

Worship at HCCUCC December 2013

Worship services begin at 10:30. Each Sunday in December, a carol sing at 10:20 will precede the service.

December 1

Matthew 24:26-44

An Unexpected Hour

December 8

Matthew 3:1-12

Snakes and Axes and Fire, Oh My

December 15

Luke 1:39-56

Lifting up the Lowly

Saturday, December 21, 7 p.m. Longest Night Service

A service of prayer, silence, music, healing, and hope on the longest

night of the year.

December 22

Matthew 1:18-25

The Birth Took Place in This Way

December 24, 11 p.m.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols
with candlelighting

December 29

Spontaneous, All-Ages
Christmas Pageant

Giving Tree Benefits Many

by Elaine Walser-Clark

A few weeks ago I was approached by one of the Sunday School teachers who asked if there was any project that the children could do to help during the Christmas holidays. It was great timing because I was thinking of the annual Giving Tree that we have each Christmas.

We have often hosted a family, or more than one family, but I was hoping that we could combine that annual tradition with something a little different. Social justice and educating our children is important to so many people at Hillsdale.



I had been thinking about Raphael House, a multi-faceted domestic violence agency dedicated to fighting the causes and effects of intimate partner violence in a variety of ways. Nearly 100 families are served in the emergency shelter each year, and more than 5,000 callers are offered safety planning and advocacy on in-house crisis line. An additional 400 survivors receive non-residential advocacy services each year. In addition to serving a diverse community of women and children escaping domestic violence, Raphael House also works to eliminate the causes of family and intimate partner violence through community education and outreach.

However, it seemed that one of the Sunday School children hoped we could do something to help animals. That made me think about Animal Aid. Since its founding

in 1969, Animal Aid has helped tens of thousands of companion animals through rescue and adoption programs for homeless animals, financial and volunteer support of spay/neuter efforts, and by providing funds to guardians unable to pay for urgent veterinary care.

What I did not realize, until talking to one of the people at Animal Aid, is that they work with programs like Raphael House. I had not considered that when women and children leave their homes in the middle of the night their animals are left behind. The children worry about that pet who they had to leave. Groups like Animal Aid can often help care for the pets who are uprooted much like the children.

This year we are supporting both Raphael House and Animal Aid on our Giving Tree. The Giving Tree has also become a learning experience for our Sunday School children. This year our children made the ornaments for Animal Aid and the agency is putting the gift requests on the back of the ornaments. Raphael House provided the ornaments for their families. The Sunday School teachers saw this as an opportunity to talk to the children about domestic violence and how it affects families—and yes, pets.

Please take an ornament and support one or both of these wonderful programs. All unwrapped gifts should be returned to the church by December 8 so that we can get them to the organizations for delivery by Christmas. Tape the ornament you select to the gift you buy and put it in the appropriate box in the Narthex. There will be one for each organization. Thank you for helping us make this a wonderful Christmas for the humans and animals less fortunate than ourselves.

Centering Prayer Helps All

A growing group is gathering three times a week for centering prayer. Centering prayer is for everyone. This is a simple but profound method of prayer in which we quiet the breath and mind as we turn our thoughts over to God. Join us in the Maple Room Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:10-10:30 and Sundays from 8:30-8:50.

Anticipating Advent by Alexis Hamilton

Advent is a time of anticipation—but anticipation of what? Ever noticed how the stores have barely put the 80% discount signs up on the Halloween rack before they have rolled out the glittery, red, green, and gold splendor of that “hap-happiest time of the year”?

Thanksgiving is a perfectly good holiday, people!

But Christmas is alluring on so many levels. And if it is difficult for adults to separate the spiritual from the commercial, how much harder is it for the wide-eyed, overstimulated, excited, greedy little cherubs we live with—our kids? I will tell you how it is in our house. Hard.

