



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVIII, No. 18

May 1, 2009

Annual Congregational Meeting

This Sunday, May 3

Dessert at 6:30; Meeting at 7:00

New Business:

- Election of lay leaders
- Sidewalk update
- Sanctuary Condition Analysis
- Work Team
- Strategic Planning Committee



*May 3, this Sunday, is a Communion Sunday. Remember our effort to collect canned or packaged donations for the **South Corvallis Food Bank/Linn Benton Lunch Box**. These items may be left in the boxes on the front pew as you come forward for Communion.*

For May, June and July, the food bank particularly requests: any protein, hearty soup items; dental hygiene items, jams and jellies (no canned-at-home), and decaf herbal tea.

WHAT IS WASHINGTON DOING ABOUT HEALTH CARE REFORM?

You are invited to a public forum on

the major national health care proposals on *Tuesday, May 5*, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Corvallis Public Library. Why? Family health care insurance premiums are projected to match family incomes by the year 2025. Come learn how our national leaders propose to reverse this trend and build a sustainable and equitable healthcare system for the U.S.

Cliff Trow will moderate and speakers include **Chunhei Chi, Ph.D** (single-payer bill HR 676), **Jim Van Olst, M.D.** (Stark plan), **Paul Hochfeld, M.D.** (Sen. Wyden's plan), and **Chinh Le, M.D.** (Pres. Obama's proposal),.

THIS SUNDAY

May 3

Adult Forum: Charles Helsabeck will lead a lectionary study on shepherding.

Scriptures: 1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Sermon: "We Know Love by This...."
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

Dear Friends,

As I write on Tuesday afternoon Marin is bouncing around the house with the exuberant energy that only two-year olds seem to have. Yesterday's surgery seems to be only known to her in the bandage on her arm and the medication we give her; for that I am immensely thankful. I am also immensely thankful for your prayers and thoughtful comments as we approached her surgery, and I must tell you that the care you gave again reminded me of the privilege I have to serve as one of your pastors. We still await the results of the biopsy, but we do not expect anything to come of it.

This experience has reminded me of the important role of prayer in community. I wrestled with whether or not to tell all of you about Marin's upcoming surgery because I knew that it was to be a relatively minor procedure. However, because we were unsure of the timeline and because we did not know what exact results would come from the surgery, it was weighing upon my heart and thus I wanted to share our family's concern with you—just as we ask you to share your prayer concerns on Sunday mornings. I must confess that I felt a surprising bit of vulnerability in asking you to pray for our family, but it felt important to be held in prayer during Marin's surgery. As we sat in the waiting room at Doernbecher Children's Hospital we felt your prayers and your presence with us, and that mattered more than I can say!

I share all of this with you because, while the decision to share concerns and celebrations in a public way is always an individual decision, I believe that one of the most important ways we can be the church is to be in prayer for one another. But we can't care for one another in this way if we don't know what is weighing upon each other's hearts. I believe that one of the key ways that prayer works is through the comfort that is granted in knowing that we are being held in prayer by others. Perhaps asking for prayers is one of the most vulnerable moments we can have, but it is also one of the most profoundly faithful statements we can make. I invite you to continue sharing your celebrations and concerns as a statement of faith, and likewise I invite you to be intentional about your prayers because they matter more than you know!

Blessings,

Ryan**TROLLING FOR TOWELS**

Nearly all the church's marked dish towels (FCC) are missing! If you took some home to wash, please return them as soon as possible. Thank you!

THANKS FOR CLUSTER LUNCH

Many thanks to the women who assisted in hosting the recent Women's Cluster meeting at our church by serving a delicious lunch!



UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY AT OSU

Hello and Happy Spring! We have scheduled our **annual spring work party** at WestM for *Thursday, May 7*, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Bring your favorite garden gloves and tools and join the party as we spruce up and clean up the landscape around this venerable old house. Let us know you are coming and plan to stay for pizza as we finish.



No youth group this week due to the church's Annual Meeting. Plan to join us for the 6:30 dessert and 7:00 p.m. meeting—see how your church works!

Thank you to **all** who helped with the car wash last Sunday! I deeply appreciate your hard work! A special thanks to **Jan and Larry Thornton** for their energy and enthusiasm amid the puddles and suds!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP TAKES A FIELD TRIP

The luncheon at noon on *Wednesday, May 6*, will be followed by installation of officers for 2009-10. At 1:00, we will car pool to the Grace Center for a tour of their wonderful facility.

Sign up before worship on Sunday, or call the church office to reserve a place.

Let us know if you need transportation or day care. The cost of the lunch is \$5.

LUNCH BOX THANKS

Words can't express how much I appreciate all the food donated for the Linn-Benton Lunch Box. You're helping many students in need on campus.

Thanks for everything.

Jessica Calhoun,
Student coordinator of LBLB

CONGRATULATIONS!

... to 7th grader **Anika Hall**, who has earned a spot on the U.S. national statistics team. She will be the only middle school member of the U.S. team to compete at the international contest in Durban, South Africa, in August. Other team members are from Ohio and Massachusetts high schools and from Harvard University. **Kathy Hall**, her mom, is her teacher.

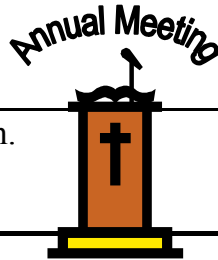
Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with the family of long-time member **Billie Grant** who died April 27. A celebration of her life will be held at the Adair Officers' Club on *Saturday, May 16*, at 2:00 p.m. A reception will follow.

Cards may be mailed to **Judy** (Billie's daughter) and **Bill Baker**, 2673 Viewmont Ave., Springfield, OR 97477. Donations in Billie's memory may be made to the Corvallis Schools Foundation.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, May 5.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, May 1

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum

Sunday, May 3

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir

9:30 a.m. Christian Education

10:30 a.m. Worship

6:30 p.m. Dessert

7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

Monday, May 4

9:00 a.m. Staff

Tuesday, May 5

Noon Lectionary class

5:30 p.m. Worship Committee

6:30 p.m. Outreach & Evangelism

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

7:30 p.m. Diaconate

7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee

Wednesday, May 6

Noon Women's Fellowship

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, May 7

6:00 p.m. West-M spring work party [page 3]

7:00 p.m. "Who Owns the
 Creek?", Meeting Hall
 Girl Scout Troop 142

Friday, May 8

7:30 p.m. Badminton

CHURCH LIBRARY DISPLAYS HOLOCAUST BOOKS

Currently, there are books on display in the library about various aspects of the Holocaust for both adults and children.

FOOD BANK SAYS THANKS

SCFB sends UCC a very big thank-you for your on-going support.

The Food Bank continues to have over 250 families and over 900 individuals on average. (Over 24% increase from a year ago)

UCC folks contribute to the food banks ability to maintain services during these times of increasing needs.

Thank you for your generosity,
 South Corvallis Food Bank