



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVIII, No. 17

April 24, 2009

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, May 3

Dessert at 6:30; meeting at 7:00
A "brownie bake-off" will provide our
dessert before the meeting.



This Sunday morning, April 26, the youth groups will be washing cars as a fundraiser for our church's Guatemala Pilgrimage trip. They will start at 8:45 and finish when the cars are clean!

Please look for youth handing out car wash tickets as you enter the parking lot on Sunday. If you would like your car washed, please leave your keys and the ticket on the dash and when you return to the parking lot after worship you will have a newly cleaned car! A donation jar will be located near the Gatton Hall entry! See you on Sunday—we'll be the ones with the sponges and towels!

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

The **Christian Education Board** is sponsoring a Family Game Night this *Friday night, April 24,* from 6:30 to

8:00. This low-key "everyone is invited" night will feature both active and quiet games. If the weather allows we will play kick-ball and other games on the front lawn, or we will play indoor games if the rains return. Bring favorite games and a finger dessert item to share. See you Friday! Questions? Contact **Ryan** or **Molly** at the church or via e-mail.

UCC NEWS ENDS PRINT EDITION

The *United Church News* will end its newsprint edition later this year and move its delivery of denominational
[continued on page 2]

THIS SUNDAY

April 26

Adult Forum: **Charles Helsabeck** will lead a session using the "Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum for adults. This is the lectionary-based curriculum that is used in all our CE classrooms.

Scriptures: Job 12:7-10
John 1:1-5

Sermon: "An Altar in the World"
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

I am a General Synod delegate! When the Conference Nominating Committee asked me to be an alternate delegate a few years ago, I said, "Sure." "Sure" because I was sure that this was a nothing assignment. Alternate delegates very, very--did I say very--rarely get called on. So imagine my surprise when Debbie at the Conference office called me a few weeks ago and asked me if I could fill the slot. I wasn't planning to go to Synod this year. But now I get to go and even vote.

General Synod will be in Grand Rapids, Michigan this year from June 26-July 1. As always, the group of speakers is fascinating: Krista Tippett from NPR's "Speaking of Faith"; Jim Wallis; my favorite preacher, Barbara Brown Taylor; and a dozen others. There are resolutions to consider from universal single-payer health care to environmental justice, to concern about the world food crisis and our part in it. We will be electing a new President and General Minister, a successor to John Thomas who has served the UCC for years now with intelligence, passion, and deep faith.

I'm excited for this opportunity. I've been a visitor at Synod often, but never a voting delegate. Several other members of the congregation will also be attending this year as visitors. It's something every church member should do at least once. Someone once told me that Synod is a cross between a family reunion, a tent revival, and a political convention. Hmmmm... It's closer to the truth than you might imagine!

You'll hear more about General Synod when we report back, but for this week I just wanted to share my excitement about going as a "real" delegate, seated "within the bar of the house" and everything.

God bless you all.

Liz

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news online. This decision by the Office of General Ministries relates to postage and printing costs doubling during the past five years, to over \$125, 000 per issue. The National edition will publish three more monthly issues in April, June and September.

Check out the full story at: <http://www.ucc.org/news/united-church-news-to-cease.html>.

COPIES OF FORMER MINISTER'S ARTICLE AVAILABLE

"Living by the Word," an article by our former Associate Minister **Cindy Lindner** appears in *The Christian Century* of April 21. Copies of the article are available on the name tag cabinet.

Cindy is currently director of Ministry Studies and teaches preaching and pastoral care at the University of Chicago Divinity School.

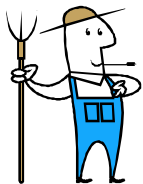


The youth groups will gather this **SUNDAY MORNING AT 8:45** for a Youth

Car Wash that will benefit July's Guatemala Pilgrimage trip. Rain or shine, please meet in the parking lot with any car wash towels that you can help supply. We will work until the cars are done which should be sometime around noon. Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

Kidco Head Start invites you to read their informational poster in our entry hallway. Kidco Headstart occupies Room 2, 3, and 4 in the CE Wing and they welcome visitors and volunteers for various activities. You can: help in the classroom, read to children, assist with fundraising, or work with their board of directors. Contact the Head Start staff or **Sue Tangeman**, the Site Supervisor, for more information!



