



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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February 16, 2007



INQUIRERS' CLASS TO START

Considering church membership? An Inquirers' Class is planned for *Sundays, March 4 and 11* for anyone interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ and First Congregational in Corvallis. Those participants deciding to join will be received into membership during worship on *March 25*. Contact the church office with questions or to let us know you would like to participate.

Century, a DVD of his kickoff speech in Corvallis on the Archimedes Movement, at 7:00 p.m. on *Wednesday, February 21*, in the Corvallis Public Library, 645 NW Monroe. An update on what's happening on health care in the Oregon Legislature follows. Where do we go from here? How can you get involved? Come and learn more.

The talk is sponsored by Mid Valley Health Care Advocates and the Corvallis chapter of the Archimedes Movement. For more info, check out wecandobetter.org and haco.org.



Still waffling on pancakes? There is one last time to sign up Sunday for the small group pancake suppers to be held on *February 20* from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

If you have questions, stop by the table in the foyer after worship or call **Marsha Gulick** (754-8367) or **Sue Richmond** (745-7994).

OREGON HEALTH CARE UPDATE

Former governor **John Kitzhaber**, M.D. speaks on "Health Care in the 21st

THIS SUNDAY

February 18

Adult Forum: "The World of the Kalapuya" **Judy Juntunen** will speak about the native people of the Willamette Valley.

Scriptures: Acts 10:1-16, 23b-24, 34

Luke 9:28-36

Sermon: "Letting Go and Hanging On"
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

First of all, thank you for the surprise birthday cake to celebrate my 15-year anniversary with you all. It doesn't seem like I've been here for 15 years until I think about it for a while. I came here with children aged 7 and 9. Now they are young adults. I'm being asked to do weddings for young adults that were in the middle school youth group when I first arrived. Since I've been here, we've painted the church twice, replaced all of the roofs, and undertaken a major building project. So maybe it has been 15 years!

I tell people that the reason I have stayed so long among you is that I have a limited imagination. I simply cannot imagine another church I would come to love as I have come to love all of you. The longer answer though is important for you to know. I feel absolutely fortunate to be in this congregation for several specific reasons which I'd like to share.

- So many clergy feel stifled in their jobs. They feel they cannot address issues that are important to them, or they are not given opportunities for spiritual and intellectual growth. I have never felt that way in this congregation. You give your clergy freedom to speak, to explore, and to grow. Those are significant gifts.
- This church attracts gifted and delightful staff people. I feel privileged to work with every single person with whom I have shared ministry at First Congregational. We on the staff are always teaching each other, learning from each other, and helping each other out. It's not always that way in churches, and going to work is a pleasure when you enjoy your work colleagues.
- Other clergy colleagues complain that the church does not understand the needs of their families. When I had children at home, when I was going through my divorce, in all of my time with you, you have gone out of your way to make the family/work juggling act easy, giving me both support and privacy. I owe you a debt of gratitude for that.
- Many clergy feel either that they do all the work in their congregations or that they have no say in that goes on. I have always felt that the mix of clergy and lay leadership in this congregation is a vital partnership. Ministry is so much easier and more rewarding when you have a sense that you are working in concert with others.
- Finally, the reason that I stay is that there always seems to be more work for us to do together—new challenges, new opportunities for ministry, new members bringing new ideas into the church. It speaks well for this congregation that

leadership continually rotates, so we are always becoming. It is such a model of faithfulness that we trust each other and challenge each other. To me, this church, more than any other to which I have belonged, feels like a true community of worship and faith, work and fellowship.

So thank you for 15 wonderful years. I look forward to however many years remain between us.

It is a privilege to be a part of you.

Liz

Wednesdays in Len?

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, *February 21*. Again, we hope to provide opportunities for conversation, worship and study during this special time in the Christian year. Call the church office to enroll in classes or sign up this Sunday.

On Ash Wednesday, our traditional soup and bread supper is at 5:30 (donation), followed by a brief service of penitence and the imposition of ashes at 6:15. At 6:45, classes begin. Child care is available beginning at 6:10. You are welcome at any and all events.

On each subsequent Wednesday in Lent through *March 28*, the schedule will be the same:

5:30 p.m.	A simple supper (with vegetarian alternative), Fireplace Room
6:10 p.m.	Child care begins, Room 5
6:15 p.m.	Worship in the Chapel
6:45-7:25 p.m.	Flash classes (see below)
6:45-8:15 p.m.	Full-length classes
7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir

"Flash" classes 6:45-7:25 p.m.

Experienced Bell Choir -- Adam Grieve, Music Room. Ringers will rehearse pieces on Wednesday evenings during Lent, beginning February 21 (Ash Wednesday). This choir will perform during Holy Week.

St. Matthew's Passion – Barbara Clauson, Conference Room. Contemplate the Lenten season by listening to the musical oratorio, *The St. Matthew Passion* by J.S. Bach. We will open the musical score and discover together the rich musical imagery, symbolism, and tragic beauty of Bach's brilliant setting of the Biblical text of the passion from the gospel according to St. Matthew.

"Who Do You Say That I Am?" – Liz Oettinger, Library. The class is an exploration of the images of Jesus – in the Gospels, in Paul's writing and in the history of the church.

Healthy Planet, Healthy Children –Maureen Beezhold, from the Northwest Earth Institute, Room 8 Northwest Earth Institute's eight-week discussion course Healthy Children-Healthy Planet: Raising Kids in a Consumer Culture is for parents, teachers and anyone involved in raising children. Many families feel they are swimming against the tide of popular culture. This course will offer support while you explore the effects of cultural pressures, advertising, technology and media, food, and time while learning how to keep a balance of healthy activities through ritual and celebration and by exploring nature. The cost is \$16 for materials and people can share the course book if they want. One participant noted that "These issues were so close to my heart, so many of the things I was struggling with."

