



The Spire

A monthly newsletter of The First United Methodist Church, Salem, OR Vol. 47, No. 12 ★ December 2015

DON'T MISS IT!

- **Worship Schedule** (pg. 2)
- **Mission Café** (pg. 3)
- **Trustees News** (pg. 4)
- **Family Ministries** (pg. 5)
- **Mele Ukulele Hui** (pg. 5)
- **Christian Education** (pg. 6)
- **Alternative Christmas Market Brochure**
- **UMW news** (pg. 7)
- **Youth News** (pg. 8)
- **Calendar** (pg. 9)
- **Spire Deadline** (pg. 10)

The church offices are closed at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24 as we prepare for our Christmas Eve worship services. The church buildings and offices are closed on Friday, Dec. 25 for Christmas.



Blue Christmas worship service



Stephen Ministers will host a Blue Christmas worship service in the Carrier Room on Friday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m.

Annual Charge Conference

Our regular yearly Charge Conference will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 6:30 p.m. at Salem First UMC. Each of the United Methodist Ministries of Salem-Keizer (UMMSK) churches will meet separately and then together for the 2015 Charge Conference.

The 27th Annual Alternative Christmas Market



Our 27th Annual Alternative Christmas Market is Saturday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Carrier and Dining Rooms.

(See inside this newsletter for the Alternative Market Brochure!)

Special events during worship in December

Dec. 13 – One service at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary



Our annual Advent Music Sunday will feature offerings from all of the Music Ministries ensembles that bless First Church with their talents.

Bibles will be presented to our third grade students during this service.

Dec. 20 – Observed at both services *Warm & Fuzzy Sunday*

We have a new tradition – Warm & Fuzzy Sunday! On this day we are encouraged to bring warm socks, knit hats, scarves, and gloves or mittens to keep out the cold for those in need. Items for all ages and sizes are needed. Start gathering now so we'll have a warm and fuzzy mountain at our altars on Dec. 20.



Dec. 24 – 7 p.m. *The Glory of Christmas* in the Sanctuary



This service features John Rutter's magnificent setting of the *Gloria*, performed by the Sanctuary Choir with brass ensemble, percussion,

and organ.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Friday, Dec. 4, 6-9 p.m.
(see page 5 for details)



FAMILY MOVIE & PAJAMA PARTY

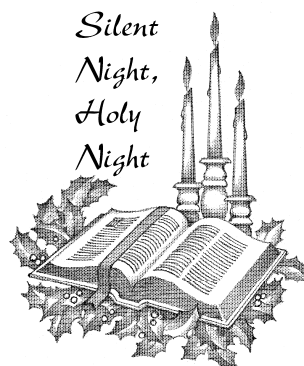
(in the Youth Center)
Dec. 11, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Call for the movie information!
(see page 5 for details)



Thursday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

Scriptures: Isaiah 9:2-7, Matthew 1:18-25

- 5 p.m. – Children's Service in MICAH
- 7 p.m. – *The Glory of Christmas* in the Sanctuary
- 9 p.m. – MICAH Candlelight Service in MICAH
- 11 p.m. – Candlelight/Communion Service in the Sanctuary



Advent Music Sunday—Dec. 13, Sanctuary—One service at 11 a.m.

On Sunday, Dec. 13, Music Ministries of Salem First United Methodist Church, will present an Advent Service with music to celebrate the season.

This special all-church service is at 11 a.m. and will feature all of the various areas of the church's music ministry, including the Sanctuary Choir, Mission Bells,, the MICAH Praise Team, LifeSong, and the Rejoice! Kids' Choir.

The service will also include congregational participation. Please bring your families and invite your friends and neighbors to this extraordinary service; you WILL be blessed!

A Service of Hope and Remembrance A Blue Christmas Service Friday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m., Carrier Room

Christmas is a joyful season for many of us. For others it is a time of deep despair.

There are times in everyone's life when the Christmas Season involves coping with the pain of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation, or the first Christmas without a beloved family member.



This time of worship will remind you that you are not alone. God is present for those who struggle and grieve. God's light still shines in the darkness. If you are hurting, alone, or feeling blue this Christmas Season, this worship service is for you. This service will have a quiet, reflective feel - scripture, music, and meditations will focus on the comfort God offers during dark times. If you would like, please bring a small framed picture of your loved one for display.



