



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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February 25, 2005

BRAHMS' REQUIEM AT LA SELLS

Don't miss a magnificent performance of *A German Requiem* by Johannes Brahms this Sunday, February 27 at OSU's LaSells Stewart Center. Steven Zielke will conduct the OSU combined choirs and the LBCC Community Chorale, accompanied by the Corvallis-OSU Symphony Orchestra.



The 3:00 p.m. concert will be preceded by a lecture by Dr. Christine Sjogren on Brahms and German culture beginning at 2:00 in the same auditorium. Tickets (\$20) are available in Corvallis at Creative Crafts, Grass Roots Bookstore and the OSU Music Department; and in Albany at Sid Stevens.

RESPONSE TO "GOD IS STILL SPEAKING" LENTEN AD BUY

Wow! Our giving to the UCC proposed Lenten Ad campaign was a resounding success. Our contribution totaled \$1,972.51 – enough to buy four shares, each share being worth \$500. Edith Guffey, Associate General Minis-

ter of the UCC, called to express her thanks to everyone in the congregation.

The willingness (and speed) with which this congregation has given is an indication of the excitement generated by this campaign. Our office has received samplings of many of the testimonies given by individual churches regarding the overwhelming positive impact the Advent campaign had on their worship attendance. Thank you all!

THIS SUNDAY

Adult Forum: In this second of three sessions of "Religion and Violence," **Warren Hovland** will lead the discussion on "Islamic Fundamentalism: Why Do They Hate Us?" (The books on **Warren's bibliography** are available in the church library.)

Scriptures: Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95 (sung)
John 4:5-42

Sermon: "Quenching Our Thirst"
Ryan Lambert

Over the last few months I have watched with a great deal of frustration as labor strife has ruled the world of professional hockey and steroid allegations have cast a cloud of darkness over the world of professional baseball. I'm a serious sports fan(atic) who loves the games and wants to believe in the idealized rules of fair play and competition that I remember from my time on the field of play. Although, intellectually I know that the world of professional sports is ultimately ruled by the economics and ethics of business, I still want there to be athletes who can amaze, inspire, and teach. And so, like many sports fans, I am frustrated.

But as my frustration builds I am aware that one of the problems with professional athletics is the level of hero worship that develops around professional athletes (and actors, politicians etc.). Suddenly, simple human beings are thrust into a stratosphere of celebrity that no person those simple human beings jaded, cynical, and angry. few months have meant turning their backs on the

Some have left because Some have stopped like the role models are they don't want their rules, broken systems, or cheating. Quite honestly, begin to report to spring cynical of baseball fans.



really deserves. And when disappoint us, we become For many sports fans the past picking up new interests and games they love to follow. they can't trust the results. watching because they feel gone. Some have left because children to see the broken implicit acceptance of even as pitchers and catchers training I am among the most

But I am also watching very closely. As hockey fans mourn the loss of their entire season to labor strife and as I take a skeptical look at recent baseball records, I am profoundly aware of the human side of sports. Athletes are often less than super, they are not always great role models, they often don't get along, and they even sometimes cheat. As much as I would like sports to be a diversion from the realities of everyday life, maybe it is more important that we honestly see that they are nothing more than human. In this season of Lent we are constantly preparing for the loss and despair of Good Friday and hoping for the blessings of Easter. For sports fans our sports pages have provided us with vivid examples of darkness and loss – and maybe in the human faces and mistakes of the players we may also catch glimpse of an Easter moment.

Have a thoughtful week,

Ryan



Middle and High School youth are invited to watch the Academy Awards at the Lamberts' house on *Sunday, February 27*, beginning at 5:00 p.m. The Lamberts'

address is 2626 NW Linnan Circle. Please bring a snack to share with the group and come to enjoy the star-studded affair. Prizes will be awarded to the person who correctly predicts the most awards and for best and worst dressed.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOCUSES ON POLAND

World Day of Prayer (WDP) is an international event that unites Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian women and men in over 170 countries in prayer. Through the day, from the first sunrise to the last sunset, prayers follow the sun's path around the globe. In hundreds of languages and dialects, WDP strives to bring "informed prayer and prayerful action" to our communities.

Christian women from Poland invite us to become better informed about their country and its needs. Through the WDP service, "Let Our Light Shine," they share their rich heritage of faith. With much effort, the Polish people are slowly recovering from the effects of living under a Communist regime. Economic growth is slow, but the people are optimistic.

Come and join your sisters and brothers in prayer with and for Poland at First Presbyterian Church, 114 SW 8th, on *Friday, March 4*, at 10:00 a.m. (Fellowship at 9:30 a.m.)

In the United States, World Day of Prayer is sponsored and supported by Church Women United, an ecumenical movement working to bring about peace and justice. An offering is taken to enable the ongoing work of the WDP International Committee, as well as that of Church Women United, the national committee for WDP.

For more information, contact **Coral Torley**.

Thank you to all who purchased Valentine's candy; we had a very successful sale.



Planning continues to come together and our dates are set. We will be leaving for Mexico City on *June 18* and will return on *June 26*.

HIRE OUR YOUTH!

The youth are available to do work around your home in exchange for donations to the mission trip fund. Among the skills that our youth have are babysitting, lawn work, computer skills, and baking. Please check out the youth group bulletin board for a complete list.

