

Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian Church



December 2018

Good Tidings of Great Joy



All-Church Breakfast and "Hanging of the Greens" Saturday, December 1

Breakfast 8:00 a.m. / "Hanging of the Greens" 9:00 a.m.

Adult Book Study Begins Sunday, December 2

10:10 a.m.

Study Book – "We Make the Road by Walking"

By Brian McLaren

Advent Dinner with Music by Northwest Groove Sunday, December 2

5:30 p.m.

Invite Family and Friends ~ Bring a Potluck Dish to Share Advent Litany and Lighting of Candles ~ Singing of Christmas Carols (If you would like to come and need a ride, let Pastor Vonda know.)

Ladies Craft Evening Monday, December 3

6:00 p.m.

Participants will learn how to make a fancy, Christmas bow.

Family Fun Night

Wednesday, December 12
Dinner 5:30 p.m. / Activities 6:00 p.m.
Make a Snowman Ornament ~ Sing Christmas Carols ~ Enjoy Holiday Treats

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday, December 24 7:00 p.m.

We'll celebrate the 200th anniversary of "Silent Night" with music and scripture. We will conclude with everyone singing "Silent Night" by candlelight.

Merry Christmas!

Notes from the Pastor's Pen . .



Among the countless Christmas legends, there is one involving a Christmas spider. According to this legend, when Joseph was warned in a dream to flee from King Herod and the massacre which he intended to inflict upon the children of Bethlehem, several animals from the manger decided to accompany the Holy Family on their journey. Each of the animals was determined to protect the baby Jesus, and each felt sure his or her particular talents would prove invaluable in that task.

There also happened to be a spider who wanted to come. Yet none of the other animals felt the spider would be helpful. After all, she was only an insect. She had no keen ears or sharp teeth, no strong bones and no claws whatsoever. However, the spider persistently pleaded to be included, until at last the other animals agreed she could join them, provided she did not get in the way.

Unfortunately, as the journey unfolded, all of the other supposedly brave animals either were frightened off or else were distracted. They ended up returning home or embarking on a more appealing adventure of their own.

With Herod's troops on the march, and with the Holy Family growing more and more tired, Joseph and Mary had little choice but to try and hide. Finding a small and inconspicuous cave, they huddled inside, seeking shelter and rest, with the donkey and the spider their only remaining companions. Holding Jesus in her arms, Mary gently rocked him to sleep, and, for a while, it appeared everything would be fine. The only immediate problem was the chill in the air.

Pastor's Notes (Cont.)

Seeking to be of help in some small way, the spider carefully wove a web over the opening of the cave to try to keep the baby warm. The spider had just finished her weaving when suddenly voices were heard outside the cave. The soldiers had caught up with the Holy Family, and they were diligently searching the entire area. When they came to the cave where the Holy Family was hidden, both Mary and Joseph held their breath, certain their doom was upon them. Yet the soldiers passed by the cave. One soldier said it was a waste of time to search it, since anyone who had entered the cave would have broken the spider's web over the opening.

Thus it was that the seemingly insignificant spider saved the day; and the legend goes on to say that this is why we hang tinsel on our Christmas trees ... to remind us of the silver strands of the web which the little spider wove ... and to remind us that no act of kindness, no act of courage, no act through which we seek peace with justice is ever wasted.

It is during this season of Advent that more acts of kindness and courage will be experienced. I know that you will either be performing those acts or recipients of those acts. We may often feel insignificant in the small acts of kindness we give, but just like the spider even a small act can make a difference in the life of another.

I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas! I'll look for you in church!

Pastor Vonda



All-Church Breakfast and "Hanging of the Greens" Church Christmas Decoration

Saturday, December 1 Breakfast – 8:00 a.m. Decorating – 9:00 a.m.



~ Bring the Family ~

This year there is an extra Sunday between Thanksgiving and the beginning of Advent. Because this is the first Saturday of the month, we will have an All-Church Breakfast and decorate the church immediately after.

Advent Dinner Features Northwest Groove



Sunday, December 2 5:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Bring a Potluck Dish

~ Invite Family and Friends ~

We're combining our Advent Dinner and Music for the Soul this year for a special Advent Gathering. We'll enjoy wonderful Christmas music by Northwest Groove, share in a meal together, light Advent candles and have a wonderful time singing Christmas carols.