The laundry list of wants starts sometime in the summer, is narrowed down by the time school starts, and is distilled into diamond-hard intensity by the time the Halloween candy is dwindling. Despite me wandering the house warbling an enthusiastic turkey gobble, Thanksgiving barely crosses our boy’s radar. Christmas is coming—even his favorite iPhone games have donned their Christmas garb.

All that is to say that there might be ways to try to penetrate the noise of consumerism which clutters this Advent season. Don’t get me wrong—I love the Christmas clatter. I really do. But I can hear the small, peaceful thread running through it and grasp it and cling to it. I want that for my child too.

So what to do? Here are a few suggestions:

Talk about the seasons of the church. Talk about Advent and its symbols and meanings. Talk about Christmas, and how it is different from Advent, and what the holiday means in a larger context. Talk about Epiphany and its symbolism. These talks don’t need to be dull—and they shouldn’t be long or become a lecture. Just observations as the church sanctuary’s decorations change, for instance. During November, we had a beautiful cornucopia on the communion table. Introduce the word and talk about abundance, for instance. Crafting an Advent wreath together can be fun! There are lots of great crafty projects for making Advent wreaths online, and the symbolism of the Advent wreath can’t be beat!

Most children who attend church will have some idea that Christmas is Jesus’ birthday, but they may not have a frame for why Jesus’ coming was important. Read the stories leading

up to Jesus’ birth. In our house, the week of Christmas, our bedtime story comes from the Bible. We read about the angel coming to Mary, Mary, and Elizabeth, etc. This year, when we talk about the Magi coming to visit Jesus, I think we will talk about the gifts that the Magi brought and maybe consider what gifts we can offer Jesus this year: Of time, prayer, consideration for others.

What about introducing the REAL Santa Claus to your kids? St. Nicholas was a 4th century Turkish bishop who devoted his life and goods to the poor. He became famous throughout Europe and folklore and myths rose up around him. You can take a trip around the world with the various incarnations of Santa: Father Christmas, St. Nicholas, Sinterklaas, Père Noel, or Christmas Present. How are they the same or different from our version of Santa Claus? The internet is a fount of information for this type of thing!

And, hey, don’t discount the power of the old Christmas special *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* to open up a conversation! That is a favorite of mine, both in book form and in the old Boris Karloff version that came out in the 1960s. Get a hold of it and watch it again. It is wonderful! If only for “He’s a mean one, Mr. Grinch.” Ah, Boris...

Taking time as a family to breathe in the anticipation of Advent and the peace that Christmas can offer will make all of the frantic cookie baking, gift shopping, present wrapping, and tree trimming become what it is meant to be—fun. All of the trappings of Christmas are just the bow on the real present of the season. God’s love made manifest. Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

Neighborhood House Seeking Donations of Food and More

Neighborhood House is looking for donations to help our Portland area neighbors in need this holiday season. They are asking especially for food and other essential items, such as hygiene and cleaning supplies. Please check out the list posted in the Narthex for the details. We collect these items the first Sunday of every month, but you can drop off contributions at any time.

A Christmas Carol to Be Focus of Study

In December we will be doing a special study of the book *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. How does this classic tale bridge the span between Bible times and modern times? Find out by joining the Bible study group at 10:30 on Tuesdays, December 3, 10, and 17.



Family and Friends Christmas Auction Welcomes All Ages

Mark your calendar for Friday, December 13, and join family and friends at this annual auction. A kid-friendly meal will be provided. Bring an unwrapped gift for the auction. Suggestions for items include recycled gifts, toys (new or good condition), artwork, baked goods, jams. Proceeds raised will benefit a program or mission of the church.

This is a great chance for young families, middle-agers, and grandparents to share a fun evening together.

Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols Celebrates Worldwide Tradition

The soft light of candles. The awe-inspiring music of the season—both familiar and new. The shining faces of loved ones around you. Rehearing the old, old story, made fresh and new again each year. It must be Christmas Eve.

Here at Hillsdale, we celebrate Christmas Eve with a traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols, which is said to have originated in England in 1880. The Festival of Lessons and Carols is now celebrated in countless congregations worldwide, including our own.

