



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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February 11, 2005

SOUP 'N' BREAD THIS SUNDAY

We will be serving a soup and bread lunch following worship this *Sunday, February 13*. Everyone is welcome. Donations are \$2/person; maximum of \$10 per family.

We need people to bring bread this Sunday. We have plenty of folks signed up to bring soup but no one to bring bread.

In order for this fellowship opportunity to be successful, we need people to put away their own tables and chairs; we most especially need people who are willing to volunteer to wash and dry the dishes following the meal. Have you taken a turn? Many hands make light work.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

This Sunday we will be receiving new members during the worship service. Of course, we always welcome our new members with cake to go along with our soup 'n' bread.

UPDATING OUR FAMILY PHOTO BOARD

Brian Lee and Bart Eleveld will be at the stage end of Gatton Hall to take new photos of our church families at Soup 'n' Bread this Sunday. We hope to update many old "faded" photos; those families who have younger children, particularly, change so quickly that a few are unrecognizable! Look for Brian and Bart at soup 'n' bread.

THIS SUNDAY

First Sunday in Lent

Adult Forum: Part II of the video on Dietrich Bonhoeffer, which will lead into a threepart series by Warren Hovland on "Religion and Violence"

Scriptures: Psalm 121 (sung)
Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon: "Lead Us Not into Temptation"
Harold Hunter

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Ryan Lambert

“What are you giving up for Lent?” Although I remember hearing this question as I was growing up, my participation in Lenten observances was fairly limited. That is, until my junior year of high school. That year I participated for the first time in all the Lenten services and was challenged to think about Lenten disciplines for the first time. I remember learning that the practice of giving something up during Lent was inspired by the idea that in order to fully celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, one needed to be solemn or penitent as Easter approached. I also remember learning that some early Christians fasted, transferred birthday celebrations until after Easter, and refused to take communion as ways of observing the days leading up to Easter morning. And so, armed with a new passion for Lent, I gave up Pepsi and candy.

And that year, Lent lasted three days. That was how long it took until the calls from the candy counter at the movie theater became too much to bear. And so I felt bad for several days and was convinced that I had failed. After a few days I tried again and failed again. This time Lent was four days. And so it went up through Easter as I tried, failed, and often chastised myself for my lack of will power and an ever-present sweet tooth. I was convinced that I was somehow ruining this Lenten experience, and so I continually tried to get it right.

On Easter morning a youth group leader wished me “Happy Easter.” In response I grumbled about the early hour of the sunrise service and somehow our conversation turned to my failed attempts at giving something up for Lent. After I explained my failures she asked me what I had been expecting from Lent. I said something about how it “should be different this year.” And she looked at me and said, “It was; in every drink of Pepsi and every renewed attempt you experienced the brokenness of Good Friday and also the hope of Easter.”

Looking back I realize that giving up something for Lent wasn’t about the thing I gave up, but instead about being mindful of the coming celebration of Easter and doing something to note the journey to Easter morning. As we enter Lent, I invite you to give something up, to add something to your life, or somehow commit to making these next weeks different from “normal” life. I also invite you to fail once or twice...and experience the darkness, the reconciliation, and the hope Holy Week will bring into our midst.

Have a thoughtful week,

Ryan

LENTEN CLASSES BEGIN ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Sign up this Sunday in Gatton Hall to participate or call 757-8122

6:30 p.m. Worship with music and reflection, Chapel

7:00 p.m. Classes (see below)

ENLIGHTENING MESSENGERS – Marsha Gulick

The practice of Lent is about being ready to start over again with life. During this Lenten study we will look at a few of the Biblical messengers who model for us how to find God in the midst of our busy lives and invite us to begin again.

A LENTEN MEN'S GROUP –

Ryan Lambert

What is men's spirituality? This group will explore how men relate to one another and to the church, what is unique about men's experiences with Christianity, what is important to the spirituality of men, and how faith fits in with what it means to be male in our culture. Join us for theological conversation, prayer, film clips, and much more. Men of all ages invited!

COUPLEHOOD AS A SPIRITUAL PATH –

The Rev. Jeff Lindner and Paula Nelson

Couplehood as a Spiritual Path is an eight-week, once-per-week educational experience for couples. It is for all couples - married, engaged, or other intimate partnerships. It is a course designed to help all people have a better relationship with their partners by learning a new way to love. Participants in the course will explore why they chose their partner and the spiritual purpose of their relationships. They will learn skills that will help themselves and their partners get the love they want and grow spiritually in the process. And finally, participants will come to a better understanding of couplehood as one of God's instruments for healing persons and transforming the world. Because of the nature of this class, participation will be limited to 3 – 5 couples

The Rev. Jeff Lindner, D.Min., Director of the Pastoral Counseling Center, and his partner, Paula Nelson, MD, Medical Director of the new Benton County Health Clinic, will lead this class.

DRAMA CLASS – Beth Riley (Play to be presented during worship on *April 3.*)

Open to anyone; need 8 - 12 adults; children 8 years and older are also welcome.

Join the fun to perform a play

Easter is over, we've got something to say!

