



No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

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Advent Expectations

Each year Advent comes with certain expectations. I expect to sing familiar hymns like “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” I expect lingering darkness as winter tightens her grip. I expect the flurry of Christmas preparations—buying a tree, sending out cards, and braving holiday stores.

What I don't expect, but always secretly hope for, are moments of rest and contemplation. Moments to stop and ponder, like Mary and Joseph did long ago, what does all this mean? I long for quiet and time to pay attention to how God may be yearning to enter my life today.

Well this year the Advent Team invites us to expect the unexpected. They invite us to look for new, surprising, and unusual ways that God may be speaking to us, and they invite us to carve out time for quiet and reflection.

In worship and our church activities this season, we will be listening to unexpected voices from the Christmas story. We'll hear from the innkeeper and the

shepherds, as they wrestle with how to make sense of the good news of Christ's birth. In their struggles, we will hopefully hear our own, as we explore how God often speaks to us in unexpected ways with unexpected messages.

We'll also hear from unexpected voices on December 18 at 6pm, when we will hold our Longest Night service, a service designed to provide sanctuary and comfort to those for whom the holidays are difficult. Many of us know all too well the societal expectations that Christmas is a time of joy, merriment, and celebration. But for those of us who have experienced loss, who are separated from family and friends, or who know the isolation of loneliness, illness, or unemployment, this season can be anything but joyful. Our Longest Night service combines scripture, poetry, silence, and song to create a quiet and meditative space where we can name our hurts before God and receive words of comfort and hope. This service is open to

anyone in our congregation and wider community, and please feel free to invite friends for whom this service may be of unexpected and needed comfort.

This is a season of many expectations, but it also can be a season of surprise. As we walk our Advent journey, may we be open to the many unexpected ways that God will surprise us along the way.

With Advent hope,

Jennie



From the piano bench

As we move into Advent, the LOUCC Choir is working on a very special piece of music for the third Sunday in Advent. Beginning at our choir retreat in late August, singers have been rehearsing the five movements of Franz Schubert's "Mass #2 in G Major, D. 167."

The Mass, composed in 1815, was intended for liturgical use, and includes the five movements of the "mass ordinary" (the sections of the mass which remain unchanged throughout the year, as opposed to the "mass proper" which reflects the changing texts for the liturgical year): *Kyrie Eleison, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus and Benedictus, Agnus Dei*. The texts are sung in Greek and Latin. Historically, the movements of the mass ordinary were important to Western European composers, because they afforded the opportunity for cyclic unity within a church service as well as variety of expression: the pleading prayers of the *Kyrie Eleison* and *Agnus Dei*, the exuberant praise of the *Gloria*, the drama contained with the *Credo* statement, the

excitement of the *Sanctus* and Hosanna, the blessing of God in the *Benedictus*.

I am very excited to be sharing this piece of music with the LOUCC community. I have conducted the piece twice before, and have a deep love for Schubert's beautiful melodies and rich harmonies. Though challenging for the singers, the work is so beautifully composed that it is accessible to choirs large and small. Our soloists will be Sherrie Binkley, soprano; David Dunning and Rob Gwynn, bass; Mary Cox, tenor. We will be joined on Sunday the 11th by a string quartet from Classical Revolution PDX, a local non-profit organization dedicated to facilitating connections between players and lovers of classical chamber music. Please invite family and friends and members of the community to share this special music and worship at LOUCC.

From program notes by Michaelene Gorney: "The Mass No. 2 in G Major was written within the space of five days, March 2-7, 1815. This is the shortest and

simplest of Schubert's seven masses, intended for performance in his parish church of Lichenthal. The chamber instrumentation for strings is a beautifully transparent setting for use in a small church with limited resources. The Mass setting is restrained and conservative, reminiscent of Mozart or early Beethoven.

Like Mozart, Schubert was not an orthodox Catholic. His personal piety had its roots in Josephism, a liberal religious attitude prevalent under Emperor Joseph II, which caused him to omit the following line from the Credo: *Credo in unam sanctam catholicam et apostolicam ecclesiam* ("I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church"). Though unorthodox, Schubert was a deeply religious man. In a letter to his father, he wrote, "People have wondered at the piety I express in a hymn to the Virgin Mary (his Ave Maria), which seems to move every soul and to dispose the listener to prayer. I think that is because I never force myself to pray and, except when devotion involuntarily

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overpowers me, I never compose that kind of hymn or prayer -- when I do, then the piety I give voice to is genuine and deeply felt.”

