

Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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April 13, 2007

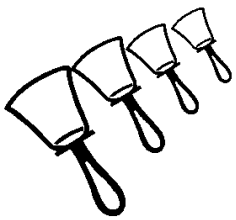
SUNDAY'S GUEST PREACHER HAS FCC HISTORY

Sunday's guest preacher, **Charles Helsabeck**, is new to our church (joined last month) and also an "old-timer" here.

Charles grew up in North Carolina, graduated from Wake Forest University and Princeton Theological Seminary, and was ordained in 1975. Then he served as the Associate Minister of this church from 1976 - 1979. After leaving Corvallis, he did a Clinical Pastoral Education residency year at NC Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He was then called to be the pastor at Jefferson United Church of Christ in Jefferson, Maryland, and served there until 1984.

After Jefferson he decided to find employment outside of the church and give himself some time to sort through issues of his divorce. "I was fortunate to

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GUEST BELL CHOIR SUNDAY

The **Carillon Revelry Handbell Choir**, which rehearses at First Presbyterian Church, will participate in worship at our

church this *Sunday, April 15*. The group, ringing four and one-half octave of bells, is comprised of eleven members from the Corvallis/Albany area. One of the performers, **Kim Thackray**, is a member of our church.

As the prelude, the group will play "Virginia Highlands Suite" by Cynthia Dobrinski. During the service "We Praise thee, O God, Our Redeemer" also by Dobrinski and "Gymnopedie" by Erik Satie, arranged by Karen Roth, will be rung. For the postlude, Carillon Revelry will play an arrangement of "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing."

(continued on page 5)

THIS SUNDAY

April 15

Adult Forum: A review of current proposed legislation for Oregon with **Cliff and Jo Anne Trow** at 9:30 a.m. in the Meeting Hall.

Scriptures: Acts 5:27-32
John 20:19-31

Sermon: "Life After Jesus"
Charles Helsabeck

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

I know you've heard this before, but it can't be said too many times: Holy Week at First Congregational UCC is truly a community event. It would take the whole newsletter to thank everyone who sang, cooked, organized, arranged flowers, set up, cleaned up, led worship, and otherwise made themselves helpful. It's amazing what we do here, and the best part of it is that we do it all together. I hear other clergy complain about the rigors of Holy Week. It's almost a required part of the job. I know that I work hard during this period. The worship we do this time of year is important, and I want to give it my best. But I don't get grumpy about it because I see so many of you giving your precious volunteer time; I realize that you care as much about it as I do, and there's nothing more fulfilling than working with a group of committed people to do something well.

This year I found myself noticing the details. There are 1001 details for our Holy Week worship events and food service events. Because of the diligence of a few blessed people, most of those details are written down so they aren't lost from year to year. We know in advance that we have to be able to lay our hands on 18 match books for Maundy Thursday's service, and that we need to set aside food and table space for choir members at the Easter breakfast so that they can enjoy their 15 minute break between the first service and rehearsal for the second. We know how many people it takes to transform the sanctuary during the 8:30 worship, and how many flowers we need for the flower baskets, table arrangements, flower cross, and other flowers throughout the church. It matters that the details are written down. All of our manuals and information sheets are what allow leadership to pass from hand to hand, and not be overwhelming. I am so grateful to all those who have taken the time to write down the specifics of particular jobs, and particularly thankful for Ann Hawkins who makes sure those details are updated and maintained from year to year.

One last comment about this Easter. I hope you noticed the beautiful new flower boxes that fit into our pew-end candelabra. They were made for us by Brian Kraybill, the cabinet maker in Shedd who made the candelabra as well. For both projects, Brian took great care with both the design and execution. The Worship Committee and I could not be more pleased with his work and he was a pleasure to work with. His work will be part of the church's life for a long time.

So, on behalf of all the staff, thank you to all you cooks, kitchen helpers, readers, singers, ringers, vigil keepers, flower arrangers, table setters, dish washers, worship leaders, set-up crews, clean-up crews, worship attenders, grounds sprucers, and anything else I forgot! It was a blessed Holy Week and Easter thanks to all your work.

Liz



The Middle School and High School youth groups will meet together at the

Thackray home at 6:45 on Sunday night for a movie. Everyone should bring a dessert to share with group. Thanks to the Thackray family for hosting!

