



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVII, No. 38

October 24, 2008



This year's Stewardship Campaign is well underway. Thirty-nine members have already agreed to be stewards, captains, or workers.

The work is easy and fun. The worker phones ahead for a convenient time and then visits each of three church members who have been assigned to him or her. The purpose of the visit is two-fold: to deliver and pick up the pledge card, and enjoy a visit with a church member you might not otherwise have the opportunity to know.

We need twelve more workers. If one of your fellow church members calls this week to ask if you would be willing to be a worker, please say yes. There will be a gastronomically-rewarding training session in the next two weeks at which time workers will learn more about how to make these visits.

**Mike Huntington**

**Mike McNally**

Co-chairs of the Stewardship Committee

## TIME FOR CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Rehearsals are beginning for our Children's Choir to prepare, primarily,

for the Christmas pageant (December 24 at the 5:30 worship service).



Kids in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to come and learn the songs, under the direction of **Kristin Rorrer** -- even if they won't be here for Christmas Eve. Just have fun and sing!

Practice starts right after worship in the Music Room each week beginning November 2 (except November 30). Rehearsals will last about thirty minutes.

## THIS SUNDAY

*October 26*

**Adult Forum:** Martin Luther is the focus of this week's program, led by **Charles Helsabeck**. Join us at 9:30 a.m. in the Meeting Hall.

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 34:1-12  
Matthew 22:34-46

**Sermon:** "The Future  
We Cannot See"  
Elizabeth Oettinger

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK***Ryan Lambert*

Dear Friends,

This weekend we are hosting the Fall Gathering of the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ. Many of you are involved in the logistical tasks that are necessary to make such an event happen. Similarly, many of you will be present for business sessions, worship services, or the installation of the new Conference Minister, all of which are important pieces of this event. However, while all of these are important I wanted to use this space to again remind you of our unique church polity that makes this event both necessary to and informative for the work of the Central Pacific Conference.

Most of you know that the denomination that is based in covenant rather than contract. This structure reminds us of the many covenants that have been authored between humankind and God across history. I believe our structure holds us to a uniquely high theological standard because in all we do you are called not just to think of our own congregation, but also to consider our role in both the conference setting and also within the wider church. In theory this is a beautiful and faithful structure, but in practice it is often messy and it often requires a lot of meetings and a lot of structural machinations.



United Church of Christ is a covenant rather than contract. This structure reminds us of the many covenants that have been authored between humankind and God across history. I believe our structure holds us to a uniquely high theological standard because in all we do you are called not just to think of our own congregation, but also to consider our role in both the conference setting and also within the wider church. In theory this is a beautiful and faithful structure, but in practice it is often messy and it often requires a lot of meetings and a lot of structural machinations.

For instance, because we are held together by covenant it means that this Fall Gathering is necessary to conduct the business of the conference in a faithful and covenantal way. Together, after people have traveled to Corvallis we will look at conference budget issues, we will make governance decisions, and together as representatives from across the conference we will install Walter John Boris as our new Conference Minister. Our gathering will take a lot of time, and at times our process will probably seem difficult to navigate. However, amid the mess we will be connecting our church to churches across the conference; we will be interacting with the body of Christ in budget conversations, in worship, during meals, and undoubtedly in laughter. Amid the messiness of our structure we will witness God in our midst and in one another and we will be reminded of how important relationships are to living our faith.

I hope you are planning to join us at least for part of Fall Gathering. Even if you haven't registered drop by to see the church as it is expressed in the Central Pacific Conference. Come for the beautiful mess! Come for the joy!

Blessings,

**Ryan**



Thank you to all the youth who came out to help with the car wash last Sunday morning! Your work and the congregations generosity meant that we raised \$637 for the Daytime Drop-In Center. Thanks also to **Aleita Hass-Holcombe**, **Ted McCann**, and **Larry Thornton** for all your help! Finally, thanks to **Kyle Thackray** for helping out while he was home from college for the weekend!

