

Springwater Presbyterian Church 24553 Springwater Rd Estacada, OR 97023 503.630.5480 www.springwaterpres.org

A Place of worship, nurture and service for God's people of all ages

Table of Contents	
Birthdays	1
Anniversaries	1
Church Events	1
Pastor's Perspective	2
What's on Your	3
Schedule?	
Sermon Texts &	4
Lectionary	

**Sunday Hours** 

10:15 Hymn Sing

10:30 Worship

11:45 Fellowship

Deadline for next

newsletter: January 27

## January Birthdays

Allen Siefken	1/2
Lucy Olson	1/6
Wilma Guttridge	1/16
Tami Guttridge	1/27
Greg Jeppeson	1/28
Cindy Woodbury	1/29



## Church Events in January

**Sunday, January 8:** Feeding the homeless. Please call Debbie Ingamells, 503.313.9575 to confirm that this is still happening if the weather is bad. Meet at church at 4:45, the shelter at 5:30.

### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

Come **Sunday, January 29,** right after service to enjoy lunch and fellowship together, hear a report from the Vision & Mission Team and elect new officers! It will be a joyful time together as a church. See you there!



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# Springwater Presbyterian Church

### Pastor's Perspective

#### The Work of Christmas

What work of
Christmas is on your
heart? For me, it is
walking in the path of
peace.

Well, we are at clean up time, aren't we? Yes, I know, liturgically we are in Christmastide and we want to let ourselves stay in the moment of Christmas through Epiphany - we'll celebrate that January 8. So, our trees and lights have a few more days to stay up! Yet, I know many of you, myself included, have probably started packing up the decorations. Those greens can no longer be anywhere near a lit candle! Each year as I pack things up, there are two things I like to linger over. One, the Christmas photo cards. I love those. It is so fun to see the pictures that families choose to put on the card. It's the moment in time that they want to freeze and to send to all their family and friends for them to remember and rejoice with them. The other item I like to linger over as I put it away is the manger scene. The moment frozen in time of Jesus birth. All the goodness of God frozen into that scene.

This last month this is what we've tried to spend our time doing. Lingering over the story, letting ourselves take in the hope, the peace, the joy and the love within it. Trying to freeze ourselves for a moment and worship for Christmas. As we pack up those figures, we know that life was not frozen for them in that moment. They moved forward, carrying Christ in their arms, along with all the wonder of what had happened around them. Remember the story of taking infant Jesus to the temple and the great prophecy and hope spoken over Jesus by Simeon and Anna? That's what happened next for Mary and Joseph when they "packed up Christmas." What is next for us?

How do we move forward and carry the worship of Christmas with us? You and I have a bundle in our arms as well. And so we carry the newborn child and the work of Christmas into each coming day. Linger on this poem entitled The Work of Christmas by Howard Thurman, a theologian and civil rights activist:

The Work of Christmas - by Dr. Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers, To make music in the heart.

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The worship of Christmas unfolds into the work of Christmas. We carry the worship of Christmas into the work of Christmas. We look forward to being part of the redemption that God is bringing and that Simeon and Anna declare and Mary and Joseph hold in their arms. We immerse ourselves in the promises of God like one uttered from Zechariah in Luke 1 about the tender mercy of God - "the rising sun will come to us from heaven, to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."

For you and I, it is time to move from the worship of Christmas to the work of Christmas. What work of Christmas is on your heart? For me, it is walking in the path of peace. In 2017 we will be walking into a time of significant change as our government transitions into a new season. How can we carry the Christ child with us and let that Child have His way with us - guiding us into the path of peace? I am joining several other clergy and friends in 20 days of prayer for peace. Prayers to help me align my heart to God's work and way. It is an ecumenical effort, with prayers gathered for the first 20 days of January written by people of various faiths - all who long for peace. I invite you to hold the Christ child in your arms along with me and give your heart to prayer these first 20 days of January. The prayers will be available on the Springwater website and at church.

God bless you and keep you in this New Year!

In joy and walking with you on the path of peace,

Pastor Susan

	What's on your Schedule?		
i I	Ushers	Worship Leader:	Snacks:
January 1:	Wilma & Kendra Guttridge	Debbie Ingamells	Please sign up in
January 8:	Randy & Mary Johnson	Linda Conway	the fellowship hall
January 15:	Kathy Scott Allen Siefken	Gwen Shearer	
January 22:	Renate & Adelia Jeppeson	Kara Guttridge	
January 29:	Gary Guttridge	Randy Johnson	





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### ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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## January Sermon texts and Lectionary Readings

January 8: Luke 9:28-50 - **Transfiguration & Healing** Lectionary: Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

January 15: Luke 9:51-62 - **Opposition & the Cost** Lectionary: Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

January 22: Luke 10:1-24 - **Sending the 72** Lectionary: Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

January 29: Luke 11:1-28 - **Teaching on Prayer** Lectionary: Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

February 5: Luke 11:29-54 - **Lamp of the Body** Lectionary: Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12), Psalm 112:1-9 (10), 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16), Matthew 5:13-20