Quality childcare during worship times

Childcare for infants through second grade is available during Sunday morning worship services from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 206. Children are supervised by Libby Bonn, Childcare Coordinator, and a team of trained volunteer staff. Children will enjoy playtime in a spirit filled environment, have a Bible lesson, and a snack. Parents of little ones, please feel welcome to stop by anytime.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE SUNDAYS

8:45 A.M. MICAH
11:15 A.M. SANCTUARY

Nov. 29
1st Sunday of Advent
Matthew 1:18-24
Luke 1:26-38

Dec. 6
2nd Sunday of Advent
Communion Sunday
Matthew 1:15-25
Luke 2:4-7

Dec. 13
3rd Sunday of Advent
Advent Music Sunday
One service at 11a.m.
in the Sanctuary
Luke 1:26-38
Luke 1:46-55

Dec. 20
4th Sunday of Advent
Warm & Fuzzy Sunday
I Samuel 16:1-5
Luke 2:4-7

Dec. 27
Psalm 148
Luke 2:41-52

**Early deadline for
Jan. 2016 issue: Dec. 11**

**Due to the holidays in
December, there is an
early deadline for the
January 2016 issue of
The Spire. Please submit
your articles and event
notices to the front
office by Friday, Dec. 11.**

*Please contact the
church office at
503-364-6709, for
childcare information
for our special worship
services in December*



Missionary to visit Salem FUMC

We received an early Christmas present recently! We learned that Katherine Parker, whose work in Nepal we support, plans to visit us in May and speak to both Sunday morning services. More information will follow in the coming months.

The latest report from the other missionaries we support, Teri and Ev Erbele in Alaska, is posted on the Mission Café bulletin board in the Dining Room. Please check it out.

We're in the home stretch and your December donations to the Mission Café may make it possible to complete our committed contributions to these three missionaries.

Thanks a million from The Mission Café Team!



Thinking ahead...

2016 General Conference in May volunteer opportunities

Portland will host one of the most significant events in United Methodism next year. The 2016 General Conference, the policy making body for our entire denomination, is coming to Portland May 10-20, 2016 for the first time in 40 years. This gathering will bring together as many as 5,000 United Methodists from all over the world at the Oregon Convention Center.

You can be part of welcoming the world to Portland for General Conference 2016. The Local Host Committee is responsible for providing hospitality to visitors as they arrive and spend time in Portland.

Volunteers are needed for four hour shifts to:

- Greet arrivals at the airport
- Staff welcome tables in hotels
- Register delegates and guests
- Provide directions and assistance
- Translate for guests
- Staff a prayer room

There are more opportunities than can be listed here. Please visit www.gc2016pdx.org and click on the "First Time Volunteer" link to register online. Indicate the dates you are available and the areas in which you are interested in working. You can sign up for one or many shifts. You will receive an email with

Oliphant Room rededicated

Jean Hand, chair of the Archives, History, and Records Committee of First Church is retiring after 28 years. She and her committee (Bea Blake, Ina Sims, Joan Zelmer, and Charlie King) have contributed countless hours of caring for FUMC's precious history and heritage.

Jean and her late husband, the Reverend James Hand, an ordained United Methodist minister, moved to Salem in 1964. Dr. Hand taught in the Willamette University Religion Department for 24 years and Jean was a Willamette librarian for 15 years.

Mrs. Orin Oliphant (the former Mrs. J. Edgar Purdy) worked in the church office from 1946 to 1958 and then worked on our church history and records. She was devoted to collecting and preserving material for the archives. In 1974 the Oliphants co-authored a comprehensive history of First United Methodist Church of Salem, 1841-1974. In 1983 the room on the west side of the church foyer, was named the "Oliphant Room" and dedicated to the archives.

In 1987, after Mrs. Oliphant's death, Jean was asked to contribute her skills to the archives. Jean brought knowledge of Methodist history and organization. With the help of her dedicated committee she organized and catalogued numerous previously preserved boxes of records and materials, wrote articles to bring history up to date, and maintained the archives. The archives, history, and records relocated several times within the church and eventually settled in an office next to the Carrier Room. The Oliphant Room continued to house some old files and treasures but also became a storage area for other unrelated items.

