

*United Methodist Women
Crater Lake District Pulse
December 2018*



Merry Christmas

Matthew 2:9 *They set out at the King's bidding; and the star which they had seen at its rising went ahead of them until it stopped above the place where the child lay.*

Advent..... literally, the word ‘Advent’ means “arrival”. Over the centuries, Advent has been a time to contemplate Christ’s birth. We, Christians, are again celebrating the season of Advent. Unfortunately, today most people acknowledge this word with a blank look or know it only as that highly decorated box with 24 little doors waiting to be opened to reveal a picture, a tiny item, or better yet a piece of chocolate.

For the vast majority of us, December flies by in a flurry of activities, and what we call “the holiday season” turns out to be the most stressful time of the year. We find ourselves experiencing contrasting emotions eager yet frazzled, sentimental yet indifferent, filled with hope and dread at the same time.

We miss the whole essence of Christmas unless we become aware of how Advent marks something

momentous: **God’s coming into our midst.** Yes, this happened in the distant past, but this yearly Advent opportunity is for us to consider Advent anew, We can join the wise men and the shepherds once again and follow the star to Bethlehem.

I recently found a wonderful children’s book called *Advent Storybook* by Antonie Schneider. This is a collection of short stories for each day in Advent, as the character follows the star to finally reach the manger. Although this is a children’s book, there is much for us to explore and consider as we grownups experience **this** Advent season.

Let us all follow the star to the manger, finding the Christ Child in a renewed way this Advent season.

Prayer: Holy God, give us eyes, ears, and open hearts to celebrate this Advent in a way that truly meets the needs in each of our lives. Help us experience hope, peace, joy, love as we follow the star to the stable once again. Amen

*Sheryl Aydelott,
Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth*

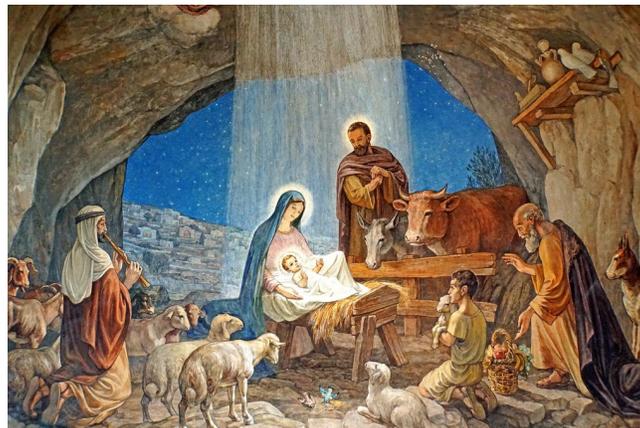


Photo by Dennis Jarvis - Chapel of the Shepherd's Field, Palestine



[Click here for a link to the storybook from Amazon.](#)

Crater Lake District United Methodist Women Calendar of Events

- December 1 Advent Tea, Harmony United Methodist Women, 123 Ocean Blvd., Coos Bay; 2 to 4 pm. Christmas program, dessert, carols, and gift bags. There is no charge for this event.
- December 5 **Quarterly Remittances Due - *please mail no later than December 1.***
- December 5 **Directory Information Due**
- March 9 **Every Member Enrichment Event at Albany UMC - Registration at 9 am**
- (District Events are shown in bold print)**

Directory Information Due December 5

Each local unit president should have received a request for updated directory information. Thank you to the units who have already sent their information for Crater Lake's 2019 Directory to Marie. For those who have not yet done so, please try to email (or mail) your unit's 2019 directory info by December 5th to Marie Houck at enmhouck@gmail.com as soon as it is available. If you have no changes to you page, please let Marie know. If we don't hear from you, you will be hearing from us again.

Not a member of an active unit? You too can be in the directory as a District Member. Please send your name, address, phone number(s), and email address (if you have one) to Marie Houck at enmhouck@gmail.com and you will be added to the directory. You will then receive all of our newsletters, a copy of the directory, and communications from our District and Conference. Our newsletters always include interesting articles on what is happening in United Methodist Women and ways we can live our PURPOSE.



Bright Lights of Crater Lake District Oakridge

NEW LOCAL MISSION

90by30 is a new local mission in Eastern Lane County which includes Oakridge, Oregon. The goal of this mission is to reduce child abuse by 90 percent by the year 2030. Oakridge has been identified as having the highest incidence of child abuse and neglect in the state of Oregon.

Beginning October 1st, Welcome Baby boxes are being delivered to parents of newborn babies. The Welcome Baby boxes are designed to be used as beds for the newborns and will include basic baby clothing and supplies. Also included will be information about “periods of purple crying.” Understanding why a baby may cry for extended periods when a parent or caregiver is unable to comfort the baby will hopefully prevent frustrated parents from shaking the baby.

grandmother who will offer ongoing support for the family. Community support is especially important to new parents who may not have other family nearby.

The *90by30* program has been developed by the University of Oregon Center for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect, with the help of local advocates for children. The program also includes plans to introduce opportunities for school children to observe and learn about small babies.

Oakridge United Methodist Women are very interested in supporting this new local mission both monetarily and by in-kind donations. This unit has a list of those items needed for inclusion in the Welcome Baby boxes and women offering to serve as “foster” grandmothers. The cost of each Welcome Baby box is approximately \$200. The estimated need for this first year of operation is \$1,500 to provide the boxes and contents, and \$1,500 to support the educational goals of the *90by30* program.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

These boxes will be delivered by a “foster”

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Helen Van Nice (see her listing under Committee on Nominations)