THAT'S MY FARMER! KICKS OFF 2009 WITH 17 FARMS

That's My Farmer! started with just two farms and one faith community four years ago. Now, parishioners from the 9 participating faith communities can choose from 17 farms' diverse products from bacon to bok choi and fresh honey to honeydew melons.

This year we are starting off the year by giving away 50 low-income coupon booklets, funded by unredeemed coupons from last year. The South Corvallis Food Bank, St. Vincent de Paul and Love INC will receive coupons to give away. As need has climbed in the recent months of recession, That's My Farmer! is a unique approach to providing food for families with limited resources.

That's My Farmer! coupons come in booklets with \$18 worth of coupons. You pay \$20 and the \$2 donation goes toward donating That's My Farmer! coupons at food pantries and other low-income service providers.

The coupons can be used with participating farmers at the Corvallis Farmers' Market, Saturdays 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Wednesdays 3:00-7:00 p.m. The Saturday market is on the north end of the Willamette Riverfront. The Wednesday market has also moved downtown, to the intersection of 2nd and B Sts. Visit after work to pick up fresh, local goodies!

FIBERART FEATURED AT WOMEN'S ANNUAL MEETING

Mary Maxwell from Portland will present a trunk showing of her fiberart collection from around the world called "Every Stitch Tells a Story" at the Central Pacific Women's Annual Meeting in Eugene on *Thursday, April 30*. Registration begins at First Congregational UCC in Eugene at 11:30 with lunch served at noon. The price is \$10. Three women

chosen to represent our conference at General Synod will be honored during the gathering. A worship service will be led by women from Vancouver's First Congregational UCC. Carpools from Corvallis will be arranged for local women who wish to attend. Contact **Nancy Klingeman** (753-3350) to make your reservation and be included in transportation plans.

ALICE MORROW HONORED

Last Sunday **Alice Mills Morrow** was honored during the "celebrations" time in worship. She was nominated by our Women's Fellowship board members to "Celebrate the Gifts of Laywomen" for her many activities and leadership in the community as well as in our congregation.

TAKARAZUKA CHURCH NEWS

Dear friends at
First Congregational UCC in Corvallis:

In Japan, the new school year begins in April. Students get promoted to the next level classes or schools, accompanied with many changes. Those students accepted by the school of their first choice have happy April, while those who didn't make their first choice have a sad April.

On the day for an entrance ceremony, storms of falling cherry blossoms welcome the students. You can imagine students in their new school uniforms, bounded with new expectations, march-

ing under the arch of cherry blossoms. There are many cherry blossom arches in Takarazuka, and we enjoy streets and landscapes tinted with sheer pink.

Though I love cherry blossoms, they also remind me, somewhere in my mind, of the war of sixty some years ago. Please forgive me for thinking of my personal memory.

I was born in December, 1941, the year of the outbreak of the WW II. I don't remember the moment when my father left for the war. Maybe my mother told me about him every day, showing me his pictures. I have heard that, after the war was over, it was my daily custom to wait for my father on the balcony, expecting his returning home. My mother has often told me that I ran out of our house, saying "Daddy has come back," whenever I saw a soldier going home, and gave him a hug.

Stories similar to mine may not be limited in Japan. I believe that children all over the world had similar experience. Killing someone for your country is not considered a crime in the war. In Japanese movie scenes of sending off soldiers to battle fronts, symbolic cherry blossoms were always used. Such movie scenes seem to have connected my memory to cherry blossoms. Everyone will have his/her own different thoughts on the pictures of cherry blossoms in Japan I have attached.

Etsuko Omori

(Please see the picture on the bulletin board.)

