



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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April 7, 2006



Palm Sunday

Holy Week begins this Sunday with the commemoration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Our palm procession will be a bit different this year. Children and youth from toddlers through high school will meet in Room 5 at 10:00 to organize. Adults will gather in Gatton Hall before 10:30 and will process into the sanctuary. The sanctuary center aisle will be strewn with cloaks and palms, so be careful of your footing. If walking is difficult or if you prefer not to process, feel free to take seat in the sanctuary at the usual time.

JOINING US ON MAUNDY THURSDAY? LET US KNOW!

This will be the last Sunday for sign-ups for the Maundy Thursday dinner. Because this dinner is not "potluck" it is especially important that the cooks know how many people are coming. If you will not be here this Sunday, please phone in your RSVP to the church office (757-8122).

REMEMBERING JESUS THE SERVANT

Immediately following the Maundy Thursday service there will be a brief foot-washing service in the chapel. This service will feature scripture, prayer, reflection, and foot washing as we remember the events that led Jesus to the cross. Join us for this quiet and reflective service



THIS SUNDAY

April 9

Adult Forum: The first of three sessions on disaster preparedness features a videotape and overview of congregation and family preparedness with **Caroline Zaworski**. [See page 4 for information about the rest of this new series. There is no Adult Forum on Easter Sunday.]

Scriptures: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
John 12:12-16
Mark 11:1-11

Sermon: "On the Cloaks of Many"
Ryan Lambert

Dear Friends,

During this Lenten season, I have only broken down twice and bought my usual tall, one Equal, no-foam latte at Starbucks. And I am wondering how many of you have chosen to participate in the “Water for Water” program this Lent. There are five of our churches in the Central Pacific Conference who are doing this together. I know that for myself, it has been a significant experience. Every time I walk into the grocery store, I notice the array of beverages we buy. Every time I drink a glass of tap water, I remind myself to be grateful. Equally important, I have begun to learn about issues of water in developing nations. I’d like to share some facts with you, most of which come from the World Health Organization.

Water in general

- 1.1 billion people in the world are entirely without access to safe water.
- Unsafe water is implicated in 80% of all sickness and disease in the world.
- On any given day, approximately half the hospital beds in the world are occupied by persons who suffer from water-borne diseases.
- The major diseases transmitted by water are cholera, typhoid, bacillary dysentery, infectious hepatitis, and giardia.

Water and children

- In the past 10 years, diarrhea has killed more children than all the people lost in armed conflict anywhere in the world since World War II.
- 4000 children die each day from water-related illness.

Water and women

- The average distance walked by women in developing countries to get water is 6 kilometers.
- The average weight of the water jars carried on their heads is 44 lbs.
- 70% of the world’s poor are women.

Water and development

- 40 billion work hours are lost each year in Africa due to the need to fetch water.
- Water-borne illnesses cost India’s economy 73 million work days a year.

It is not too late to participate. Holy Week is a great time to do something special as a spiritual discipline. Drink the water out of your tap. Remember what a gift it is to have clean water on demand. Give a gift to the church that we might drill a well or two for our neighbors far away.

Liz



UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY AT OSU

All students at OSU and Linn-Benton CC are invited to join us for events at United Campus Ministry at Westminster House. If you have questions or need more information about WestM and our various programs, please contact Rev. **Leah McCullough** at revleah@comcast.net or 541-753-2242.

Student Gathering,

Every Wednesday, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

A free meal, served at 5:30 p.m., is followed by the program at 6:15 p.m. This quarter we'll be utilizing the series, *Living the Questions*, to guide our group discussion. Participants will be invited to give voice to questions they've always wanted to ask, discover the relevance of Christianity in the 21st century, and explore what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world.

Lunch, Luke and *Lectio Divina*,

Every Monday, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Bring a lunch and we'll gather in the WestM Student Lounge to eat and share together. Following lunch, utilizing Scripture texts from the gospel of Luke, we'll engage in the spiritual practice of *lectio divina*. *Lectio Divina*, also called "sacred or holy reading," is the ancient art of reading the Bible contemplatively and allowing it to speak to us at the most intimate depths of our hearts. Rather than being an academic or intellectual study

of Scripture, the practice of *lectio divina* invites persons to prayerfully read Scripture, quietly "be" with the text, and holistically listen to God's word to us.



This weekend both youth groups will meet at the church from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on *Sunday, April 9*. Please plan to wear sturdy shoes as we will spend time

both inside and outside. We will also spend part of our time working on the 8:30 am Easter worship service so please come and provide your input!

