

Operation Christmas Child sends thousands of gifts overseas

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

More than 200 shoeboxes were filled with gifts as part of a Nov. 5 packing party for Operation Christmas Child at the Stanfield Baptist Church.

"It was a great event," said Barb Wattenburger, collection coordinator in Hermiston.

Church member Carol Frink, also a Hermiston businesswoman, helped organize the event that assists in spreading the joy of Christmas to disadvantaged children in war-torn and poverty-stricken nations around the world. Operation Christmas Child is an outreach ministry of the international Christian relief organization Samaritan's Purse. People are invited to fill shoebox-sized boxes with toys, personal hygiene items, school supplies and other gifts for the recipients.

National Collection Week is Nov. 14-21. Drop-off locations are available in Pendleton, Hermiston and Milton-Freewater.

In 2015, Pendleton donors gave 1,086 shoeboxes and Hermiston supporters gave a whopping 1,725, said Fay Smith, Operation Christmas Child regional media coordinator.

The concept is simple, Smith said: Pack gifts for either a boy or girl of a designated age group in a standard-size shoebox, add a shipping label, provide \$7 per shoebox to help defray shipping costs and take it to a relay center during National Collection Week,



Contributed photo by Barb Wattenburger

Area residents participate in a shoebox-packing party Nov. 5 at the Stanfield Baptist Church. The gifts will be distributed through Operation Christmas Child to needy children across the globe.

When and where to drop your shoeboxes

Calvary Chapel
1909 S.W. Athens Ave., Pendleton
Nov. 14-15, 17-18; 4-6 p.m.
Nov. 16, 21; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Nov. 19; 7:30-9 a.m. & 4-6 p.m.
Nov. 20, 1-3 p.m.
Denise Skeen, 541-377-2103

New Hope Community Church
1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston
•Nov. 14-19, 21; 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
•Nov. 15, 17; 5-7 p.m.
•Nov. 20; noon-2 p.m.
Barb Wattenburger, 541-626-3159

Milton Seventh-Day Adventist Church
1244 N. Elizabeth St., Milton-Freewater
•Nov. 14, 16, 18; 3:30-7:30 p.m.
•Nov. 15, 17, 19; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
•Nov. 20; 1-5 p.m.
•Nov. 21; 9-11 a.m.
541-938-3066

which runs from Nov. 14-21. Gifts can include small toys, clothing, a stuffed animal, toothbrushes, soap and washcloths. Prohibited items are anything liquid or breakable, war-themed toys, chocolate and vitamins.

It involves people of all ages — including youth and adult service groups, businesses, private schools, churches, retirees, individuals and families, Smith said.

And, it's happening across the United States, Canada, Australia, Finland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Japan, New Zealand, Spain and Great Britain. In 2015, a total of 11.2 million shoebox gifts were collected worldwide, including 8.7 million from the U.S.

Anyone can contribute a box for Operation Christmas Child. For uniformity in packaging and distribution, items must be placed into a

shoebox-sized container.

More information, guidelines for shoebox gifts and an option for people to virtually "Build a Box" is available at www.samaritanaspurse.org/occ. Also, Smith can be reached at smith_fay@yahoo.com.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

Trump Train may leave NC governor behind

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The Trump train that carried Republicans to victory all over the South may have left one car behind in North Carolina — Gov. Pat McCrory, who trailed by a few thousand votes Thursday in a still too-close-to-call race that played out amid anger over the state's transgender bathroom law.



AP Photo/Chuck Burton

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory speaks to supporters at an election rally in Raleigh, N.C., Wednesday. The race between McCrory and Democrat Roy Cooper remains too close to call.

won the governorship by 500,000 votes in a blowout the same year President Barack Obama was re-elected, was losing

by 5,000 votes out of nearly 4.7 million cast. In 2012, McCrory received 170,000 more votes than Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney. This time, he trailed Donald Trump by 63,000 votes.

McCrory could still win. There are tens of thousands of provisional ballots that have to be examined to determine whether they are valid and can be added to the vote tallies. Counties don't have to submit their final results until Nov. 18.

North Carolina debated, passed and signed the bathroom bill in a one-day special session in March. The measure, known as House Bill 2, requires transgender people to use restrooms in

schools and government buildings that correspond to the gender on their birth certificate.

