



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLV, No. 20

May 19, 2006

Music Appreciation Sunday

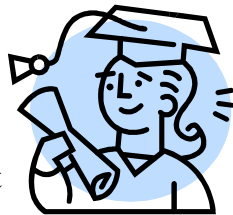
Plan to stay for Soup 'n' Bread after worship this *Sunday, May 21*. There will be cake as well, in honor of our wonderful choir and other musicians!

PLAN NOW FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This year's Vacation Bible School will take happen *July 23-27*. Once again this will be an evening event running Sunday-Thursday from 5:30-8:30 p.m. We will begin each night with brown bag dinners and then move into our program rotation. This year's theme is: "Adventure of the Treasure Seekers: Exploring God's Promises." We will have programming for children ages 3 through grade 5 and are seeking people who are interested in helping with teaching, crafts, and recreation. Contact **Ryan** for more details.

GRADUATION NEWS REQUEST

It's that time of year again! Please submit information about 2006 high school and



college graduates. The list will appear in the *June 9 Congregational News*, so be sure to e-mail sbwickes@comcast.net or write and drop off in the office the following about your graduate: **graduate's name, school, and plans for the coming year(s), plus any other pertinent information.** The deadline is ***June 6***, but sooner is better.

THIS SUNDAY

Adult Forum: Ever thought about teaching youngsters about Veteran's Day? Where do I begin? What should I say? What do they already know?

Norm Elwood will highlight what he and his daughter compiled and presented to her 3rd grade class over a three-day period. Those of you who shared material with us—come see and hear how we used your pictures and stories.

Scriptures: Acts 10:44-48
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Sermon: "Can We Be Friends?"
Ryan Lambert

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

I wanted to give you an update on our “Water for Water” project. As a church we raised \$2000. Combined with what was contributed by the other UCC churches in our Conference, two or three towns somewhere far away will have a well. Thank you for your generosity.

I’ve been thinking a lot lately about giving and the entities we give to. When I was a child, my church supported missionaries—not the missionary board of the church, but individual missionaries. We knew where they were based, what kind of work they were doing, how old their children were, their long-term hopes for their posting. The connection between them and the congregations that supported them was personal. We knew where our money was going, and we felt like we were part of the work being done. But there were problems with the system of churches supporting individuals. Some missionaries were more attractive, more charismatic, more articulate. It had nothing to do with their effectiveness in the mission field, but everything to do with their ability to raise money.

I think it was in the early 1970s when mainline churches began asking churches not to fund individual missionaries, but the entire missionary endeavor. They quit asking for money for this project or that, and began big umbrella offerings that funded numerous projects. There is a kind of fairness to this new way of organizing mission giving, but too often what is lost is the human face of giving. I remember the first time I went to General Synod and met our UCC missionaries who operate a school for Palestinian children in Jerusalem. I heard them speak of the ordinary challenges and perils of their lives, and I was mesmerized. “The Mission field” became real to me.

Soon we will hear about the town where our “Water for Water” dollars will be put to work. I want to know those particulars. I want to know about the lives of the people we help: their livelihoods, their celebrations, their specific challenges. Though I understand and support giving to large, almost anonymous entities, I think it’s also important to know that those whom we support are real people with very individual needs, hopes, and desires. Along with the large, I want a connection to the personal.

Next month, we all will have the opportunity to visit with one of our UCC missionaries, Ali Nebot, who will be visiting in Corvallis. I hope many of you take the time to come and listen to her talk about her life and her work. It’s good to know where our OCWM dollars are going, and what kind of work our denomination is doing in the world. She can be one point of personal connection to our mission dollars.

Have a thoughtful week,

Liz



Our **Middle School youth** will meet on *Sunday, May 21*, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30, and the **High School youth** will meet from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Please bring an “artifact”

from your house that helps describe your faith. And bring a friend!

RED FLOWERS FOR PENTECOST

Sunday, June 4 will be Pentecost which celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church.

