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Rochester UMC

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Open Hearts.
Open Minds.
Open Doors.

**The people
of The United
Methodist
Church®**



Caring & Sharing



Vangie's Voice

O Come, All Ye Faithful, Joyful, and Triumphant--From verse 1, United Methodist Hymnal 234

This beloved carol begins with an invitation, culminating in the chorus: *"O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord."* Our Advent and Christmastide theme, inspired by this hymn, brings us back to invitation and adoration of Jesus.

Many of us may not feel joyful or triumphant. Some may question whether we're "faithful." Life is heavy, with rising costs, fractured communities, and declining energy. Cruel rhetoric surrounds us, even from some claiming to follow Christ.

Yet the carol calls us to the Source: *"Come and behold him, born the King of angels."*

We are invited to adore the Divine, who chose profound vulnerability—being born as a baby in ancient Palestine, dependent on strangers, animals, and displaced parents. This act of love isn't displayed by brutish domination, but by humility.

This child grew into a man who flipped tables, prioritized rest, gathered unlikely disciples, empowered them to share his work, and invited all into practices of grace—personal (prayer, fasting, scripture) and social (feeding, healing, clothing). Jesus emphasized loving God, others, and ourselves, often in ways that are countercultural, sometimes quiet, and subversive.

Jesus invites us to explore dimensions of Divine love: listening deeply to God and others, lifting up the lowly, and living into our spiritual gifts to serve.

Pastor Vangie Cont'd

Book a time with the pastor by calling the office, sending an email, or through this link:

calendly.com/pastorvangierand

O Come, All Ye Faithful:
Come, you who've been working behind the scenes.
Come, you who've been showing up.
Come, you who haven't been to church in awhile.
Come, you who are unsure, disappointed, or burnt out.
Come, you who feel judged or out of place.
Come, you who want to tune out.
Come, you who _____ (fill in the blank).

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
May we extend Christ's invitation to all.
A blessed Advent and Merry Christmas to you!



Margie Joy Murray | Dec 3
Sandy Rydell | Dec 11
Jacob Wegener | Dec 29



THRIFT SHOP

OPEN 1ST & 3RD
FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

10:00AM - 2:00PM

CASH ONLY

Rochester
United Methodist Church



18214 CORVALLIS ST., ROCHESTER, WA 98579

rochesterumc.org



**CREST TO COAST
MISSIONAL DISTRICT**



DON'T REMEMBER THE PRIOR THINGS;
DON'T PONDER ANCIENT HISTORY.
**LOOK, I'M DOING
A NEW THING...**

I'M MAKING
a way
in the DESERT,
a path
in the WILDERNESS.

ISAIAH 43:18;19B (CEB)



- December 1st 1st Sunday of Advent “Preparations”, Jeremiah 33:14-16,
 Luke 21:25-36
 Pastor Vangie at CFUMC; Pastor Golden at RUMC
- December 8 Second Sunday of Advent “Passion” Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 3:1-6
 Music Sunday at CFUMC
 Pastor Vangie at RUMC
- December 15 Third Sunday of Advent “Presence” Isaiah 12:2-6,
 Luke 3:7-18
 Pastor Vangie at CFUMC, Bruce Baldwin brings the message
 at RUMC
- December 21 ***Endings and Beginnings: Preparing for the Longest Night*** An intimate
 space for marking the Solstice, change, grief, or Sadness. 2:45 p.m
 @ Rochester UMC.
- December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent “Promise”, Micah 5:2-5a,
 Luke 1: (26-38), 39-45
 Pastor Vangie at RUMC; CFUMC: TBD
- December 24 **Christmas Eve, 700 p.m. at Centralia UMC**
- December 29 1st Sunday of Christmastide “Home”, I Samuel 2:18-20, 26,
 Luke 2:15-21
Connexional Sunday at CFUMC; both churches gather
 at Centralia. Potluck to follow the service.

Small Bites, BIG FLAVOR: Creative Worship Workshop and Retreat

Creative worship design isn't just for pastors! Worship becomes more meaningful when a team of people with varied experiences, talents, and ideas come together.

Dr. Marcia McFee from Worship Design Studio is coming to lead a workshop and mini retreat at Olympia First UMC in January!



Dr. Marcia McFee pairs creativity and scripture, inviting imaginations to be lifted up for the Glory of God. This event will empower laity to become more effective in planning and leading worship. At this event, bitesize mindset and skillset lessons will be taught, which can add flavor to our worship. Resources for Lent through Easter will also be shared.