The Christmas Eve service is a not-to-be-missed time of worship and celebration. Hillsdale's service is patterned after the service at King's College in Cambridge, England—the most famous Christmas Eve service in the world. From the quiet opening strains of the processional hymn, *Once in Royal David's City*, through the final majestic stanza of *O Come, All Ye Faithful*—"Yea, Lord, we greet thee..."—the service recounts the story of God's love and Christ's birth. The lighting of candles by the congregation as we sing *Silent Night* together is a powerful and moving moment that many of us recall with joy all year long. The service concludes at the stroke of midnight as we ring in Christmas Day together!

The service begins at 11:00 p.m. An extended musical prelude precedes the service, beginning at 10:45.



The darkened Sanctuary, candlelight, ten Christmas trees, scores of poinsettias, and more than a thousand tiny lights provide a beautiful setting for this most holy of nights.

Welcome Newcomers!

If you've been visiting Hillsdale Community Church UCC for a while (or if this is your first Sunday!) and you'd like to learn more about the church, join us for a Newcomers' Lunch in the Mount Hood Room on Sunday, December 1, after church until 1:00 or so. We will receive new members on a Sunday in December that is convenient for everyone. If you have been attending and are ready to join in membership, or if you have more questions about what membership might mean for you and your household, please speak to Pastor Jennifer (503-246-5474) or Elizabeth Pigg (503-892-8980).

Coming Out As a Person of Faith Exhibit Featured at HCC

On December 15, Hillsdale is proud to host the Coming Out As a Person of Faith Exhibit, an exhibit that has been touring Oregon's churches during 2013. Through film, audio, photographs, and writing, the exhibit shows how people from a variety of Judeo-Christian traditions are on a journey of understanding, reconciling what religion often teaches about gay and trans people with what they have seen to be true about their friends, family, peers, and loved ones.

That same day, during worship, we will be visited by Aubrey Thonvold, Faith Director of Oregon United for Marriage. Aubrey says that in seminary, "we explored who our neighbors are, ways to express God's endless love for them, and how living out of love can change the world around us. I have taken this to heart and it has become my life's ministry to make sure all people have the opportunity to experience full inclusion under the law... I have spent my professional career working to make sure all loving committed couples have the freedom to marry. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to work with faith communities in Washington and Hawaii (and now Oregon). Through outreach, education, and organizing, people of faith have used their time, talent, and resources to make sure all people have the freedom to marry the person they love."

Gay and lesbian couples want to marry for similar reasons as anyone—to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment, fidelity, and responsibility. More and more people of faith are coming to realize that the core principals of their beliefs are leading them to support the freedom to marry.

"We are all children of God, and it is not for us to judge or deny a couple willing to stand up in front of their friends and family to make a promise of love, commitment, fidelity, and responsibility to each other," said the Rev. Mark Knutson, pastor at Augustana Lutheran Church. "I believe that treating others as one would want to be treated includes allowing gay and lesbian couples to have the freedom to marry."

A group of volunteers and faith leaders created the project with support from the rapper Macklemore and

several organizations, including the Community of Welcoming Congregations, Oregon State PFLAG, Rural Organizing Project, Religious Response Network, Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists, Oregon Integrity, Freedom to Marry, Mormons for Marriage Equality, ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation, and the Portland Metro Chapter of ReconcilingWorks.

Letter from the Pastor

When we were children (and, I confess, when we were older than children too), my brother Mark used to make me laugh on Christmas Eve during the sacred singing of *Silent Night*. He would do this by switching octaves, first singing incredibly low and then in the middle of a verse, busting into a high falsetto. So for a long time, even when Mark wasn't singing in my ear, this song made me giggle. Now when I hear *Silent Night* I have a new memory—I think of the choir at the end of our annual dessert concert, lighting candles and singing—and signing—sweetly and gently. The new memory does not replace the old one. Instead, it makes it better, richer, deeper, even more joyful.



