, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs and hairbrushes.



### Courtney Place Veterans Home

Home for Veterans with no other shelter.

Clients with dogs: dog biscuits, snacks, toys, collars, leashes and other accessories.

Clients without dogs: snack bag items like beef jerky, smoked salmon, cheese and crackers, other treats.



### Narthex Giving Tree

Gifts will be split between “HOAP – Homeless Outreach & Advocacy Program” and our own “Snack Bag Ministries.”

Warm winter gloves, hand warmers, caps or hats, scarves, socks, jackets and coats.



## Green Chalice Ministry

“Living our Faith by Caring for God’s Creation”

The holiday season is a time for connection, reflection, and gratitude, fostering a sense of community and belonging. Embracing sustainable holidays encourages mindful consumption and reduces waste, ensuring that we can enjoy this special time without compromising the well-being of our planet. By prioritizing eco-friendly practices, we create lasting memories while promoting a healthier environment for future generations. (A message from “One Home; One Future”)

See the Green Chalice bulletin board display to gain ideas for simplifying gift-giving!



Then check out the native seed packets (pollinator plants) at the Chalice entry as a stocking stuffer. Optimal planting time is during the cold winter months for most varieties to germinate. Check the instructions on the packets. Use pots for planting if you don’t have garden space. Next spring/summer enjoy the beauty of these flowers and know that you are improving habitats for all of God’s creatures, large and small!

Thanks to Rosealee Clemens for bringing us up to date in recycling and waste disposal current recommendations! Appropriate containers are placed throughout the church building, with instructions/guidelines for disposal of materials. Thank you for heeding these practices! “Good planets are hard to find!” Let’s do our part to sustain God’s creation!

Job 12:7-8 “Ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth and it will teach you or let the fish of the sea inform you.”





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### **Holiday Schedule**

**The SFCC Church Building will be closed  
December 25 and 26 in observance of  
Christmas, and January 1, to celebrate  
the New Year!**

**Happy Holidays!**



*address label*

### **Salem First Christian Church Staff**

Senior Minister: Rev. Matthew Harris-Gloyer

Senior Minister: Rev. Michelle Harris-Gloyer

Office Manager: Melissa Houston

Worship Leader & Custodian: Brian Smith

Accountant: Laura Hildebrandt

Communications Director: Joyce Richter

Music Director: Lisa Gallagher

Accompanist: Melissa Davey

Handbell Choir Director: Lisa Gallagher

Nursery Coordinator: Teri Garland

Nursery Assistant: Elizabeth Krummel

Security & Custodian: Terrance Jull

Security & Member/Visitor Engagement: Shawn Hill

Sound Technicians: Chris Martin & Ricky Fuentes

We are proud members of:



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



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



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

The **chalice** symbolizes the central place of communion in worship for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The X-shaped cross of the disciple, Andrew, is a reminder of the importance of evangelism and the ministry of each person.

### **Salem First Christian Church**

*(Disciples of Christ)*

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