READ & FEED MEETS TO WATCH & FEED

As a follow-up to the discussion of *Stubborn Twig*, we will gather at the home of **Susan** and **Bill Wickes** on *Sunday evening, April 26*, at 7:00 to view "A Family Gathering," the film about the Yasui family mentioned in the book.

PLEASE RETURN EASTER BASKETS, VASES

If you took a flower basket arrangement (in green plastic container) or vase after the Easter services, please return the containers and vases to the church office so they can be used next year. The green plastic holders are marked with the church's name, the vases are not. Thank you.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FOLLOW-UP

At the April Women's Fellowship meeting, guest speaker **Lani Roberts** mentioned a supplemental reading list that she would make available. Contact **Nancy Klingeman** if you are interested in this list for further reading on the ethics of diversity. Nancy also has the website for **Peg Mayo's** new on-line blog.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

John Hawkins 5/2, Ellie Erkkila 5/4, Christine Cantey 5/7, Rachel Pearce-Smith 5/10, Ginny Lucker 5/11, Susie Nelson 5/13, Sheila Schweizer 5/13, Charlene

Hunter 5/14, Larry Thornton 5/14, Marj Elwood 5/15, Bettie Muckleston 5/15, Jean James 5/16, Maryann Som 5/16, Ginny White 5/17, Mike Schweizer 5/17, Liz Oettinger 5/18, Jacqueline Smith 5/19, Ruth Leeper 5/20, Kim Jones 5/21, Verlyne Phillips 5/24, Grant Smith 5/25, Lafe Harter 5/28 Peter Klingeman 5/31, Andrea McDaniel 5/31

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Mary Bolton and Karen Herold 5/8 (35th)

Greg and Rose Christianson 5/17 (29th)

Jane Capizzi and Bob Burgess 5/26

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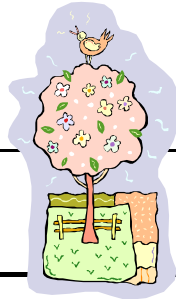
If your name(s) don't appear on our monthly lists for birthdays and anniversaries and you would like them to, please submit the information to **Susan Wickes** by e-mail or the office newsletter box. We don't print ages, but we do list anniversary dates, if desired.



... to all the adults and youth who helped make last weekend's Camping Lock-In a terrific success. Thanks to Camp Cook **Pat Johnson**, to **George Mueller-Warrant** for his campfire and chaperone skills, to our counselors **David Zielke**, **Anika Hall**, and **Brooks McCann**, to family camp participant/utility players **Brian Wright** and **Shahnaz Sahnaw**, and to **Molly Chambers** for planning and organizing this terrific event!



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, April 28.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, April 24

- 9:00-2:00 Women's Cluster
- 6:30-8:00 Family Game Night**
- 8:00 p.m. Badminton

Saturday, April 25

- 6:00 p.m.** Jeffrey Larkin recital,
Sanctuary

Sunday, April 26

- 8:45 a.m. Car Wash**
- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- (following) Guatemala trip meeting,
Fireplace Room
- 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed film,
Wickes

Monday, April 27

- 9:00 a.m. Staff

Tuesday, April 28

- Noon Lectionary class
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1
- 7:30 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday, April 29

- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
- Friday, May 1*
- 7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum,
 - 7:30 p.m. Badminton

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... continue to be with **Welcome Lahey**, now in hospice care. She is at Park Place, at the corner of Walnut Blvd. and Jack London, and appreciates cards and visits.

PLAY FOR THE SOX!

There is still time to join the church city-league softball team. If you are interested, contact **Pete Nelson** (752-1278 or Peter.Nelson@oregonstate.edu) or **Tammy Skubinna** (752-4214 or tammy.skubinna@oregonstate.edu) soon! There is a \$35 per person fee for Corvallis residents; \$45 for those living out of town. The season begins on *Sunday, May 10* and all games are Sunday afternoon or evening.