Along with the Schubert, stay tuned for a variety of Advent sounds from the LOUCC Choir, the LOUCC "string" band, the FaLaLaLa Follies, a recorder consort, and more. If you'd like to join the choir for Christmas Eve lessons and carols, please contact Susan for rehearsal information.

*In harmony,
Susan Peck
Music Director*

Operation Nightwatch Party

This year LOUCC will supply the volunteers and food for a holiday party for 80 guests at Operation Nightwatch on Saturday, December 17. The guests are homeless and low-income downtown residents who are regulars at the Hospitality Center. Our group will donate loaves of nice (turkey, ham, cheese or roast beef) sandwiches (12-15 loaves), cookies (15 dozen or so) and cider to heat (14 half gallons). We will need the food by 5:00 pm at LOUCC on that Saturday to take down to St. Stephen's Episcopal

Church, Nightwatch's new home. Our confirmands will be serving and cleaning up at St. Stephen's that evening. Please email [Julia Munson \(kurt.julia@frontier.com\)](mailto:julia.munson@frontier.com) or contact her at 503-590-1943 to help make food or with any questions. This traditional party is something our guests and our congregation have enjoyed participating in over the years. Please pledge a loaf of sandwiches, cookies or cider on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.



BIRTHDAYS

- 12/5 Jim Walters
- 10/10 Marilyn Launder
- 12/24 Lori Cohen
- 12/28 Ken Gisch



ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/3 Jim & Norma Walters
- 12/6 Ralph & Penny Holcomb
- 12/27 Roy Schreiber & Carole Heath



Poinsettias... or Food?

The Worship, Arts and Adult Education team would like to encourage people to consider an alternative to purchasing a poinsettia this year. How about donating money toward Christmas food boxes instead?

You will find forms in the pews and Sunday bulletins that allow you to designate your donation preference as well as the person you wish to memorialize or honor.

This year, consider thinking INSIDE the box!

Mission:1 Tally

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Mission:1 campaign. Whether you donated food and personal items, wrote letters to Congress, or donated funds, each and every act counted toward the greater good! LOUCC certainly did our share! You all gave generously, for a grand total of 580 food items, \$150 given to Neighbors in Need and the East Africa Famine Relief fund, and 15 letters written and sent to Congress. Well done!

Our numbers were part of the UCC-wide totals, which were equally amazing. Much was accomplished in a short 11 day period: 1,088,050 healthy food items collected; 31,152 letters written to Congress; \$68,647 donated to NIN hunger-related ministries; \$77,184 donated to East Africa Famine Relief.

Thank you for your generosity and giving spirit!

Christmas Food Baskets

LOUCC's Social Justice & Mission Team is grateful once again for the congregation's generosity with our Thanksgiving food boxes. 44 boxes were delivered to sister UCC congregations in Portland on Sunday, November 20th. Our goal is to deliver the same number of Christmas food boxes to North and Northeast Portland. Please consider hungry families as you plan your

Christmas giving. The cost of each food box is approximately \$35 dollars.

On Sunday, December 18, volunteers will gather at 9 am at the Lake Oswego Albertson's on State Street to pick up ordered food, returning to the church to assemble boxes. Following worship at 12:00 pm, volunteers are needed to deliver the boxes to Portland. Delivery to

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Mission's Menu
December

Holiday Fixings

Stewardship Corner

Date	Income	Budget	Attendance 2011	Attendance 2010
November 6	\$6,467	\$3,325	76	50
November 13	\$2,515	\$3,325	58	60
November 20	\$2,713	\$3,325	67	77
November 27	\$1,557	\$3,325	75	69

Financial Summary as of October 31, 2011

	Budget	Actual	Difference
YTD Income	\$144,090	\$138,429	(\$5,661)
YTD Expense	\$161,020	\$151,239	\$9,781
Difference		(\$12,810)	



“Expect the Unexpected”

Advent 2011

Lake Oswego United Church of Christ

Sunday, November 27..... First Sunday in Advent

10:30 a.m.—Worship Service

Join the community as we begin our Advent theme of “Expecting the Unexpected.” We hear the voice of Mary as she wrestles with an unexpected child. Special music by LOUCC Choir.

11:30 a.m.—Hanging of the Greens and Advent Wreath Workshop

Enjoy coffee and refreshments while we create Advent wreaths for the church and our homes.

Sunday, December 4..... Second Sunday in Advent

10:30 a.m.—Worship Service with Communion

We continue our theme of “Expect the Unexpected” as we hear the voice of Joseph trying to care for his family in an unexpected situation.