If you would like to take a table in the Fellowship Hall and decorate it including five candles, please sign-up as soon as possible with Pastor Vonda.

Community House News

Next Dinner
Saturday, December 29
4:30 p.m.
Meet at
Community House



1107 Broadway Street/Longview

If you would like to help prepare and serve this dinner, please contact Jayne Lafady at 360-425-5787 or ilafady@outlook.com. If anyone has a food service card, you are especially encouraged to participate.

"Helping Hearts and Hands" Tree

Please open your hearts and help decorate our "Helping Hearts and Hands" tree this Christmas season with winter-weight hats, gloves, scarves, and socks. All sizes are needed for boys and girls <u>AND</u> for men and women.



The "Helping Hearts and Hands" tree is located in the Narthex (Lobby). You may bring your items and place them in the baskets below the tree. The items will be delivered to local charities for further distribution.

Darylan Johnson is the coordinator of this ministry, and if you have questions, please talk to her.

FISH Food Ministry Urgently Needs Volunteers and Food

On November 13 and 14, we served: Families–69, Adults–133, Children–82 for a total of 215.

Thank you to the following volunteers: Bette Aanderud, Dale Bruton, Glenn Faires, Pat Faires, Jake Kubin, John Orr, Todd Sadler, Peggy Skeahan, Colleen Walker, and Michelle (last name unavailable).



The next scheduled days to prepare and distribute food to people will be on:

Thursday, January 3 Friday, January 4 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Laurie Hall

If you are interested in helping, please contact Bette Aanderud at 360-577-0095 or Pat Faires at 360-423-7874.

FISH Food Needed:

- Peanut Butter
- Cereal
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Spaghetti
- Canned Tomatoes
- Hunts Pasta Sauce (traditional)
- Canned Fruit (Applesauce, Peaches, Pears)
- Canned Vegetables (Corn, Peas, Green Beans)
- Tuna
- Rice
- Top Ramen

Put items in containers in Narthex (Lobby).

Flapjack Breakfast at Applebee's



Saturday, January 12 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Applebee's Restaurant Triangle Shopping Center/Longview

Tickets: \$10/each
Watch for Tickets on Sale Soon
Proceeds go to Camperships

Breakfast will consist of: pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, coffee, milk, juice, and soft drinks.

Clothing/Household Items Fundraiser Update



A great big thank you goes to everyone who participated in the latest chapter of our Clothing/Household Items Savers Fundraiser. We made

a trip to Lacey on Saturday, November 17, and made \$660.51 because everyone was so gracious in helping.

Thank you to everyone who collected the donations and brought them to the church. Thank you to Dale Bruton and Jake Kubin who took them over to Laurie Hall at our Presbyterian Campus. Thank you to the large group of people who helped us load the trucks and trailer. And a special thank you to John Gross, Cherie and Larry Rapp, and Travis Coulombe for making the delivery drive to Lacey.

It is a joy and blessing to work with such a wonderful group of people. Thank you again.

--Sue Coulombe Fundraiser Coordinator

Bell Tower Brick Restoration Completed

The Trustee project of restoring the deteriorated brick work on the Methodist Bell Tower was completed Thanksgiving week. Although we knew that considerable re-pointing of the bricks needed to be done. after the scaffolding was erected thereby enabling a much closer look at the damage from years of weathering, we discovered that the project was much more extensive than originally thought. In fact, it was potentially dangerous should bricks have fallen. And, "more extensive" translated into "more expensive," somewhere in the vicinity of \$50,000. A \$5,000 gift, the current balance of the Methodist Building Fund (about \$12,000), and a loan from the Presbyterian Building Fund (to be repaid at \$700/month from monthly income to the Methodist Building Fund) has paid for the restoration. Additional costs were incurred by hiring Bart Martineau to repair extensive dry-rotted areas (particularly below the upper window where we have had previous leakage) and to do a bit of painting. Sealing the brick work necessitated hiring a specialty contractor and the renting of a manlift. Also, with the scaffolding in place, we were able to have Weatherguard come back and search for the years-long leak at the southwest corner of the Bell Tower which dripped water into the balcony. We anxiously await the next heavy rain to see if the repairs that were made finally solved the problems. Your Trustees are extremely grateful to our Presbyterian sisters and brothers for their loan enabling us to have this project done correctly. --Wally Dietel, Trustee Chair

P.S. -- Your Trustees would like to extend our appreciation to Wally, Project Manager, for the many hours he worked to both coordinate and to assure the quality of the job.