To recognize Jean's service, the Oliphant Room has been reclaimed by the archives and rededicated in her name. Jean is still very much involved with the archives as chairperson emerita. A plaque has been mounted at the entrance to the Oliphant Room to commemorate Jean's commitment, contributions and service. Kenny K. Davies is following Jean's lead and guidance to continue the preservation and maintenance of important church records and memorabilia.

instructions on how to access the volunteer website. Using your personal login to the volunteer website, you can update your schedule and choose work times and areas.

Financial Statement: October 2015

Operating Fund	Budget	September	October	Year to Date	% of Budget
	2015	2015	2015	2015	Year to Date
					83.33%
Income					
General Income	\$ 456,800.00	\$ 35,274.36	\$ 36,736.97	\$ 367,685.73	80.49%
Other	\$ 26,084.75	\$ 1,690.83	\$ 1,511.83	\$ 24,424.54	93.64%
Use of Facilities	\$ 84,000.00	\$ 4,673.50	\$ 8,372.00	\$ 72,395.25	86.18%
Total Income	\$ 566,884.75	\$ 41,638.69	\$ 46,620.80	\$ 464,505.52	81.94%
Expenses					
Total Programs	\$ 5,420.00	\$ 1,302.69	\$ 367.17	\$ 4,479.81	82.65%
Employee Expenses	\$ 311,766.00	\$ 26,518.66	\$ 24,290.67	\$ 264,343.15	84.79%
Shared Ministries	\$ 80,290.00	\$ 6,638.25	\$ 6,638.25	\$ 67,013.50	83.46%
Total Administrative Expenses	\$ 49,215.00	\$ 4,104.20	\$ 4,144.57	\$ 40,103.44	81.49%
Total Building Expenses	\$ 119,193.75	\$ 9,543.84	\$ 7,948.17	\$ 90,729.56	76.12%
Total Trustees Loan	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 83.33	\$ 83.33	\$ 833.30	83.33%
Total Expenses	\$ 566,884.75	\$ 48,190.97	\$ 43,472.16	\$ 467,502.76	82.47%
Beginning Balance :		\$ 406.41	\$ (6,145.87)		
Income - Expenses		\$ (6,552.28)	\$ 3,148.64		
End of Month Balance:		\$ (6,145.87)	\$ (2,997.23)		

MICAH project report

The new Worship Center is approximately 90% complete. The kitchen equipment will be installed the week of Nov. 23. APEX Pro Audio & Lighting started the installation of the AV systems Nov. 19 and will complete it by Nov. 28.

We owe Shelli Dierck of InCahoots Design and her husband a great deal of thanks and gratitude for donating their time and efforts to paint the entry and hallway, which that was not included in our budget. The Board of Trustees gave the MICAH project \$1,200 to paint the elevator. She was able to work with Rodda Paint Co. to buy all of the speciality paint needed to paint the elevator, plus the entry and hallway. With the help of Jake Momcrief of Precision Floor Covering they were able to use remnants from the Worship Center flooring to carpet the elevator floor for no additional costs. Shelli's timeless design of the Worship Center will benefit the church for many years.



Friday, Dec. 4, 6 - 9 p.m.

Parents are invited to drop off their children to be chaperoned by our Childcare Coordinator, Libby Bonn, and trained volunteers. Children will enjoy a craft, snack, playtime and a holiday movie.

Cost is \$5 per child (Infant – 5th Grade)

Registration forms are available in the activity time room (206) or in the church office. For questions or more information, please contact Leta Brewster, 303-483-1099 or letabrewster@yahoo.com.



Date: Friday, Dec. 11

Time: 6:30—8:30 p.m.

**Place: Youth Center at Salem First UMC,
600 State Street.**

Wear your favorite pajamas and bring a blanket to cuddle up and watch a wonderful movie about a trip to the north pole. Indulge in some cocoa and treats! All ages are welcome to join in the fun!

Attention, parents of third graders!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, Dec. 13. Be there when your child receives her/his first Bible. Bibles will be presented at the one service that Sunday at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary.



Come sing Christmas carols with Mele Ukulele - ALL AGES!