A reminder to all High School youth: We are signed up for the 1:00 a.m.-2:00 a.m. Vigil slot on Friday night/Saturday morning of Easter weekend. After our Vigil time we will be going to Shari's for a late night snack. **However, we need to plan the pick-up route for the adults who will be driving, so please e-mail Ryan at rylamb@yahoo.com if you are planning to participate!** If we don't hear from you we will not know to pick you up!

THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MUSEUM TRIP IS THIS SUNDAY!

The Children's Committee of the Christian Education Board invites children and parents to carpool to Salem this Sunday afternoon to visit the A. C. Gilbert Discovery Village. Plan to bring either a sack lunch or eat "Soup 'n' Bread"

at church. After lunch we will head to Salem to explore the Gilbert House children's museum. The group admission rate is only \$3.50 per person and at church that day we will organize car-pools. Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or at rylamb@yahoo.com.

New Adult Forum Series
**FAMILY PREPAREDNESS FOR
 NATURAL DISASTERS**

Get ready to get prepared in your home. In three Adult Forums, the Health Ministries Committee will walk you through the details of why, what, how to stock up in the event of an earthquake, flood or pandemic flu to protect yourself and family from being stranded without basic services for several days.

We committee members have found that we may talk about this plan but we still haven't really completed our own disaster kits. We're hoping you'll join in and we'll all get the job done. **Brian Lee** researched products and prices for important contents in a basic disaster kit. If you'd like to order a basic kit, we'll be taking orders and buying the products in bulk.

- *April 9*—Getting Started: video-tape and overview of congregation and family preparedness
- *April 23*—Connecting with congregational members in our neighborhoods for preparedness
- *April 30*—**Peggy Peirson**, Benton County Emergency Coordinator, will show us lessons learned

from Hurricane Katrina. She'll share ideas of what other churches are doing for preparedness.

Join us at Adult Forum. We'll all get ready together.



Help Make
Easter Bloom

Come help prepare Easter flower bouquets and the pew standards on *Saturday, April 15*, from 10:00 a.m. until noon in Gatton Hall. We need help stuffing boxwood into the cross and standards and making bouquets. All skills levels welcome. Bring gloves and pruning sheers. Sign up this Sunday or contact **Sue Richmond** (745-7994 or suedougrich@msn.com) or the church office.



If you have flowers from your garden to share for Easter baskets and arrangements, please bring them to Gatton Hall on *Saturday, April 15*, between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m.

**EASTER BREAKFAST
 CREW STILL NEEDED**

There are still a few slots open for Easter Breakfast preparations. Can you do set-up on Saturday? Help in the kitchen on Sunday morning or stay to do some clean-up after the breakfast? If so, please sign the list this Sunday or call the church office to volunteer.





SOUP 'N' BREAD IS ON!

Join us this *Sunday, April 9*, for Soup 'n' Bread in Gattton Hall following worship. This was made possible by the people who volunteered to prepare the lunch. Thanks to them and to **Bob Stebbins** for offering to be Soup 'n' Bread coordinator.

The rehearsal for participants in the Good Friday service will follow in the sanctuary.

A Note from the Parish Nurse:

If you have signed up for one of the Medicare Rx Drug Plans, and you recently received a letter from the plan stating that your coverage will be changing, please call me! There have been changes made with some troubling consequences that may leave people without coverage for medications they initially were told would be covered. This is a justice issue as well as an economic one. I am willing to help you deal with the bureaucracy if this has happened to you. Just let me know.

Caroline

INTEGRITY OF CREATION SUNDAY – PLANNERS WANTED

Sunday, April 23 is Integrity of Creation Sunday. If you would be interested in helping **Liz** and **Ryan** prepare for this special service, please contact them.



SPEAK OUT ON HEALTH CARE!

We have an important opportunity to tell Congress what **you** want in U.S. Health Care. What health care benefits are most important to you, your family and your community?

- How should we pay for health care?
- What changes do you want?

As part of a federal response to these issues, Congress passed legislation directing the Citizens Health Care Working Group (CHCWG) to recommend a plan of action for **health care that works for all Americans.**

On *Monday, April 17*, at 7:00 p.m. at the Corvallis Public Library, we will have a chance to speak out and share our ideas. Dr. Rick Wopat will speak about “Negotiating the Path to Universal Health Care Coverage—Challenges and Possibilities.” Dr. Chinh Le and other local health care advocates will facilitate the speak out session.

Your opinions will be registered with the federal CHCWG. Don't feel your voice doesn't count; this is an opportunity to make it heard. Please join us. This event is sponsored by Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates and Benton County Commission on Children and Families.

