



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

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March 20, 2009

## EASTER SIGN-UPS

If you haven't had the chance to sign up for your Easter Breakfast role, there will be another opportunity this Sunday.



Choose between:

- Making casseroles
- Bringing breads
- Saturday morning set-up and juice-making
- Sunday a.m. kitchen help (beginning at 8:00 a.m.; in two shifts)
- Sunday clean-up (this takes place during the 11 a.m. worship service)

Easter Vigil sign-ups also continue. Plan to take an hour to meditate in the sanctuary between 9:00 on Good Friday and 6:00 Easter morning. We need at least one person for each hour of the 33-hour vigil. More than one person is welcome at any of the hour times.

## SAMPLES OF "THE FAITH WE SING" HYMNAL AVAILABLE

Prior to purchasing our new supplemental hymnal, "The Faith We Sing," we were given a number of sample copies as a "try-out." We have approximately 65 copies available for anyone

who would like to have one. They will be on the name tag cabinet this Sunday for pick-up.



## COMPOSTING IS CARING FOR CREATION

Check out the Caring for Creation bulletin board in the entry hallway for a display about composting. Composting is among the most earth-friendly things we can do and it is actually easier than most people think. **Jan Thornton** put together the information on the bulletin board and included some take home instructions. Check it out!

## THIS SUNDAY

*March 22*

**Adult Forum:** **Ryan Lambert** will led this third session on the Emerging Church. A short film ("Nooma") will help fuel the discussion.

**Scriptures:** Numbers 21:4-9  
John 3:14-21

**Sermon:** "Biblical Grown-Ups"  
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, the Rev. John H. Thomas currently serves the United Church of Christ as our General Minister and President from our national offices in Cleveland, Ohio. Rev. Thomas has held this position since 1999 and has served as an incredible leader of United Church of Christ. His tenure included the exciting launch of the "Still Speaking" Initiative and the increased visibility it brought our denomination, the 2005 vote by General Synod in favor of marriage equality, and the ongoing challenges of declining membership that are facing mainline denominations like ours. Through all of this we have been blessed by the leadership of Rev. Thomas and our denomination is stronger because of his tenure.

I offer this background because the United Church of Christ recently announced the candidate who is being nominated to be Rev. Thomas's successor, which is information that all UCC members should know about. The candidate is the Rev. Geoffrey Black, who has led the UCC's New York conference for nearly a decade.

The UCC's press release about the Rev. Black's nomination includes this information:

Black was previously a program staff member in the UCC's Office for Church Life and Leadership. During his career he has served as assistant chaplain at Brown University, associate minister at St. Albans (N.Y.) Congregational UCC, pastor of Congregational UCC of South Hempstead (N.Y.), lecturer in the Field Education Department of Union Theological Seminary in New York and protestant chaplain at Adelphi University. Black currently is a member of the board of trustees of Lancaster Theological Seminary.

"The phrase 'servant leadership' encapsulates his understanding and practice of leadership. Leadership, in his view, is about serving God and God's people," said the Rev. Jim Moos, pastor of Bismarck (N.D.) UCC and chair of the UCC's Executive Council. "He does not believe that leadership is the exclusive purview of a single person, but the shared responsibility of the many."

Ecumenical commitment, concern for equal justice, African-American empowerment and community improvement have shaped Black's ministry in the church and the communities in which he has lived. He has worked the Nassau Coalition for Safety and Justice, the Long Island Interracial Alliance for a Common Future, and the Amistad Cultural Center of Long Island, which he co-founded, and Caring Communities of Shaker Heights, Ohio.

At June's General Synod, which will meet in Grand Rapids, the delegates will vote on the nomination of Rev. Black and he will begin his new position shortly

thereafter. I look forward to his formal introduction in Grand Rapids. You will find more information about Rev. Black and his nomination at [ucc.org](http://ucc.org)—our denominational website. If you have questions about Rev. Black or the process of naming/approving a new General Minister and President, please feel free to ask me.

Blessings,

**Ryan**



The youth groups will not be meeting this week due to Spring Break. We will return to “regularly scheduled programming” on *Sunday, March 29!* Have a great break!

#### **EASTER BOOKS ON DISPLAY**

Books about Easter and Lent for both adults and children are currently on display in the church library. Please come in and have a look at our collection!



There will be Stone Soup sign-ups again this Sunday for *Tuesday, March 31*. Experienced workers and first-timers are welcome to join the crew.

#### **WOMEN TO LEARN ABOUT DIVERSITY**

The Women’s Fellowship meeting on *Wednesday, April 1*, will focus on “The Ethics of Diversity” with Prof. **Lani Roberts** from OSU. She teaches “Diversity” classes on campus for the Philosophy department.

Please sign up for the luncheon on Sunday or call the church office to reserve your space. Lunch costs \$5 and begins at noon in Gatton Hall. The program will follow at 1:00 p.m. All women (and men, too) are welcome to attend.

#### **INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE AT OSU OPEN TO PUBLIC**

The International Health Program and International Health Club of OSU are organizing the Inaugural International Health Conference, the first of its kind in both OSU and Corvallis, on *May 16 (Saturday, all day)* and *17 (Sunday, morning)* on the OSU campus. The main theme for this conference is “Toward Equitable Health Development.”

This one-and-half-day event includes a keynote speech, oral presentations on international health topics, poster presentations, photo presentations, panel discussions, and workshops. Registration is free and is open to the public, but there is a capacity limit. If you are interested in participating in this conference, or presenting a poster or photo relating to international health work, projects or research, please contact **Chunhuei Chi** at [chunhuei.chi@oregonstate.edu](mailto:chunhuei.chi@oregonstate.edu).



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, March 24.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

*Friday, March 20*

7:30 p.m. Badminton

*Sunday, March 22*

9:30 a.m. Christian Education

10:30 a.m. Worship

*Monday, March 23 - Spring Break*

9:00 a.m. Staff

*Tuesday, March 24*

Noon Lectionary class

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

7:15 p.m. Church Council

*Wednesday, March 25*

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Group

5:30 p.m. Lenten supper

6:10 p.m. Child care available

6:15 p.m. Lenten worship

6:45 p.m. Lenten classes

**NO** Sanctuary Choir

*Thursday, March 26*

11:00 a.m. Spirituality Group

*Friday, March 27*

7:30 p.m. Badminton

## ECO-FUN, ANYONE?

Come join our beach clean-up crew next *Saturday, March 28*. Carpoolers will meet at 8:30 at church that morning. Help beautify our beach from 10:00 to noon, and enjoy fellowship and lunch (bring a sack one) with the rest of the church group. SOLV will supply garbage bags and gloves, so you only need to bring your willing hands.

## Our Thoughts and Prayers

...are with **Jane Capizzi's** daughter **Elizabeth**, who is nearing the end of her chemo regimen.

On behalf of the UCC Justice & Witness Ministries, I would like to thank you for your support of justice issues in the United Church of Christ through your generous giving to Neighbors in Need. Please extend my appreciation to the entire congregation.

Blessings, Mike Rowe