Come join us to sing Christmas carols and help support the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Christmas Campaign. On Monday, Dec. 14, from 6 to 8 p.m., Mele Ukulele, our church's ukulele group, will be strummin' and singin' Christmas carols on the Macy's sky bridge at Salem Center – just a few blocks north of our church.

Come join the fun! Choose to sing, to strum a ukulele, and/or to ring a Salvation Army bell to support our filling up a Salvation Army Christmas red kettle that will help lots of folks who are in need this Christmas holiday.

It works well to park on the 2nd floor of the Macy's parking garage, then walk west through the 2nd floor of Macy's until you exit the store at their sky bridge. That's where we'll be – having way too much fun bringing lots of awesome Christmas Joy. Hope you can join us!





Sunday Adult Education Opportunities

9-10 a.m.

Early Birds – Room 212, Holli Davenport, facilitator
Discussing the book *The Will of God: Answering the Hard Questions* by James C. Howell (available from Amazon or Cokesbury.com). The “veteran pastor and theologian...considers a number of issues related to God’s will, how it is known, how it is done, and how we respond when bad things happen and we feel God is absent or has turned away from us.”

While the class time is set based on the Sanctuary Choir’s schedule, everyone is welcome to attend, not just musicians!

10-11 a.m.

Family Matters & Empty Nesters– Room B-8 (use the stairway next to kitchen)
Support and information on faith and life concerns for the many transitions and experiences of families.

Adult Bible Study – Room 107, Gary Onstot, facilitator
Adult Bible Study follows an informal format that encourages discussion and questions concerning the subject scripture. Examining biblical texts from Exodus, Leviticus, Luke, Matthew, and Mark, this quarter’s first four lessons explore the concepts of Sabbath, giving offerings, celebrations, and giving from the heart.

Bridges – Room 110
A gathering and learning space for differently-abled adults and their care-givers



Digging Deeper in Theology and Ethics – Room 116 (Carrier Room) – Chuck Foster and Arturo Fernandez, facilitators

Participants draw on the resources of scripture, tradition, religious experience, and reason to explore ways of engaging contemporary ethical and justice challenges to Christian understandings of faith and practice.

Prayer of the Heart – Room 207
Contemplative prayer and meditation

Sunday morning opportunities for Youth and Children

Sr. High & Mid-High Youth – MICAH Youth Center
Using a variety of curricula, the focus is on social issues, mission work, the environment, and making a difference in the world.

Children’s classes will use age-appropriate curriculum to learn Bible stories, faith practices, ministry, and service opportunities.

Preschool & Kindergarten – Room 204

Rejoice! Kids’ Choir – Room 304
1st through 5th graders meet for choir from 10-10:20

First & Second Grades – Room 210

Third-Fifth Grades – Room 203

United Methodist Ministries of Salem-Keizer, Lead Pastors and the congregations they serve:

Rev. Dan Pitney - Salem First UMC
Rev. Sandra Kimbrow - Trinity UMC
Rev. Jon Lagenwalter - Jason Lee UMC

Rev. Wendy Woodworth - Morningside UMC
Rev. Jon Lagenwalter - Englewood UMC
Rev. Karen Nelson - Clear Lake UMC

The Spire, (USPS 863-560), published monthly, by the First United Methodist Church, 600 State Street, Salem, Oregon. Periodical postage paid at Salem, OR 97301. Postmaster: Please send change of address to: First United Methodist Church of Salem, 600 State St., Salem, OR 97301

United Methodist Women

Circle meetings



Mia Adjali Circle will meet on Monday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. in the Carrier Room. We are having a cookie exchange and all are invited to come! Call Connie at 503-364-8623 if you have any questions!

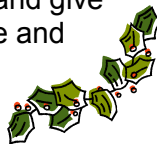
Please call the office at 503-364-6709 for an update on the Ruth Erbele Circle meeting. You may also call Emily Broussard at 503-344-4410 for information.



A season of giving

Grace is what the season of Christmas is all about. With the birth of Jesus Christ, God ushered the world into a time of grace, truth, and reconciliation. Our relationship is with God as well as with women, children, and youth here at home and around the world. We are also wise and gift-bearing women graced with the stewardship of our time, talents, and treasures. As this holiday season fast approaches, let us be thankful for what God has done in our lives and in the lives of others through our ministry of giving. Think of giving extra gifts to United Methodist Women Mission Giving, or in the name of someone through different organizations at the Alternative Christmas Market.

