



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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March 11, 2005

Sign-Ups Continue!

Easter Breakfast

Thanks to all of you who have already signed up to help with Easter Breakfast. We still have many other opportunities available when sign-ups continue this Sunday. The following are needed:



- Bread bakers
- Casserole makers
- Set-up Saturday morning
- Help in the kitchen Sunday morning
- Clean-up after breakfast

If you are interested, please contact **John Shea** (754-6832), or sign up on Sunday morning.

There is also still time to sign up to attend on Maundy Thursday.

HOLY SOX SOFTBALL TEAM NEWS



Yes, it's almost softball time at First Congregational United Church of Christ! The Holy Sox coed softball team will have their first practice on *Thursday*,

March 31, at 6:00 p.m., at North Chin-timini Park in Corvallis. All interested adults (seniors in high school and up) are welcome to join this fun group. Games will be on Sundays, starting *May 15* (afternoons and evenings) and going through mid-August. Cost is \$35 per player (write checks to **Pete Nelson**).

Pete will be getting the team roster the first week in April and we can begin sign-ups at that time. So get your gloves out, start stretching, and get ready for softball! Questions? Contact Pete Nelson (752-1278) or **Tammy Skubinna** (752-4214).

THIS SUNDAY

Adult Forum: "Fear and Faith": Videos and discussion on how faith helps us respond to fear, led by **Ryan Lambert**.

Scriptures: Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130 (sung)
John 11: 1-45

Sermon: "Signs Along the Route"
Ryan Lambert

What are you reading? Whether we ask this question as we walk by a friend immersed in a book, hear it in a job interview, or take note what sits upon our neighbors' coffee table we are all curious about what others are reading. I love perusing bookshelves and seeing what others have read, often seeking what I will next pick up. As a pastor I am often asked to recommend books on various topics and although my work and personal libraries are quite crowded, I find myself increasingly recommending that folks visit websites. With that reality in mind I decided I would highlight several websites and web logs ("blogs" for short, which are online diaries on various topics) that I often visit for theological food and lectionary study.

At the top of my list is our denominational website, ucc.org, where denominational news, worship resources, and many theological links can be found. Although I enjoy the paper version of the UCC news I often peruse it first online.

I also constantly find my way to sojo.net which is the online companion to Sojourners Magazine. On their main page they describe their site as a mixture of "faith, politics, and culture," a mixture that I find compelling and often very timely. This site is very thought provoking and often offers great links to other sites.

When looking at the lectionary readings I always find my way to textweek.com which is a clearinghouse of sorts for theological thoughts concerning the weekly lectionary. One of the best things about this site is that merely by clicking on a chosen text, you can read theological thoughts that span hundreds of years as well as contemporary interpretations from around the globe. Of late I have found textweek's lectionary blog to be a wonderful source of new ideas.

Several months ago textweek.com led me to find sarahlaughed.net which is the website of Episcopal theologian and teacher Sarah Dylan Breuer. Her site offers links to many theological venues, but what I find most helpful about her site is her weekly posting to her lectionary blog. She writes about the lectionary readings every Monday evening and I often find that her writings inspire my sermon preparations, reading list, and musical tastes.

A new site that I have found is pomolectionary.blogspot.com. This is a lectionary blog authored by a self-described Post-Modern (po-mo) Pentecostal minister from Michigan. I find this site interesting because although the theology is sometimes quite different from mine, his brief weekly writings ask excellent questions for anyone reading the scriptures and wrestling with how to live faithfully.

Finally, merechristian.org offers an on-line journal from Episcopal priest Barry Vaughn and his thoughts on Christianity following in the vein of C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*. Again, this is something I just wandered into and I have found many

new thoughts as I have returned over the weeks to this site.

I hope these sites provide some insight into current theological writings and what is available for free on the web.

Have a thoughtful week and happy reading!

Ryan



High School and Middle School youth: We will be planning for Easter at this Sunday's meetings, *March 13*. See you there.

sense of all this "madness." We are in the initial phase so time and place are still under discussion. If you are interested, let one of us know.

Jerry Groesz

INTERESTED IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

A two-session **Inquirers' Class** for people interested in finding out more about the United Church of Christ and First Congregational, Corvallis, will be held *April 10* and *April 17*. Contact **Ryan** or the church office (757-8122) to participate.



FUNDRAISER

Come eat at **Baja Fresh** this *Monday, March 14* between from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Either bring in one of the flyers that will be available after worship or tell them that you are there to support the "First Congregational Church Mission Trip" and we will get 15% of your purchases. Baja Fresh is located at 845 NW 9th Street just north of Borders Books. Thank you for your support!

CANTUS HOME STAYS

Cantus home stay coordinator, Gary Meddaugh (752-6301), invites families interested in sharing bed & breakfast with two choir members, one with some English and one with little or no skill, either the week of *April 11-16* or the nights of *April 19-20 and 23-24*. Four families are needed each week with two beds.

On behalf of the Corvallis Sister Cities and 100+ donors, sponsors, and 500 people sharing our Pacific Northwest hospitality, we thank you!

Ray William,

Chair Cultural Exchange

MISS THE POLITICAL ADS? SAD THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER?

Then you may wish to consider joining a new Political Discussion Group that **Jerry Groesz, Rose and Greg Christianson, and Bob Stebbins** are in the process of forming. The idea is to meet once a month to discuss topical issues. And, if we don't always agree with each other, we at least try to make some



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, March 15.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, March 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

Monday, March 14

- 9:00 a.m. Staff
- 5:30 p.m. Basketball
- 7:15 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1
- Baja Fresh Day for Mission Trip (p. 3)**

Tuesday, March 15

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

Wednesday, March 16

- 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
- 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, March 17

- 11:45 p.m. Lunch Group

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

Congratulations!

... to our DI kids! At the Destination Imagination regionals on March 5, all the participating young people from our church were on teams that will move on to the state competition. Give a pat on the back to **Allison Pentland, Douglas Pentland, Sean Skillingstad, Jenny Koch, and Grant Thackray!** If you would like to see them perform, the state competition is at OSU on *April 9*.

Mark this date!

PEACE MARCH PLANNED

To honor those who have died in Iraq, the Corvallis White Ribbon Peace March will be held on *Saturday, March 19*, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Details next week or contact **Aleita Hass-Holcombe** (753-8267).