The law also leaves out gay and transgender people from state anti-discrimination protection. And it disallows local measures that offer protection.

The national backlash began immediately. Charlotte lost the NBA All-Star game. The NCAA and Atlantic Coast Conference pulled basketball tournament games out of North Carolina, a punishing blow in a state where college basketball is practically religion. Bruce Springsteen and other stars canceled concerts. Businesses like PayPal stopped expansions or moves.

BOARDMAN'S LIMEY PASTOR

Letter to the president-elect

Dear President-elect Trump, Many congratulations on becoming our new President-elect. I expect you may be as surprised as the rest of us are. I spent the day after in a daze, feeling that everything had changed.

I am a firm believer in providence. There is a call in the presidency, perhaps more unique than most. Like being ordained, this time is a time of separating the past from the future. Whoever you were before, whatever you thought before and whatever you thought you were or would become are going to go away.

You are now lifted up on the shoulders of a nation of many complexions and beliefs. Your character is laid open on a sacrificial slab of service. God himself is raising you up. God often calls the least expected. You won't become a saint out of it, but the destinies and souls of many will be affected by you. No more will you inhabit a circle of just friends; you will inhabit a sphere as large as the world. In a way, you rise to the highest level you can be.

The only things that you can fire will be your darkness and your self-interest (and this is all of us, not just you.) When you have faced the fight that will of necessity come to you, which has been readied for your encounter, you will discover the great force that God has put inside you to help the people in the times of their greatest need. You will raise a sword of truth to fight the injustices that hurt the poor. This is why the poor have come to you and sought you out.

I understand that you are a Presbyterian. I welcome that you have that comfort and can kneel in the



COLIN BROWN
Faith

Oval Office when wrenching decisions with no apparent way out face you. When natural disasters of unimaginable complexity challenge you, God will be at your side. He will place his wisdom in you, as well as your sense of justice. I think your ability to delegate, as well as the friendship of your friends and their loyalty to you, will help and be of great comfort. You have made

friends of enemies already and this is good, because the fight that comes to you will also come to them and your alliances will also be of God.

Your qualities of strength and, let us be honest, passion and bluster will enable you to persuade a scattered Congress. Your ability to ride the perturbations of stress will be supported and increased. God will bless you.

You are called to be a great, good man. Not a sinner with hidden flaws. They are behind you now. You are called to be the very best image of your true self honed in the mind of God. But something very large and demanding is coming your way, bigger than an economy, more essential than anything seen before. I don't know what it is, but the Holy Spirit whispers to me that you will hear and that you will obey.

Go forth, Mr. Trump, be made holy by this fight with possibilities and your own self, because it is that too. I will pray for you. I will pray that you be made as great a human as possible, worthy of a portrait on a mountain, a president of beloved memory. Make it so, good sir!

Colin Brown is pastor of Boardman's Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Locust Road.

BRIEFLY

Aglow welcomes healing harpist

WALLA WALLA — Laura Larson will be the featured speaker during the Nov. 12 meeting of the Walla Walla Aglow Community Lighthouse.

Larson will share about her healing journey with the Lord. She also will minister by playing the harp prophetically; the instrument is specially tuned to bring peace and healing to listeners.

The group will meet from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., which includes lunch for a freewill offering, at 305 Whitman Court. Those attending should park near Arby's and use the south entrance to the building at the corner of Isaacs and Ash Street.

For more information, contact Kathy Owsley at 509-540-2684 or Lora Sykes at 509-540-0212.

Faith Center offers Thanksgiving meals

PENDLETON — Faith Center Church is once again offering Thanksgiving meals to 25 needy families in Pendleton.

The free meal includes a frozen turkey, ham, potatoes, canned vegetables, margarine and a gravy mix. Families that would like to receive a free meal must call the Faith Center Church office at 541-276-9569 and leave a message to sign up. Church personnel will call those who leave a message to confirm your meal.

Meals will be distributed to those registered on Tuesday, Nov. 22 from 6-7 p.m. in the church foyer, 108 S. Main St. Remember, only those who have registered and received a confirmation call will receive a meal.

For more information, call Pastor Ray O'Grady at 541-276-9569.

