



SARAH CORSON CHILD CARE & LEARNING CENTER

January 2021 Newsletter

Closed Friday, January 1

We will be CLOSED Friday, January 1, for the very end of our Holiday Break. See you Monday, January 4

OPEN MLK Day

We will be open Monday, January 18 on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Thank you for thinking of us

Our staff received many special cards, treats, and gifts for Christmas. Thank you for your generosity and giving hearts. We appreciate all of the love from so many!

Still Operating Under Emergency Rules

We are still required to operate under our Emergency COVID plan. Our operational hours will remain 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until we are able to go back to our normal rules and regulations.

New Year, New Possibilities



One of the best things to come out of 2020

So many people have exclaimed “I can’t wait for 2020 to be over!” as if a simple calendar change will magically solve the Pandemic, our struggles and our challenges. We must look at the New Year as a fresh start, with new possibilities and new opportunities. We must seize the day and every opportunity to show others we care. We must help others when we are able. And we must be gentle with ourselves and others, recognizing we have been through a LOT in 2020. Happy New Year!

Valentine’s Day Celebrations

We’ll celebrate Valentine’s Day on Friday, February 12. Parties and a Valentine exchange will be the highlight of the day! Children are welcome to bring in Valentines for their friends and teachers, although



this is optional. A list of names will be emailed out later this month.

—Jaime Snider, director



Food Bank update: **Jim Foucault**

By PAULETTE AVERY

Jim Foucault has managed our church's Food Bank for more than two years. Recently I asked him about what's happening during the pandemic. Here's a summary of his response.



Jim Foucault

Thanks to Jim's leadership skills – he's the retired Medford Postmaster – and 16 to 20 hours a week of Jim's time, the West Medford Food Pantry has been revamped, promotional resources added to increase the location's visibility, and the facility has been improved with the help of the school district.

More and more people are using the pantry. In December an average of 70 families a week were served. The Tuesday before Thanksgiving volunteers distributed food to 107 families.

The pantry follows all COVID precautions. More volunteers are needed. Contact Jim at foucaultjim@gmail.com or call the church office.

All the food banks in Jackson County closed at the end of March 2020 due to concerns over COVID transmission between clients and volunteers. ACCESS, the regional community action agency that's our link to the Oregon Food Bank Network, opened one drive-by location. In April, several other sites re-opened on a drive-through basis. Since our parking lot is too small to use for drive-through operations, our Food Bank remained closed.

Then in August, ACCESS approached Jim about joining with the West Medford Food Pantry operating out of a Medford School District warehouse on Columbus Avenue. Our church agreed to try the arrangement for six months. Jim manages the site. His wife Jeannine and other volunteers from our church work every Tuesday. Public food distribution is 1:30 to 4 p.m.

The operation is part of a partnership between our church and ACCESS. In return for the help of our volunteers, ACCESS provides food for our Brown Bag Lunch Program including bread and lunch meat. Volunteers from our congregation and the United Church of Christ gather Saturday mornings to make sandwiches for the sack lunches.



Boxes are preloaded according to family size, then placed in cars or trucks by volunteers, along with special items available on the particular Tuesday.