

# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLVIII, No. 29

August 7, 2009

## NEWSLETTER NEWS

Please send your information for the next *Congregational News* (August 21 issue) directly to the church. **Ann Hawkins** will be preparing that issue. E-mail to [office@ucc-covallis.org](mailto:office@ucc-covallis.org) and leave hard copy in the newsletter office mailbox by noon on *Tuesday, August 18*.

## HOLY SOX IN THE PLAYOFFS!

The Holy Sox team finished the regular season undefeated with a close 14-13 victory on August 2. Now they go into the playoffs, starting with a game *Friday, August 7*, at 6:00 p.m. at Pioneer Park. Win or lose the team plays at 4:40 pm on *Sunday, August 9* and could play another game later that day. To see the complete play-off bracket go to the Corvallis Parks & Recreation web site.



## WELCOME HOME

... to our Guatemala crew mission crew! They returned on August 4, after a successful trip. They worked, they learned, they had a great time. Come hear about their experiences on *August 16* during worship!

## WHAT DO YOU DO WITH FIFTH SUNDAYS?

The **Worship Committee** is always looking for ways to engage the congregation in creative worship. The Laity Sunday services we have had every year have been among the most meaningful of  
*[continued on page 3]*



## Summer Worship

### August 9

**Scriptures:** Deuteronomy 6:4-9  
John 15:12-15  
**Music:** Carl Lucker, saxophone  
**Sermon:** "Do You Love God?"  
Elizabeth Oettinger

### August 16

**Music:** Sue Gillespie, flute  
Karen Jones, flute  
**Sermon:** Guatemala trip report  
Charles Helsabeck, etc.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK***Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

We just had dinner at my house: fresh corn, tomato and mozzarella salad, grilled chicken, and fresh peaches for dessert. I love eating in the summer; you touch whatever you eat as lightly as possible because the taste of summer food needs little embellishment. It's beautiful, colorful, and delicious. Everything we ate for dinner (except the cheese) was locally grown and purchased with "That's My Farmer" coupons at the farmers' market.

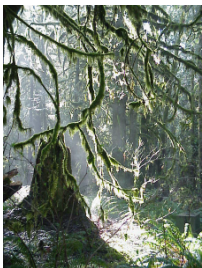
I love the "That's My Farmer" program. It supports local sustainable agriculture and provides high quality fruits and vegetables to community food programs. For those reasons alone I would admire it. But it also provides me with the incentive to buy really wonderful food. We are so fortunate in the Willamette Valley. So many vegetables, fruits, high quality fish, fowl, and meat. I take it for granted too much of the time.

A large part of becoming more environmentally responsible is to pay attention more, to take less for granted. We should all spend more time actively celebrating the food we eat and those who work to produce it. Especially in August--in my mind, the best eating month of the year--that's so easy to do if we just stay aware and remember to do it.

So enjoy the eating in these next weeks--fresh, local, tasty! Think about what local sustainable food production gives us. And remember to use your "That's My Farmer" coupons whenever possible.

God bless you.

**Liz**



**AUGUST MISSION OFFERING**

The Mission Offering for the month of August is for **Camp Adams**, which is one of two outdoor ministries sites of the Central Pacific Conference of the UCC. Camp Adams is located near Mollala, Oregon, and provides a unique location for camps and retreats for people of all ages. Two

creeks run through the 210 acre site, providing recreation opportunities and beautiful views for those who use the cabins and retreats spaces. Our support of Camp Adams helps to insure that the site will be maintained, that UCC camps will continue to nurture our children and youth, and that this beautiful site will remain available for churches and non-profits from around the area to use. Give generously in support of this beautiful and important ministry!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL UPDATE

Vacation Bible School will be starting on *Sunday evening, August 16*, at 5:30 p.m. Our 5-day VBS will be centered around the theme “We Are the Body of Christ” as we explore the many ways we all participate in ministry together. VBS costs just \$15, which includes a T-shirt, dinner each night, and program expenses.

