



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLV, No. 16

April 21, 2006



## HOLY SOX ARE WARMING UP!

The Holy Sox coed softball team will have their first practice this *Thursday, April 20*, at 6:00 p.m., at Chintimini Park in Corvallis. All interested adults (seniors in high school and up) are welcome to join this fun group. Games will be on Sundays, *May 14* (afternoons and evenings) through mid-August.

The cost is \$35 per player for the city  
*(continued on page 7)*

## WI-FI ACCESS OPENED

With the rewiring and relocation of the church office network, wireless internet service (802.11b/g) is now available in the office, courtyard, library, Fireplace Room, Meeting Hall, and Gattton Hall. This allows live internet access for meetings and presentations and online resources for research, as well as casual browsing and e-mail checking. There is no charge for access. As with any broadband internet service, the use of anti-virus, anti-adware/spyware, and firewall software on your laptop or other internet device is strongly recommended. Contact **Brian Lee** ([bcee@peak.org](mailto:bcee@peak.org)) if you have further questions.

## THIS SUNDAY

*April 23*

**Adult Forum: "Neighborhood Preparedness:** The Health Ministries Committee invites all to identify Congregational members in your neighborhood (if you don't know who they may be all ready). We'll develop action plans with your neighbors to support and help each other in event of a natural disaster, encouraging three households to develop a plan together for keeping in touch with each other. We'll offer a basic structure for a plan. You'll fill in the blanks and make it meet specific needs.

**Scriptures:** Amos 5:18-24  
Acts 4:32-25  
John 20:19-31

**Sermon:** "A Remembrance of  
William Sloane  
Coffin"  
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

We made it through Holy Week and Easter! Whew! As I write, it is a beautiful Tuesday filled with sunlight and spring breezes. Driving around town today it is obvious that spring is here with many people out and about enjoying the weather, the green grass, and the many flowers that are in bloom. The enthusiasm of people enjoying the outdoors and the many colors shown in the spring flowers remind us that new life is everywhere. Living in such a beautiful place I am made to exclaim, “He is Alive!” many times during this time of the year because there is so much around us that exemplifies the magnificent transformation that happened when the tomb was discovered empty. As much as our Easter celebration is over for this year, it is also true that Easter is a season of the church that will be celebrated through Pentecost on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Easter then should not be celebrated just once, but as a season when we celebrate the good news of Christ’s resurrection and all that it means for the church and our world. Easter is just the beginning really!

One of the ways that I will continue to celebrate Easter in the coming weeks is by remembering the events of Holy Week. Several things stand out, and I would like to share a couple of them with you. First, this year we invited the high school youth to participate in the prayer vigil in the wee hours of Saturday morning. I was thrilled when eleven high school students agreed to come out on a rainy night to pray, read, and be still as we remembered the crucified Lord in the aftermath of our Good Friday service. The hope of Easter came a bit early for me as I sat in the quiet sanctuary while the youth struggled to stay awake and wrestled with what to do in an hour of silence. As we shared milk shakes and laughed together at Shari’s after our vigil shift, I marveled at the community that is evident among the youth and I gave thanks.

Another moment that continues to guide me as I celebrate Easter also concerns food. I marveled at the noise, laughter, and community that was evident as I walked into Gatton Hall during the Easter breakfast. I love that we celebrate Easter by sharing a meal where conversation and generations mix together. On a day that is filled with a great deal of work, it was wonderful to sit among you and eat, realizing that the sustenance was coming as much from the community as the food itself. Thank you for proclaiming the risen Christ in your exuberant embrace of one another!

I wish for you many blessings in this Easter season!

Peace,

**Ryan**

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**Annual Meeting-Sunday, May 7—6:30 p.m.: Dessert.; 7:00: Meeting**



This *Saturday, April 22* (Earth Day!), the youth groups will gather downtown at 11:00 a.m. for Earth-Faire 2006 and Procession of the Species.

