

Tis the Season...

A History of Gift Giving to Patagonia Community UMC

Article 1: The Gifts on the Altar

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December 2021

Since this is the time of giving, this is one of several history articles that will be added over the next few months regarding items donated to the church. This article references the items on the altar. So, when you sit in the sanctuary, you may want to reflect on them.

In 1959, a Christian flag was donated by the women's group of the church. The American flag was then donated by Frank and Patricia Burton, who lost their son in WWII. Because of their condition, both of the flags were replaced with new ones donated by Anne and Jeff Quirin. The American flag was installed on Flag Day 2009, and the Christian flag followed in 2010.

The Communion table was donated in 1963 in memory of Sandra Steel by her parents and grandmother. Also donated on behalf of Sandra were the brass altar cross and small brass candlesticks. The large brass candlesticks were donated in memory of Harold Thurber by Dorothy Fisher, his niece and caregiver.

The Pulpit Bible was donated by the Singing Valley Ranch (no date recorded).

The wooden cross above the altar was made and donated by Lyle Allen in 1963, the same year in which Don McReynolds made and donated the pulpit and altar rails. The Communion Service was also donated in 1963, but there is no record of the donor.

The pulpit chairs were donated by Rev. Daniel Miller, who served as pastor in 1951 and 1952, and Harold Thurber.

The collection plates were donated in 1996 by Walt Wetten, who passed away in 1997, and Joyce Wetten, who passed in 2009.

The Communion table runner, pulpit scarf, and Bible marker were donated by Susan Belt. Susan was a long-time member of PCUMC and was very involved in many aspects of the church. She passed away in 2021.

Future articles will include the list of banners that adorn the altar during the year, as well as donated items which are in other parts of the sanctuary.