Finding Faith on Film – Ryan Lambert, Meeting Hall (6:45-9:00 p.m.) Using Hollywood films as a vehicle to explore issues of faith this class will also use scripture, a short reading each week, and post-viewing conversation to explore how religious themes are portrayed in contemporary film. Included in the six films we will be viewing are: "The Truman Show," "The Spitfire Grill," and "Fearless."

LENTEN ADULT ED SERIES

There are still books for sale for the Adult Forum class at 9:30 Sunday mornings in Lent. *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, with a study guide, costs \$10. Copies will again be available for purchase this Sunday. Those participating in the class will have first choice. The book may also be ordered/purchased through Grass Roots Bookstore.

FIRST AID AND CPR TRAINING SET FOR FEBRUARY 23-24

We are offering a two-part training for those who work with the children in our congregation, and for any who are interested in receiving training or updating their skills. **Because it is important for those who work with youth and**

children in our church to have these skills, their fees will be covered.

- *Friday, February 23:* From 6:30-9:00 p.m., at the church, we will have a basic First Aid Course.
- *Saturday, February 24:* From 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., we will have a CPR course which will include training in how to use our new AED (Automated External Defibrillator) machine. This device is usable by non-medical people and greatly increases the odds of someone surviving a heart attack.

The cost of each session is \$30, but if you attend both the total cost is \$40. You can choose either or both, to meet your needs. Transportation can be arranged for those who don't drive at night. Please call the church office to register.

UTILITY SHUT-OFF & SAFETY

From the Health Ministries Committee:

Natural gas

Natural gas leaks and explosions are responsible for a significant number of fires following any major earthquake. It is vital that all household members know how to shut off the natural gas.

Preparing to shut off the natural gas

Locate the shut-off valve. To shut off the gas, turn the valve 90°, or ¼ turn, so that it crosses the pipe. If your valve is rusted open, do not put WD-40 lubricant on it. It may corrode the O-rings that allow the valve to turn. Attach a 12-inch crescent wrench to the meter or to the wall directly behind the meter. Adjust it to fit your valve before attaching it in case it rusts.

Practicing shutting off the gas

To ensure that your valve has not become stuck open because of dust, rust, or paint, rock the valve a few degrees in either direction. It is a valve, not a screw. (Key: Simply rock the valve a few degrees to ensure that it can be turned off if it needs to be. If you accidentally turn off the gas while practicing, you **must** call a qualified gas representative to come and turn it on. Turning it on yourself will create a gas leak in your home.)

Shutting off gas after an earthquake

Shut off the gas immediately only if you smell the characteristic odor of gas, you hear a hissing sound, and/or you notice the meter dials spinning more rapidly than normal.

Do not use matches, lights, open flame appliances, or operate any electrical switches until you are sure no gas leaks exist. Sparks from electrical switches could ignite the gas.

If you smell natural gas, immediately get everyone out of and away from the house. Open the

windows and doors to provide ventilation. Shut off the gas at the meter.

Water

Water quickly becomes a precious resource following many disasters. It is vital that all household members learn how to shut off the water at the main house valve.

Cracked lines may pollute the water supply to your house. It is wise to shut off your water until you hear from the authorities that it is safe for drinking.

The effects of gravity may drain the water in your hot water and toilet tanks unless you trap it in your house by shutting off the main house valve—not the street valve in the cement box at the curb—this valve is extremely difficult to turn and requires a special tool).

Preparing to shut off water

Locate the shut-off valve for the water line that enters your house.

Make sure this valve can be completely shut off. Your valve may be rusted open, or it may only partially close. Replace it if necessary. Label this valve with a tag for easy identification and make sure all household members know where it is located.

Electricity

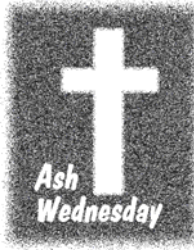
Electrical sparks have the potential of igniting natural gas if it is leaking. It is wise to teach all responsible household members where and how to shut off the electricity.

Preparing to shut off electricity

Locate your electricity circuit box. Teach all responsible household members how to shut off the electricity to the entire house. For your safety: Always shut off all the individual circuits before shutting off the main circuit breaker.



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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, February 20.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday, February 17

Winter Weekend
 (through Monday)

Sunday, February 18

- NO** Sanctuary Choir
- 9:15 a.m. Church School, Room 5
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum
- 9:30 a.m. God@Home class
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:45 a.m. Art show take-down
- NO** Youth Groups

Monday, February 19

- Office closed**
 - 5:30 p.m. Basketball
 - 7:00 p.m. C E Board
 - 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1
- Shrove Tuesday, February 20*
- 9:00 a.m. Staff
 - Noon Lectionary class
 - 6:00 p.m. **Shrove Tuesday pancake suppers**
 - 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board
 - 7:30 p.m. Spirit Quest

Ash Wednesday, February 21

- 5:00** p.m. 40+ Basketball
- 5:30 p.m. Lenten schedule [p. 3]
- 6:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday service, Chapel**
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, February 22

- 11:00 a.m. Spirituality Group

Friday, February 23

- 6:30-9:00 First Aid training**

Many thanks to everyone who was so helpful to me after my stroke – those who stayed with me, visited, and even brought me a Valentine!

I am doing my part to get well and hope to reciprocate for all the kindness.

Jean Heath

Thanks

... to the Soup 'n Bread cooks for last Sunday: **Ginnie Esary, Pam Ruzek, and Nancy William.**