Red is the liturgical color of the season. In honor of the day, please **bring a bright red geranium to decorate the chancel area and wear red yourself.** When Pentecost is over, the flowers will be planted on the church grounds to be enjoyed by all of us and to remind us of the working of the spirit in the world. If you have questions please contact **Marsha Gulick.**



ITEMS NEEDED FOR CHURCH WORLD SERVICE HEALTH KITS

Women attending the “Dream on, Sisters” national meeting in Indianapolis have been asked to collect items for Church World Service Health Kits which will be assembled during the conference. A box will be placed in the entry

hallway by the food barrel for donated items. Needed are: **new hand towels, wash cloths, combs, metal nail files or nail clippers, bath size soap bars, toothbrushes, tubes of toothpaste, and boxes of band-aids.** These items will be carried to the conference by our representatives. Contact **Nancy Klingeman** with any questions.

STONE SOUP HELPERS NEEDED ON MAY 31

We have agreed to cook the meal for Stone Soup on all third Tuesdays **and** fifth Tuesdays...and May is one of those months when we have both! If you are interested in helping with Stone Soup on *May 31*, please contact **Ryan** at the church. This is a great concrete opportunity to serve the needy in our community. Come out and help!

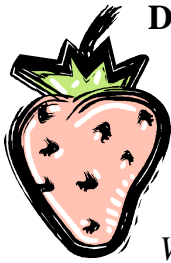
BAKE SALE THANKS

A huge thank you to all who baked and bought at our “dueling bake sales” last Sunday in Gatton Hall. The Moms raised \$323.50 and the Teens brought in \$241.50. We “wowed” them on Bank Night Monday evening!

The Relay is this Friday so you still have time to support your favorite team by making a donation or buying luminaries from team members for \$5. The luminaries will be lit Friday night in honor of survivors and in memory of those we have lost to cancer. We’re getting ex-

cited about our “all night adventure” raising awareness of, and funds for, the American Cancer Society. We still have room for more team members (it’s free!) so if you’d like to join us, give us a call at 754-5824.

Blessings,
Molly Chambers,
 Captain, UCC Moms for a Cure
Megan Chambers,
 Captain, UCC Teens for a Cure



DON'T MISS THE STRAWBERRY JUBILEE

Grace Center’s annual fund-raiser, Strawberry Jubilee, will be held on *Wednesday, June 14*, from 5:30-8:00 at the Chintimini Senior Center, 2601 NW Tyler Avenue, in Corvallis.

On the menu is strawberry ice cream, chocolate-dipped strawberries, and strawberry shortcake (baked that day in our church kitchen!)

Raffle tickets are available at \$5 each or three for \$10. The long list of raffle prizes includes: \$1000 toward a trip of your choice (through Pathfinder Travel); two nights lodging and food and services at Salishan Lodge and Golf Resort; six months membership for a couple at WOW Fitness, and two nights at a Sunriver Resort Home. There are also plants, a wine basket, a one-hour massage and many more items. You do not need to be present to win.

Tickets for the Strawberry Jubilee at \$10/adults; and \$3/children 3-10 years; children under 3 are free. Tickets may be purchased at Grace Center or at the door. For more information, call 754-8417.

SAVE THE DATES:
AUGUST 27 AND 28
 FOR “SIDE BY SIDE”

We will be hosting two performances of “**Side by Side: A Journey With Depression—A funny look at serious survival**” which is performed by Brian Wetzel and directed by the Rev. Lizann Bassham, a UCC pastor from Northern California.

Brian Wetzel was a professional stand-up comedian whose career and personal life were absorbed by his struggle with clinical depression and subsequent addiction. Bringing his sense of humor and experiences together, Brian takes his audience on a unique journey of laughter, painful truth, and finally, hope. By walking side by side with the affliction, he finds a way to keep surviving, keep learning, and keep living. Set aside the dates so you don’t miss this important event!

