



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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March 30, 2007



Palm Sunday

Holy Week begins this Sunday with the commemoration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. This year adults (except the choir) will meet in Gatton Hall just before the service and will then process into the sanctuary. Children and youth will gather in Room 5 to prepare to lead the Palm Sunday procession into worship. They will line the aisle as the congregation processes together on Sunday. CE classes will be cut short so that we can organize everyone on Sunday morning.

WOMEN'S HISTORY AND EASTER BOOKS NOW ON DISPLAY

Featured in the church library this month are books honoring Women's History and books concerning Lent and Easter for both adults and children. Please come in to browse and learn about some interesting women. Displayed books are always available to be checked out.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR TO BEGIN AFTER EASTER

Beginning *Sunday, April 15*, **Kristin Rorrer** will begin rehearsals for a Children's Choir, which will sing during worship on Mother's Day Sunday, *May 13*. The choir will meet immediately following worship in the Music Room and is open to children 3rd through 8th grades. The rehearsal time will be from 11:45-12:20 p.m. on *April 15, 22, 29*, and *May 6*.

Mark your calendars and come join in the fun this musical opportunity presents!

THIS SUNDAY

April 1

Adult Forum: An extra session for *The Last Week* book study: A short profile about author Marcus Borg, with a discussion to follow

Scriptures: Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29
Luke 19:28-40

Sermon: "Beyond Our Expectations"
Ryan Lambert

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

Holy Week begins on Sunday. In this most important week in the Christian year, we offer worship Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and during the vigil. The vigil ends Easter morning as we read the resurrection narrative and joyfully transform the sanctuary from darkness to light at the 8:30 service and continue our celebration at 11:00.

This year we are doing a new worship service for Good Friday based around the Stations of the Cross. This is an ancient tradition of Christians which may date back as early as the first century when the early Christians remembered Christ's passion and death by walking the path he took from Pilate's headquarters to the hill at Golgotha. Pilgrims would stop along the way, originally called the Via Dolorosa, and remember what happened, and at each stop take time for meditation and prayer. By the Byzantine period, the pilgrim journey had been institutionalized, remembered in 14 stations on the walls of Christian churches in paintings, mosaics, or sculpture. Praying the Stations of the Cross has been a traditionally Roman Catholic form of worship. At the time of the Protestant Reformation, the Stations were cast out of Protestant churches, partly because of the discomfort with visual images in worship, partly because not all the stations are entirely scriptural. Some are based on legends of the early church, as when Jesus meets his mother along the way at Station IV, or my personal favorite, Station VI, where a woman named Veronica gives Jesus her handkerchief to wipe his face.

Why the Stations of the Cross? In the progress of this walk with Jesus through his passion and death, we are invited to contemplate not only God's self-giving love, but also the fullness of our humanity. There are stations where we see Jesus flogged, mocked, nailed to the cross—brutal, violent acts committed by humans out of fear, revenge, and thirst for power. Though we might want to look away, it's important that we see and understand these things to understand the powerful heart of our religion. Our God in this story of dying and rising again forgives us, forgive us not just tiny well-mannered sins, but the very worst that is potentially in us. Beyond that, as we follow the cross, we also see displayed sorrow, kindness, steadfastness, compassion, love—the best that is in us.

The visual images we will be using for the Stations are a series of paintings by the Tanzanian artist Charles S. Ndege. The originals are on the walls of St. Joseph Mukasa Church in Mwanza, Tanzania on the shore of lake Victoria. The images of Christ's passion have been recast in the contemporary idiom of life in a small African village. They are beautiful, powerful images which will be projected at the front of

the church. I urge you to come to this service and to sit towards the front of the sanctuary so that you might see the rich detail of the images. Come and contemplate all of what it means to be human, and all that God has seen and known and felt and forgiven. For it is in the so-called "low" days of Holy Week that we come to know why Easter's proclamation is of joy unsurpassed and never-ending.

Keep Holy Week.

Liz



The Middle and High School groups will meet at their regular times this week.

Please wear sturdy shoes as our activities will include some running. High School youth are reminded that we will be taking the midnight shift on Friday night/Saturday morning of the Easter Vigil. Please let **Ryan** know if you plan to attend so that we have enough drivers.

Also, the **Spring Fling Craft Fair** is coming soon (*April 21*) and we will be putting together a staffing schedule for the children's booth and the kitchen. Reserve the date now!

WOMEN'S MEETING IS TOPIC FOR WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship luncheon will be on *Wednesday, April 4*, at noon in Gatton Hall. The program follows at 1:00 p.m. in the Meeting Hall. Four of our members, **Priscilla Zaworski, Joan Pelto, Eleanor MacDonald** and **Nancy Klingeman** will report on "Mix in 06," the combined meeting of UCC women, and Disciples of Christ women, which took place in Indianapolis last summer.

Sign up in the foyer after the church service on *April 1*, or call the church office to add your name to the list.

For questions contact **Julie Maloney** (752-6468) or **Alice Morrow** (752-3541).