An Invitation

ADAM GRIEVE'S RECITAL

All are invited to attend a recital by **Adam Grieve** and **Scott Ingham** on *Wednesday, April 12*, at 8:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. They will perform a selection

of art songs from the 19th and early 20th centuries, as well as an entire scene from Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*. Accompanists are **Brian Conatser** and **Nicola Nine-Zielke**.

Thank you for all the help our church provided in supporting the recent Seeking Justice in Healthcare Workshop. I took on the job of processing registrations, and our financial staff agreed to be the church responsible for the financial management. We have wonderfully flexible, patient people! **Ann Hawkins** dealt with many phone calls and much mail; **Jim Cantey**, **Eleanor MacDonald**, **John Hawkins**, and **Brian Lee** dealt with processing the income which included many \$5 checks. **Verlyne Phillips** and **Marj Elwood** dealt with the bills that came in, as I tried to organize them the best I could.

I know these volunteers do this work regularly for our church. But they took on this extra task as part of our commitment to our community. Thank you all.

Caroline Zaworski

Children will be chiming in

A new part of the growing children's music program at First Congregational is about to start. The children's choir finished at Christmas; the new chimes portion will start after Easter. This is an op-

portunity for children from first to fifth grade to learn to play hand chimes during the Activity Hour time on Sunday morning. Letters to families will be coming soon, giving further information.



CORVALLIS ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Our community's ecumenical Good Friday service will be held this year from 12:15-1:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 114 SW 8th Street, Corvallis.

READ & FEED THIS SUNDAY

The church's literary discussion group will gather at 7:00 this *Sunday, April 9*, at the home of **Joni Peterson**. The book topic is Ann Patchett's memoir *Truth and Beauty*.

Check the Read & Feed website (<http://home.comcast.net/~wickes3/readnfeed/booklist.htm>) for the list of candidates for the next group of books to be discussed – and vote!

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with our members who are recovering from recent surgeries. **Don Olson** is at home after a knee replacement. **Brenda Koenig-Chase** is doing well after back surgery, and **John Holmes** is recovering from an operation on his foot.



Palm Sunday, April 9

10:30 – Worship service begins with a Palm Procession. Children and youth will meet in Room 5 at 10:00; everyone else will gather in Gatton Hall just before the service (*see page 1*).

Maundy Thursday, April 13

6:30 p.m. – Service starts with a festival meal in Gatton Hall. Please call the church office or sign up on Palm Sunday to let us know if you will be attending this service. Worship continues with a Tenebrae service in the sanctuary and the stripping of the church. Cellist Nancy Sowdon will play.

For those who wish it, there will be a brief service of foot-washing offered in the chapel immediately after the main service concludes.

Good Friday, April 14

8:00 p.m. – Service will include a choral reading of the Passion, according to the Gospel of Matthew. The Sanctuary Choir will sing and cellist Julia Lont will play.

The Easter Vigil

Between 9:00 on Good Friday until 6:00 Easter morning, take one hour to attend, to meditate, to be present in the sanctuary in silence.

Easter Sunday, April 16

8:30 a.m. – We end the Easter Vigil and celebrate the Resurrection with scripture and stories, youth worship leaders and Communion. Music is provided by the Sanctuary Choir and youth musicians.

9:30 a.m. – Between the two services, Easter Breakfast is served in Gatton Hall.

11:00 a.m. – The celebration service includes the flower cross, with music by the Sanctuary Choir with brass, timpani and bell choir.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, April 11.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, April 7

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum
 7:30 p.m. Bridge Group

Palm Sunday, April 9

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. C E classes
 10:30 a.m. Worship
(following) Soup 'n' Bread,
 Gatton Hall
 (following) Good Friday rehearsal,
 Sanctuary
 12:15 p.m. Children's trip to
 Gilbert House, Salem
6:30 p.m. Middle School and
 High School youth
 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed, Peterson

Monday, April 10

10:00 a.m. Staff
 5:30 p.m. Basketball
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, April 11

NO Lectionary class
NO Adult Confirmation

Wednesday, April 12

7:15 a.m. Breakfast Group
 1:30 p.m. A D Circle (*see below*)
 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
6:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
 8:00 p.m. Adam Grieve's recital
[see page 5]

Maundy Thursday, April 13

5:30 p.m. Readers' rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Service
(includes dinner)
8:00 p.m. Footwashing service
NO Girl Scouts

Good Friday, April 14

7:15 p.m. Good Friday rehearsal
8:00 p.m. Service
9:00 p.m. Vigil begins

A D CIRCLE TO MEET

The A D Circle will meet on *Wednesday, April 12*, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of **Coral Torley**. For further information, contact Coral.