We are excited about the curriculum that we have written with our kids in mind and think this will be a terrific week for all our children. If you are interested in helping, there are still a couple of open slots for meal help and craft assistants—to help or ask questions, contact **Ryan** at the church.

### FIFTH SUNDAYS *from page 1*

the church year precisely because of the creative lay input. We want more! Some of you will remember that about 20 years ago, the church used the “excuse” of fifth Sundays to shake things up a bit in worship, try new ideas, involve new people. We want to do that again. We want you to be a part of it.

Fifth Sundays for the coming program year include: *November 29* (first Sunday of Advent), *January 31* (in the UCC calendar, Health and Human Services Sunday), *May 30* (Memorial Day week-end), and *August 29* (the last Sunday of summer). For each of those Sundays, we will be assembling a team of volunteers to plan and lead worship. We

need writers, musicians, thinkers, visual artists, and all-purpose helpers to work with the Worship Committee. Clergy are available for consultation, but we really want these Sundays to focus on the ideas and talents of the congregation.

Are you interested? Early volunteers (much appreciated!) can leave a message in the church office or contact **Patrick O'Dell**, Worship chair, at [PatrickO@samhealth.org](mailto:PatrickO@samhealth.org). In September, we will be staffing a table in the foyer to assemble the Advent (*November 29*) team. Questions? Comments? Contact Patrick or any member of the Worship Committee.



### BASEBALL AND FELLOWSHIP

The CE Board invites church members and friends to gather at the Corvallis Knights game on *Saturday, August 8*, for fellowship and fun. The game begins at 7:05 and tickets are only \$5 for general admission. This is the last home game of the regular season and there will be a fireworks display after the game. Come to the ballpark, look for UCC friends down the first base line, and enjoy a fun night at the ballpark!

### CARING FOR CREATION TO SPONSOR WEED PULL

On *Saturday, August 22*, the Caring for Creation committee is sponsoring a weed pull to help eradicate invasive species in the Dunawi Creek adjacent to the

church property. We will work from 9:30 a.m.-noon and invite people to join us to work along the creek. Please bring work boots, gloves, and small tools for pulling weeds. People of all ages are invited, but since we will be looking for specific plants parental supervision will be required for pre-teen children. Join us for the work party and bring a sack lunch for after we are done—the Caring for Creation Committee will provide dessert! Questions? Contact **Larry Thornton** or **Ryan Lambert**.

### READ & FEED MEETS

The Read & Feed book group will discuss Barack Obama's *Dreams From My Father* at 7:00 p.m. on *Sunday, August 9*. **Bob** and **Monine Stebbins** will host the gathering.

### ATTENTION, WOMEN!

Please save the dates of *October 16-18* so that you will be able to attend the **Central Pacific Conference Women's Camp!** This year's resource leader is dynamic Rev. **Denise Andersen** who will focus on "Creative Spirituality." She is known throughout the conference for her enthusiasm and lovely soprano voice.

The weekend will be at Camp Adams and begin with Friday night dinner with Sunday brunch for a final meal together. This is an event not to be missed!

Registration materials will be ready soon and financial assistance is available from the Rev. Anne Smith Educational Loan/Grant Fund. Total cost for the

weekend will be \$100. For additional information, contact **Nancy Klingeman** (753-3350).

### CAMPING TRIP CANCELLED

The all-church camping trip planned for August 28-30 has been cancelled.

## Summer Choir Concert

The OSU Summer Choir will present a free concert at the First United Methodist on *Wednesday, August 12*, at 7:30 p.m. The concert features student conductors studying under **Steven Zielke**, Director of Choral Studies at Oregon State, and our church's Music Director.

