

The Mustard Seed

Message from Pastor Anne Djokic

Our Celebration and Welcoming Service on Sunday, September 18 at 4:00 PM was wonderful and magical in every way!! Thank you, each and everyone, for the spirit-filled and loved-filled service. Delightful surprises kept coming and I love my new GPS Bell to wear around my neck! ☺ **Our congregation's contributions to the service were** so heartfelt. The flowers, gifts, food, and fellowship which followed were perfect! There was a warm glow throughout the afternoon. I will always remember and cherish this special day with you! Let it be known far and wide! The Collbran Congregational, United Church of Christ Church Family really knows how to celebrate and welcome a new pastor. What a memorable and special afternoon! Thanks to all! Love, Pastor Anne

Welcome November and the season of thanksgiving! Here is a Thanksgiving Meditation by Rev. Naomi Rachel King.

Every day we experience hunger and yearning:

- For food, for approval, for respect, for love,
- For meaningful work, for any and enough work,
- For home, for family, for friends,
- For health, for healing, for hope.
- For the departed, for the newly arrived,
- For the green trees, for the cool clean waters,
- For shade in the heat of the day, and for stars to light the velvet night.

Every day we are invited anew to be thankful:

- For food, for approval, for respect, for love,
- For meaningful work, for any and enough work,
- For home, for family, for friends,
- For health, for healing, for hope,
- For the departed, for the newly arrived,
- For the green leaves, for the cool clean waters,
- For the shade in the heat of the day, and for stars to light the velvet night.

Our hearts beating in liberating flight, we soar in gratitude for all the gifts we have in this day, in this lifetime of being, and turn again to share this bounty with all that is. Amen and Blessed Be.

The Season of Advent

The Season of Advent is coming up, beginning the last Sunday of November. November 27 is the First Sunday of Advent. While it might be tempting to go from Thanksgiving straight to Christmas preparations, this would skip an important season in the church year, which helps us fully enjoy the Christmas celebration. In the midst of all the activity of December it might be easy to forget that Advent can be a special and inspirational time. With that in mind, here are some easy tips for incorporating this **ancient church season into our modern day family's life.**

1. Attend Advent Services on Sundays: Nov. 27; Dec. 4, 11, 18. Then Christmas Eve and Christmas Day morning Services.
2. **Add some sacred music to your life. Consider CD's of hymns of the season.**
3. Read an Advent Series Together: Browse on line or visit a bookstore.
4. Set up a Nativity Scene: There are lots of creative options out there!
5. Enjoy Special Holiday Foods: Cooking with children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren can be a sweet way to bring kids into the season and share traditions of our lifetimes!!
6. Remember Your Neighbors: The holidays can be a lonely time for a lot of people. Are there **folks in your neighborhood and community who don't have connections?** Reach out and invite them to a family or church event.
7. Encourage Thankfulness: With all the materialist leanings of secular Christmas, think of a way to share with others your time, abundance, or friendship.
8. Be Patient: **We're not perfect. Christ comes to us whether we make** the perfect decorations, or meals, or holiday cards.
9. Connect to History: Advent is a time of tradition and/or a time to start traditions. It can also be a time to explore traditions of other countries related to your personal heritage.

The church year and its flow are good ways to help keep our faith central in our daily lives. Enjoy this Advent and the special times with friends, family, and our church family.

I wish everyone a blessed Thanksgiving Season and a joyful season of preparation and love in Advent.

*Special Events abound in November and December. I am looking forward **to the Women's Fellowship Turkey Dinner on November 19, 11:30AM – 1:30PM.** Our Soup Supper and church decorating evening is on November 27th beginning at 5:30PM.*

The Annual Christmas Recital is a must ☺ on Sunday, December 4 at 5:00PM at the church. Saturday, December 17 will be the Christmas Craft Fair – Parade – Fireworks and more for all the community to enjoy!!

*Our Christmas Eve Service will be Saturday, December 24 at 7:00PM.
Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day worship service will be at 11:00AM.*

Blessings to all ~

Pastor Anne

WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER

Please remember the upcoming Turkey Dinner on Nov. 19th. Invite friends and family to come support the Womens Fellowship and share in a wonderful community dinner. Posters will be up around the valley this coming week with information for everyone.

We will be setting up the dining room and doing much of the food prep on Friday. Please come and pitch in if you can. All hands are welcome.

Saturday is a busy day beginning about 7am. Please drop off your pies, cakes, rolls, or any contributions by 11AM. We will serve from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM.

WINTER COAT GIVE-AWAY

Free coats for the Valley will be available at Collbran Supply beginning November 15th and be on display there until mid-March, 2017. We are always in need of coats and snow clothes in all sizes. Boots, mittens, hats, scarves, snow pants, and vests add to the winter wear for our cold winters. Drop clean winter wear at Collbran Supply or at the Congregational Church.

THANK YOU !

A special thank you is extended to everyone that participated in gathering gloves, mittens, and hats for the Plateau Valley Pre-school. They will be delivered November 7th. These are always greatly appreciated by teachers and students when hats and gloves are forgotten or lost.

NOVEMBER MISSION PROJECT

The November mission project is to collect hats, gloves, and socks for the VA Hospital out-patients. We are collecting hats and gloves in good, clean condition but would like the socks to be new. Larger sizes, 10-14, are needed. Call Nancy Karlson 487-3740 if you have questions. We will try to deliver these in December.

RESCUE MISSION HEALTH KITS

Items for the Health Kits have been gathered over the past year and these bags will be assembled at the December 13th meeting at 10am in the church dining room. They will be delivered that next week. Please call Nancy Karlson if you have items to donate or questions about donations. 487-3740.

Nancy Karlson 487-3740

CHRISTMAS RECITAL DECEMBER 4TH 2016 5:00 PM

Please contact Sue Bellotti 487-3474 with your contribution to this annual event. If you have questions please contact Sue 487-3474 or Ann Anderson 487-3352 and we will be glad to assist. There will be some new young faces this year and the older usual performers. Please don't let this opportunity to share your talents with all of us, in preparation for the Christmas season, pass by unnoticed.

Puzzlers (Answers are elsewhere in the paper)