



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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SOUP 'N' BREAD UPDATE

The Soup 'n' Bread lunch, scheduled for *May 21*, [date corrected] still needs another person for clean-up, plus a dishwasher, and a few volunteers for set-up. Add your name to the list this Sunday to help and plan to enjoy the delicious results on the 21st.

GRACE CENTER'S ON THE MOVE

Excitement is building as Grace Center's dream of a bright, spacious home of its own is nearing reality. Yes, the move is still on target for June!

Grace Center will be taking up residence in a renovated wing of the former Corvallis Care Center, 980 NW Spruce Street. Samaritan Health Services, owner of the building, has leased one wing to Grace Center. Samaritan recently sold its interest in Heart of the Valley Health Care Service to Avamere Health Services, Inc. Building plans are still in process for an enlarged skilled nursing center and rehabilitation facility to be located adjacent to Grace Center.

In its new space, Grace Center will have the capacity to provide more spe-

cialized care to a larger number of participants. The Post-Rehab Program will emphasize physical activities and mentally-challenging activities for those with physical impairment and more medically-related needs. A separate Dementia Care Program will offer a secure environment with activities designed to maintain physical and social functioning for those with cognitive deficits due to Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

For information about rates (including scholarships), a free first visit, and current openings for new participants, contact Marsha Frease, Care Manager (743-8417).

THIS SUNDAY

Adult Forum: Ryan Lambert will report on his Leaders in Koinonia conference this past week in Cleveland (*see page 2*)

Scriptures: Acts 8:26-40
John 15:1-8

Sermon: "Fraudulent Christians"
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Cleveland, Ohio! I am writing from my hotel room on Monday night as I look back on a day filled with traveling, connecting with seminary colleagues, meeting new colleagues from the 20/20 cohort, and the beginning of the Leaders in Koinonia (LinK) event that brought us all together. On my second plane I connected with the Associate Pastor from the UCC church on Bainbridge Island and together we navigated Cleveland's not so "rapid transit" just well enough that we arrived exactly on time for the opening dinner of the conference. Following dinner we listened to a panel on the future of the UCC that included, among others, the UCC's General Minister and President John Thomas, the Associate General Minister Edith Guffey, and Ron Buford who oversees the Stillspeaking Initiative for the UCC. Finally, the work portion of our night ended with vespers in the Amistad Chapel with candlelight and singing.

Tomorrow we begin the work of putting together the regional networks that will be the outgrowth of this event. There are 64 of us here for this event and together we comprise about 15 percent of the UCC clergy who are in their 20s and 30s. We are developing what will be called the 2030 Network which will consist of six regional groupings that will work to "strengthen, sustain, and mobilize the 2030 clergy in their respective regions." Together the 64 of us have committed to a three-year process that we hope will allow for greater support of younger clergy and strong collegial relationships that we believe will be the basis for sustaining long careers in ministry. This network had its genesis in a conversation at an after-hours event at the last General Synod in Atlanta. From Atlanta this network began to take shape and it is exciting to be a part of something that was the product of passionate conversation and is now coming to life!

The panel discussion with the current leadership of the national setting of the UCC was the primary piece of programming tonight. Each panelist was asked simply to respond to the question, "What is the future of the UCC?" The conversation was made ever more interesting due in part to the ongoing struggles that mainline churches (the UCC included) are having in the area of church growth and financial wellbeing. The panel was optimistic about the future, even with the prospect of financial challenges ahead. There was a great deal of comment on the fact that even with the Stillspeaking Initiative having great effects, there is still much work to be done concerning the use of various media tools to enhance ministry. We also talked about the challenge of balancing the prophetic voice of the church with the practical church membership concerns that have been brought to the forefront following the historic Synod vote on

marriage equity last July. We remembered the historic voices of our denomination that spoke for women's rights, civil rights, gay and lesbian ordination, and against slavery. Our prophetic voice is not a new thing, but we are feeling the effects of that voice. Overwhelmingly the panel suggested that we should expect theological debate on the issues of the day to be a large part of the UCC's ministry in the future. The task then is for clergy and congregations to prepare to speak and respond faithfully to the issues and to remember always who we are *and* whose we are. We are called to be followers of Christ on a road that is not always easy. Where we will go next we cannot yet know.

I will be sharing more details from my trip to Cleveland during Sunday's Adult Forum. I hope to see you at 9:30 to share more information about the emerging work and vision of the 2030 Network.

See you in church,

Ryan



**UNITED
CAMPUS
MINISTRY
AT OSU
Student Gath-**

ering, every Wednesday 5:30-7:30 p.m.: Dinner will be followed by our program featuring the DVD-based series, *Living the Questions*, that will help us explore the questions of faith that serve as the basis for meaning in our lives.

Lunch, Luke and *Lectio Divina*, every Monday, Noon-1:00 p.m.: Bring a lunch and we'll gather in the WestM Student Lounge to eat and share together. Following lunch, we'll utilize Scripture texts from the gospel of Luke to 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.

