



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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November 17, 2006



Thanksgiving Sunday

This Thanksgiving Sunday, *November 19*, we will have an offering of food for the annual Community Holiday Food Drive during worship. Bring commercially canned or packaged food which will be carried forward before the service or during the introit. Cash or checks (made out to “Community Holiday Food Drive”) for the purchase of turkeys and other necessities are also welcome! [See “Surrounded by Food” on page 4.]

We will also dedicate the 2006 pledges during worship, so be sure to bring yours! Shepherds: Please check with the members of your flock.

DINNER THIS SUNDAY

For our all-church Thanksgiving dinner after worship this *Sunday, November 19*, please bring a salad, vegetable dish or dessert—enough to serve 10-12 people. It would be helpful if your dessert were already cut into 10-12 pieces for

easier serving. Turkey, stuffing, potatoes and gravy are provided.

There are always a number of dishes left behind after an all-church function; please be sure all dishes AND serving utensils are labeled with your name.

We need more servers for Sunday and two volunteers to take leftovers to Community Outreach afterwards. Please call the church office if you can help!

THIS SUNDAY

November 19

Adult Forum: We will view a DVD presentation by Governor John Kitzhaber on the Archimedes Movement for changing the basic way we see health care. This is a 44-minute DVD and will be followed up the next Sunday with a discussion on our reactions to the video. Paper and pencils will be provided for taking notes on this Sunday’s presentation in preparation for next week.

Scriptures: Joel 2:21-27
Matthew 6:25-33

Sermon: “Almost Grown-Ups”
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

As Thanksgiving draws near, I find myself thinking what a gift it is to have a holiday devoted simply to gratitude. Some would say that Thanksgiving is about family, or eating too much, or football, but the name tells us that gratitude is its centerpiece and reason for being. Gratitude is also, I believe, one of the defining postures of Christian faith. And you may wonder at my use of the word “posture,” but for me gratitude is not a virtue; it’s not an action; it is a way of being; it is how we position ourselves in relation to the world.

The essence of Christianity is lodged in our knowing that we are loved and accepted absolutely by God. The more fully we know this, the more, in response, our hearts open outward—grateful for the gift of life, consciously aware of our every blessing, eager to engage the world and God’s people in such a way as to make a difference. Not out of guilt. Not out of duty. But because our hearts are full, and in that fullness we are able to see the gifts that surround us.

The posture of gratitude requires faith; it also requires practice. There’s not a lot of cultural support available for viewing the world from a position of fullness and thanksgiving. When we listen to the voices that surround us, too many of those voices tell us to feel deprived if we don’t have this or that. They tell us to be fearful of our neighbors, or suspicious that others will try to get ahead at our expense. From political campaigns to self-help literature to laundry detergent commercials, there’s not much out there beyond faith communities urging us to approach our lives joyfully, believing in God’s abundance, more thankful for what we have than disgruntled by what we don’t.

Practice gratitude. Practice it every day, in those times when it comes easily and those times when it’s not so easy. The more you do it, the better you’ll get at it, and the more your heart will be filled with the knowledge and love of God.

I wish you all a joyful and grateful Thanksgiving!

Liz

SIGN UP FOR
Our church will be preparing the Stone Soup meal on *Tuesday, November 21* at First Christian Church. Look for the sign-up sheet in the foyer this Sunday morning and join the crew!

**HOLIDAY BOOKS AVAILABLE**

Thanksgiving books are currently on display on the children’s shelves in the church library. They will be followed by Advent, Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanza displays of books ready to be checked out.



Middle and High School youth will meet at the usual times this *Sunday, November 19*. **High School reminder: Ryan** needs to have your answer about attending

General Synod by *November 27*.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational meeting has been called for *Sunday, December 3*, immediately after worship, to consider our taking on the responsibilities of being the fiscal agent for the proposed Corvallis cold weather shelter for the homeless. The coalition working on the shelter is currently negotiating with the Corvallis Armory to use their space at Grant and Kings. Our church has been asked to take on a variety of legal and financial responsibilities for the proposed shelter. **Liz and Ryan** are working with the church attorney and insurance agent to find out what, if any, our exposure would be. The shelter would carry its own insurance, provided by our carrier. Within a matter of days, once we have seen the contract produced by the Armory and clarified some personnel issues, we will be in a better position to evaluate what might be involved for us in this project. The proposal will go to the church Board of Trustees and then to the Church Council for approval. Depending on what we learn from our experts, the Trustees and Council will either feel confident signing off on the pro-

ject themselves, or they will forward the proposal to a congregational meeting for the whole church to decide. As we go along in the process, you will receive weekly updates. However, in discussion with the Moderator and Trustees chair, it was decided to formally call for a congregational meeting now—so that we didn't have to wait an additional three weeks at the end of the process if we determined a meeting would be necessary.

TOP TEN REASONS TO GET A FLU SHOT!

1. It's the best way to prevent you from getting the flu, and the flu can make you very sick.
2. If you live with children over age 6 months, they can get the flu shot too. That protects younger babies, the elderly and you.
3. You can get and "carry" the flu virus and not know it.
4. You could pass the virus to an elderly or high-risk person over the holidays.
5. Avoiding the flu could prevent you from missing Advent activities, hanging the wreaths, fun all the way past spring break in March when flu season winds down.
6. You won't miss Thanksgiving dinner because you're sick in bed.
7. It's only \$25-35 at most clinics or pharmacies.
8. Your friends will thank you for not giving them the flu.
9. It's easy. Just call your doctor's office or a pharmacy.

Questions? Call **Eileen Marma** (766-6654) or **Caroline Zaworski** (740-6228). There is enough flu vaccine for everyone this year. Don't miss out!