Dr. McFee offers tools and ideas *beyond music and preaching: visual instillations including altar design, education and projects for children, small group studies, Drama and storytelling, Mission-focused initiatives, etc.*

This hybrid event allows participation **in-person** or **online**. Pastor Vangie plans to attend and invites you to join her!

- ◆ **Location:** Olympia First UMC
- ◆ **Dates:** January 10-11
- ◆ **Cost:** \$25 for in-person attendees (Don't let cost be a barrier—speak with Pastor Vangie for assistance.)
- ◆ **Register here:** [GNW Registration Link](https://gnw-reg.brtaapp.com/smallbitesbigflavor1). If you need help registering, please contact the church office.

<https://gnw-reg.brtaapp.com/smallbitesbigflavor1>

Voice From the Front Pew

By Glynda Shaw



If you are old, like me, you may remember Zorro. During the day he was a rather ineffectual fop while at night he was a mighty swordsman. He seldom killed anyone, preferring to cut the suspenders of miscreant men: or using his rapier blade to draw his famous Z with three audible strokes across a jacket. All this was in pursuit of righting wrongs in colonial California.

When I was five my mother had some black cloth which I talked her out of. She drew a Zorro mask on paper, using the pattern to cut out a genuine mask of cloth. Tying this on with a string about my head, taking up my wooden sword and blanket cape, I was some kind of cool I tell you what.

Since 2020 we've been asked now and then to mask for a reason less fun or adventurous than playing hispanic crime fighter. Since that time the issues of masking and Covid itself have burned so hot that they constituted a dividing line between opposing parties.

Two years ago and again last January I've become extremely sick, both times I believe were due to airborne viruses. I have masked once or twice at church and have on both occasions noticed myself as an island in a sea of avoidance. I will be starting this practice again soon. I wish to have a winter free of significant discomfiture and disability. I know there are others who also need to mask because like me, they can't afford to get sick.

When you see me wearing my Union mask, please don't shun me or other maskers. We're not saying we're contagious or think you are. We want to hit spring healthy and on the run!

Woofsee all the way! Washington Federation of State Employees--Hence WFSE.

Be safe and healthy my good friends,

G.J.S.



The Wisdom of the Magi

The famous “three” were attuned to nature and saw in a star-studded sky the one that would guide them to travel—most likely bringing with them support folks, family, and friends—to One who was worthy of their efforts. They brought their gifts as an expression of worship. And they went home another way to keep the Precious One safe. May our journey to this Christmas be filled with such wisdom.

- ◆ “God so loved the world...” Most often Christians hear John 3:16 in relationship to personal salvation. But **look again at what God loves** enough to send God’s own Son as a gift—the world! All of creation, not just humans. If God so loved the world, then we need to also. Choose at least one aspect of creation and love it through your gifts.
- ◆ If a loved one says, “I don’t need anything for Christmas,” **choose a thoughtful gift that is zero-waste**, such as a shampoo bar, a package of wooden clothes pins to use instead of plastic “chip clips,” preserves from local farmers, some bamboo toilet paper, a bracelet made of plastic recovered from an ocean, a packet of seeds for wildflowers. Sustainable gifts spark lasting change.
- ◆ If you don’t wish to receive presents, let that be known. Invite the gift givers to **shower you with their presence** instead. What can you do together that you would enjoy and create good memories and stories? Find opportunities for caring together for creation and working for justice.

- ◆ Have a conversation—not a confrontation—with your teen about any gifted money. Invite them to **think about investing in their future and Creation's**. Help them explore possibilities related to their interests or concerns, such as organizations that care for wildlife, replant trees, support ocean clean up, or address justice issues. Ultimately, remember the money was a gift to them—not you. Your gift is to be a thinking partner.



Discover more at umcreationjustice.org

**Centralia College
Musical Performances**

12/2 Pacific Northwest Chamber Orchestra
(Centralia College)

12/4 Centralia College Jazz Ensemble

12/12 Centralia College Choir

All Centralia College concerts are free and at 7 pm
in Corbet Theater

The Nutcracker

12/19-22 SWW Dance's Nutcracker (various days
and times)

The Messiah

12/7 Messiah Sing-a-long, Seventh Day
Adventist Church, 4:30 pm

Westminster Bells

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Chehalis
12/7 Saturday, at 7 p.m.
12/8 Sunday at 3 p.m.

Harrison Square Presbyterian Church, Centralia
12/8 Sunday at 7 p.m.