How do we make memories? There are lots of ads and messages, especially at this time of year, that suggest that memories can be manufactured, packaged, and delivered like presents. I'm not sure it works that way. I guess you can make a *memory*, but making *MEMORIES* takes time. No one could have created the many layers of meaning that *Silent Night* holds for me—two of those layers being the giggles of a couple of over-stimulated kids at a late night service, and the lovely signing of the choir into the silence. Memories are created over time and years, layered one on top of another to make a whole.

That's why, at this time of year, we tell familiar stories and sing familiar songs. We are making memories, the lasting ones. Not the flimsy once-in-a-lifetime, never-to-be-repeated kind of memories promised by Disneyland, but the memories that layer and grow and deepen and get stronger, year by year. The kind of memories we are making grow and change, and as they do, get stronger. New experiences and stories are added year by year to an old, familiar story. December is here. I look forward to another year of making memories with you.

See you in church!

Jennifer

Worship Services Available on CD

Did you know? Our worship services are now recorded on CD. They are easy to reproduce, so if you or someone you know would like to occasionally or regularly receive the worship service on CD, contact Kathy or Tim at the office.

Youth Corner

Christmas Lock-in

Join with other middle and high-schoolers from across the conference for a Christmas lock-in overnight December 20-21 at Ainsworth UCC in NE Portland. In other years, these nights have included tours of Christmas lights, a white elephant gift exchange, games, movies, a short educational component and, according to Pastor Cecil Prescod of Ainsworth, "sleep (or not)." Let Jennifer know by December 15 if you are interested.

Camp Adams Summer Camp Sessions 2014

Family Camp: June 29-July 5 OR July 2-July 5 (all ages)

Genesis/Seekers: July 6- July 12 (completed 2nd and 3rd grades)

Taller/Smaller: July 9-July 12 (ages 5-7 with an adult)

Discoverers: July 13-July 19 (completed 4th and 5th grades)

Sojourners: July 20-July 26 (completed 6th, 7th, and 8th grades)

Exodus: July 27-August 2 (completed 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades)

A Heartfelt Thank You

We wanted to thank everyone who made our wedding and receptions such warm and memorable events. We shall remember them and all of you for many years to come.

For many years we felt called, as followers of Christ, to serve others. In preparing for our marriage, we felt that our answer to this call would be strengthened as a married couple. Because of this, our marriage ceremony revolved around the themes of unity and service. We carried this theme over to the reception at Hillsdale on November 17 by asking folks to bring gently used clothing and blankets to be donated to Transition Projects. The response was absolutely amazing. We delivered over 10 bags of clothing, hats, blankets, and other items to Transition Projects. The workers there were truly awed by the donation, and thanked us (and you) profusely for such generosity.

So many of you over the years have stood with us, supported us, accepted us, and loved us. This further evidence of your extravagant generosity of spirit is why we described you, during our wedding, as our "family of choice." We are humbled and blessed to be part of this family called Hillsdale Community Church, United Church of Christ.

Blessings and love,

Lynn and Elaine Walser-Clark

Stress, Depression, and the Holidays: Tips for Coping

This article by the Mayo Clinic staff gives some practical and sensitive suggestions on how to minimize stress and depression during the holidays.

The holiday season often brings unwelcome guests—stress and depression. And it's no wonder. The holidays present a dizzying array of demands—parties, shopping, baking, cleaning, and entertaining, to name just a few.

But with some practical tips, you can minimize the stress that accompanies the holidays. You may even end up enjoying the holidays more than you thought you would.

Tips to Prevent Holiday Stress and Depression

When stress is at its peak, it's hard to stop and regroup. Try to prevent stress and depression in the first place, especially if the holidays have taken an emotional toll on you in the past.

Acknowledge your feelings. If someone close to you has recently died or you can't be with loved ones, realize that it's normal to feel sadness and grief. It's okay to take time to cry or express your feelings. You can't force yourself to be happy just because it's the holiday season.

Reach out. If you feel lonely or isolated, seek out community, religious or other social events. They can offer support and companionship. Volunteering your time to help others also is a good way to lift your spirits and broaden your friendships.