Emergency Support Shelter News



"Item of the Month" ~ Paper Towels ~

Donation Baskets in Narthex (Lobby)

Congratulations



Larry and Gwyn Gross will celebrate their 68th Wedding Anniversary on December 14.

Welcome New Members



Left to right:
Peggy Skeahan, Sharon Shope and
Jorian Whisman officially joined the church
on Sunday, October 28.

Remember In Prayer

John Anderson, Glenn Faires, Jerrilyn French (Cheryl Risner's sister-in-law), Tom Gates, Lolita Hare, Jean Larsen, and our children we sponsor at Jamaa Letu Orphanage in the Congo: Betty, Joseph, Leon, Ruth Kashala, Ruth Mukuna, Souzanne, Willy, and Yanick

Our Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Fleda Gavette. Fleda passed away on November 29.



Community House Thank You

Dear Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian Church,

I would like to extend my personal gratitude to you and your congregation for your generous donation in October. It is so encouraging to have support from people who care so deeply. We truly appreciate your continued support!

As I'm sure you know, the Community House provides shelter to nearly 600 people each year, half of whom are children. It is so imperative that we, as a community, help our next generation be as successful as they can be. Thank you for joining us in this mission to be a hand up for our community.

Yours in service to the homeless,

--Frank Morrison

Executive Director

Help Backpack Buddies

Thursdays 9:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Everyone Welcome to Help Pack Bags!

Food donations are needed for our Backpack Buddies program to help children at Barnes Elementary School who are in need of food over the weekend. List includes:

- Tuna
- Chili
- Soup
- Fruit Cups
- Oatmeal (Individual Packs)
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Plastic Grocery Bags.

Donation Containers in Narthex (Lobby)

Thank You

Thank you to Larry and Cherie Rapp for the donation of the "new to us" couch to replace the one in the Bride's Room that was damaged beyond repair. Also, thank you to Cheryl and Jack Risner for the coffee table. The rocking chair came from the Library, and unfortunately, it too has become damaged.

I truly appreciate how we've been able to create a nice cozy space that was really appreciated by family members after a recent funeral. It's my hope that we can all be vigilant and be proactive in the care and safety of our "special" little room.

-- Tanya Nelson

Advice from "Nurse Nancy"

First Aid

"Nurse Nancy" recently put together some First Aid kits as well as signage designating their location. There are kits in the main kitchen area, church office and church van. There also is a smaller one in the kitchen off Room 12. Additionally, red bio boxes will be placed in the rest rooms. Please dispense of your sharps and used diabetic test strips in these "bio-hazard" containers.

AED

Our AED is on the wall just inside of the east door entrance to the Library. It is very easy to use and is a lifesaving tool. I will be happy to instruct anyone who wishes to learn how to deploy this adjunct to CPR.



Nurse Nancy (aka Tanya Nelson)

Flu Season Reminder

Seniors or anyone who is immunocompromised should get their flu shots now. Ask for the FluAd version especially compounded for that population. Everyone should have the flu shot, and it is available at most pharmacies along with pneumonia and shingles injections. If it's difficult to get an appointment with your physician, this is a good option. Make sure you inform your physician when and where you received your vaccination/s so that your medical record will be current and complete.

Advice from "Nurse Nancy" (Cont.)

Additionally, you can be proactive in protecting yourself and others by using good handwashing techniques and coughing or sneezing into your inner arm.