We will meet in front of American Dream Pizza and explore the event together. Plan to bring money for lunch and any snacks that you might like to purchase. More information about the event can be found at: [www.peak.org/~ecenter/Outreach/procession.html](http://www.peak.org/~ecenter/Outreach/procession.html)

Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or at [rylamb@yahoo.com](mailto:rylamb@yahoo.com)

**“Water for Water”** donations may be made through the end of April. Mark your checks accordingly and leave them in the church office mailbox.

### **WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP ENDS THE YEAR WITH GRACE**

Grace Center, the daytime program for frail elderly, will be the subject of the May Women’s Fellowship Luncheon. *May 3* is the date and lunch will be served promptly at noon in Gatton Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know the women of the church. **Cheri Babb**, who coordinates the Grace Center program, will be the speaker. The program starts at 1:00 p.m. in the Meeting Hall. Last year our church women made the shortbreads used for the Strawberry Jubilee, an important fund raiser for the Grace Center and the board thought it would be a good idea to

learn more about this important service that is available in our community. *June 14* we will again be the cooks for this fund-raiser, so plan ahead and join in on the fun.

## Ask Reverend Manners

**Dear Rev. Manners:**

**I often have an idea I want to share with one of our clergy. When I see them Sunday morning, I sometimes start to talk to them about it. I wonder if this is poor timing? I’m not sure when they’re busiest during the week, and of course don’t think it’s right to call them at home. Do you have a suggestion?**

**Chock Full O’Thoughts**

Dear Chock:

Rev. Manners is surely glad you raised this thoughtful question. Your suspicion is right on: Sunday morning is the least helpful time to buttonhole a preacher with any substantial discussion! You may feel as if you were standing in a receiving line, trying to interest the mother of the bride in the debate on a proposed annexation.

Before the service, anyone about to lead worship needs to be free to make contacts, coordinate additions and changes, and keep it all in focus. Time both before and after worship is precious in another way: it is the unique opportunity for the clergy – and all of the other “ministers” of your church (everyone) – to spot newcomers, to welcome those returning after illness or absence, to be sure no one stand alone., That **Hospital-**

**ity** you've been trying for, sometimes quite successfully, means your antennae are out during that first half hour after worship, in the foyer and in Gatton Hall. Obviously it's especially important for the clergy to be free to do this. But I hear that other members of First Congregational have also been trying to resist the convenience of doing "church business: on Sunday morning, along with the temptation to chat with the people they know best.

So the short answer is: if it doesn't need to happen today, best to call during the week. Clergy schedules are necessarily irregular, but they'll be very happy to fit you in. And your good idea will get the attention it deserves.

### **DAVID JONES TO PLAY CONCERTO WITH CYS**

There will be a Corvallis Youth Symphony Spring Concert on *Sunday, April 30*, at 3:00 p.m. at the LaSells Stewart Center. **David Jones** will be playing a Horn Concerto at this concert.

Tickets are \$8 at the door, and \$6 dollars from a CYS member. Children are admitted free with an adult. The CYS members of this church are: **Justin Chi, David Jones, Robin Miller, and Patrick Yun.**

David Jones will also be providing music for this Sunday's service.

### **Easter 2006**

To our friends at First Congregational UCC in Corvallis,

From Takarazuka, Japan, we send our joyous Easter greetings to you, our precious neighbor. It brings us much pleasure to share this good news especially with you as well as all other Christians in the world.

We receive this Easter joy and blessing from God who decided to reach us with redemption and love, even though we hanged his son Jesus and refused to accept him as our Savior. There is a cross that connects your and our congregations. This is the cross that proves God's love and compassion in the midst of our sins; because of this cross, we are neighbors and we thank God, Father of Jesus Christ, for our good neighbors. We hope that together, we can pray for our other neighbors across the world.

We are looking forward to your visit this fall in good fellowship.

May God's good news of the resurrection be with you all.

**Masato Tsukuda**

Members of Takarazuka Church  
UCC in Japan

### **PREPAREDNESS KITS**

A starter kit for your home has been designed by the church's Health Ministry Committee to promote emergency preparedness at home. It contains items which address vital needs such as first aid, lighting, shelter, sanitation and even a sturdy container to store them in. Careful selection and shopping sought to optimize function, durability, cost and mobility of each item. These \$60 kits are sold at cost and compare quite favorably

against those sold by commercial firms. The starter kits encourage you to complete a basic kit when you add items that reflect your specific needs and preferences.