CYS WINTER CONCERT COMING

Corvallis Youth Symphony performs its Winter Concert on *Sunday, December 10*, at 3:00 p.m. at the LaSells Stewart Center. This concert will feature Oregon Symphony cellist **Adam Esbensen**. Tickets are \$12 at the door, and \$10 dollars from a CYS member; children get in free with an adult. The CYS members in this church are: **Justin Chi, Robin Miller, Patrick Yun, and Chris Rorrer**.

SURROUNDED BY FOOD

Do you remember back some years ago? (Or if you were not here then, just imagine.) The Sunday school kids, helped by the adults, were collecting food for Linn Benton Food Share during Lent. Throughout the weeks packages and cans of non-perishable food began to form a chain around the walls of the sanctuary. The children's goal was to completely encircle the congregation before time to deliver the food. Not only did they succeed, the food stacked up ever higher and wider around our sanctuary. We were, quite literally, surrounded by food. I have not forgotten the excitement of the Sunday school class that delivered the food. They marveled at the amount as they packed it into cars and vans, rejoiced as it was weighed at the food bank, and then were stunned as they saw the endless shelves and refrigerated rooms at the Food Share building and heard about the huge need for food every day by people in our community.

This Sunday we will be surrounded

by food heaped on tables as we sit down to share our church Thanksgiving meal. We also have the chance to be surrounded by food for those not sitting down with us at our meal. As part of our Thanksgiving we are making a special effort to collect food for Linn Benton Food Share. **Bring non-perishable foods this Sunday.** Bring all you can and let's see if our efforts in just one Sunday can surround us again, and then can fill many of those empty shelves.

We also need volunteers to transport the donated food to the Benton County Fairgrounds after Sunday's dinner!

Betty Massoni

NEWSLETTER ALERT!!

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, we will be doing the next newsletter a day early. Please submit your hard copy by **Monday noon, November 20**, for the *November 24* issue of *Congregational News*. E-mails may arrive any time Monday afternoon. Thanks for your help.

REFILLING THE EMPTIES

Do you have things you have saved because "someone" might need them? If they are paper grocery sacks, Vina Moses needs them. If they are big paper shopping bags with handles, Vina Moses needs them. If they are 16-32 ounce plastic yogurt and cottage cheese containers with lids, Stone Soup needs them. Bring the items into church and I will get them to their new homes.

Alice Mills Morrow

LOOKING AHEAD TO



Advent Festival

The Advent Festival will be held at 9:30 on *Sunday, December 3*, in Gatton Hall, and will continue after the service. Activities this year include: potato-print decorating, cookie decorating, and Advent wreath making. This is for **all** ages; there is no Adult Education this Sunday.

A table featuring **Heifer Project** alternative gifts will be available at the Festival. If you will be away that day or need Heifer animal information before then, please contact **Nancy Klingeman**. We will have all the new literature and posters at the table.

Hanging of the Greens

Greens will be hung on Saturday afternoon, *December 16*, at 2:00. This is earlier than usual because the Corvallis Repertory Singers concert will be in our sanctuary that evening.

Bright Gifts

Tags identifying recipients will be hung on a Christmas tree in the foyer starting *November 26*. Take one or more, purchase a suitable gift for the person described, and bring the unwrapped gift(s) to worship on *December 10*.

PFLAG HOLIDAY PARTY

PFLAG (Parents and friends of Lesbians, Gays, Bi and Transgendered peo-

ple) is having their Holiday Potluck on *Monday, November 27* at 6:00 p.m. All people gay or straight who support and celebrate diversity are welcome to join the fun at First United Methodist Church, 1165 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis (in the Martha Room in the basement).

Please bring a large potluck dish to share. Drinks and silverware will be provided.

Call 231-9598 with any questions. And please remember that there will not be a PFLAG December meeting.

WE ARE INVITED

... to share the celebration of the wedding of **Caroline Zaworski** and **Charles Helsabeck** on *Saturday, November 25* at 3:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. A potluck reception follows the service. Please let Caroline know if she should set a place for you (541-753-1108)!



POST-DINNER SHOPPING OP

The **Gifts For a Better World** store will be open after the Thanksgiving dinner this Sunday – and it's only a few steps away. Come upstairs in the C E wing and find wonderful and unusual gifts (for others and yourself!) and give an extra gift of support for third-world artisans and local non-profit organizations.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is **Monday, November 20.**

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday, November 18

10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving dinner
 prep, Gatton Hall

Sunday, November 19

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:15 a.m. Church School, Room
 4

9:30 a.m. Adult Forum
 9:30 a.m. God at Home class
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Children's Advent
 Choir, Meeting Hall
(before dinner!)

(following) **Thanksgiving Dinner,
 Gatton Hall**

5:00 p.m. Middle School youth
 6:30 p.m. High School youth

Monday, November 20

Newsletter deadline

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

Tuesday, November 21

Noon Lectionary class
3:15 p.m. Staff
 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board

Wednesday, November 22

5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball

Thursday, November 23-Thanksgiving

Office closed

Friday, November 24

Office closed

“OPERA IS BORING”?

“That’s What YOU Think!!” This 50-minute program by the Oregon State University Opera Workshop and Opera Theater Corvallis is created for children, but suited to music lover of all ages! Performances are at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on *Sunday, November 19*, at our church.

Featured are scenes from *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Candide*, *Fidelio*, *Don Pasquale* and *Die Fledermaus*. Most scenes are in English and presented with lively, entertaining narration by the cast.

Tickets (at the door): \$5 for children, seniors, and all students; free for OSU students; \$10 general admission.