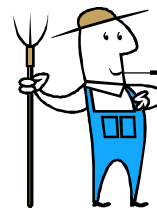
This week for youth group we will be carving pumpkins at the church. Please bring a pumpkin and carving tools to youth group on Sunday. Middle School will meet at 5:00 p.m. and High School will gather at 6:30. See you there!

***Christian Education***  
***Board hosts***  
**DÍA DE LOS**  
**MUERTOS EVENT**  
**ON NOVEMBER 1**



While many Christians celebrate All Saints Day on November 1, in Mexico families celebrate Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) as a way of remembering those who have died. This year the CE Board is hosting an intergenerational Día de los Muertos event beginning at 5:00 p.m. on *November 1*. The event will be focused as a child and family friendly gathering where all are welcome to come eat, explore the meaning of Día de los Muertos, and celebrate special people in our lives who have died.

The CE Board will be serving tamales as part of the meal, but families are invited to share a side dish that was important to a family member who has died (e.g., Grandpa's string bean dish, etc.). Please bring a note card with an explanation of the dish and a note about who it comes from. Also, as a family project we will create ceremonial altars akin to those made by Mexican families. Please bring pictures, mementos, poems, etc that evoke memories of your loved one. Finally, please sign up this week after church so we can make sure we have enough tamales. To ask questions, or to sign up, please call or e-mail **Ryan**.



**THAT'S MY FARMER**  
**UPDATE AND MORE**

On Saturday, October 18, there was a lovely fall breakfast at Gathering Together Farm to celebrate this season's "That's My Farmer" accomplishments. November promises two more events that supporters of this program will want to put on their calendars.

The major TMF fundraiser date has been set. The event will be held on *Sunday, November 16*, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at our church. The Holiday Pie Party includes presenters on local and statewide food security and then networking with all the people working to alleviate hunger in our area.

Also please consider supporting Linn-Benton Food Share's Fall fund-

raiser, the Magic Barrel. The reading from local writers takes place the evening of *November 7* at the Majestic Theater. Admission is \$7 at the door. <http://www.magicbarrel.org/>

Don't forget, attend the Saturday and Wednesday markets. Use your coupons on our valley's wonderful fall harvest. If you need more coupons, see **Aleita**.

### VOICES FROM THE WEST BANK

Local human rights activist **Joshua Hough** shares two years of volunteer experience in the West Bank through dramatic reading, photos and discussion on *Sunday, October 26*, from 3:00-4:30 p.m. in the Martha Room of the First United Methodist Church, 11<sup>th</sup> and Monroe, Corvallis (enter on 11<sup>th</sup> St.). The program is titled "Who Brings the Darkness? Voices from Inside the Storm of Occupation, Resistance and Terrorism in Israel/Palestine"

Joshua worked with Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) in the South Hebron Hills (in an area where Israeli settlers regularly intimidate and harass Palestinians), accompanying Palestinian children to and from school, and shepherds and farmers to their fields. CPTers work alongside Israeli peace activists replanting olive groves destroyed by settlers, nonviolently resisting construction of the "security wall," and protecting Palestinian families from harassment.

Sponsored by Corvallis-Albany Friends of Middle East Peace, this event is free and open to the public. For more

information, call 766-8229 or e-mail [valori@peak.org](mailto:valori@peak.org).

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP TO MEET

Please mark your calendars for the *November 5* Women's Fellowship meeting which will feature **Alice Mills Morrow** discussing the activities of **Vina Moses Center**. She is a past president of that group and still a member of their board of directors. Sign up this Sunday to reserve a spot for lunch which begins at noon. The luncheon price is \$5. The program starts at 1:00 p.m.

This Sunday afternoon, *October 26*, at 3:00 at First Presbyterian, our own **Steve Zielke** conducts Handel's *Alexander's Feast*, with chamber orchestra, harpsichord, and organ. It's a riotous party held by Alexander the Great and his consort Thais to celebrate his final triumph over the Persians-- nearly as popular in Handel's time as *Messiah*.