Be realistic. The holidays don't have to be perfect or just like last year. As families change and grow, traditions and rituals often change as well. Choose a few to hold on to, and be open to creating new ones. For example, if your adult children can't come to your house, find new ways to celebrate together, such as sharing pictures, emails, or videos.

Set aside differences. Try to accept family members and friends as they are, even if they don't live up to all of your expectations. Set aside grievances until a more appropriate time for discussion. And be understanding if others get upset or distressed when something goes awry. Chances are they're feeling the effects of holiday stress and depression, too.

Stick to a budget. Before you go gift and food shopping, decide how much money you can afford to spend. Then stick to your budget. Don't try to buy happiness with an avalanche of gifts. Try these alternatives: Donate to a charity in someone's name, give homemade gifts or start a family gift exchange.

Plan ahead. Set aside specific days for shopping, baking, visiting friends, and other activities. Plan your menus and then make your shopping list. That'll help prevent last-minute scrambling to buy forgotten ingredients. And make sure to line up help for party prep and cleanup.

Learn to say no. Saying yes when you should say no can leave you feeling resentful and overwhelmed. Friends and colleagues

will understand if you can't participate in every project or activity. If it's not possible to say no when your boss asks you to work overtime, try to remove something else from your agenda to make up for the lost time.

Don't abandon healthy habits. Don't let the holidays become a free-for-all. Overindulgence only adds to your stress and guilt. Have a healthy snack before holiday parties so that you don't go overboard on sweets, cheese, or drinks. Continue to get plenty of sleep and physical activity.

Take a breather. Make some time for yourself. Spending just 15 minutes alone, without distractions, may refresh you enough to handle everything you need to do. Take a walk at night and stargaze. Listen to soothing music. Find something that reduces stress by clearing your mind, slowing your breathing, and restoring inner calm.

Seek professional help if you need it. Despite your best efforts, you may find yourself feeling persistently sad or anxious, plagued by physical complaints, unable to sleep, irritable and hopeless, and unable to face routine chores. If these feelings last for a while, talk to your doctor or a mental health professional.

Take control of the holidays. Don't let the holidays become something you dread. Instead, take steps to prevent the stress and depression that can descend during the holidays. Learn to recognize your holiday triggers, such as financial pressures or personal demands, so you can combat them before they lead to a meltdown. With a little planning and some positive thinking, you can find peace and joy during the holidays.



Wheelchair "Donation" Remains a Mystery

Someone dropped this wheelchair in front of the church a few weeks ago. We have contacted the police but it doesn't seem to be stolen.

We would like it to go to someone who could use it. If you know of someone, call the church office (503-246-5474.) If we can't make use of it here in our community by the end of the year, we'll donate it to the MDA equipment loan closet.



Boomers' Auction Tradition Continues

Plan to have fun on the late afternoon of Sunday, December 15, 5:00 p.m., at Becky Meier's home. Bring a potluck dish to share and two wrapped gifts. One gift should be nice—something you would like to receive—and the other wrapped gift can be fun or silly. It's a great time to get

creative. Plan to invite someone who has not attended to this fun tradition. Becky's home is at 17367 West View Drive, Lake Oswego 97034, phone 503-635-2303.

Chris Sessions Featured in *The Oregonian*

Editor's note: This story appeared in The Oregonian in November. Chris is one of the child care attendants here at HCCUCC. The story is reprinted with permission of The Oregonian. © 2013 The Oregonian. All rights reserved.

15-year-old Portlander Aims to Open His Own Food Cart, Sell Fried Rose Petals

Forget mowing lawns or lifeguarding at the local pool. Chris Sessions has something more novel in mind for a summer job: deep-frying rose petals at his own food cart in downtown Portland.

The 15-year-old high school freshman, a resident of Southwest Portland, is on a mission to raise about \$3,000 by the end of the school year. On the shopping list are a cart, appliances and enough ingredients to get him started.