3:00 p.m.—Concert—Fa-La-La-La Follies

Celebrate the holidays with performers Sue and Martin Brother, Susan Peck, David Dunning, Darcy Dillon, Hayley Rouselle, and Emily Brother as they offer a musical mishmash of holiday mirth. Part of the 2012-2012 Arts and Lecture Series.

Sunday, December 11..... Third Sunday in Advent

10:30 a.m.—Worship Service with Schubert Mass

We receive an unexpected gift from the LOUCC choir, accompanied by a string quartet from Classical Revolution PDX, as they present Franz Schubert's "Mass in G Major." The Mass, composed in 1815, includes all five movements of the "mass ordinary:" Kyrie Eleison, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus and Benedictus, Agnus Dei. Soloists are Sherrie Binkley, David Dunning, Rob Gwynn, and Mary Cox. We also hear the voice of the innkeeper struggling with an unexpected request of hospitality.

Sunday, December 18..... Fourth Sunday in Advent

10:30 a.m.—Worship Service

We hear the voice of the shepherds as they sing of an unexpected sight.

6:00 p.m.—Worship Service—The Longest Night

This Advent service of comfort recognizes the darkness and sorrow that often accompanies this season of light and joy. The service will incorporate readings, silence, prayer, and music as we listen for and give voice to God’s presence with us during the long nights of winter and the dark nights of our souls. Come to receive the unexpected blessing of hope.

Saturday, December 24..... Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m.—Coffee and Fellowship

Join your LOUCC family for a time of fellowship and community before our Christmas Eve service.

5:00 p.m.—Worship Service—Candlelight Service

Enjoy a service of lessons, carols, candlelight, and community as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and welcome the unexpected Prince of Peace. Special music by the LOUCC choir.

Sunday, December 25..... Christmas Day

10:30 a.m.—Worship Service—Christmas Storytelling

Come together to sing carols, celebrate Christmas, and share our stories of when we have received unexpected gifts.



LOUCC Rain Garden

It was fun to tuck native plants into the rich soil of our new rain garden in November. We are caring for our upstream link in the ecological chain that leads to the rivers that sustain our human and wild lives.

Water runs off **impermeable** surfaces on our property, including our driveways, parking lots, sidewalks, and roofs. These surfaces often contain contaminants that have settled out of the air, dripped from your car, or worn off roofing or paving



surfaces (tar, gravel, etc). Yet, as the water runs through the vegetation of the rain garden, it slows and has the time to **infiltrate** into the soil. That process filters out contaminants, and

cools the water before it enters the water shed system. **In fact, through a process called phytoremediation, some pollutants, even heavy metals, may be taken up into the vegetation itself or rendered harmless by organic processes.** Yet, many different plants other than natives can do that job, so why do we use natives?

There are many benefits to using native vegetation in the landscape. Local plants and wildlife have evolved in tandem under the very

specific conditions present in our area, including the amount and timing of the precipitation we get, the length of our days, and the earth forces that formed our landscape. Once established in the landscape, native vegetation will need much less maintenance and

attention than a non-native landscape, and it will attract the wildlife that thrives on the habitat it provides. It costs less in chemical additives, fuel, and water, and may be safer, not only

for the planet, but for the children and pets who might come in contact with pesticides and power tools. As the landscape matures, it will maintain its own lifecycles without our intensive input.

Yet a native landscape may not look much like you're used to. Neatness is not the goal here. Naturally grown grasses provide cover and habitat for ground-nesting birds; berry producing shrubs provide food. A snag – the remnants of the trunk of a dead tree – may provide a home first for a woodpecker family, and then a bluebird family. The tree bending over the stream provides shade, but also may provide a bridge for the gray squirrel that needs to find a mate on the other side of the creek. In fact, on the scale of a small mammal, nooks and crannies under fallen trees or rocks make attractive and comfortable shelters.