Spring Yard Cleanup Party, Thursday, May 11, 4:00-6:00 p.m.: Join us for some fun and purposeful tanning as we weed, trim, spread barkdust and generally spruce up the yard around WestM. After the work is complete we'll celebrate with pizza and homemade ice cream. So we know to plan for you, please RSVP to **Tim** at tgstover50@comcast.net. All we need is you and your willing spirits (and bodies!).

TNT (Thursday Night Thing) Thursday, May 11, 6:00-8:00 p.m.: This week we'll join with those who have been "sprucing up WestM" for some homemade ice cream. Then we'll take advantage of our continued beautiful spring weather by walking down to the park for some Ultimate Frisbee and hanging out. If your schedule doesn't allow you to join us for the entire event, stop by when you can –

come before class for some ice cream, or after class for some play.

Reel to Real, Friday, May 12, 8:00 p.m.: Join us as we enjoy *The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio*, a film one major reviewer described as "...easily one the film year's [2005] great saving graces." Julianne Moore stars as a 1950s era housewife creatively sustaining the life of her large family while her husband (Woody Harrelson) drinks away his life and family income. One reviewer characterized Moore's performance as among the greatest of any major female screen role. How do we live our commitments? How do we cope with adversity? When life seems to be giving you lemons, how do you find the recipe and the courage to make lemonade? What does it mean to be a saint? **Kristin Sweeney** will host this event at her home. Contact her for directions. The popcorn and the company will be warm and fresh.

Habitat for Humanity Work Day Saturday, May 13, 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.: Join us as we "build a house" and help make a difference in the world! We'll be hanging sheetrock and painting, so dress appropriately, including wearing closed-toe shoes (no sandals). We'll meet at WestM at 7:30 a.m. so that we can be at the site and ready for work at 8:00 a.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. You may want to bring a water bottle. Please RSVP to **Leah** by *Wednesday, May 10* if you

will be joining us so that we may arrange transportation.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Leah McCullough at revleah@comcast.net or 753-2242.



Middle School and High School: We won't meet on Sunday so you can celebrate Mother's Day with your families. So plan to join the gang for movie night at the Lambert home on *Saturday, May 13*, at 7:00 p.m. Snacks will be provided.

May Mission Offering ABC HOUSE

ABC House is a child victim assessment center that provides forensic medical exams to suspected victims of child abuse. It is a place that provides children with compassion and comfort in the midst of chaos. Please give generously in support of this important source of counseling and healing for children.

READ & FEED TO MEET & EAT

This month's gathering of Read & Feed will be at the home of **Bob and Monine Stebbins** on *Sunday evening, May 14*, at 7:00. The book to be discussed is Ann Patchett's *The Magician's Assistant*. Desert follows.

Ask Reverend Manners

Dear Rev. Manners,

Several weeks ago in worship, I noticed that a person sitting near me was having an adjustment problem with a hearing aid. The device started "singing" with this high-pitched whine they can emit. Is there a correct way to handle this situation? Should I say something to this person if it happens again (we both always sit in our "assigned" seats)? Is this something the ushers deal with? I know it's happened before in the church and can be distracting for those who can hear it. I want to be helpful. I don't want to be unkind or embarrass anyone.

Sincerely,
Uncertain How to Proceed

Dear Uncertain,

What a lovely and sensitively worded question. I can't believe you would do anything in an unkind or embarrassing way! Having come to the age where many of my friends now wear hearing aids, I asked a few of them what they would prefer if such a circumstance arose. To a one, they would all wish to be informed if their hearing aid were set in a way to cause that distracting sound—especially in church. If this occurs again and there's not an easy point in the service coming up where you could just lean over and

tell the person, I suggest you lightly touch the person's shoulder or arm to get his or her attention, then point to your ear. Most likely they will understand and adjust the hearing aid accordingly. If that doesn't work, or you are not sitting close enough, you might use your bulletin or a pew envelope to pass them a note telling them of your concern.

Thank you for your question.
Rev. Manners

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IS MOVING FORWARD

Every month the Health Ministries Committee will suggest a next step for you to take in your family's plan to be ready for a natural disaster.



In May, contact other members in your neighborhood to start forming the **Three-Buddy Household** connection. Make a plan with at least two other households in your neighborhood to reach each other during a disaster. Share emergency contact information, medical concerns and how to contact your health care provider with each other. This avoids anyone going through a disaster without regular contact from someone else.

You may use the Three-Buddy Household Survey to share information about each person in your household with others. Copies of the survey may be found on the bulletin board. Or you can get an electronic copy by contacting **Eileen Marma** (eileen.marma@gmail.com). There are

plans to put this on our website but it's not there yet.

Disaster kits that were ordered in April will hopefully be ready by the end of May. It may take two weeks for some supplies to come in. **Brian Lee** is doing a lot of shopping locally as well.