During this time of God's profound Love, Peace, and Joy, may it bring you the same by knowing how we, United Methodist Women, change lives and give hope to women, children, and youth here and around the world.



Calling All crafters and collectors!

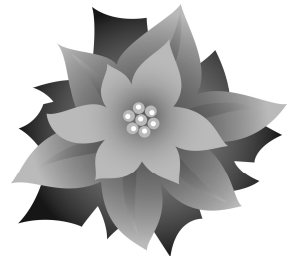
UMW needs your donations of hand crafted items or Vintage linens for the UMW table at the Alternative Christmas Market. Vintage items could include linens, doilies, handkerchiefs, pillowcases, Vintage handbags, gloves. Items can be dropped off at the church office (clearly marked for UMW/Alternative Christmas market) or call Melissa Berry for pick up before Wednesday Dec. 2. Please put a suggested price on all donations! Watch for sign ups to help at the table during the market on December 5 and 6. If you don't have email access, please leave a message for Melissa Berry at the church office. You may contact Melissa Berry at msg4198@comcast.net.

Generations Potluck & Speaker Series:



Mark your calendar for Thursday, Dec. 17 and join us in the Dining Room at noon for the monthly Generations Speaker Series! We will be hosting Cynthia McGladrey who will play the piano and lead us in singing Christmas songs. Please join us for fellowship, good food, and the spirit of Christmas.

In memory of or in honor of... Poinsettias For Advent



To continue tradition, the season of advent for 2015 will once again be decorated with poinsettias donated by YOU! Order the poinsettias (see forms in worship bulletins) and we put in the order for these celebrated Christmas plants. We will place them in the sanctuary, in memory of your loved ones or to honor your family or friends.

The poinsettias are large, premium plants costing **\$10 each**. You will be able to take your plant(s) home with you after the 11 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.

Thank You! Any questions please call the church office at 503-364-6709

UMMSK News & Events

**Christmas Advent Festival
Free Craft Making Fun for All
Sunday, Nov. 29, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**



Come to Morningside UMC and frost cookies, make ornaments and gifts, create wreaths and seasonal decorations, and enjoy time with friends!

Morningside United Methodist Church is located at 3674 12th Street SE in Salem. There is a baked potato fundraiser for Camp Magruder, too!

Bring your children and grandchildren, friends and neighbors! All are welcome at this intergenerational event.



Youth News +



Nov. 29, board game day. Bring your favorite board game and join us in the Youth Center for some post Thanksgiving fun.

Dec. 6, Alternative Christmas Market. Youth group will meet at its normal time and some youth will participate in the market. More details coming soon.

Dec. 13, Youth Group Christmas Party at Roberta Moore's house, 1-2:30 p.m. Address and directions will be emailed to youth and parents.

Dec. 20, No Youth Group, Christmas Holiday LifeSong Practice, 11a.m.

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Services, LifeSong performs at MICAH Service, 9 p.m.

Dec. 27, No Youth Group, Christmas Holiday

SAVE THE DATE! Jan. 15-18,
Suttle Lake Winter Youth Retreat



United Methodist Ministry of Salem-Keizer News & Events

Worship opportunity - *Life is Messy...Find Faith* - Dec. 13 at Keizer Clear Lake United Methodist Church

The first "Messy Church" worship event will be held at Clear Lake United Methodist Church, 7920 Wheatland Road N, in Keizer on Dec. 13 at 4 p.m.

"Messy Church" is a new way of worship that brings families together in a creative, casual environment to be, to make, to eat, and to celebrate God.

Call Clear Lake United Methodist Church in Keizer if you are interested in learning more about this exciting new form of outreach ministry.

Our youth want you to save this date!
FEBRUARY 6!
YOUTH DINNER AND AUCTION!

A fun-filled evening and fabulous food and music to support our youth programs and activities.

This is your opportunity to become involved with the major fund-raising campaign for First United Methodist youth programs and mission work.

Volunteers welcome and donation of auction items gladly accepted!

