



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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November 16, 2007

Thanksgiving Sunday

This Thanksgiving Sunday, *November 18*, 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!

We will also bring forward and dedicate the 2008 pledges during worship, so be sure to bring yours! Shepherds: Please check with the members of your flock.



THANKSGIVING DINNER THIS SUNDAY

Those attending our all-church Thanksgiving dinner after worship this *Sunday, November 18*, 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

servicing. Turkey, stuffing, potatoes and gravy, and beverages 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.

Also, we need more servers to leave worship early on Sunday to put food on the tables, and four volunteers to take leftovers after the meal to Community Outreach, and the Winter Shelter, located at the corner of 27th and Taylor. Please call the church office if you can help!

THIS SUNDAY

November 18

Adult Forum: The second video from the Faces on Faith series will be the **Joan Chittister** one, which was announced for last week, but didn't arrive in time. Join us at 9:30 in the Meeting Hall.

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Philippians 4:4-9

Sermon: "My Thanksgiving
Table"
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

I sit in my house at 5:30 on Tuesday evening, still surprised at the darkness outside. It doesn't seem many months ago that the long summer evenings made 5:00 p.m. mid-afternoon instead of evening. There is soup simmering on the stove, and the last of this year's applesauce finally canned, cooling on the counter. My house looks and smells like fall.

For me, the abundance of autumn is not in just the last of summer's harvest stored away for winter, but in the return of quiet and inwardness. Summer's open windows and beckoning outdoor warmth move us to a voluntary or involuntary gregariousness. We see and hear our neighbors more, and greet seemingly all of Corvallis on the streets or at the Farmers' Market. The lengthening darkness of fall, in contrast, makes our homes islands of light and warmth, distinctly our own. These long nights are for reading, or for sharing companionship with family, close friends, those we particularly invite rather than all and sundry. I love the openness and spontaneity of summer, but enjoy as much the chosenness and deliberation of November. It's a time for taking stock; for what am I truly thankful this year?

This November finds me giving thanks for health and friends and work I love, for daughters turning into adults I like, and an elderly "schnoodle" (that would be ½ schnauzer, ½ poodle) named Katie who has recently adopted me. And, of course, four cats who allow me to share their home.

What are you thankful for this year? On these quiet dark evenings, where does your heart reflect that fills you with joy and abundance? This is the perfect time to pay attention, to put yourself in touch with gratitude and grace.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Liz

NEWSLETTER ALERT!!

Because of the post office's observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, we will be preparing the next newsletter a day early. Please submit your hard copy by **Monday** noon, *November 19*, for the *November 23* issue of *Congregational News*. E-mails may arrive any time Monday afternoon to be included. Thanks for your help.

Bell Choir Schedule

<i>November 18</i>	No bell practice
<i>November 25</i>	9:00-10:00 practice, Music Room
<i>December 2</i>	No bell practice in a.m.
<i>December 9</i>	9:30-10:00 practice, Library
<i>December 16</i>	Play for worship service



The Picture Scavenger Hunt that was postponed from last week will take place at 4:30 p.m. on *Sunday, November 18*. Please arrive promptly at 4:30 so that we can divide up into teams, get directions, and start the event. We will end the event with a pizza dinner and conclude by 7:00 p.m. Please bring \$3 to help defray the cost of pizza and feel free to bring a friend! Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

KIDS: CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BULLETINS ARE FOR YOU!

Each Sunday, on the small table by the narthex doors, children's worship bulletins are available for our children. Two versions, for two different age ranges, contain puzzles, drawing games, codes to decipher, etc., all based on the scripture reading for the day. Parents: please help your child find one to try. (Clipboards with crayons and blank paper are also there to help keep younger children interested during the service.)

THERE STILL IS TIME!

There still is time to submit your favorite words of poetry and/or prose to the Worship Committee for a booklet of inspirational words. The committee is hoping to include in this booklet some of our church member's favorite words: words that one can turn to time and time again.

We hope that this booklet of encouragement and spirituality will become a well-used resource for our members in search of a sense inner peace and tranquility.

So bring in a copy of that special poem -- one you have written or one penned by others (credit to the authors will be given), and let us share it with the congregation. You may submit the poem to the office or to one of the **Worship Committee** members: **Michael Henthorne, Pat Phillips, Patrick O'Dell, Monine Stebbins** or **Jerry Groesz**.

UPDATE YOUR ELECTRONIC GIVING

For those of you who use electronic withdrawal of your pledge we remind you that the current transactions expire on *December 31*. We need to be notified if you wish to continue using electronic withdrawal of your pledge at the current level or whether changes are needed. Your banking information remains on file with the company until we delete it, so we will use current information unless notified of a change.

Jim Cantey, Financial Secretary



Jeffrey Larkin, the newest, stellar tenor voice in our Sanctuary Choir, has leading roles in OSU's Opera Workshop. Performances, at 3:00 and 7:00 on *November 17*, are in Benton Hall.

TAKARAZUKA CHURCH NEWS

Takarazuka Church had a bazaar, following the Sunday service on October 28th. This has been an annual event on the last Sunday of October for many years. The bazaars have been used in the past years for repaying church bonds owned by church members, as well as for supporting charities. However, because we paid off all the bonds last year, our goal for this year's bazaar was to support other churches and charities in need of help.