Thanks to **Joe Chambers** for joining **Ryan** and the senior high youth for the prayer vigil last Friday night.

Youth are needed to help with the **Spring Fling Craft Faire** on *Saturday, April 21*. Please sign up on Sunday for your shift and to volunteer to bring home made goodies to sell!

CONFIRMATION UPDATE

The Confirmation class will be meeting on *Sunday, April 22*, after worship until 3:00 p.m. and will be going to Camp Adams for a retreat *April 27-29*. We will be leaving at 5:00 p.m. on the 27th to head for Camp Adams and will return about 1:00 p.m. on Sunday the 29th. Families should be watching their mail for a permission slip/medical form/packing list.

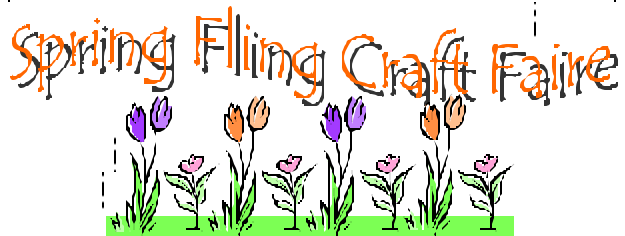
GUEST PREACHER *from page 1*

join a new church in Germantown, Maryland, and the pastor there worked out a call for me to continue my ministry in that faith community as a volunteer," said Charles.

By the summer of 2005, with his children all out of the house, he decided

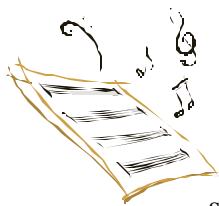
it was time to reconnect with his life in Corvallis and so came to our Salmon Barbecue. During that weekend he got to spend some time with friends from his earlier days here and to meet a lot of wonderful new people. He also reconnected with **Caroline Zaworski**.

Charles says, "It is good to be back in Corvallis, to be married to Caroline, and to be searching for a new call to ministry."



The 3rd Annual Spring Fling Craft Faire happens in Gatton Hall on *Saturday, April 21*, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Along with the booths featuring local artists there will be home-made soup, home-baked snacks and free children's activities.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the youth mission fund which allows our youth to go on mission trips and to General Synod. The on-going success of this yearly event to benefit our youth depends on artists' participation. Having lots of people attend the faire makes being a part of it attractive to the artists, so tell your neighbors, bring your friends—and come!



A MUSICAL TIME FOR CHILDREN Hand chimes

During the Activity Hour time in the second half of worship, **Adam Grieve** will be teaching children in grades 2nd through 5th how to play hand chimes. The hand chimes are very similar to the bells, except they are much sturdier, can be handled without gloves, and are better suited to wear and tear by children. This is a unique and child-friendly way of making music and we hope that the children will enjoy learning a new musical skill. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Adam at 541-908-3099 or via e-mail at grievea@oregonstate.edu.

Children's Choir

Also this Sunday, a Spring Children's Choir will begin rehearsing in preparation for singing during worship on Mother's Day *Sunday, May 13*. This choir, under the direction of **Kristin Rorrer**, will meet immediately following worship until 12:20 each *Sunday, April 15, 22, 29* and *May 6*—in the Music Room—and is designed for children in the 3rd-8th grades. Regular participation will provide consistency and a better opportunity to prepare for singing in worship. We hope your child will participate in our Spring Children's Choir! Feel free to contact Kristin (753-2848) if you have any questions or send her an e-mail message at rorrer4@comcast.net.

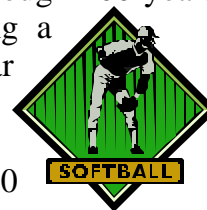


HELPERS NEEDED!

Our church's Stone Soup day this month is next *Tuesday, April 17*. Look for sign-ups in the foyer on Sunday or contact **Ryan** or **Pat Johnson** to volunteer. Many hands are needed to cook, serve, and clean up the nearly 100 meals that we will provide.

SOFTBALL TEAM NEWS

Now's the time to join the Holy Sox coed softball team! Anyone from the church can join who is at least a 12th grader in high school (through 100 years old!). We will be joining a church league this year (through Parks & Rec). Our first practice will be *Thursday, April 19, 6:00 p.m.*, Chintimini Park.