Performers, the newly-formed **Corvallis Repertory Chamber Singers**, include the familiar voices of **Barb Clauson**, **Betty Busch**, **Virginia Stockwell**, and **Adam Grieve**, and others who have sometimes sung in our services: **Pete Butler**, **Karen Drouhard**, **Gale Hazel**, and **Jerry Bowman**. Adults \$15, students of all ages free with ID.



## PFLAG TO MEET IN ALBANY

This month Parents and Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Transgendered People will be meeting in Albany [please note change] to encourage anyone to come who might live in that area and has a hard time coming to Corvallis. You do not need to be a member; all people, gay or straight, are welcome to come and visit/share on *Monday, October 27*, at 6:45 p.m. at Ray's Food Place (Community Room), 621 NW Hickory St., in North Albany.

We try to make everyone feel comfortable and want parents especially to know that learning to accept that your son or daughter is gay can be a process with many different feelings along the way, as it is for someone in the "coming out" process. The group is there to listen and support you! We will not be having any speakers this month so we will just be visiting with each other.

Future events: Our Holiday Potluck will be *December 8* at the First United Methodist Church, Corvallis. More details later.

**Our thanks for the wonderful food provided for us during Kristin's absence.**

**The Rorrer Family**

## WOMEN'S CAMP REPORT

Eleven women from our congregation attended the Central Pacific Conference's Women's retreat at Camp Adams

last weekend to learn how "God is Still Giving." Ask **Mary Hall, Pat Johnson, Nancy Klingeman, Eleanor MacDonald, Joan Pelto, Dorothy Price, Monine Stebbins, Bev Whitmore, Nancy William, Caroline Zaworski**, or **Priscilla Zaworski** to find out details of the weekend. Thanks to **Caroline Zaworski**, who was the camp nurse, and **Nancy William**, who played the piano!

*My gratitude for the outpouring of warmth and concern from so many in the congregation on the loss of Larry. I do cherish my church family.*

*Kathie Merriam*

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mike McNally 11/1,  
Cathy Phelps 11/4, Ginnie Esary 11/6, Arne Larson 11/6, Tammy Skubinna 11/9, Rowland French 11/13, Katie Richmond 11/13, Jan Thornton 11/15, Kathy Hall 11/15, Jean Adams 11/16, Claire Goldner 11/16, Mark Thackray 11/16, Joan Caldwell 11/25, Tim Thornton 11/25, Jordan Rogers 11/26, Susan Piasias 11/29, Colin Frojen-Andersson 11/29, Rick Nafshun 11/30



## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

John and Sandy Murphy 11/24 (37<sup>th</sup>)  
Caroline Zaworski and Charles Helsabeck 11/25 (2<sup>nd</sup>)



**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, October 28.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Friday, October 24*  
**CPC Fall Gathering**

*Saturday, October 25*  
**CPC Fall Gathering**

*Sunday, October 26*  
 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir  
 9:30 a.m. Church School  
 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum  
 10:30 a.m. Worship  
 3:00 p.m. Corvallis Repertory  
           Chamber Singers  
           [see page 4]  
 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth  
 6:30 p.m. High School Youth

*Monday, October 27*  
 6:45 p.m. PFLAG,  
           Ray's Place, Albany  
           [see page 5]

*Tuesday, October 28*  
 8:30 a.m. Staff  
 Noon     Lectionary class  
 7:15 p.m. Church Council  
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

*Wednesday, October 29*  
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

*Friday, October 31*  
 7:30 p.m. Badminton

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

*November 2:* All Saints Sunday  
 (Daylight Saving Time ends)  
*November 9:* Stewardship Sunday  
*November 23:* Thanksgiving Sunday  
*November 30:* Advent Festival  
*Saturday, December 13:* Hanging  
 of the Greens

To believe in one's own priesthood is  
 to see the extraordinary dimensions of an  
 ordinary life, to see the hand of God at  
 work in the world, and to see one's own  
 hands as necessary to that work.

Barbara Brown Taylor