Also, upcoming fundraisers include "Kiss the Pig," a Stock Sale, and another rummage sale. Thanks again for your ongoing support!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP OFFERS ADVENTURES IN COPPER CANYON, MEXICO

Everyone is invited to the Women's Fellowship luncheon and program on *Wednesday, March 2*, at noon in Gatton Hall. The program will be presented by **Bettie Muckleston** and **Nancy Klingeman**. Last year, they took an Elderhostel trip which featured a rain ride through the Copper Canyon in Mexico plus an introduction to the crafts and culture of the Tarahumara indigenous people. To make reservation for the luncheon, (\$4), sign up this Sunday or call the church office.

THE SOUP POT WANTS YOU!



The orange sign-up soup pot will be in Gatton Hall this Sunday hoping for volunteers to clean up and set up for the meal, as well as those willing to provide the soup and bread. If you enjoy this monthly meal, please help it to continue!

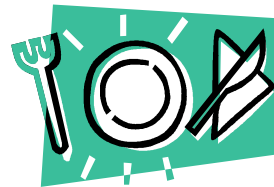
PEOPLE OF FAITH FOR PEACE

An intentional effort to raise the visibility of people of faith for peace is why you will see a sandwich board with this message in front of the Benton County Court House on Mondays. Representation from the First United Methodist Church, the Unitarian Universalists, and from our own First Congregational UCC have been present with identifying signs. Other churches are also being encour-

aged to join the 5:00-6:00 vigil on Mondays.

As a Just Peace church, members of our congregation are encouraged to join with other people of faith for peace. Hope to see some of you each week.

The Just Peace Committee



LOOK WHO'S COMING TO DINNER!

Cantus, a professional 20-voice *a cappella* choir from Uzhgorod, will be in Corvallis for a Choir Festival in April as part of their Northwest tour. On the *Saturday, April 23*, our church will host a dinner for the choirs (about 150 people). Watch for sign-ups soon to participate in the meal preparation.

The following day, *Sunday, April 24*, we host the **Central Pacific Conference Open and Affirming celebration**. We will provide potluck dishes for this meal in Gatton Hall, which follows the 4:00 worship service. There will be sign-up opportunities for this event coming up.

WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT IN TANZANIA

All are invited to a presentation by Maanda Ngotiko on behalf of Global Partners for Development and her work in Tanzania with the Pastoral Women's Council. She is an extraordinary Maasi woman who works to empower men and women to own their own animals and land, and develop their villages.

The program is on *March 22*, at 7:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2945 NW Circle Blvd.

BENEFIT CONCERT AIDS NEEDY NEAR AND FAR

Barabara Balatero and Stella Meinzer will perform a cello and piano concert at our church on *Sunday, February 27*, at 4:00 p.m.

Barbara and Stella began their musical collaboration in 1975 as Peace Corps volunteers in El Salvador, where they taught music at the National Academy of the Arts in San Salvador. They are celebrating 30 years of friendship by offering this benefit concert. They will play music by Bach, Beethoven, Scriabin, Piazzola, and Cassadó.

Admission is free, but donations are accepted to benefit Linn-Benton Food Share and *Hogar del Niño Minusválido*

Abandonado, a home in El Salvador for handicapped and abandoned children.

Congratulations!

... to **Kara Nelson**, daughter of **Pete** and **Susie**. Kara is an assistant professor at UC Berkeley. Last fall, she was one of the recipients of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the nation's highest honor for scientists in early stages of their careers

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Nancy William**, who is in Spokane with her mother, **Florence Garber**, who is very ill;

... with **Jim Cantey**, scheduled for surgery in Portland on *March 2*;

... and with **Monine Stebbins**, who was hospitalized this past week and is now recovering at home.

From the Church Family Album Photos by Brian Lee



(above) Ryan and Steve join the children for Anna Marie Holmes' message; (right) Matt and Abby Neely, Feb. 20





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Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 Office Phone: 757-8122
 Facilities Coordinator: 753-2106

Susan Wickes, Editor
 e-mail: sbwickes@comcast.net
 Home Phone: 754-0117

Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, March 1.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, February 27

- NO** Sanctuary Choir
- 9:30 a.m. C E classes
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- Noon Confirmation panel,
Meeting Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Academy Awards
party for youth,
at Lamberts' (page 3)

Monday, February 28

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

Tuesday, March 1

- Noon Lectionary class
- 6:15 p.m. Worship Committee
- 7:30 p.m. Diaconate
- 7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee

Wednesday, March 2

- Noon Women's Fellowship
luncheon, Gatton Hall
- 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, March 3

- 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten vespers
- 7:00 p.m. Lenten classes

Friday, March 4

- 7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum,
Burton's
- 10:00 a.m. **World Day of Prayer**
(fellowship at 9:30)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- Clara McCormick 3/1,
- Cecil Compton 3/1, Steve
- Elbinger 3/1, Alex Sveta 3/2,
- Esther Kirk 3/2, Caroline Zaworski 3/2,
- Natalie Lucker 3/3, Monine Stebbins 3/8,
- Linda Hadfield 3/9, Christopher Rorrer
- 3/14, Greg Christianson 3/15, John
- Cochran 3/19, Welcome Lahey 3/20,
- Jacob Zaworski 3/28



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- Harry and Ruth Freund 3/2 (60th)
- Ineka and John Estabrook 3/20 (6th)