The goal of rain gardens is to revitalize and protect the vital riparian systems that affect our quality of life, from drinking clean water we

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December Worship

2011-2012 Committees

4th	Theme: Expect the Unexpected—Joseph Text: Matthew 1:18-25a Reader: Emily Peterson Scripture: Jessica Honegger Ushers: Care Team Counters: Roy Schreiber, Marilyn Launder
11th	Theme: Expect the Unexpected—Innkeeper Text: Luke 2:1-7 Reader: Linda Mines Elliott Scripture: Sue Brother Ushers: Bill Deane, Kathi Rise Amanda Alvarez, Jan Standlea Counters: Roy Schreiber, Marilyn Launder
18th AM	Theme: Expect the Unexpected—Shepherds Text: Matthew 2:8-20 Reader: Patrick Jaurisch Scripture: Bill Deane Ushers: Roy Schreiber, Carole Heath Pat Crane, Amy Clark Counters: Roy Schreiber, Marilyn Launder
18th 6PM	Longest Night Service
24th 5PM	Christmas Eve Service
25th	Theme: Expect the Unexpected—Our Stories Text: John 1:1-14 Counters: Roy Schreiber, Marilyn Launder
Other December Responsibilities: Coffee Hour: Missions Committee Mission Menu Items: Holiday Fixings	
Good Newsletter deadline—December 20th	

Officers

Moderator: Bill Deane
 Moderator-Elect: Sharon Davis
 Treasurer: Jim Crane
 Financial Secretary: John Sather
 Clerk: Jan Standlea

Trustees

Dawn Hayami: Chair Jim Crane
 Ken Gisch Monica Honegger, Property
 Cindy Ellison, Property Kurt Munson

Worship & The Arts

Penny Holcomb: Chair Mary Cox
 Ralph Holcomb Bee Neufeld
 Kathi Rise Pam Brown

Social Justice & Mission

Amy Clark: Chair Leslie Crowder
 Loren Northup Bruce Ellison
 Joan Gornbein Harmony George Jaurisch
 Jane Lovelady Julia Munson
 Sandy Johnson

Faith Development

Jan Indermill: Chair Jessica Honegger
 Cathy Peterson Jan Standlea

Congregational Care

Carole Heath: Chair Pat Crane
 Nan Deane Nancy Engeman
 Nancy McLean Suzanne Gwynn

Green Team

Sally Weersing: Chair Ken Gisch
 Monica Honegger Barbara Kelley
 John Sather Chuck Erkenbeck
 Carol Bellows Frank Groznik

Property

Monica Honegger Cindy Ellison
 Kurt Munson Clayton Crowhurst
 Scott Peterson

Pastor Parish Relations

Pat Crane Ralph Holcomb
 Jane Lovelady

Personnel

Nancy Delbrueck Quent Neufeld

LOUCC Delegates

John Sather Ralph Holcomb
 John Binkley Sherrie Binkley
 Hilary Himan (Alternate)
 Penny Holcomb (Alternate)

Outside In: Give Kids Cheer

Check the Christmas tree in the Gathering Room this year and pick a red or green gift tag to help bring joy and cheer to one of Portland's homeless youth being served by Outside In.

Many of us think fondly of family holiday traditions and look forward to the season. Unfortunately, this is not the case for everyone. There are more than 2,000 homeless youth in Portland who do not have family welcoming them home for the holidays. Many of them spend their holidays at Outside In, an organization that LOUCC has supported in different ways for many years.

For 43 years, Outside In and its supporters have helped homeless youth. The goal at Outside In is to remind their clients that they are cared about. Outside In

provides essential services including meals, medical care, shelter, and education and employment services. They want to make sure that each and every youth will be opening one holiday gift that they really want and that they receive another essential – JOY.

Please consider taking a “wish list” gift tag from our tree in the Gathering Room. Simply bring in one or more of the items listed on the gift tag and your faithful Mission Committee will deliver our collective cheer to Outside In in time for Christmas.

Please bring your UNWRAPPED items in to church by Sunday, December 11. The Mission Elves will do the rest!

Thank you for bringing CHEER to kids who need a little extra care and joy at the holiday season.

2011-2012 Arts and Lecture Series

Sunday, December 4th at 3 PM

The Fa La La La Follies!

Start your holiday season with spirited Christmas and Hanukkah music, by Sue and Martin Brother, their friends, and family.

Food Baskets

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both sites is usually completed by 1:30 pm, with volunteers back in LO by 2:00 pm. Please contact Leslie Crowder 503-620-5304 or ljc2crowder@gmail.com (or Amy Clark 503-443-3705 or amy@bigredbee.com) for more information.

Rain Garden

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access through our faucets, to the appreciation of a bird call on an early spring morning. It may not seem that a modest piece of property would have an important effect on the larger watershed, but the ecological chain is only as strong as its weakest link. I look forward to watching our parking lot's rain garden mature with time, and will observe the wildlife it will attract.

