



Yachats Community Presbyterian Church **A Welcoming, Christ-Centered, Community Church**

Agate Windows

And I will make thy windows of agates Isaiah 54:12

January 2017



Concert to Support The Water Protectors at Standing Rock

On Sunday afternoon, January 8, YCPC hosted a concert to celebrate justice, solidarity, peace and love. Admission to the concert was by donation, with the proceeds going to support the continuing efforts of The Water Protectors at Standing Rock.

Originally scheduled for January 1 following the New Year's Day Peace Hike, the concert was rescheduled for the later date due to concerns about the exceptionally stormy weather.

The musicians (and planners) of the January 8 concert were: Kaely, Eyrie and Joyce; Dave & Crate and Collaborators; Ian, Stacy and Whale; Jurvil; Peggy Brewster and Bob Livingston; Milo and Ruth.

Thank you all!! Musicians and attendees alike. Together we raised \$1,100.00 for The Water Protectors at Standing Rock. Some of the funds have already been sent to Standing Rock to build a permanent water supply to the Oceti Camp.



Half-Truths Sermon Series

Pastor Bob

Our current sermon series is based on the assertions made in Rev. Adam Hamilton's book, *Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say*. They are simple phrases. They sound Christian – like something you might even find in the Bible:

- Everything happens for a reason
- God helps those who help themselves
- God won't give you more than you can handle
- God said it, I believe it, that settles it
- Love the sinner, hate the sin

We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them. They capture some element of truth – yet they also miss the point in very important ways.



Greetings and Blessings to you as we begin a New Year,

I pray that the love of God, the Hope of Emmanuel, God-with-us, and the Spirit of new and abundant life abide with you today.

It is mid-winter here on the Oregon Coast. I love winter, with its grey and stark landscape devoid of so many of the distractions other seasons might bring, and this winter has even brought us a little snow!!! The night sky has been incredible (when we can see it) with bright stars and planets; its plainness is a relief after all the chaos of Christmas lights.

This year was most certainly a different kind of Christmas for some. Personal, community, national, and world events gave an aura of loss to the season.

I pray that our advent journey and God's promise to be with us in the midst of the brokenness, gave you reason to hope in the midst of a dark and fearful world. The Light indeed shines in the midst of the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The bleak landscape outside our windows will eventually give way to sunny days.

Even now, on my way to church this morning, I saw my first robin . . . and the crocuses outside my door have begun to poke through the barren soil. It won't be long until our gardens will be a distraction of color—tulips and daffodils, swiss chard and kale. In its own way, this change of landscape also holds the Promise. One of my favorite hymns speaks to this promise. Interestingly enough, it is titled "Hymn of Promise."

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

Even in the bleakest winter, we have hope. We believe that God can bring peace and unity to our world.... one season, one person, one community at a time. God's promise is sure. In the midst of the darkness God is present, bringing new and abundant life to the winters, springs and summers of our lives. Always.

May the New Year bring your hopes and dreams to fruition.

May the blessing of a hopeful heart live in each of us. Amen.

Pastor Bob

Snapshots of Christmas Activities at YCPC

YCPC Community Christmas Concert, December 10

Music Director, Milo, conducted the choir and the handbells, and John Toepher played the hammer dulcimer.



Families Together Ornament Night, December 18

Dinner . . . Story Time . . . And SANTA!!!!



(Photos from YYFAP Facebook page)

Yachats Homeschool Group - Holiday Variety Show & Potluck, December 23

The grand finale was a really fun interpretation of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.



Yachats Homeschool Group meets in the YCPC Fellowship Hall Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



Happy 2017!

It's Time For Our Annual Pizza Party.

Friday, January 27, 6:00 p.m.



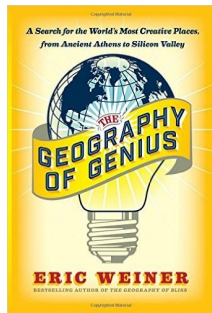
Ready for a mid-winter break? Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, January 27, at 6:00 p.m. for a fun evening of Papa Murphy pizza and good company.

Suggested donation is \$4.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children, and \$2.50 for salad only.

Come for good food and even better company!! See you at the party!!!

Book Group . . .

Our next book discussion will be January 20 at 10:30 AM in the Mickey McGuire Room.



We've been reading and will talk about *The Geography of Genius: A Search for the World's Most Creative Places from Ancient Athens to Silicon Valley* by Eric Weiner.

"Tag along on this New York Times bestselling, witty, entertaining romp." This is a traveler's diary and a comic novel rolled into one that shows how creative genius flourishes in specific places in specific times. "The author sets out to examine the connection between our surroundings and our more innovating ideas."