CONFLUENCE CONCERTS IN CORVALLIS, SALEM

Come join Confluence for their June concerts VOICES! as they express some of the diversity reflected in Confluence itself. Artistic director Ray Elliott has put together a concert with songs sure to

touch everyone. From “Carry Me” (a GALA anthem offering inspiration to those touched by serious illness) to “Song of the Exile” (conveying the experience of peoples who have had their identities ripped away), this concert gives voice to those who have often been silent.

Concert times are: *Friday, June 9*, 7:30 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2945 NW Circle Blvd, Corvallis; and *Saturday, June 10*, at 7:30 p.m. at Chemeketa Community College, 4000 Lancaster Blvd., NE, Bldg. 6, Salem.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission; \$10 for student (with current ID) and seniors. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. For reservations, visit www.confluencechorus.org or call (503) 587-SING. For more information, contact Nancy Haldeman (757-9068).

When driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand-printed sign: “Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust.”

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Cormack 6/1, Anna Harding 6/2, Ruth Freund 6/5, Karen Jones 6/5, Kyle Skyllingstad 6/8, Daniel Jones 6/9, Amy Nafshun 6/10, Nadine Skyllingstad 6/18, Teo Schutford



6/19, Jerry Groesz 6/22, David Zielke 6/23; Sandy Piper 6/24, Wally Christianson 6/24, Kristin Rorrer 6/25, Hans Eleveld 6/27, John Erkkila 6/27, Aleita Hass-Holcombe 6/27, Cynthia Janes 6/27, Mike Henthorne 6/28, Carl Lucker 6/28

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Larry and Jan Small 6/9 (43rd)
 Don and Ruth Leeper 6/9 (55th)
 Irwin and Kay Harris 6/11 (64th)
 Jim and Chris Cantey 6/12
 Jerry and Nancy Groesz 6/12
 Pete and Susie Nelson 6/14 (39th)
 Russ and Mary Youmans 6/15 (48th)
 Norm and Marj Elwood 6/16
 Terry and Sally Robertson 6/17 (39th)
 Kim and Karen Jones 6/18 (29th)
 Doug and Sue Richmond 6/20 (25th)
 Ray and Nancy William 6/21 (37th)
 Neal and Joni Peterson 6/24 (39th)
 Mike and Carol Huntington 6/25 (18th)
 John and Brenda Cochran 6/25 (18th)
 Ching-Yue and Chunhuei Chi 6/26 (24th)

Not on our list? Send info on birthdays and anniversaries to **Susan Wickes** or leave a note in the newsletter mailbox.

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Pearl Doolin** and her family. Pearl’s husband, **Richard**, died on May 9 in Corvallis. Pearl’s address is: 56 Weldwood Drive, Lebanon, OR 97355.



Congregational News (USPS 128-820)
 PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT CORVALLIS OR
 Postmaster: Send address changes to:
 Congregational News, 4515 S.W. West Hills Rd.
 Corvallis OR 97333-3925. Published weekly
 except twice a month in July and August by



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, May 23.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, May 19

9:00 a.m. Women's Cluster meeting
 6:00 p.m. Relay For Life at OSU

Sunday, May 21

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. C E classes
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 (Activity Hour) Children's Chimes Meeting Hall (last session)

Noon Soup 'n' Bread and reception for Music Appreciation

4:00-5:30 Middle School youth
5:30-7:00 High School youth
 7:20 p.m. Holy Sox, Pioneer Park

Monday, May 22

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

Tuesday, May 23

9:00 a.m. Staff

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

Wednesday, May 24

7:15 a.m. Breakfast Group
 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
NO Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, May 25

11:00 a.m. Spirituality Group
 7:00 p.m. Holy Sox practice
 7:30 p.m. Men's Spirituality

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Vacation Bible School	<i>July 23-27</i>
Salmon Barbecue	<i>July 23</i>
"Side By Side" (see p. 4)	<i>August 27 and 28</i>
Photo directory sessions	<i>September 14, 15 and 16</i>