But deep-fried rose petals?

Sessions discovered how tasty they could be accidentally, he said. He was experimenting in the kitchen at home—he loves to cook, especially fried food—and wanted to see if the oil was hot enough. So he grabbed a rose petal from the front yard.

"I put it in the oil, let it fry for a minute, tried it and it was surprisingly good," he said. "I just sort of modified it from there."

Sessions hopes to benefit from the immense popularity of food carts in Portland, which range from Thai to tacos to tea. At the end of September there were more than 700 food carts in Multnomah County, said environmental health supervisor Doug Wangen.

Sessions is using Piggybackr, an online fundraising platform similar to Kickstarter. He hasn't started publicizing his project yet, he said, because he's been busy getting settled in high school. He chose this year to attend a school in Vancouver, where his dad lives. His goal is to have enough funds to get started by summer vacation.

He serves the battered and fried petals with three distinct dipping sauces: cinnamon sugar cardamom, salted caramel fudge and chocolate maple bacon.

They're like sweet chips and salsa, he said, only these particular chips happen to be especially fitting in Portland, the City of Roses.

He's always been entrepreneurial, he said. He recalls setting up lemonade stands near his home and performing street magic in Waterfront Park in elementary school.

Sessions didn't have much access to television or computers as a child, said his mom, Anne Meadows. Until 9/11 she kept the television in the closet. He attended a school that didn't use technology and provided basic items—like string, clay and

wood—as playthings instead of commercial toys.

"I tried really hard to say that you don't just buy, it requires effort," she said.

That upbringing likely contributed to his creativity and desire to earn money, she said, and she's proud of how hard he works. He's researched how to get the proper licenses, buy edible roses and rent a space downtown.

"I sort of said, 'Think about how enormous really this project is and think about all the different pieces that have to go into it,'" she said, "and he did."

Sessions said he knows there will be hurdles. He already has a food handler's card, but will need various permits, licenses and inspections.

There are no age limitations in the food code, said Wangen, but labor laws will shape how he operates his cart. The state's labor bureau stipulates that children ages 14 and 15 years old cannot work more than eight hours a day or a total of 40 hours a week when school is out. Sessions also won't be allowed to work past 9 p.m. in the summer.

The rules are more restrictive during the school year, but only until Sessions turns 16 a year from now. Then he can work up to 44 hours a week without any daily limitations.

Sessions said the plan is to operate the food cart during the summer and on the weekends after school begins. He's got a couple of friends, he said, who have expressed interest in helping out.

"I'm fascinated with the whole food cart thing," he said. "It's really cool that you can condense your cooking into that little cart."

Frying a favorite snack at a food cart, which he intends to name Petal, will be much more fun than a typical summer job like mowing lawns or lifeguarding, he said. But that isn't his only motivation for opening his own cart.

Mostly, he said, he just wants to prove he can.

Women's Retreat Headed for Oregon Coast

Join the women of HCC for a weekend of fun and nurture at Seahaven Retreat in Oceanside. The retreat will be held Friday night, February 28, through Sunday noon, March 2. The cost is \$150 per person.

Activities include a book study, arts and crafts, self-care/spirituality workshops led by Claire Wheeler, M.D., Ph.D. (professor at PSU and Sue Floyd's daughter), a Sunday morning worship service, and time to make new friendships, explore the area, and relax. Meals will be catered.

Registration forms are available from Cindy Van Loo (vloo4@aol.com) or at the church. Your registration form and a \$25 deposit are due by December 1; the remainder is due January 19. Scholarships are available.