Carol Bellows

For the Green Team

December 2011

LOUCC, Beit Haverim, Other Users

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
10:30am - Worship 12pm - Advent 12pm - Brothers	6:15am - Great 11:45am - Women's 12pm - Bible Study 4pm - Brothers 8:30pm - Cleaning	6pm - Brothers 6:30pm - DDT-Don't	6:15am - Great 12pm - Overeaters 7:30pm - Choir	7:30am - Weight 9am - Bodhi Tree 4pm - Brothers 6:08pm - Women's	6:15am - Great 12pm - Overeaters 4pm - Beit Haverim	12pm - Brothers 2pm - Cleaning Time 7pm - Saturday 7:30pm - Worship
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30am - Worship 12pm - Brothers 12pm - Confirmation 2:30pm - BH 3pm - Arts &	6:15am - Great 11:45am - Women's 12pm - Bible Study 8:30pm - Cleaning	5pm - Green Team @ 6:30pm - DDT-Don't	6:15am - Great 12pm - Overeaters 7:30pm - Choir	7:30am - Weight 9am - Bodhi Tree 6:08pm - Women's	6:15am - Great 12pm - Overeaters 4pm - Beit Haverim	2pm - Cleaning Time 7pm - Saturday
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30am - Worship 12pm - Faith 2:30pm - BH	6:15am - Great 11:45am - Women's 12pm - Bible Study 7pm - Missions 8:30pm - Cleaning	6:30pm - DDT-Don't 7pm - Trustee	6:15am - Great 12pm - Overeaters 7:30pm - Choir	7:30am - Weight 9am - Bodhi Tree 6:08pm - Women's	6:15am - Great 12pm - Overeaters 4pm - Beit Haverim	2pm - Cleaning Time 7pm - Saturday
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30am - Worship 12pm - Confirmation 6pm - Longest Night	6:15am - Great 11:45am - Women's 12pm - Bible Study 8:30pm - Cleaning	Good Newsletter 6:30pm - DDT-Don't 7pm - Council	6:15am - Great 12pm - Overeaters 7:30pm - Choir	7:30am - Weight 9am - Bodhi Tree 6:08pm - Women's	6:15am - Great 12pm - Overeaters 4pm - Beit Haverim	2pm - Cleaning Time 5pm - Christmas Eve 7pm - Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Holiday 10:30am - Worship	6:15am - Great 11:45am - Women's 12pm - Bible Study 8:30pm - Cleaning	6:30pm - DDT-Don't	6:15am - Great 12pm - Overeaters 7:30pm - Choir	7:30am - Weight 9am - Bodhi Tree 6:08pm - Women's	6:15am - Great 12pm - Overeaters 4pm - Beit Haverim	2pm - Cleaning Time 7pm - Saturday



LAKE OSWEGO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1111 Country Club Rd.
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
Phone: 503-635-4348

“Never place a period where God has placed a comma” -Gracie Allen

Mission Statement

In Christ, we are called together, as a community of unconditional love, to provide spiritual nourishment, to share God's love through active service within and beyond our church community, and to be responsive to the needs of our ever-changing world.

Open & Affirming Statement

We are called to love our brothers and sisters as God loves us, freely and without reservation. Our unconditional love is inclusive of all God's people. We denounce acts of discrimination and violence against any person.

We celebrate the family in all its diverse forms, and affirm all loving and committed relationships.

We welcome all people into our community of faith, whatever age, gender, gender expression, race, sexual orientation, religion, ethnic background, socio-economic status, or physical or mental abilities. Each person is invited and encouraged to participate in all aspects of our church's life and ministry.

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Jennie Ott	pastor@loucc.org
Music Director: Susan Peck	susan@loucc.org
Office Administrator: Glen Williams	office@loucc.org

Vision

We seek to be an inspiring community, making a difference in people's lives by engaging in missions of compassion and justice, while we honor diversity and act as a progressive Christian voice.

Community – We are a compassionate community striving to accept people wherever they are on life's journey. We believe that the way we treat others is an expression of our beliefs. Community is formed through missions of compassion and justice.

Progressive – We are a community of progressive Christians where spirituality is expressed in a variety of forms. We have a thirst for knowledge where we value the questions as much as the answers. We value the movement of God's Spirit in our community and listen with anticipation to the still speaking God.

Diversity – We honor diversity within our community, respectful that there is more than one path to God. We value being an Open and Affirming congregation.

Justice For The Environment – The whole Earth is our broader community. We are continually learning how to be responsible members of this community. We are committed to fostering our spiritual connection to the Earth.