



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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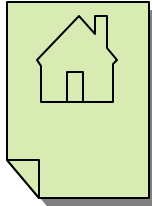
October 20, 2006

COMMISSIONING OF JAPAN DELEGATION THIS SUNDAY

This *Sunday, October 22*, during worship, we will commission the delegation leaving at the end of this month to visit our sister church in Takarazuka. Delegates are **Ryan Lambert, Kiko Kimura, Marsha Gulick, Brian Lee, Nancy Klingeman, Dorothy Price** and **Chris Rorrer**.

HABITAT BUILDING DAY COMING

Our congregation is signed up to work on the Apostles' Build site at Habitat for Humanity's latest project near Cheldelin School on *Saturday, October 28*. We need a crew of 12 people to work from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Sign-ups will be in the foyer on Sunday. Volunteer to help Habitat for Humanity build a home for another local family.



PICK UP QUARTERLY GIVING STATEMENTS

The quarterly giving statements will be available during the next two Sundays. Look for the box of alphabetized envelopes near the nametag cabinet.

They may also be picked up from the church office during its regular hours.

NOTE NEW CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Please update your church directory and e-mail address book with our new addresses for church related communications:

Rev. **Elizabeth Oettinger**

liz@ucc-corvallis.org

Rev. **Ryan Lambert**

ryan@ucc-corvallis.org

Church office, **Ann Hawkins**

office@ucc-corvallis.org

Our website will continue to be at:

www.ucc-corvallis.org

THIS SUNDAY

October 22

Adult Forum: Cliff and Jo Anne Trow will discuss the measures on this fall's ballot—9:30 a.m. in the Meeting Hall

Scriptures: Job 38:1-7

Psalm 8

Sermon: "Thank God for Job"

Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

Dear Friends,

Over the last few weeks our nation has witnessed another spree of violence centered in and around our schools. That these incidents happen at all is very troubling to me and leaves me to mourn for the individual victims of the violence and for our entire culture as I believe we all bear the costs of such violence. In our youth groups we have talked about fears that crop up in the aftermath of these incidents and it seems that for the most part our youth have a pretty good handle on their concerns about such incidents. As a parent and pastor I only hope that I too can come to grips with my own concerns about the myriad issues that spark such outbursts and bring such harm to individuals and to our sense of community.

The epidemic of violence that afflicts our culture is of great concern to me and in the midst of the most recent incidents I have found myself wondering where to find hope and comfort. We all know that such violence is simply not acceptable, yet I find myself without sufficient answers concerning what can be done to stop such things from happening. However, in reading about how Pennsylvania's Amish community has handled their grief in the aftermath of their tragedy I have found incredible hope and possibility. Reports have told us that the Amish community made up half of those who gathered for the memorial service for Charles Roberts IV, the very person responsible for the five deaths they mourn. It has also been reported that within hours of the incident community members were comforting the Roberts family and had extended their forgiveness to them. In the midst of their grieving this Amish community has been intentional about comforting each other *and* reaching out to the Roberts family in a way that seems natural to them, yet in a way that seems completely counter-cultural in our day and age.

While commentators across the nation have written about the surprising model of forgiveness shown by the Pennsylvania Amish I am left to wonder why this is the exception to the rule rather than the rule itself? Why have we become so surprised by forgiveness? Have we forgotten its power? As we move forward in the aftermath of these violent incidents it seems to me that each of us must recognize the incredible power of forgiveness as the way toward reconciliation, and I long for the day when we are not surprised by it!

Have a thoughtful week,

Ryan

Reminder: "An Inconvenient Truth" will be shown on *Friday, October 20*, at 8:00 p.m. in the Meeting Hall, after a potluck dinner in the Fireplace Room at 7:00.

MEN'S BREAKFAST PLANNED

In preparation for using hammers, saws, and other power tools men of all ages are invited to meet for breakfast on *Saturday, October 28*, at 7:30 a.m. at Sam's Station. This purpose of this gathering is simply for fellowship (!) and we will be done by 8:45 so that those involved in the Habitat project can be on their way. Even if you aren't participating in the Habitat project this month plan to come for breakfast and fellowship. Come; start the day with breakfast and conversation! Contact **Joe Chambers** or **Ryan Lambert** for more information.

UCC DOCUMENTARY TO AIR

Troubled Waters, an hour-long documentary written and produced by the United Church of Christ, will be aired nationally on ABC television beginning next week. It portrays some of the challenges faced by people and nations everywhere with regard to access to clean, safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. The film addresses the increasing privatization of water resources around the world and raises disturbing questions about who has access to this precious resource. "Water is a gift from God and a human right," affirms executive producer Wally Ryan Kuroiwa, "not a commodity available only to those who can pay for it."

Please check with your local ABC affiliate for air time. KATU-Portland tentatively lists the program for *October 29*.

AN INVITATION TO WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will meet on *Wednesday, November 1*, in Gattton Hall. Lunch will be served promptly at noon. The cost for the lunch is \$4. The program begins at 1:00 p.m. in the Meeting Hall when local historian **Judy Juntunen** will talk about her book, "The World of the Kalapuya."

There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer after church the next two Sundays, or call the church office. All women of the church guests are invited. Those with time constraints should feel free to come for any part of the two hours. Call **Julie Maloney** or **Alice Morrow** with questions.

You are invited to attend
the Ecclesiastical Council
of
The Reverend Leah McCullough

Sunday, October 29 at 4:00 p.m.
at First Congregational
United Church of Christ, Corvallis



This is the final step in Leah's process of seeking standing within the United Church of Christ and an important moment for our congregation to support her in her ministry.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, October 24.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, October 20

- 7:00 p.m. Pre-film potluck,
Fireplace Room
- 8:00 p.m. "An Inconvenient
Truth," Meeting Hall

Saturday, October 21

- 11:00 a.m. Organ demonstration

Sunday, October 22

- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
- 9:15 a.m. Church School Room 5
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum
NO God at Home class
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
(following) Sanctuary Choir,
Fireplace Room
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School youth
- 6:15 p.m. High School youth

Monday, October 23

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

Tuesday, October 24

- 10:30 a.m. Staff
- Noon Lectionary class

- 7:15 p.m. Church Council
- Wednesday, October 25*
- 7:15 a.m. Breakfast Group
 - 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
 - 6:00 p.m. Orchestra rehearsal
 - 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
- Thursday, October 26*
- 11:00 a.m. Spirituality Group
 - 7:00 p.m. Psalms Pstudy



**LEARN MORE
 ABOUT
 THE ORGAN**

Have you ever wondered about the inner workings of the pipe organ? Here's a chance to find out what you want to know. Following a private workshop, **Kristin Rorrer** is offering an informal question-and-answer time to demonstrate our organ, explain its workings and how it compares to the piano. Members of the congregation are invited to join her at 11:00 a.m. on *Saturday, October 21*, in our sanctuary.