Safety

- •Watch your step and stay off unsafe ladders.
- •Avoid fire hazards by only using Christmas lights that have intact plastic sheathing.
- •Keep your tree hydrated as well as yourself.
- •Be sure your smoke and/or combo smoke and CO protectors are functional – change the batteries prn.
- •Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- •Be sure your house is locked as well as your vehicle.
- •Do not leave any valuables in sight and preferably put them in the trunk.
- •Do not be fooled by telephone scams. IRS and Social Security scams are current. Never give out your social security or other personal ID over the phone unless you have initiated the call to your own agent. Likewise computer scams same tactics.
- •Do not be walking and using your cell phone. This makes you vulnerable to attacks to steal your purse or wallet and/or cause bodily harm. Your attention must be keenly aware of your surroundings at all times.

Warming Shelter for Homeless Youth Opening

A warming shelter for homeless youth will be opening during the winter months when the temperature hits 32°. The shelter is going to be based at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church located in Longview at 1428 – 22nd Avenue.

The shelter needs volunteers, sleeping bags, and breakfast items. If you are interested in helping, please talk to Pastor Vonda.

December Birthdays

- 9 Helen Larson
- 10 Anne Hill
- 12 Darylan Johnson
- 17 Kaiah Wilson
- 20 Giuliana Viscuso
- 21 Scott McRae
- 22 Piper Donnelly



Attendance

Sunday			
	Sunday	1st	2nd
<u>Date</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Service</u>
11/04/18	9	67	66
11/11/18	18	63	59
11/18/18	10	66	58
11/25/18	10	68	55

Wednesday

	Youth	<u>Adults</u>
11/07/18	10	11
11/14/18 Family Fun N	Night 9	20
11/21/18 Thanksgiving	g Break No A	ctivities
11/28/18	5	10

Finance News

The year-to-date (January-October) balance for the General Fund is a negative (-\$233.91). The Finance Committee would like to end 2018 with a zero balance, or a very small carry-over. To achieve this, we are asking that you give prayerful thought to increasing your giving through the end of the year, if you are able. We certainly appreciate any extra amount you may be able to give.

As we have worked on our 2019 Budget, we have looked closely at all line items to make sure that they are needed and that we haven't budgeted more than is truly needed for each item.

The Finance Committee continues to be thankful for your financial support as we go about the work of Jesus in our community. --Finance Committee

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Website: www.kelsoumpc.org
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Methodist Presbyterian Church
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Pastor's E-mail: pastorvonda@gmail.com
Rev. Greg and Rev. Laurel Moore, Music Directors
503-556-8131

Sunday Schedule (Sept-May)
9:00 am Contemporary Service
9:20 am Kid's Sunday School
11:00 am Traditional Service
10:00 am & 12:00 pm Fellowship Time

Wednesday Schedule (Sept-May) 5:30 pm Children/Teen Ministry 6:15 pm Praise Team Practice 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Adult Book Study

"We Make the Road by Walking"

By Brian McLaren

This is the book recommended by the Bishop as part of her Cross-Over to Life promotion. Two times/locations are available for the study (choose which one works best for you):

Option 1
Begins Sunday, December 2
10:10 a.m.
Church Fellowship Hall



Option 2 Begins Wednesday, December 5 7:00 p.m. Canterbury Park 1335 – 3rd Avenue in Longview

Private Dining Room

Everyone Invited!

If you are interested and if you need a book, contact: Steve Johnson (360-747-3457) Pastor Vonda (360-423-7480)

December's Weekly Reading Assignment for "We Make the Road by Walking"

Week One • December 2 or 5, 2018

Part 2: Alive in the Adventure of Jesus Chapter 14 • Promised Land, Promised Time Daniel 7:9-28, Isaiah 40:9-11, Luke 1:67-79

Week Two • December 9 or 12, 2018 Chapter 15 • Women on the Edge

Luke 1:5-55, Isaiah 7:14, 9:2-7, Romans 12:1-2

Week Three • December 16 or 19, 2018

Chapter 16 • Keep Herod in Christmas Jeremiah 32:31-35, Micah 5:2-5a., Matthew 1:18-2:15

Week Four • December 23 or 26, 2018

Chapter 17 • Surprising People Psalm 34:1-18, Matthew 1:1-17, Luke 2:8-20

Week Five • December 30, 2018 or January 2, 2019

Chapter 18 • Sharing Gifts (After Christmas Day) Psalm 117, Matthew 2:1-12, Luke 2:25-32

Calling all Crafters! Come, Join us for a fun filled Craft Evening Monday, December 3rd



Tanya Nelson will teach us to make a fancy Christmas bow

Bring a lunch, your crafting supplies and IDEAS for future projects

We want to start a Crafting group. We're starting with Christmas ornaments, possibly to sell at next year's Bazaar, but we're open to other directions. Interested?