Worship Community

Faith Center Church
Worshiping God
Loving People
108 S. Main • 276-9569
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Sr. Pastor,
Ray O'Grady
pendletonfaithcenter.org

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
215 N MAIN • PENDLETON
Sunday Worship: 10:40a
Bible Class: 9:30a
Office 276-5358
M-F, 8:30-12:30
WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG

Peace Lutheran Church
210 NW 9th, Pendleton ELCA
Join us Sundays
9:30 am Sunday Worship
10:30 am Fellowship
11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Class
~Come and be at Peace~
on 1290 KUMA noon each Sunday

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Saturday Services
Pendleton
1401 SW Goodwin Place
276-0882
Sabbath School 9:20 am
Worship Service 10:45 am

Grace Baptist Church
555 SW 11th, Hermiston
567-9497
Nursery provided for all services
Sunday School - 10:45 AM
Worship - 10:45 AM
6:00 pm
Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM
"Proclaiming God's word, growing in God's grace"

Community Presbyterian Church
14 Martin Drive,
Umatilla, OR
922-3250
Worship: 10 AM
Sunday School at 11:30

St. Johns Episcopal Church
Join Us
On Our Journey
With Jesus.
Scripture, Tradition and Reason
Family service 9am Sunday
N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston
Fr. Dan Ledard, Priest, PH: 567-6672
We are an all inclusive Church who welcomes all.

PILOT ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH
585 SW Birch
Pilot Rock, OR 97868
(541) 443-2500
prbcconline.blogspot.com
Sunday School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Kids' Club: 6:00 pm
Wednesday Services:
Youth Group: 7:00 pm

Redeemer Episcopal Church
241 SE Second St. Pendleton
(541)276-3809
www.pendletonepiscopal.org
Sunday Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Holy Communion Noon
Weekly Adults Spiritual Life Group
All Are Welcome

GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR
www.graceandmercy.lutheran.org
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (Nursery provided)
Fellowship, Refreshments & Sunday School
Check Out our Facebook Page or Website for More Information
541-289-4535
Tom Inch, Pastor
Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, ELCA
164 E. Main St. / P.O. Box 1108
Hermiston, Oregon 97838

Come meet Jesus at
PENDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH
3202 SW Nye Ave Pendleton, OR
541-276-7590
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Sunday Bible Classes 9:45 AM
Sunday Youth Group 6:00 PM
Mon. Community Women's Study
9:30 AM & 6 PM
Awana Kids Club (K-6th grade)
Wed Men's Study 6 PM
MOPS meeting the 1st Thur of the Month 6 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
-Presbyterian Church (USA)-
201 SW Dorion Ave.
Pendleton
Service of Worship - 10:00 am
Children's Sunday School - 10:20 am
Fellowship - 11:00 am
www.pendletonpresbyterian.com
Open Hearted...
Open Minded

First United Methodist Church
Pendleton/Hermiston
352 SE 2nd Street, Pendleton
Sunday Worship 9am
541-276-2616
Worship Broadcast on
KUMA 1290 @ 11am
191 E. Gladys Ave, Hermiston
Sunday Worship 11am
541-567-3002
Worship Livestream at
herfumc.com
Open Hearts, Open Minds,
Open Doors
Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor

The Salvation Army
Center for Worship & Service
Sunday Worship Service
9:30 - Sunday School
10:30 - Worship Service
Wednesday Bible Study
5:30 Family Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study
COME AS YOU ARE
150 SE EMIGRANT
(541)276-3369

Living Word Christian Center
Sunday Worship
10:00am
Wednesday Bible Study
6:00pm
Youth Classes:
Nursery - 6th grade Sun & Wed
Jr & Sr High Discipleship Program Wed
Overcomer's Outreach
Tuesday at 6:00pm - Annex
A Christ-centered, 12-Step
Recovery Support Group
Pastor Sharon Miller
401 Northgate, Pendleton
541-278-8082
www.livingwordcc.com

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
in Mission for Christ LCMC
Bible Study.....9:00 AM
Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM
Red Lion Hotel
(Oregon Trail Room)
www.faithpendleton.org

PENDLETON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD
FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM
SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM
712 SW 27th ST.
541-276-1894
www.fcogpendleton.com

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Adults, Children, Youth, & College
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Celebrate Recovery-6:00pm
Celebration Place-6:00pm
Other Groups Available Weekly
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