Preparedness kits may be ordered after worship in Gatton Hall on Sunday, *April 23* and *30*. To receive a list of the items and order form for the starter kit, contact **Brian Lee** ([bclee@peak.org](mailto:bclee@peak.org) or 758-4697). Please indicate whether you would like spreadsheet, word processing text, or hardcopy format. Orders will be taken with prepayment through the end of April.



It's that time of year! When windows and doors are thrown open – and sometimes left open... when the light go on early in Gatton Hall, and by noon it's so bright we leave without noticing they're on...when Adult Forum ends and we all stream into the sanctuary for worship, and the Meeting Hall light stay on. (Often they've been **dimmed**, but not turned off.)

Here's what you can do: when you leave a classroom or office, but especially when you leave Gatton Hall or the Meeting Hall, hit those switches! And if you've met in the "new" library or the Conference room and turned up the heat, don't forget to turn it back down!

Our congregation has a tradition of care for the earth's resources. The expansive lawn is watered from a well, not with treated city water. Many full-length windows have been replaced with double panes; the C E attic is fully insulated. Because so many responded to **Ed Miller's** challenge after the roof fire, even the sanctuary has insulation between the wood ceiling and the roofing!

**Cindy Quesenberry**, our Building Superintendent, uses the most environmentally-responsible cleaning products, and makes it easy to recycle office paper, boxes, cans and glass. Troop One continues to empty the shed of the newspapers we all bring; and the youth groups return the cans and bottles we leave in those huge barrels in the Gatton Hall entry.

Our Women's Fellowship and our Lenten suppers use china and flatware, rather than send paper and plastic to the landfill. Did you know that we **make a \$20 surcharge** to outside groups if they insist on using disposable plates and cups! We want them to use our hot water, rather than fill Coffin Butte with trash. (Some misunderstand at first, saying they'll just pack their trash out. We remind them that it still would go into the landfill.) It's not much to ask. The snazzy little dishwasher in the Fireplace Room kitchen does a load in 90 seconds. These days, most users are delighted with our stance.

So go gentle on the land and have a stewardly week.

F.Y.I. : Our church will celebrate Integrity of Creation Sunday on *July 15*, with an outdoor service.

### PETITION FOR MEASURE 111

Measure 111 will direct the Oregon legislature to build an organizational and financial framework to provide health care for all Oregonians by November 2008. You may read about this at [www.healthyoregon.net](http://www.healthyoregon.net). This is a grass roots effort to provide universal health care based on seven principles:

- Universal health care that ensures all Oregonians access to comprehensive basic coverage for necessary and effective health care services.
- Affordable health care for all Oregonians.
- Cost management strategies and regulatory or administrative authority to keep total Plan costs sustainable, rising at a rate not great than Oregon real Gross State Product.
- An employer and employee mandate to proportionally share coverage costs with consideration of direct negotiations between employers and employees.
- Simplified administration with system administrative overhead no greater than 6% of the total health care costs under the Plan.
- A focus on preventative care and incentives to maintain health.
- Action to assess and improve outcomes of medical care and organizational barriers to effective care.

Both the Just Peace and the Health Ministries Committee support Measure 111. Petitions to sign will be available after worship in Gatton Hall on *Sunday, April 23*.

### REGISTER FOR “DREAM ON, SISTERS!” MEETING

“Dream On, Sisters!,” the first national UCC Women’s joint gathering with Disciples of Christ Women, is scheduled for *June 21-25* in Indianapolis, Indiana. It will feature UCC preachers Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson, Rev. Nancy Sehested, and Rev. Claudia DeLaCruz, as well as choir director Leslie Williams from Ainsworth UCC and a concert by Holly Near. Included in the program are worship, Bible study, forums, exhibits, and activities with international sisters.