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Chunhuei Chi 4/1,
Samantha McNally
4/3, Ed Miller 4/5,
Robin Miller 4/5,
Toby Pearce-Smith 4/5,
Ineka Estabrook 4/9, Diane McNally
4/9, Gavin Milligan 4/10, Elise Meara
4/10; C. J. Sveta 4/11, Bruce Pentland
4/11, Jay Sperling 4/11, Mateo McCann
4/11, Marthanne Norgren 4/12, Grant
Elbinger 4/17, Steve Zielke 4/17,
Rhonda Mueller-Warrant 4/19, Michele
LaBonte 4/20, Susan Wickes 4/21, Kaia
Larson 4/21, Ashley Walker 4/22,
Priscilla Zaworski 4/23, Ann Hawkins
4/24, Nancy William 4/24, Joan Pelto
4/25, Gwyneth McMorris 4/27, Pam Ru-
zek 4/28, Bond Starker 4/28, Russ You-
mans 4/29, Norm Elwood 4/29

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Gregg and Jacqueline Smith 4/5

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 1

10:30 a.m. – Worship service begins with a Palm Procession. Adults (except the choir) will gather in Gatton Hall just before the service; children and youth in Room 5.

Maundy Thursday, April 5

6:30 p.m. – Service starts with a festival meal in Gatton Hall. Worship continues with a Tenebrae service in the sanctuary and the stripping of the church. Cellist Nancy Sowdon will play. (Please call the church office or sign up on Palm Sunday to let us know if you will be attending this service.)

Good Friday, April 6

8:00 p.m. – Service is based on the Stations of the Cross, an ancient Christian tradition of meditation and prayer. The Sanctuary Choir will sing.

The Easter Vigil

Between 9:00 on Good Friday until 6:00 Easter morning, take one hour to attend, to meditate, to be present in the sanctuary in silence.

Easter Sunday, April 8

8:30 a.m. – Be a part of the dramatic transformation of the sanctuary from darkness to light as the Vigil ends and we first hear the good news of the Resurrection. Communion will be served and youth will act as worship leaders. Music is provided by the Sanctuary Choir with brass and timpani, and Pink Salmon (Chris Rorrer, Gavin Milligan, and Steve Milligan).

9:15 -10:30 a.m. – Easter Breakfast is served in Gatton Hall (\$2/person)

11:00 a.m. – Celebration service, with music by the Sanctuary Choir with brass, timpani and bells.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP YET???

This is the last week to let us know you will participate in the special events of Holy Week.

✘ **Maundy Thursday**

Because this dinner is not "potluck" it is especially important that the cooks know how many people are coming. If you will not be at church this Sunday, please phone in your RSVP to the church office (757-8122) by *Tuesday, April 3*.

✘ **Easter Vigil**

The sign-up chart will be out again this Sunday or you can call the church office. There are still some of the coveted late-night shifts available.

✘ **Flower Arrangements**

Come help prepare Easter flower bouquets for tables and the pew standards on *Saturday, April 7*, from 10:00 a.m. until noon in Gatton Hall. Sign up this Sunday or contact **Sue Richmond** (745-7994 or suedougrich@msn.com) or the church office.

If you have flowers from your garden to share for Easter baskets and arrangements, please bring them to Gatton Hall on *Saturday, April 7*, between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m.

✘ **Easter Breakfast**

Easter Breakfast has been a long-standing tradition at our Church. It is possible due to the amazing number of members and friends who volunteer to help out with some part of the breakfast. This Sunday, we will continue sign-ups outside the sanctuary before service, and in Gatton Hall following the service. We still need help with the following:

- 1 person to help mix juices for 1 hour on *Saturday April 7*, 10 a.m.
- 4 people to help with setup for 2 hours on *Saturday April 7*, 10.a.m
- 2 people to help prepare the kitchen and serve for 2 hours beginning at 8:15 a.m. Easter Morning (Helpers will attend the later 11:00 a.m. service)
- 3 people to help prepare the kitchen and serve for 2 hours beginning at 9:15 a.m. Easter Morning (Helpers will attend the early 8:30 a.m. service)
- 4 people to help with cleanup for 1 hour beginning at 10:30 a.m. (Helpers will attend the early 8:30 a.m. service)
- 1 person to assist with the dishwashing beginning at 9:45 a.m. (may attend either the early or late service)

We do also still need coordinators for the kitchen on Sunday morning, and for clean-up. If you can help out with any of these tasks, please signup this Sunday, or contact **Regan McMorris** (758-4564 or email: regan.mcmorris@ch2m.com).



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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, April 3.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Palm Sunday, April 1

- 9:00 a.m. 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 (gather in
Gatton Hall)
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth

Monday, April 2

- 9:00 a.m. Staff
- 5:30 p.m. Basketball
- 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, April 3

- Noon Lectionary class
- 7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee

Wednesday, April 4

- Noon Women's Fellowship
- 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball
- 6:00 p.m.** Bell Choir
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Maundy Thursday, April 5

- 6:30 p.m. Worship (includes
dinner)**

Good Friday, April 6

- 8:00 p.m. Worship**
- 9:00 p.m. Vigil begins**

Larry and I express our gratitude for the outpouring of love and concern about his fall and recovery. It is a comfort and we thank you all.

Kathie Merriam

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING – SAVE THE DATE!

“**Lift Off: Soaring to New Heights with God**” will be the theme of our summer Vacation Bible School that will take place in the evenings from *July 15-19*. Vacation Bible School will feature programs for children aged 3 through 5th grade.

Please save these dates to ensure that your children can participate!