Talk to Linda Redmond or Beth Wills

Family Fun Night "Christmas Holiday Theme"

Wednesday, December 12 5:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall



~ Make a Snowman Ornament ~ (Use your hand/fingers as a pattern for snowman)

~ Sing Christmas Carols ~

~ Enjoy Holiday Treats ~

Bring a Friend, Family Member, Neighbor, etc.



Christmas 2018

Christmas Greetings to You and Yours!

On behalf of the leadership here at Kelso UMPC, I wanted to take this opportunity to greet you during this wonderful time of year as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

In these challenging times, it is reassuring to know that we have an anchor that holds strong in spite of storms that arise from time to time. Many of these storms are literal storms in the form of tragic weather events, while others may be financial, political, or family struggles.

Jesus came to this earth quietly and without fanfare or welcome worthy of a king, let alone, the King of Kings! During this time, there were tremendous challenges for the Jewish people as they struggled under the iron rule of the Romans. Even the early years of His life were marked with obscurity and preparation for the plan to be accomplished as He did the will of the Father.

Even His own people didn't receive Him as the Bible says in John 1:11 (NKJV) "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him." One of the most beautiful aspects of holidays such as Christmas is that we are able to go to our "own" (families), and have the doors open wide with love and acceptance.

May I take a moment to remind you that this may not always be the case? I encourage you to take a moment to look around at someone who may be in need of an "open door" of fellowship at this time. Perhaps they have weathered a storm in their life, and are battered and bruised, and simply in need of the love only you (and yours) are able to provide.

Also, be sure to take time to be with us in worship during this Advent Season. There is nothing quite as warming as being with the family of God!

On the last Sunday before Christmas and Christmas Eve, we take a special offering that benefits our Emergency Fund. This fund is used to help those in need with their utilities, rent, or gas for their car. If you would like to contribute towards this fund, please remember this is above your normal giving.

Thank you for your generosity this Advent.

May God's richest blessings be upon your life, and in turn, help you become a channel of love.

Christ's Richest Blessings,

Vonda

Bazaar Thank You



Congratulations and thank you to everyone who helped with our 79th Annual Joyous Holiday Bazaar on November 3, 2018.

Not yet "old hat" in my responsibilities as chairperson, I truly appreciate and value the help and input of several people who I'd like to acknowledge – Marilyn Strange, Kathy Williamson and Judy Ainslie. These women have unselfishly given of their time and talents. Our secretary, Judy Early, and our custodian, Dale Bruton, are just the best! I delighted in the support from my new friend and new church member, Peggy Skeahan, as well as Pat Faires, who generously helped with set-up as well as take down. Also, I would like to commend Mary Duhamel for jumping in wherever needed and bringing her hubby, John, to do the shopping! I think he gets the prize for that. Also, we were graced with several generous financial donations which I truly appreciate. Lynne Davis, Nancy Heaton, and Dolores McDonald, though not having specific jobs, were awesome multipurpose "floaters." They cheerfully helped wherever needed – such wonderfully valuable "human resources."

I ask for blessings over our missions we support and over all Bazaar workers and especially my family for their unending love and support.

Though the Bazaar is billed as United Methodist Presbyterian Women's group as sponsors, there are some men who made great contributions to the success of our big event. Dick Graham and John Simpson both chaired booths. Dick works in his shop all year on projects for the Bazaar. Last year, John Simpson requested the Bride's Room for the Book Booth location, which spiraled into a whole location change for many booths, and the "Welcome Room" became a new spot to rest a bit. Since then the KUMPC purchased an electric fire log heater for the fireplace as well as an area rug. Thank you to Kathy Williamson for all the pennants hanging in the Welcome Room that she made last year which represent recipients who receive financial support from the proceeds of our Bazaar. My sweet hubby helped wherever he was needed too.