December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30a Centering Prayer MR 9:00a Adult Study Group MHR 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School SANC/SS 11:30a Choir Rehearsal CR 11:30a Greening of the Sanctuary SANC 11:30a Newcomers' Lunch MHR	2	3 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 10:30a Bible Study MHR	4 10:00a Loaves and Fishes MULT	5 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers LOT 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	6	7 10:00a Choir Rehearsal FH
8 8:30a Centering Prayer MR 9:00a Adult Study Group MHR 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School SANC/SS 11:30a Congregational Meeting SANC 6:30p Christmas Stories Dessert Concert FH	9 Transition Projects Meal BUD	10 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 10:30a Bible Study MHR	11 1:00p Memoir Writing Group MD	12 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers LOT 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	13 6:00p Family and Friends Christmas Auction FH	14
15 8:30a Centering Prayer MR 9:00a Adult Study Group MHR 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School SANC/SS 5:00p Boomers' Auction BM	16 Tidings Deadline	17 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 10:30a Bible Study MHR 7:00p Consistory Meeting MHR	18	19 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers LOT 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	20	21 7:00p Longest Night Service SANC
22 8:30a Centering Prayer MR 9:00a Adult Study Group MHR 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School SANC/SS	23	24 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 10:30a Bible Study MHR 11:00p Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols SANC	25 Christmas Day — Church Office Closed	26 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers LOT	27	28
29 8:30a Centering Prayer MR 9:00a Adult Study Group MHR 10:30a All Ages Spontaneous Christmas Pageant SANC	30	31 7:00a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MHR	January 1 New Year's Day — Church Office Closed	2 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers LOT 10:10a Centering Prayer MR	3	4

BUD=Bud Clark Commons, 655 NW Hoyt St
 BM=Becky Meier's Home, 17367 West View Dr, Lake Oswego
 CR=Choir Room
 FH=Fellowship Hall
GT=Golden Touch Restaurant (SW Barbur at 19th)
LOT=Upper Parking Lot
MHR=Mt Hood Room
MR=Maple Room
MD=Maria Dunlop's Home, 12146 SW 29th Ave
MULT=Multnomah Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy
SANC=Sanctuary
SS=Sunday School Rooms

Birthday Cards Hand Crafted

When you receive a beautiful birthday card from me, I want to give credit to the two talented, generous ladies—Marteena Sander and Ruthanne Rusnak—who make the cards and donate them so I can send them to you. This is our gift to all of you! —Ernilie Storrs



Confirmation class members acting out the creation story. Clara (in the hat) and Laurel (behind the white bird) are joined by Jennie and Hallie from Lake Oswego UCC.



Ben, looking fabulous, in his role as the Creator. On November 17, the confirmation class created and performed their own versions of the creation story from Genesis 1.

tidings

DECEMBER 2013

Hillsdale Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

6948 SW Capitol Hwy • Portland, OR 97219
503-246-5474 • www.hillsdaleucc.org

Pastor **Rev. Jennifer Brownell** (jennifer@hillsdaleucc.org) Director of Music/Administrator **Tim Ditch** (tim@hillsdaleucc.org)
Receptionist **Kathy Schneller** Custodian **Terry Cornell** Child Care Providers **Julia Miller, Chris Sessions**

In Christ, we the members of Hillsdale Community Church United Church of Christ, declare ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation. We cherish and embrace individuals and families of all kinds. Believing that God's unbounded love and grace are offered to all and meant to be shared and celebrated by all, we seek to be a congregation that includes all persons, embracing differences of age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, mental and physical ability, as well as racial, ethnic, or social-economic background. We welcome all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, and fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of participation in our congregation. We commit to be a community of faith and spirit that works toward openness and understanding, offering justice, healing, and wholeness of life for all people. We believe that through our diversity, all can grow and practice a unity of faith that transcends our differences.



Celebrate Advent and Christmas at Hillsdale Community Church, United Church of Christ

Sunday, December 8, 6:30 p.m. • Christmas Stories Dessert Concert • Fellowship Hall •

This popular event for our congregation and friends sells out fast, so be sure to get your tickets early! Tickets (\$6 for adults, \$3 for children) include dessert, hot beverage, and a wonderful evening of sacred and secular Christmas music. Tickets are available after worship on Sundays and during office hours. Forgot your checkbook? Don't worry! We can also accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express!

