



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVII, No. 15

April 11, 2008



INQUIRERS' CLASS TO BEGIN

Inquirers' Classes will be held this *Sunday, April 13*, and the following *Sunday, April 20*, following worship. Those interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ and our church in particular, are invited to bring their Soup 'n' Bread (yes, this Sunday is our monthly Soup and Bread lunch) and come to the Fireplace Room for this Sunday's class.

For those who may be contemplating membership, we will receive new members into the church during worship on *May 4*.

THE WONDERS OF OUR WEBSITE

First Congregational's website (www.ucc-corvallis.org) will now be listed in the newsletter's back page information box. The website, thanks to the folks at Caresource in Seattle, contains up-to-date information for visitors or church seekers. It's also a great resource for our members. Easily found on the site are past sermons and the current week's newsletter. There are also archives of several year's worth of past

newsletters, so, if you've lost yours or need information from a few weeks ago, look for it on our website.

PLAN NOW FOR THE FESTIVAL!

The fourth annual **Spring Arts & Crafts Festival** (formerly known as the Spring Fling Craft Faire) will be held on *Saturday, April 19*, from 10:00-5:00 at our church. We will have more than twenty vendors--some "old favorites" from previous years and some wonderful vendors new to the festival, such as **Jan**

[(continued on page 2)]

THIS SUNDAY

April 13

Adult Forum: Part 3 of the "From Jesus to Christ" series: The Apostle Paul, the First Followers, the Spread of Christianity, and the Jews and the Gentiles -- 9:30 in the Meeting Hall

Scriptures: Psalm 23
John 10:1-10

Sermon: "The Good News
of Being a Sheep"
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

It is good to be home and begin to pick up the threads of my "normal" life. I have told you all before how much I appreciate your support and flexibility. I hope you know how seriously I mean that. When I was in the hospital with Jessie over the past weeks, I met a woman who is not so fortunate. Her minor child was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer many months ago. She worked for a small business. Once she had exhausted all her official leave taking care of her child, she was let go, and when she lost her job, she also lost her health insurance. Because of the medical bills, she has had to empty her savings, sell her house, declare bankruptcy.

And so it goes with health insurance in America. Medical disaster is one of the major causes of sudden poverty and homelessness in this country. I've know this fact for a long time now, but suddenly I see particular faces when I contemplate the situation. I can't get this one woman and others like her out of my head. I now know firsthand that it's difficult under the best of circumstances to live with a life-threatening illness; I can't imagine how you do it when all else in your life is threatened at the same time. I don't take for granted even for a minute that Jessie has good insurance and a compassionate employer. Nor do I take for granted your kindness to me.

And I want to celebrate here the good work that Mike Huntington and so many others are doing in trying to change our health care system, a non-system really, rife with contradiction and inequality. Serious illness is a problem that cuts across all lines of race, class, and deserving. We can and must do better dealing with it as a society. We owe it to ourselves, to our children, and to everyone else's children.

God bless you all.

Liz

ARTS, CRAFTS FESTIVAL *from p. 1 Roberts-Dominguez.* You will find a wide selection of arts and crafts: art prints, cards, jewelry, felting, fiber art, fused glass, handbags, lap desks, paper crafts, photography, pottery, quilting, and more. What a wonderful opportunity to purchase beautiful gifts and cards for birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduation, teacher appreciation, thank-you's, weddings, or even a little some-

thing just for you! **A portion of the proceeds goes to support the youth programs at the church.**

A number of items donated by other local artists will be raffled off during the festival. There will also be free children's activities, so if you'd like to bring your children or grandchildren, please feel free to do so. Beverages, snack food, and lunch food will be available for a donation.



**UNITED
CAMPUS
MINISTRY
AT OSU**

Welcome to Spring Term! WestM (United Campus Ministry at Westminster House), your UCC campus ministry for students at OSU and LBCC, has several upcoming events for community building, service, spiritual growth, and play. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us! If you need more information, please contact Rev. **Leah McCullough** at rev-leah@comcast.net.

**Student Gathering
Every Wednesday, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

Students gather weekly for a free meal followed by a time of fellowship, study, singing, and prayer. This quarter we'll be sharing our faith stories using images and truths from various forms of media, literature, scripture, and art that have informed and formed our spiritual journeys.