Pastor Vonda and her daughter, Heather Donnelly, prepared a wonderful meal again this year. Janice Haupt and Marilyn Strange were kitchen servers. Thank you for all your efforts. Pastor Vonda works so hard on so many fronts, and all one has to say is "make it so," and she will do her best. Thank you, Vonda, you are much appreciated and a wonderful chef!

It goes without saying that there is no "I" in the word team, so I'd like to acknowledge the following people for their efforts as booth chairs:

<u>Bakery</u> – Trudi and Tirzah Gross with Gwyn Gross and Carol McRae as booth greeters Bankers – Judy Ainslie and Kathy Williamson

Boutique - Cheryl Risner, Peggy Skeahan, Susan Schwartz and me (Tanya)

<u>Candy</u> – Shirley Simpson with Mary Duhamel. A huge thank you to Judy Ainslie and Kathy Williamson who made nearly all the candy for this booth.

Children - Pam Dickey with Piper Donnelly

Bazaar Thank You (Cont.)

<u>Collectibles</u> – Maryanne Wainwright

Gift Baskets - Beth Wills and Shirley Whyte

etc. - Annette Nelson with Amy Nelson Evernden and Tanya Nelson

<u>Kitchen and Food Prep</u>. – Pastor Vonda as kitchen "manager" with Heather Donnelly and Dolores McDonald

<u>Textile and Fiber Arts</u> – Linda Redmond with Jacq Christensen and Anne DeFrancisco <u>Luncheon Set-up and Servers</u> – Anne Hill and hubby, Jim, did the set-up and her <u>Luncheon Hostess Team consisted of Mary Duhamel, Cherie Rapp, and Jayne Lafady.</u> <u>Cashier</u> – Fiina Fowler and Marilyn Strange

<u>Music/Sound System</u> – Greg Moore expertly set up the sound system and provided lovely Christmas music which added a nice touch to enhance our "Christmas ambiance." <u>Wood Crafts</u> – Dick Graham

Additionally, it goes without saying that Dale Bruton was indispensable as far as setting up and taking down everything for the Bazaar. Thank you, Dale!

Obviously, this grand event wouldn't happen if it weren't for all the wonderful donations of items to sell. Most of the items reflect many hours in lovingly creating them. One of the beautiful things about the Bazaar is the fellowship among those involved as well as the many people who came to the Bazaar. Thank you so much one and all for your efforts in making this wonderful event so successful. We banked nearly \$4,000. If anyone needs reimbursement, please get a voucher from Judy in the Church Office and turn it in ASAP so that we can determine our profit. Remember, if you've kept your receipts your donations are tax deductible.

Lastly, and not forgotten, is my wonderful husband, Rod, who works behind the scenes helping with anything I need – including preparing meals so I can continue working on a project, cleaning up my messes, doing housework, and giving me grace prn. I am truly blessed.

I truly apologize if I have inadvertently omitted anyone.

Next year will be our 80th Annual Joyous Holiday Bazaar, and I want it to be SPECTACULAR! The Bazaar will be held on the second Saturday of November to avoid conflict with Trunk-or-Treat as well as competing with the huge Toy Soldier Bazaar. Additionally, we are starting a Crafting Fellowship which will hold its first meeting on December 3 at 6 p.m. in Room 12. I will demonstrate making bows. Bring your own scissors, and I will provide the rest. Bring your own snack. At Each Crafting Fellowship time throughout the year, someone will demonstrate a craft. Besides being a women's fellowship, we hope to have some new items for next year's Bazaar as well as getting a head start on next year. Linda Redmond and Beth Wills are chairing this new endeavor. We will critique this year's Bazaar and plan changes accordingly. Please submit to me any ideas you may have if you are unable to attend.

God Bless You All! Tanya Nelson

Family Fun Night ~ Camp Experience

On Wednesday, November 14, participants enjoyed camp activities, sang camp songs and munched on camp treats.









Turkeys! Turkeys! Turkeys!

Thanks to our congregation, 50 families from Wallace Elementary School were able to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. Here are the turkeys on the way.

