

# The Church On The Hill



*A Newsletter for members and friends of Waverly Heights Congregational, UCC*

**DECEMBER NEWSLETTER  
ISSUE 110 VOLUME 2**

**DAVID ZAWORSKI, PASTOR  
TRISH EFFENBERGER, EDITOR**

Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas, a time of waiting, preparation, anticipation—a time of hope. It's also likely to be a time of stress. It's wedged between the two big family holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas, and both of those carry a weight of tradition and expectation that can be hard to sustain. That can be true for any of us at times, and for some among us the whole holiday season is the hardest time of the year.

For some, the waiting, preparation, and anticipation is not lifted by hope and joy, but rather is tense and fearful. Advent becomes just a time of recovery from the blows of Thanksgiving, time only to heal and steel oneself for the assault of Christmas. At Waverly, we will recognize this reality and offer support with a Longest Night of the Year/Blue Christmas service the evening of December 21st, at 7pm.

It's not so hard to imagine. Every year people are dealing with painful and isolating realities, both great and small. The holiday expectation of happy togetherness throws the pain into stark highlight. Some are experiencing the big losses: rejection by family, the death of a loved one, the loss of a job or home or relationship. Others are living with the lower-level undercurrents of



**ADVENT**

anxiety: will I have a job? how will I cope with a parent in denial about the need for care? will our marriage survive? will the children shake off trouble at school? will we be able to make the mortgage payments?

A large part of the burden of such realities comes from feeling alone with them. Relief and hope come not from denial or trying to cover up our hardships, but rather by facing them, honestly and with the support of a community. We need not feel alone. Together, we can find at least a measure of trust for the future, a place of hope to live into.

“Holly Jolly” is not the whole story; neither is dark despondency. The real story for this Advent season is Emmanuel—God is with us in our full reality, all the circumstances of our lives. God has experienced all our strengths and weaknesses. God is with us in knowing and sharing our loss and fear. God stands with us, together, offering to share with us divine hope.

Blessings,  
David

Visit our web site @ [www.waverlyucc.org](http://www.waverlyucc.org)

## WWW's

We all had a good time working on our quilt. It will be raffled later for the Access project in 2009!

No second Thursday meeting in December but, the www's are heading to the theater Dec. 8th (Monday 7:30pm). Profile theater presents...A reading of Plaza Suite by Niel Simon. \$5.00 suggested donation. No prepay or reserved seats. We are inviting all who want to come. Invite spouses, partners, older children, friends....meet at hyde hall at 6:45pm for carpool or go to the theater at 34th and Belmont.

Later in December we hope to go to a Christmas musical together!

## ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

The next Adult Education meeting will take place on Thursday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Hyde Hall. We will be reading Chapter 2 of The Heart of Christianity by Marcus Borg.

It's great reading and this is a wonderful forum for sharing questions, thinking out loud, and enjoying community. Join us. Questions? Ask Jill Johnson 503-232-5598.

## KID'S CRAFTY CHRISTMAS

Please join us for Kid's Crafty Christmas. This event will be taking place December 6th, at 10:00am. Kids will do make-and-take crafts, have some snacks and hot chocolate while adults are busy decorating the church for the holidays. We'd like to extend the invitation for this event out to the wider community, so please invite your friends and neighbors. Cost will be \$2.00 and a can of food.

If you have craft items you'd like to donate, or would like to run a craft or help with snacks, please talk to Michelle Domenico.

## ART SHOW

Dana Weir is excited to be participating in the "Little Things" show at Guardino Gallery. This is an annual group show that requires artists to create artwork that is 7" x 7" or smaller! Dana will be selling her Taize-inspired beeswax paintings. There will be an opening reception on November 28th (6-9pm). If that date doesn't work for you, the show will run for a month, until Dec. 28th.

## Making Your Contribution Count

There are times when Waverly's members and friends feel called to pitch in and purchase things they see that the church needs. It's a benefit to all concerned when people do this, and the Consistory would like to make certain that these contributions are acknowledged, to be both reflected in the church budget and on one's contribution statement, relevant at income tax time.

So if you buy something for the church and want its cost recorded as a contribution, you can put the receipt together with a note to this effect in the offering plate and the amount will be included in your annual giving statement. If you buy something and would like to be reimbursed, it's best to check with the Consistory beforehand, then give the receipt to our Treasurer along with a note requesting reimbursement.

It's a part of our Waverly spirit to come to the church and find that someone has bought something or done something that keeps the building looking good and functioning smoothly, and we'd like to ensure that such good deeds are recognized.

## IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST NEWSLETTER FROM WAVERLY...

This newsletter is about the current events of Waverly's ministry and mission. If you wish to have more information and background on Waverly, please feel free to contact the church office at 503-238-1337.



Please submit articles for the January issue no later than December 18th.

Thanks,

Trish Effenberger, Editor

***Waverly Heights Congregational  
United Church of Christ***

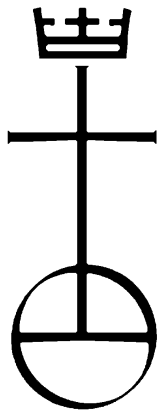
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[www.waverlyucc.org](http://www.waverlyucc.org)

Pastor: David Zaworski

Worship Service:  
Sunday - 11:00 am

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WAVERLY HEIGHTS CONGREGATIONAL UCC



**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

**Waverly Heights Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
Welcomes all, Honoring each individual's path**

**We invite everyone to  
Worship God, Learn the love of Jesus,  
Care for one another  
Work for change and reconciliation  
In our community and the world.**

**DECEMBER**

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