A review calls the book, "fun and thought provoking."

In February the Book Group will discuss books about presidents, in honor of Presidents' Day. Because most of the books are quite long, some of the group have been reading them for the past couple of months. Pick an autobiography or biography on any U.S. President and join us February 17 at 10:30.



Another Red Cross Blood Drive at YCPC

Thursday, February 2, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

YCPC hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive last October, and it was such a success we're doing it again—Thursday, February 2, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Maintaining adequate supplies of blood is critical, not only for planned surgeries and "routine" emergencies but also for unexpected disasters. And you might need blood one day, and you'll hope there is enough.

Please consider donating here at the church on February 2.

If you have questions, please call me at 541-547-4532. Thank you. Sue Finlayson.



Flickers from the Flame

Jon Nestor

The Connecting Link

What does Jesus' birth mean for you? Some might answer that Jesus' birth marks the fulfillment of prophets' long-sung predictions and peoples' long-held expectations. Others might say that God is now with us. However, as right as these answers are, they still hold Jesus at a distance. That is, we could have read these answers in a story. As such, we may know these answers without experiencing their impact on our own lives. In order for us to experience Jesus' birth as making a difference in our own lives, we need a "connecting link". Such a connecting link unites Jesus' story with our story.

Once we perceive this connecting link, a light will turn on in our hearts that will make Jesus' birth very personal to us. You can perceive this light turning on through many types of experiences. One of the most common is the "Ah Ha" feeling that occurs whenever you gain a new understanding. Another name for the "Ah Ha" experience is "Epiphany". Another way of experiencing this light turning on in your heart is the "Wow!" that you say whenever something becomes more meaningful to you than you had ever previously imagined. You will know when a light turns on in your heart.

The connecting link that makes Jesus' story our story is Jesus' birth as a *newborn child*. That birth tangibly makes Jesus one of us. All of us can relate to a child, especially a newborn. This is because all of us were newborns and kids at one time. That is, our stories are those of newborns.

What was your newborn experience like? While your memories of your own earliest experiences may be difficult to recall, they were probably much like those of people you know, friends you grew up with, or kids you played with. Your parents, grandparents, and/or older family members may well have vivid memories of your earliest days. That's because they recognize your story as theirs.

When was the last time you visited a newborn child? What feelings did you have? What feelings did you express? How did you manage each? Chances are very high that those who observed your birth or visited you shortly after your birth had and expressed similar feelings about you. Why? Your birth turned a light on in their hearts. That's what happens whenever your story becomes theirs.

I invite you during this time after Christmas to let a light turn on in your heart regarding Jesus and what He means for you personally. Think of this light in your heart as an "afterglow" of Christmas. Each time you do this, you will be experiencing your own personal epiphany.

Jon



January Birthdays

- 3 Claire Good*
- 3 Betty Jenness*
- 8 Mike Wooley*
- 12 Cindi Clark*
- 12 Gale Porter*
- 16 Jeannine Janson*
- 17 Frank Reed*
- 26 Jim Finlayson*
- 28 Gordon Flaming*

January 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:00 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 1:00 Sea Aire	2	3 9:00 Leta's Legacy Quilters	4	5 9:00 Choir	6 12:00 Fellowship Committee	7
8 10:00 Worship 11:30 Fellowship	9 10:00 Stewardship and Finance Committee	10 9:00 Leta's Legacy Quilters	11 9:30 Deacons 6:00 Study: <i>Living the Questions</i>	12 9:00 Choir 10:00 Handbells 6:00 Big Band Rehearsal	13 4:30 University Fellowship Church Retreat Begins	14 University Fellowship Church Retreat
15 10:00 Worship 11:30 Fellowship University Fellowship Church Retreat	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Office Closed University Fellowship Church Retreat Concludes	17 9:00 Leta's Legacy Quilters	18 9:30 Session 6:00 Study: <i>Living the Questions</i>	19 9:00 Choir 9:00 Fabricators 6:00 Big Band Rehearsal	20 9:30 Master Gardeners 10:30 Book Club 6:00 Families 'Together	21
22 10:00 Worship 11:30 Fellowship	23	24 9:00 Leta's Legacy Quilters	25 10:00 Women's Study <i>Who Is Jesus?</i> 6:00 Study: <i>Living the Questions</i>	26 9:00 Choir 9:00 Fabricators 6:00 Big Band Rehearsal	27 6:00 Pizza Party!	28 1:00 Celebration of Life of Terry Nestor
29 10:00 Worship 11:30 Fellowship	30					