There are five groups in our church, each of which has its own operation and objectives. They include Izumi Kai (Women's Fellowship), Tomoshihi Kai (Men's Fellowship), Mutsumi Kai (Senior's Fellowship), Aoba Kai (Young Adult's Fellowship), and the Church School. In addition to these, our church has also been involved in Motomeru Kai (a group seeking safe food and promoting organic produce) and Niji no Ie (a non-profit organization for the disabled). The bazaar was held by these groups.

There was a variety of food for lunch as well as many other items for sale, such as baked goods, crafts, used clothing, flowers, used books, baked sweet potatoes, Korean foods, toys, books for children, organic apples, and easy-to-care-for clothing for the elderly or disabled. The list goes on. In addition, quilted aroma pot holders from Oregon were sold. And there were fun games for children.

In spite of limited space, excellent management and many customers helped raise about \$6,000. We will make full use of this along with our Christmas offerings to support other churches and organizations nation-wide.

Kiyomi Tsukuda

(Pictures of the bazaar at Takarazuka Church are posted on the bulletin board.)



BUY HEIFER PROJECT ANIMALS AT ADVENT FESTIVAL

Alternative gifts from the Heifer Project will be available for sale again during the Advent Festival on *Sunday, December 2*. If you will not be at church on that day and want to order ahead of time, please contact **Nancy Klingeman**. There is a certificate honoring our gift of an Ark last year which is framed and hanging in the hallway near the bulletin boards.

GIFTS FOR A BETTER WORLD STORE IS GOING STRONG

If you've managed to miss checking out the Gifts For A Better World store, conveniently located in the upstairs portion of our C E wing, don't wait any longer. Beautiful, imaginative, creative items, hand-crafted by artisans from around the world, and specialty gifts from local non-profits, are going fast. These great gift items give three times: once to the lucky recipient on your list, a

second time to the item's maker who is paid a fair price; and the third time to local charities who receive the store's profits. Volunteers staff the operation and the space is donated, so overhead is very low.

New items are available this year, including Bushkins, which are "selling like hotcakes." Some old favorites are back, too, like Taylor Street Ovens.

CAMP FAIR OFFERS A TASTE OF BOY SCOUT EXPERIENCE

Cub Scouts and all boys interested in joining Boy Scouts should come to the Troop One Scout Fair, *Sunday, November 18, from 2:00-5:00 p.m.* at our church. There will be games, scouting skills to learn, and a chance to find out what Troop 1 will be doing in the coming year. To RSVP or for more information, contact **Frank Hall** (752-1303 or frank@entredigm.com) or **Don Milligan** (757-7756).

MANY WOMEN PARTICIPATED IN KAH NEE TA RETREAT

Corvallis was well represented at the recent Kah Nee Ta retreat. **Linda Hadfield** served as registrar while **Jo Anne Trow** and **Caroline Zaworski** were workshop leaders. Current church members who attended were: **Libby Ankarberg, Mary Bolton, Christine Cantey, Molly Chambers, Susan Cowles, Janice Engle, Gerry Gibson, Mari Goldner, Marsha Gulick, Nancy Henderlite, Karen Herold, Pat John-**

son, Kiko Kimura, Nancy Klingeman, Julie Maloney, Eleanor MacDonald, Betty Massoni, Karen Miller, Sandy Murphy, Susie Nelson, Dorothy Price, Monine Stebbins, Christine Storm, Beverly Whitmore, Nancy William, and Priscilla Zaworski. Also there were former members **Kathy Keniston, Gina and Dara Massoni, Shiela Osheroff, Thiel Larson, and Hulda Atwood's** granddaughter **Barbara Orsi.** Check with one of these women about the event highlights and plan to attend the Women's Fellowship program about the weekend.

STILL COLLECTING STAMPS AND LABELS

We are still collecting canceled postage stamps for "Care to Share" in Washington county. The "Labels for Education" now need only the UPC symbols from the can labels and not the entire label for supplies for the residential Crossroad School in Indiana which is related to the UCC. Many thanks to all the collectors who place these items in the second drawer of the nametag cabinet!



Congratulations to new grandparents **Mark and Ginnie Esary.** Their son **Garrett** and his partner **Carolynn Cooper** welcomed **Jack Danger Esary, 7 lb. 16 oz.,** to their family on Sunday, November 11 at 6:08 p.m..



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thanksgiving

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday, November 17

10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving dinner preparations

Thanksgiving Sunday, November 18

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
 (following) Children's Choir
 (following) **Thanksgiving dinner**
 4:30 p.m. Middle School and High School Youth photo scavenger hunt

Monday, November 19

Newsletter deadline
 5:30 p.m. Basketball
 7:00 p.m. C E Board, Conference Room

Tuesday, November 20

9:00 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 3:00 p.m. Stone Soup

7:00 p.m. Trustees Board, Library

7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Wednesday, November 21

5:30 p.m. 40+ Basketball

Thursday, November 22-Thanksgiving

Office closed

Friday, November 23

Office closed

7:30 p.m. Badminton



Our day for Stone Soup this month is *Tuesday, November 20*. There is still time this Sunday morning to sign up to help.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL SING, THEN EAT THIS SUNDAY

The Children's Choir will have a brief rehearsal in the Fireplace Room before the Thanksgiving dinner this Sunday, finishing in time for the singers to join their families for the meal.