



Fremont United Methodist Church

We seek to share the joy of God's love so that all might live with dignity and purpose.

Advent Festival
Dec 2 after worship

Childrens' Christmas Pageant & Family Service
Sunday, Dec 23 at 10:00am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
10:00pm

Christmas



A season of light and life, joy and celebration

As I reflect on this year past, I find that its dilemmas and quandries recede behind a blaze of grace and goodness. The grace of each day's light, the goodness of each gentle joy; the helping hand of a friend, the goodwill of those with whom I worship, all step forward and block the losses and perplexities and the should-have-dones.

I celebrate this Christmas with deep gratitude for all of you: for your encouragement, your support, your generosity and your good humor. I celebrate the love you have for this church, for your joy-infused welcoming, for your kindness to one another, for your anticipation of things to come, and last, but not least, your commitment to the One Who Visits Love Upon Us All.

It is my prayer that as you open your own Christmas season, you too will be filled with light and life, joy and celebration. May your disappointments and should-have-dones also recede behind that head-gracing light of God's Great Gift, and may your days of preparation be sparked by comedy and laughter, may they pulse with contentment and joy.

And may we all look for and find ways to pass these gifts on to others who can't see such a light just now. As we pass gifts one to another, may we initiate an expanded practice of gift-giving that will wrap others into our circle of abundance.

Yours, in the fellowship of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the initials 'LL'.

God bless you and yours, this blessed season.





WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Children's Christmas Pageant & Family Service

This year, the Pageant usually scheduled for Christmas Eve will be on **Sunday, Dec 23 at 10:00 am**. It's the same wonderful service open to neighbors and visiting family members. It brings the Christmas Story to life with creative story-telling and music, lots of costumes and that wonderful anything-can-happen that delights our hearts. It ignites the joy that the Birth of Christ is meant to inspire.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

At 10:00 pm on Christmas Eve, we celebrate the coming of Christ in a more composed but celebratory way through Word and Music. This is a beautiful service that draws us out of our Advent Waiting into the Night of Cosmic Surprise with the birth of the Savior of humankind. It's a lovely and fitting way to conclude Christmas Eve celebrations.

A Celebration and Carols Service

Every year on the first Sunday after Christmas we fill the service with Christmas Carols in celebration of the coming of Christ. So, come prepared to sing sing sing on Sunday, Dec 30, at 10:00 am. We'll also be privileged to celebrate with Nathan and Laurel as we baptize Astrid Lucia Howard.

This Year's Advent Book

is *Simply Wait, Cultivating Stillness in the Season of Advent*. It is particularly fitting given the upheaval and stress so many report experiencing this past year, to step away from all the falderal and frenzy and introduce a little stillness. This 4-week Advent study offers up single words and simple prayers through the days of Advent. Food for quiet meditation. We encourage you to order the book from Cokesbury.com. It costs \$10.49. And we invite one and all to post comments and reflections on their reading. You can join the conversation by using this link: <http://www.fremontumc.org/advent-study/simply-wait-advent-study-2018/>

You're invited to deepen your spiritual life

Covenant Groups are a way fortify your spiritual life by joining a small group of individuals who pray together and encourage one another in life's circumstances.

The health and vitality of a congregation directly correlates to the spiritual depth and vitality of its members. Participating in one of these options will enrich you, and you will enrich the life of this faith community. Please contact Joanne Poff if you would like to know more: jepoff@gmail.com



SERVICE & MISSION

Let's Learn to Talk About Race

The series includes three 2-hour sessions (led by Cynthia MacLeod) are an introduction to talking about race utilizing individual reflection, small and large group discussion, structured learning activities and artistic forms such as film clips, storytelling, music, and poetry. There are still two options available. Participants will reach these outcomes:

- Recognize the spiritual imperative of understanding racism in our congregations and broader communities to effectively partner with others to dismantle it.
- Ground our work in historical context and personal racial consciousness development.
- Experience tools and processes to facilitate conversations about race, racism, and white privilege within church communities and beyond.

Three 2-hour sessions will be offered in the series:

- Monday December 3, 10, 17 at 1:30-3:30 pm

We will do some journaling, so bring your favorite method



To Paul Kerr for purchasing the cinnamon pinecones for the office, they are wonderful.

To Thom Pickens for installing safety measures on the Sunday school windows.

Healthy Community Sponsor

Portland Backpack would like to thank Fremont UMC for being a Healthy Community Sponsor by feeding 330 children each weekend.