Please contact:

David Decklemann at 503-508-5085 or

<david@decklemann.us>;

Jan Morgan at 503-510-5009 or

<jan.morgan@comcast.net>;

Bob Johnson at 503-302-6170

<jobob52ford@wvi.com>;

Susan Horning at 503-409-9278

<susan.horning.83@gmail.com>



All the Youth thank you for all of your support in 2015!



At Clear Lake UMC in Keizer!

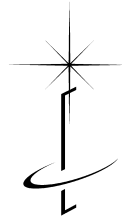
Award Winning Oregon Pianist John Nilsen in Concert Dec. 5, 2 p.m.

John Nilsen will perform at Keizer Clear Lake UMC on Dec. 5! Clear Lake United Methodist Church is located at 7920 Wheatland Rd. N. All are welcome to attend!

"The musicianship is flawless." - Keyboard Magazine
"This show is highly recommended." - Willamette Week



First United Methodist Church



December 2015

Items marked with a * indicate offsite

Weekly Recurring Events

*WE CELEBRATE COMMUNION
DURING WORSHIP ON THE FIRST
SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.
ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE.*

Sunday

8:45 a.m. MICAH Worship
10 a.m. Education Opportunities
11:15 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
12:30 p.m. Youth Group

Wednesday

5 p.m. Bridges Craft/Social Night
5:30 p.m. Mission Bells rehearsal
7 p.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
8 p.m. Advent Choir rehearsal

Thursday

5:30 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 *10 a.m. Willson House Worship 6-9 p.m. PNO	5 9-3 Alternative Market
6 9-2 Alternative Market 4-6 p.m. International Worship Event	7 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary Team	8 5:30 p.m. Christian Ed. 5:30 p.m. Trustees 7 p.m. Finance	9	10	11 6:30 p.m. Family Movie & PJ Party 7 p.m. Blue Christmas Worship	12
13 Advent Music Worship One Service at 11 a.m.	14 12 Erbele Circle 7 p.m. Mia Adjali Circle	15 4:30 p.m. Music Staff 5:30 p.m. Fam. Min. 6:30 p.m. Youth Council	16	17 12-2 p.m. Generations Potluck & Speaker 7 p.m. Ad Council	18	19
20 Warm & Fuzzy Sunday	21 5:30 p.m. MICAH Worship Team 7 p.m. Inreach	22 6:30 CHP Board	23	24 Worship at 5, 7, 9, & 11 p.m.	25 <i>Christmas Holiday Offices and Buildings Closed</i>	26
27 No Sunday Classes	28 10 a.m. Stephen Min. 6 p.m. UMMSK Board	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	Jan. 1, 2016 Closed	



First United Methodist Church

600 State Street
Salem, OR 97301

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Location..... Corner of Church and State Streets
Phone..... 503-364-6709
Fax..... 503-364-7268
Prayer Line..... 503-362-8149
Email..... **Church:** salem1st@wvi.com
 Dan Pitney: dpitney@wvi.com

Web page..... www.salemfirstumc.org
Office hours..... Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FUMC STAFF

Lay Leaders	Fran Eriksen Wendy Herrett
Pastor	Rev. Dan Pitney
Director of Youth Ministries	Heather Hawkins
Director of Music Ministries	Dr. Kerry Burtis
Mission Bells Director	Glenda Serex
Praise Band/Lifesong Director	Jennie Pitney
Organist	John Ranney
Rejoice! Kids' Choir Directors	Amanda Rich Brenda Bateman
Director of Volunteer Ministries	Leta Brewster
Lead Childcare Provider	Libby Bonn
Facilities Manager	Jeff Julum
Business Administrators	Judy Allen Kathy Pressler
Office Manager	Katie Carpenter
Stephen Ministry Coordinator	Fran Eriksen
Campus Custodian	Total Solutions

Spire deadlines

Please submit your articles by **NOON of the deadline date**. Articles received after the deadline will be held for the next issue.

2015-16 Spire deadlines, winter issues:

Jan. 2015 issue - Dec . 11
Feb. issue - Jan. 15

E-mail articles for The Spire to the church office,
<saalem1st@wvi.com>

Please include the word "**SPIRE**" and the subject of your article in the subject line. Be sure to include a phone number with your article. Articles longer than 300 words *may be cut to fit*.