**Women's Spirituality Circle
Tuesdays in April, 7:00 -
8:30 p.m., at Westminster House**

This group is for individuals who seek ever more deeply to live an authentic life, to connect with humanity and creation, and to encounter the Sacred. We gather to share our stories and to support one another on our journeys of meaning-making and transformation. Because this group is organic with a growing shared leadership, both content and pedagogy vary based on the gifts of

the members. Through the use of a common book, or music, art, silence, reflection, journaling, listening and ritual, we walk with one another on our paths of becoming.

**University Learning Community
Wednesdays, Noon – 1:00 p.m.**

A conversation group, centered around the book, *Moral Man, Immoral Society: A Study of Ethics and Politics* by Reinhold Niebuhr, that will nurture and challenge the spirit. (Feel free to bring your lunch.)

**Reel to Real
Friday, April 11, 8:00 p.m.**

Together we view a popular film, *Into the Wild*, and share conversation seeking out the images of faith and/or spiritual truth it holds for us (“nutritainment”).

**Prayers for the Journey:
An Evening of Contemplative Prayer
Monday, April 14, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.**

Just as we need food for our physical bodies, so too we need spiritual sustenance for our souls. Join us in this space that is set apart for you to be still and to listen to your heart, reflect on your journey, and attune to the Sacred. You are invited to just sit, be, and contemplate, or to engage experientially in prayer stations through art, writing, music, lighting candles, and movement. Choose your own pace, engage in the stations of your choice and stay as long as you like.

**Habitat for Humanity Work Day -
Saturday, April 19,
7:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

We'll be hanging dry wall in the Albany Habitat House. Lunch will be provided. Sign up by *Wednesday, April 16*.



Middle and High School youth are invited to gather on *Sunday, April 13*, for youth groups at 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. Please wear or bring shoes that will allow for outdoor walking/running as we will be exploring the outdoors for worship/prayer inspiration and playing outdoor games if the weather permits. See you on Sunday and remember that friends are always welcome at youth group!

DESSERT AUCTION BENEFITS AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

Mark your calendar for the **Relay for Life Dessert Auction**, to be held after church on *Sunday, April 27*. Bring your appetite and your checkbook to support the American Cancer Society. Our team--the UCC Young and the Rest of Us--will be baking and walking to fight cancer.

How else can you help? Please consider offering your cooking or baking skills to supply an item for the auction. You can bring an item that Sunday...or you can offer to bake something in the future for the lucky winner (for example--a pie a month for 6 months, a birthday cake on that special day, cookies for the last day of school, etc.).

If you are interested in helping out in this way, please let us know so we can plan for your contribution. Please contact **Kim Thackray** (758-8542 or thackray_family@yahoo.com). Thanks!

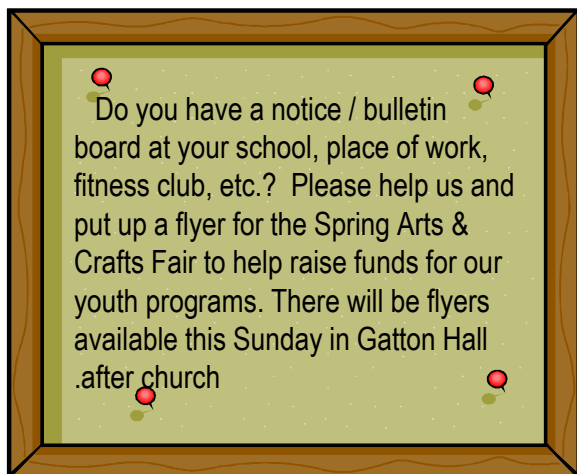
AND FOR MORE BAKING AND EATING OPPORTUNITIES--

The Relay for Life teams will be having a **Bake Sale** after church on *May 11* (Mother's Day). If you are interested in supplying goodies for this event, please contact **Kim Thackray** or any other team member. Thanks for your help!

RELAY FOR LIFE WITH "THE YOUNG AND THE REST OF US"

Our Relay For Life Team is still looking for members to walk with us on *Friday, May 16*. We will have two campsites close together; one for "Young" and one for "The Rest of Us." The high school youth will stay all night and the middle school youth will walk until 11:00 p.m. "The Rest of Us" will choose how long we stay based on what's best for each of us. We start around 5:00 p.m. and stop walking around 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

Our favorite masseuse (**Gail Gustafson, Ginny Lucker's** sister) has agreed to join us and lend us her hands again! If you can't walk with us that night, please plan to join us for our Dessert Auction [*see left*] and help out with our Mother's Day Bake Sale. Call **Molly Chambers** (754-5824) with questions and/or contributions.