The play's all in rhymes, it's easy to learn,

Come join our class, there's no need to squirm.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Both youth groups will be meeting on Sunday at the church. The middle school group will meet at 4:30 and the senior high group will meet at 6:45.

One of the things that we will be doing on Sunday is to begin looking ahead to Easter and what we would like to do for the 8:30 service that is largely led by the youth.

Join us on Sunday so that your input can be included.

February Mission Offering

GRACE CENTER AND DIAL-A-BUS

“What is Grace Center” you may ask. Grace Center is “day care for adults”—a safe place for adults to spend the day, have a meal, and receive care from attentive care givers. Working families needing a place for family members to be cared for look to Grace Center for that assistance.

Dial-A-Bus serves the clients of Grace Center as well as a large number of seniors and disabled people in the Corvallis community. The cars and vans of Dial-A-Bus are seen all over Corvallis taking riders to the grocery store, to congregate meals, to jobs, and to appointments of all kinds. Supporting these two local organizations through our Mission Offering helps them continue their fine and much-needed work.

OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

are with **Tim Peterson** as he recovers from injuries incurred in a car accident on Monday, February 7 and with **Judy Juntunen** who continues her recovery from a shingles-related illness which resulted in vertigo.

Dear Church family,

We want to thank you for your prayers, cards and offers of food during our recent illnesses. A warm heart always speeds the healing.

John and Anna Marie Holmes

OPEN AND AFFIRMING PLANNING GROUP MEETS

The Open and Affirming ad hoc planning group will be meeting this Sunday, following worship. Our church will host representatives from other Open and Affirming churches in the Central Pacific Conference the weekend of April 23rd.

ARE YOU AN “OCCASIONAL” SINGER?

Come join the sanctuary choir as it prepares music for Holy Week. The choir will be singing the Passion portions of the *Messiah* for Good Friday and several pieces for Easter. The choir rehearses Wednesday eves at 7:15.

THE POSSIBILITIES OF MUD

Now that we have your attention, the title for this newsletter article is taken from a slide presentation by **Kiko Denzer** entitled, “The Possibilities of Mud: Earth, Art, Sculpture, Architecture.” The presentation will include: recent earthen art and building projects; materials and techniques to dissolve boundaries between sculpture and architecture; applied beauty to sustain home, harmony, community; and inspiration from around the world. The presentation will be held at The CenterRing, a new community center at 5339 SE Foster, Portland. Kiko’s new collaborative book of earthen art and craft, *Dig Your Hands in the Dirt: Art Made with Mud, Kids, & Community* was recently published. One of Kiko’s projects locally is the earthen oven used at Intaba’s restaurant here in Corvallis. **Kiko** and his wife, **Hannah Field**, and their son, **Isaac**, have been regularly worshipping with us.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE WANTS YOU!

One of the ways for a person to become more integrated into the life of the church is to serve on a Board or Committee. In the last two issues of the *Congregational News* the duties of each of the church’s four Standing Boards and four Standing Committees was outlined. Did you see something of interest to you? Don’t be shy about letting a member of the Nominating Committee know; people are happiest when they are serving of something of interest to them. Any of the following people on that committee would love to hear from you: Rhonda Mueller-Warrant (758-1667), Gretchen Morris (752-3214), Don Leeper (758-3242), Nancy Klingeman (753-3350), or John Hawkins (752-5146).

STONE SOUP

Stone Soup is a free meal-assistance program that serves meals to anyone in need. No identification or proof of income is required, however, donations are accepted and appreciated.

Meals are served in the St. Mary's school gym, 501 NW 23rd on Mondays 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; Thursdays 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.; Fridays 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

At Westminster House on the corner of 23rd and Monroe on Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. and

At First Christian Church, 602 SW Madison on Saturdays from 10 - 11 a.m. (for breakfasts) and on Sundays 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

United Campus Ministry at Westminster House is an Ecumenical Ministry for OSU students supported by First Christian, First United Methodist, First Presbyterian and First Congregational UCC. If you can help set up, prepare meals, or clean up afterwards, please call Westminster House at 753-2242. Your help is appreciated.

READ & FEED MEETING

Read & Feed will meet to discuss Jarold Ramsey's *New Era: Reflections on the Human and Natural History of Central Oregon* this Sunday, February 13. **Rose** and **Greg Christianson** will host the gathering which starts at 7:00. **Optional:** You can check out the group's reading list and schedule at <http://home.comcast.net/~wickes3/readnfeed/booklist.htm>

WHAT YOU ARE GIVING UP FOR LENT?

In keeping with our recent tradition, the church will be giving up Sunday morning announcements during Lenten worship. Written announcements for the worship bulletin insert must be received by the church office by **Thursday noon**.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, February 13

- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
- 9:30 a.m. C E classes
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- Noon Soup 'n' Bread
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School youth
- 6:45 p.m. High School youth
- 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed,
Christiansons'

Monday, February 14

- 9:00 a.m. Staff
- 5:30 p.m. Basketball
- 7:15 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, February 15

- Noon Lectionary class
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board, Library
- 7:30 p.m. Spirit Quest, Chapel

Wednesday, February 16

- 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, February 17

- 11:45 a.m. Lunch Group
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship
- 7:00 p.m. Lenten classes begin
(See page 3)