Games start *Sunday, May 13*. We'll play through early August on Sunday afternoons and evening, with practices on Thursday evenings.

Cost is \$32 per person (you'll pay **Pete Nelson**), plus \$10 for those people living outside the limits of Corvallis. Call **Tammy Skubinna** (752-4214) or Pete Nelson (752-1278) for more information.

READ & FEED MEETS

This month's book discussion will finish up *The World Is Flat* by Thomas L. Friedman. The meeting begins at 7:00 on *Sunday, April 15*, at the home of **Karen** and **Ed Miller**. Dessert follows.

BELL CHOIR *from page 1*

The pieces are part of a larger concert that Carillon Revelry will ring on *April 22* at 7:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Two additional pieces, accompanied by instruments, will be on the program as well as the Chancel Choir of the First Presbyterian Church, singing Bradley Ellingboe's *Requiem*, accompanied by an instrumental sextet and directed by Laurie Bates.

Reminder for early news readers:

**COLOMBIA EDUCATIONAL
EVENT THURSDAY**

Thursday, April 12, at 7:00 p.m. in our Meeting Hall, a film and discussion about the violence in Colombia will be facilitated by the Just Peace Committee. The educational event is to raise awareness of the on-going violence in Colombia, and to help prepare us for participation in Colombia Days of Prayer & Action which will take place *May 20-21*.

See you there...Bring a friend!

Holy Week Thanks

Holy Week and Easter were wonderful thanks to the legions of folks who stepped up and took on the many related jobs to make it all happen. We thank, especially, **Regan McMorris** for chairing the Easter Breakfast; **Sue Richmond**, Worship Committee chair; **Monine Stebbins**, who (with Sue) led the flower

arrangers; **Doug Caldwell**, for scanning the photos of the Stations of the Cross paintings used on Good Friday; and **Verlyne Phillips** and **Susan Wickes**, who chaired the Maundy Thursday dinner crew.

**THANKS FROM DIAL-A-BUS,
FEBRUARY'S MISSION OFFERING**

Dear Members,

We would like to thank you for thinking of programs such as ours, and asking that contributions be made to these programs during the month of February.

Our staff are exceptional people in that we do our very best to help the senior/disabled population of Benton and Linn Counties. Many of our folks have no family at all and depend on us for their transportation needs.

In the last two months we have lost a number of long-time volunteers and are in real need of more drivers. If you could please ask your congregation to think about this opportunity and phone me at the number below for further information, we would greatly appreciate it.

Linda E. Elder, Director (753-5746)

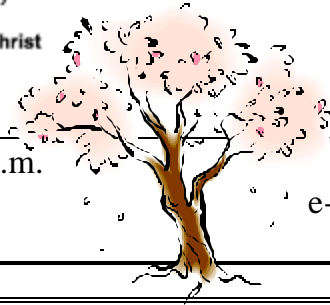
I want to express my gratitude for all those who send cards and prayers, food and visits, phone calls and encouragement. This Faith Family is so generous and supportive.

Thank you.

Dorothy Price



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, April 17.

Sunday, April 15

- 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
- (Act. Hour) Children's Chimes**
- (following) Children's Choir**
- 6:45 p.m. Youth groups movie
 night, Thackrays'
- 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed, Millers'

Monday, April 16

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

Tuesday, April 17

- Noon Lectionary class
- 3:00-8:00 Stone Soup
- 4:00 p.m. Pastoral Relation
 Committee
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board
- 7:30 p.m. Spirit Quest

Wednesday, April 18

- 5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball

7:00 p.m. Endowment Board

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, April 19

11:45 a.m. Lunch Group

7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

7:00 p.m. Holy Sox practice

REGISTER FOR CAMP ADAMS

Registration forms are available in the office and on the information table in the corner of the foyer. Plan to spend a week at Camp Adams this summer.

Camp Adams Schedule	
Work Camp:	<i>June 24-27</i>
Young Adult Camp	<i>June 27-30</i>
Family Camp:	<i>June 27-30</i>
Pathfinders (Grades 6/7):	<i>July 1-7</i>
Sojourners (Grades 7/8):	<i>July 8-14</i>
Exodus (High School):	<i>July 15-21</i>
Genesis/Seekers (Grades 2/3):	<i>July 22-28</i>

Discoverers (Grades 4/5): *July 29-*
August 4