"The generosity of Fremont United Methodist and congregants towards the children in our community is heartwarming. Thank you for the donations from individuals designated for Portland Backpack, and for the in-kind contribution of; storage, pack, meeting and office space. As the founders of this program your continued contributions and support help us to build the foundation, we need to serve more children" Diane Rheos- Executive Director - Portland Backpack

Fremont United Methodist Women will meet on Wednesday, December 5th at the home of Suzanne Wardenaar at 10 am. (This is a change from our usual third Wednesday date). The program will be highlights from the recent trip to the Holy Land that a number of our members were on. All Fremont women are invited.

NE Emergency Food Bank

Thank you to Kurt Wimmer Donna Leslie, Kathy and Robert Greaves, Cameron Elliott, Trina and Allan Leschber, and Terry Dart for helping 60 hungry families after Thanksgiving at the food bank. On deck for December 22 are Janet and Bill Edwards, Prineet Pottmeyer, George Sacks and Les Wardenaar. This falls right before Christmas, so it will likely be a very heavy day at the food house. We are a little short staffed so everyone looking to put out some extra Christmas cheer are encouraged to come. E-mail Jeff Michel at 5095michel@gmail if you want to hear more about how you could help.

Bearing Witness: A Service of Healing and Wholeness for Survivors of Sexual Trauma

Westminster invites survivors of sexual trauma, and those who support them, to this service of prayer, music, silence, and action. For more information, please contact the Reverend Beth Neel at (503) 287-1289

Sunday, Dec. 9 at 5pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church

1624 NE Hancock Portland, OR



FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Christmas Tree Sale 2018

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the preparations for our annual Christmas tree sale. From addressing the flyers mailed to 400 of our previous customers to setting up the tree lot, all help matters and is appreciated. It is still not too late to sign up to sell trees. Contact Beth Skillern or fill out one of the red forms. And, of course, BUY A TREE OR BUY A WREATH to support the Church!

Advent Festival

Join us for some fun on Sunday December 2nd following worship for the Advent Festival. There will be chili and cornbread and some fun crafts, and the finale will be decorating the sanctuary Christmas Tree with ornaments made at the event while singing some Christmas Carols. You won't want to miss this so don't forget to come down to the Fellowship Hall following the worship service on December 2nd!

Stone Soup Meet and Eat will be meeting on January 19, in the Fellowship Hall. We are an inter-generational group of Fremonters and friends who enjoy a pot luck dinner and fellowship one time per month. We are open to singles, families, young and old. Just fix a dish to share and come at 5:30 PM. All supplies will be provided. We are usually done by 7:30 PM. For more information you can contact Claudia Roberts at clarobb@juno.com. We would love to have you join us. If driving is a problem, let us know and we can pick you up.

OTHER NEWS OF NOTE

Upper Room Magazine and The Upper Room Disciplines

Due to the decrease demand FUMC is suspending its subscription to the Upper Room Magazine because the minimum subscription requires, we order 10 magazines, and most have these have gone unclaimed. If 8 new people sign on to receive this devotional, then we will continue

the subscription. Otherwise those of you who appreciate and want Upper Room can order yours at upperroom.org, a 1-year subscription is \$13.99. Please advise church office if you would be a new subscriber.

The Upper Room Disciplines is a book which includes a selected scripture passage, a meditation on the scripture, and a prayer or suggestion for reflection. Disciplines offers 7 days of engagement with the upcoming Sunday's lectionary texts. Each week of devotions is written by one author and focuses on one theme to provide extended depth into how the ancient stories of the Bible apply to our lives today. This can also be ordered on the Upper Room website.

Looking for a vacant room

Curious about what's going on the church today? Looking for a room to meet? Check out our new room use board located across from the Bob Nelson room for up to date schedule of room/event bookings.

Finance Committee meets Thursday, January 17 at 7pm
in the Bob Nelson Room

The Trustees will meet on Thursday, December 13 at 7pm
in the Bob Nelson Room.

Ministry Council meets on Thursday January 24 at 7pm
in the Bob Nelson Room.

FREMONT UMC MINISTRY TEAM

Ministers	All the People
Pastor	Linda Quanstrom
Director of Music	Lynn Rognsvoog
Youth & Family Ministries Program Director	Tanner Morton
Music Assistant	Janet Orjala
Childcare	Béatrice Kanyandekwe
Administrative Assistant	Madalyn Bach
Bookkeeper	Alan Silver
Custodian	Patricia Bailey

Office Hours: Monday 9:00am-5:00pm & Tues-Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm
Monday is the pastor's scheduled day off.



Fremont UMC will decorate the sanctuary with colorful poinsettias this December. You may purchase poinsettias for \$7 in honor or in memory of someone(s) special. The plants will be available for pick up after our Christmas Eve Candlelight service. You may either mail or place the form in the offering plate this Sunday or next.

Name _____ Phone _____
In honor of _____ Quantity _____
In memory of _____ Quantity _____