Registration forms are available in the literature rack outside Gatton Hall. The fee of \$375 includes six meals as well as registration. **After May 1, the rate increase to \$400.** Hotels will be arranged after registration. Some of our church members are already registered.

There is a children’s program for ages 6 months to 8 years for \$150 per child (or \$125 per child in the same household). The deadline for children’s registration is *May 1*.

Grant forms for financial assistance from our conference women may be picked up in the church office. For additional information, please contact **Nancy Klingeman** or **Priscilla Zaworski**.



### Breakfast Thank You

Putting on a event like our wonderful Easter Breakfast is the product of many hands. All these people made the Easter breakfast possible and smooth-running: **Tammy Skubinna,**

**Bev Whitmore, Sandy Piper, Therese Waterhous, Julia Waterhous, Ken Crouse, Betty and Gary Massoni, Julia Lont, Ineka Estabrook, Ginny and Steve Lucker, Laura Foerst, Karen and Rowland French, Greg Christianson, Teresa Bodwell, Kathy Hall, Doug and Sue Richmond, Kaye McCluskey, Jo Anne Trow, Sarah Hoffman, Monine Stebbins, Ted McCann, Pat Johnson, Beth Christianson, Ginnie Esary, Rose Hart, Ginny White, Joan Pelto, Kim Hannigan, Joan Overturf, Kathie Merriam, Tracey Meara, Karen Miller, Eleanor MacDonald, Jody Eleveld, Molly Chambers, Mary Bolton, Dorothy Price, Rhonda Mueller-Warrant, Mike McNally, Jan and Larry Thornton, Ann and John Hawkins, Tanya Andersson, Anna Marie Holmes** and others whose quiet work was not unnoticed. I appreciate their casseroles, breads and rolls, helpful hands, suggestions and hard work done with a joyful and generous heart.

**Cynthia Janes,**

Deacon Coordinator of Easter Breakfast

## A Basket Full of Easter Appreciation



Easter happened at FCC because 120 people stepped up to lead worship, read scripture, sing, ring bells, set up for worship, prepare breakfast, or dinner, take a vigil slot, arrange flowers, and clean up afterwards. Thanks to clergy, staff and congregation members. It was truly a wonderful Holy Week.

## STAMPS, LABELS WILL BE SENT IN JUNE

Projects using **cancelled postage stamps** and **Campbell soup labels** plus **“Box Tops for Education”** continue. We will be sending the labels and “Box-tops” at the end of the school year, so make sure yours are included. They may be left in the second drawer on the right end of the storage cupboard in the church foyer. Contact **Nancy Klingeman** for more information.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** Photo directory pictures will be taken *Thursday, September 14*, from 3:00-9:30 p.m.; *Friday, September 15*, from 3:00-9:30 p.m.; and *Saturday, September 16*, from 10:00–5:00 p.m. Arrange to have your family here together for a picture!

*Friday, May 19:* Women’s cluster meeting

*Sunday, May 7:* **Annual Meeting** at 7:00 p.m.; dessert at 6:30

## HOLY SOX *from page 1*

league. Players can sign up at the first practice or in the church office. Contact **Pete Nelson** (752-1278) or **Tammy Skubinna** (752-4214) for more information.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, April 25.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Saturday, April 22*

11:00 a.m. Youth meet downtown  
 for EarthFaire

*Sunday, April 23*

**NO** Sanctuary Choir  
 9:30 a.m. C E classes  
 10:30 a.m. Worship

*Monday, April 24*

5:30 p.m. Basketball  
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

*Tuesday, April 25*

9:00 a.m. Staff  
 Noon Lectionary class  
 7:00 p.m. Adult Confirmation  
 7:15 p.m. Church Council

*Wednesday, April 26*

7:15 a.m. Breakfast Group  
 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball  
 7:00 p.m. Voluntary Simplicity  
 7:00 p.m. Endowment Board  
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

*Thursday, April 27*

11:00 a.m. Spirituality Group

*Friday, April 28*

**Central Pacific  
 Conference Annual  
 Meeting, Vancouver**  
 (through Sunday a.m.)