HOLOCAUST LITERATURE FOR YOUTH LECTURE

"Lest We Forget--1939-1945," a presentation of Holocaust literature for Young Readers, by FCC member and former OSU Children's Literature instructor **Marthanne Norgren**, is set for *Saturday, April 12, at 10:00 a.m.* in the main meeting room of the Corvallis Library. The talk is open to the public.

With its beginnings in the 1970s, a vast literature dealing with the Holocaust has been created for early teens and older youth. Marthanne insists that this period in history not be forgotten and adults need to impress on our youth that it can happen here, and it has.

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR DARFUR

There will be a benefit concert called "Notes for Goats" on *Saturday, April 19*, from 2:00-4:00 at the First Presbyterian Church (8th and Monroe). It is a family-friendly event with acts including the Steve Matthes Jazz Quartet, the Aviators,

and Tatiana Hargreaves. Proceeds benefit Kids for Kids, an organization which helps villages in Darfur, Sudan become viable and sustainable.

READ & FEED MEETS

The second evening of discussion of Nelson Mandela's *Long Walk to Freedom* will be hosted by **Bob and Monine Stebbins** at 7:00 on *Sunday, April 13*.

INTERCAMBIO INTERNACIONAL DE ESTUDIANTES

We are looking for host families willing and eager to share their homes, their love and understanding with a young child. Intercambio is a short-term student exchange program that is in need of host families for boys and girls, ages 11-17, coming from Mexico this summer. Students arrive on *June 21*, and *July 5*, for a six or eight-week stay. Host families provide room, board, love, and a boy or girl **of the same age**. If you would like a rewarding and educational experience for your family this summer, please call for more information: 1-800-437-4170. Please help us to promote peace 'One Friendship at a Time.' "



Congratulations to **Mary and Luther** and **Isaac MacLean** on the birth of daughter/sister **Kellyn McKenzie**, on April 7, at 9 lbs. 1 oz. Also celebrating are grandmother **Lynn Lahey** and great-grandmother **Welcome Lahey**.



Congregational News (USPS 128-820)
PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT CORVALLIS OR
Postmaster: Send address changes to:
Congregational News, 4515 SW West Hills Rd.
Corvallis OR 97333-3825. Published weekly
except twice a month in July and August by
First Congregational United Church of Christ

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Office Phone: 757-8122
Facilities Coordinator: 753-2106



Susan Wickes, Editor: 754-0117
e-mail: sbwickes@comcast.net
Website: www.ucc-corvallis.org

Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, April 15.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, April 13

- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
9:15 a.m. Church School, Room 5
9:30 a.m. Adult Forum
10:30 a.m. Worship
Noon Soup 'n' Bread
Noon Inquirers' Class,
Fireplace Room
5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
6:30 p.m. High School Youth
7:00 p.m. Read & Feed, Stebbins

Monday, April 14

- 7:30 p.m. Badminton

Tuesday, April 15

- 8:30 a.m. Staff
Noon Lectionary class
3:00 p.m. Stone Soup
7:00 p.m. Trustees Board
7:30 p.m. Spirit Quest
7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Wednesday, April 16

- 7:00 p.m. EMF Board
7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, April 17

- 11:45 a.m. Lunch Group
5:30 p.m. Church Basketball
7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

SYMPHONY, CHOIRS PERFORM

On *Tuesday, April 15*, the Corvallis-OSU Symphony Orchestra presents Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* with the OSU Chamber Choir and the Corvallis Repertory Singers. **Steven Zielke** conducts.

The 7:30 p.m. performance is at the LaSells Stewart Center. Tickets (\$30, \$24, \$12) are available at TixRUs.com the usual places around town, and the box office, if any remain.

SIGN UPS FOR HOLY SOX CONTINUE

If you haven't had a chance yet to add your name to the team roster, you can do it this Sunday. Practices will be weekly. Games are on Sunday afternoon or evening starting *May 11*.