Friday, December 13, 6:00 p.m. • Family and Friends Christmas

Auction • Fellowship Hall • An evening of fun for all ages. Bring an unwrapped gift for the auction. A kid-friendly meal will be provided.

Sunday, December 15, 6:00 p.m. • The Boomers' Christmas Auction •

Home of Becky Meier • Enjoy an evening of eating, laughing, and exchanging gifts. Bring your checkbook and two wrapped gifts—one a white elephant and one a “real” gift—and see what you go home with! Proceeds from this event usually go toward the expenses for our monthly meal at Transition Projects, with enough left over for other ministries of the church.

Saturday, December 21, 7:00 p.m. • Longest Night Service •

Sanctuary • A service of healing and hope on the longest night of the year. Music, candlelighting, holy communion, and time for silent prayer make this service a meaningful respite from the hustle and bustle of the rest of the season.

Tuesday, December 24, 11:00 p.m. • Christmas

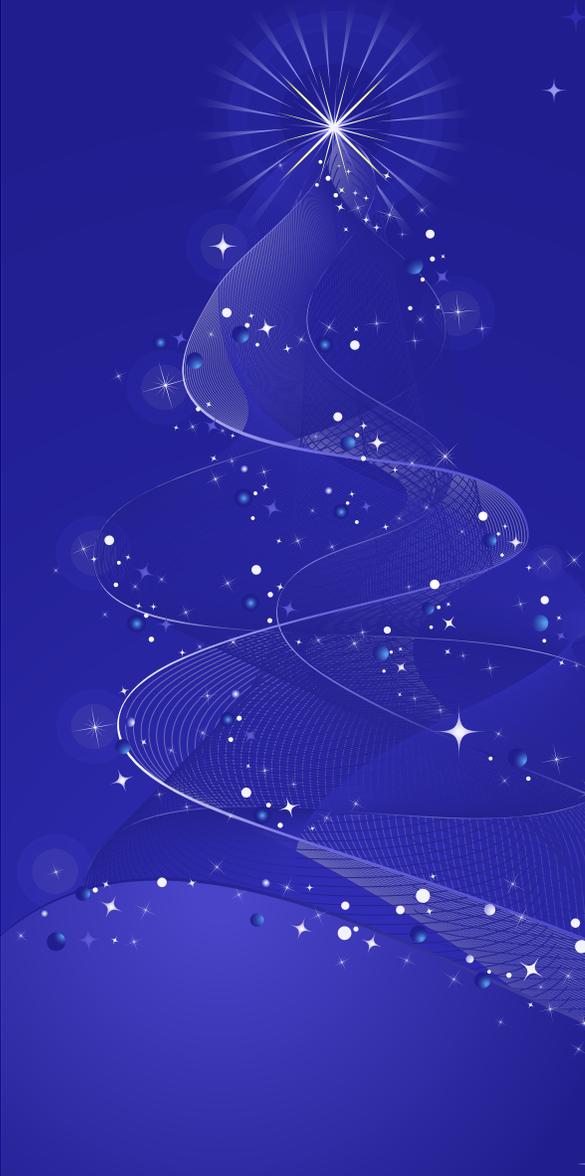
Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols • Sanctuary • A traditional evening of scripture readings and Christmas carols, with candlelighting. An extended musical prelude begins at 10:45 p.m.

Sunday, December 29, 10:30 a.m. • All-Ages Spontaneous Christmas Pageant • Sanctuary •

Come one, come all as we celebrate the season with an all-congregation retelling of the Christmas story. Costumes for everyone!



Post this list near your calendar as a reminder of Advent and Christmas activities at Hillsdale Community Church UCC!



Christmas Stories *Dessert Concert*

Sunday, December 8 • 6:30 p.m.

featuring spectacular music, scrumptious
dessert, and fun for all ages

tickets \$6 adults • \$3 children • includes dessert

Hillsdale Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

6948 SW Capitol Hwy • Portland • ☎ 503-246-5474

Hillsdale Community Church UCC is an open and affirming congregation. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.