SUPPORT OUR RELAY FOR LIFE TEAMS

This Sunday (*May 14*) during our Mother's Day coffee hour you can treat your mom to some home-made baked goods (that she didn't have to make!) and support our Relay For Life Teams at the same time! Our church's UCC Moms For A Cure and the UCC Teens For A Cure will be holding a "competing" bake sale to help raise funds for the Relay For Life. We'll also have donation baskets available for your contributions to our efforts. We appreciate your support!

The Relay For Life at OSU will be held from *Friday, May 19*, beginning at 6:00 p.m., and ending at 8:00 a.m. on *Saturday, May 20* – and there's still plenty of time for women and high-school youth to join our teams. (You don't have to commit to staying all night to be part of the team!) If you're interested in joining either the Women's Team or the Teen Team, visit the ACS Relay for Life website http://www.cancer.org/docroot/par/content/PAR_1_Relay_For_Life.asp for information and to sign up – or contact

the women's and teen team captains, **Molly and Megan Chambers**.

WOMEN'S CLUSTER TO MEET HERE

On *Friday, May 19*, we will host the Willamette Valley Central Pacific Conference Women's spring Cluster Meeting, beginning with registration at 9:30 a.m. Women from Knight Memorial UCC in Salem will present the worship service. Lisa Arkin, executive director of the Oregon Toxics Alliance, will be the featured speaker. Registration is \$7.00 and includes lunch. Please sign up this Sunday to attend or call the church office by *Wednesday, May 17*, to reserve your place.

CHURCH LIBRARIANS MEETING SCHEDULED

Local author Anne Warren Smith will discuss her novels for children during a gathering of the local chapter of Pacific Northwest Church Librarians on *Tuesday, May 16*, at 2:30 p.m. in our church library. Any member of our congregation is welcome to attend the meeting. **Liz Oettinger** will give the devotions for the group. Contact **Nancy Klingeman** for additional information.

CONCERT CELEBRATES LOCAL WOMEN COMPOSERS

"Corvallis Connection," a concert of sacred and secular music by area women composers, is set for *Sunday, May 21*, at 4:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian church, 8th and Monroe, Corvallis. The Chancel

Choir, Bell Choir and Brass Quartet will be performing on this free concert.

Composers feature **Laurie Bates, Sally McBride, Judith Walls-Freeman, Ella May Wulff, and Laura Zaerr. Alice Parker and Margaret Tucker**, both nationally-known choral composers, will also have works on the program.

Two hymns by Sally McBride, who recently became a member at First Congregational, will involve the congregation, cancel choir and organ.

WORSHIP LEADERS NEEDED FOR EARLY SUMMER WORSHIP

Explore your faith in a new way this summer! We would like to offer an informal summer worship service at 8:30 Sunday mornings again this year. This service is designed to be led by members of the congregation. Purposes include offering the congregation an option that may better fit a busy summer schedule, providing a chance to explore a different style of worship and giving lay worship leaders an experience leading a small service. The service typically runs 45 minutes and is held in the chapel. In lieu of a sermon, the worship leader facilitates a discussion on the day's scriptures. Training will be available to support the design of a service. If you are interested in leading or co-leading a worship service, contact **Sue Richmond** (suedougrich@msn.com.) Interest

forms will also be available again in this Sunday worship bulletin.



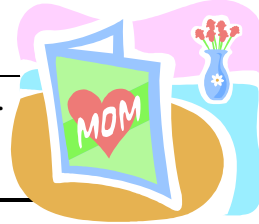
ABOVE: Nancye Ballard hands the gavel to new moderator Cliff Trow. (Brian Lee, photo)



BELOW: The Easter clown arrives with balloons galore. (Amy Nafshun, photo)



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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, May 16.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, May 12

11:00 a.m.. Pastoral Relations
Committee, HP

Saturday, May 13

7:00 p.m. Youth movie night
(see page 4)

Sunday, May 14

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
9:30 a.m. C E classes
10:30 a.m. Worship
(Activity Children's Chimes
Hour) Meeting Hall
7:00 p.m. Read & Feed,
Stebbins

Monday, May 15

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

Tuesday, May 16

9:00 a.m. Staff
Noon Lectionary class
3:00 p.m. Stone Soup, WestM
7:00 p.m. Trustees Board
7:30 p.m. Spirit Quest

Wednesday, May 17

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

Thursday, May 18

11:45 a.m. Lunch Group
4:00 p.m. Church caregivers
7:00 p.m. Holy Sox, Chintimini
7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

Friday, May 19

9:00 a.m. Women's Cluster

LOOKING AHEAD: Sunday, May 19:
Choir Appreciation Sunday (including
Soup 'n' Bread – and cake!); Sunday,
June 11: Graduation Sunday

Congratulations

... to **Nancy Klingeman**, who was
awarded a "Valiant Woman" pin by
Church Women United, for service
above and beyond... Nancy valiantly
served as President *and* Vice-President
for two years for this organization.