This musical evening features the choir, with orchestra, singing a number of selections from Joseph Haydn's *The Creation*. Additionally, the choir will perform Brahms' "How Lovely is Thy dwelling place" as well as pieces by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Andre Thomas, David Childs, Rollo Dilworth, and Doreen Rao. Singers from our church include **Jeffrey Larkin**, **Don Minore**, **Mark Esary**, **Paul deLespinasse**, **Tim Brassfield**, **Cynthia Janes**, **Trina Norma**, **Joan Caldwell**, and **Ann Hawkins**. Tim and Jeffrey also solo.

### PFLAG POTLUCK INVITATION



PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Transgendered People) is hosting a sum-

summer potluck and invites everyone from the different LGBTQ communities/groups to join them. It's on *Monday, August 17*, at 5:30 in Hanson Grove at our church.

They will provide plates, silverware, napkins and drinks. Please bring a **large** potluck dish to share. Also, please RSVP so that enough seating can be arranged. Children are very welcome.

**Susan Elbinger**

([susankelb@yahoo.com](mailto:susankelb@yahoo.com))

## TAKARAZUKA CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends at  
First Congregational Church UCC,

We reflect on peace in August, in particular, because of the dropping of the first atomic bomb on the 6<sup>th</sup> in Hiroshima and the second on the 9<sup>th</sup> in Nagasaki, followed by the 15<sup>th</sup>, the Memorial Day of Defeat.

We will have a special Peace Sunday service on August 2, and after the service we will watch a video on the testimony of memoir of the mass suicide in Okinawa. People were ordered by their own military to choose death over becoming prisoners of America. This was a sad incident in that they killed each other as family members, friends and neighbors. The testimony in this video includes that of the Rev. Kinjo, the minister at Naha Chuo Church, UCC in Japan, as well as his elder brother, a mass-suicide survivors.

We will think, through this film, about what we can do together in order to have a peaceful world with no more wars, remembering our friends in Oregon.

May the peace of God be with each of you and the friendship as well as ties between us be strengthened. As Jesus has taught us, we believe that understanding and loving each other brings the peace to the world.

Four of our members will visit your church in October. We are looking forward to meeting you again.

May you have God's blessing. You are in our prayers in Takarazuka, Japan.

Takarazuka Church UCC in Japan

All the members

Ministers: Masato Tsukuda &  
Harumi Ishikawa



... to **Pete Klingeman**, who didn't realize that Trustees chair is a full-time job!

... and to **Dale Kirk**, and **Norm Vedaa** for their faithful attention to the never-ending needs of our facility.

### Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Norm Elwood** and his family, as his mother experiences the last stages of her life;

... and with **Jean Brunk**, who husband, **Dan**, died at home in Corvallis on July 19.



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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, August 18.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Friday, August 7*

6:00 p.m. Holy Sox play-off,  
 Pioneer Park  
 7:30 p.m. Badminton

*Saturday, August 8*

7:05 p.m. Corvallis Knights Night

*Sunday, August 9*

9:30 a.m. Worship  
 4:20 p.m. Holy Sox play-off  
 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed, Stebbins

*Monday, August 10*

7:00 p.m. Mission Board

*Tuesday, August 11*

6:00 p.m. Caring for Creation,  
 Fireplace Room  
 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board  
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

*Wednesday, August 12*

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Group  
 7:30 p.m. Summer Choir concert,  
 [see page 4]

*Thursday, August 13*

Noon Adult Education Com-

mittee, McMenamain's  
 on Monroe

*Friday, August 14*

7:30 p.m. Badminton

*Sunday, August 16*

9:30 a.m. Worship  
**5:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School  
 begins**

*Monday, August 17*

5:30 p.m. PFLAG picnic in  
 Hanson Grove  
 [see page 4]

*Tuesday, August 18*

5:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School  
 9:00 a.m. Staff  
 5:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School  
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

*Wednesday, August 19*

5:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School

*Thursday, August 20*

11:45 a.m. Lunch Group  
 5:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School

*Friday, August 21*

7:30 p.m. Badminton

