



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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September 25, 2009



This Sunday is a great time to bring a guest to church with you. We will have some lovely music by the choir and instrumentalists. [See "Thought," p. 2]

YOUR CHURCH AT FALL FESTIVAL!

Come find the First Congregational United Church of Christ booth in front of the library during Fall Festival, this weekend. Come by during the event to say "hello" to the volunteers, pick up a raffle ticket for a chance to win the beautiful quilt that we are giving away, and check out this exciting way of doing evangelism. See you at Fall Festival!

THE FUTURE IS COMING!! HELP CREATE IT!!

What do we do best at this church? What are the qualities and experiences on which we can build to deliberately create a future together? What are your dreams for the possibilities of ministry before us? The **Vision Committee-- Michael Henthorne, Kim Thackray, John Erkkila, Betty Massoni, and John Hawkins--**have been planning and train-

ing for 6 months now to lead us through a process of intentionally creating a future we can live into together. Through the month of October, we will have a series of small group meetings for you all to contribute your voices to this crucial discussion for our church. We have both evening and afternoon meetings in several different neighborhoods and many dates from which you can choose. This process will only work if everyone participates! So please, sign up at church on Sunday or call the church office. As an added incentive, we promise fine goodies and great congregational conversation. Make a difference. Sign up now.

THIS SUNDAY

September 27

Adult Forum: Michael Henthorne and John Erkkila on the vision process [See previous article.]

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12:1,4-11
Mark 1:16-20

Sermon: "What Gift Do You Bring?"
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

When I was on sabbatical in Massachusetts, I went to a different church every Sunday and would grade the church on worship, music, and also "welcome." I found out first hand how long 30 seconds seems when you're standing alone in a church foyer or fellowship hall with no one noticing you. I care a lot about preaching and I care a lot about music, but really, they would not have been enough to bring me back to a church that felt like a closed community.

This coming Sunday is our official "bring a visitor" Sunday. You can participate either by bringing a visitor of your own or looking around for people you don't know, introducing yourself, and helping visitors feel welcome in our church home. Often people say to me, "I'm afraid to go up to someone and ask them if they're new. What if they've been members of the church for 10 years and I offend them?" I have an answer to that. My line is, "Hi, I'm Liz Oettinger and I don't think I know you." It's not a statement of who's been in the church longer, just a friendly person introducing herself to someone new.

Honestly, I think most of you do a good job of noticing visitors and trying to make them welcome, but the irony is that in the fall--when we get the largest number of visitors--people tend to get wrapped up in talking with friends they might not have seen since June, and their normal newcomer radar is put on hold.

Sunday will be a great day--good music, good after-church food, and, one hopes, good preaching (you all can be the judges of that!). So get up your courage and ask a friend or neighbor if they'd like to come with you to your church. And, at the very least, bring your best welcoming self with you.

I'm looking forward to it.

See you there.

Liz



On *Sunday, October 4*, at 4:00 p.m., First Congregational UCC will be hosting a **Blessing of the Animals** service on the front lawn to celebrate the gift of all creatures. This service celebrates the significant

role that animals and pets play in our lives and honors the tradition, linked to St. Francis of Assisi, of celebrating all species.

The service will feature a liturgy of prayers, singing, and celebration. Please bring your pets and join us on the front lawn for this intergenerational and multi-species event!



Our youth groups will gather at 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday and our program

will include an introduction to spiritual practices. Join us for a time of faithful conversation, learning, and fun! Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

Missionfest Sunday - October 4
WELCOMING OUR VISITORS
FROM JAPAN

The **UCC Corvallis-Takarazuka Church Partnership Committee** will introduce four visitors from our sister church in Japan at the Adult Ed Hour on *October 4*. The Rev. **Masato Tsukuda** and three laywomen will focus their presentation on the U. S. Military presence on Okinawa.

The Rev. Tsukuda will be our guest preacher that morning and, following worship, a Mission Fest potluck meal will be served in Gatton Hall. Church families are requested to bring 2 items: a main dish (to serve 6 - 8 people), and either a salad (alphabetically, A - L) or dessert (M-Z). Singles are requested to bring 1 item: either a salad (A - L) or dessert (M - Z). An index card with main ingredients listed should also accompany the food, and be labeled "vegetarian" or "vegan" if applicable. Our lives, and missions past, present, and future, inter-church and intra-church will be topics for table conversation.

What might our visitors want us to know about their lives/Japan/etc., and we want them to know about us? To facilitate the conversations, connections and interactions, sample questions and items from our lives and church's missions will be provided on each dining table.

We hope many of you will plan to attend the potluck and share in the opportunity to learn more about our partnership church and those who are its members.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BEGINS
NEW PROGRAM YEAR

The Women's Fellowship will hold its first luncheon meeting and program of the year on *Wednesday, October 7*, at noon in Gatton Hall. The cost of the luncheon is \$5.00. The program for this meeting will be "Guatemala Pilgrimage" presented by **Susie Nelson** and **Alice Morrow**. All women of the church, members, and friends are part of the Women's Fellowship and are invited to attend. Childcare will be provided if requested in advance.

The programs are informative and varied and the food is always delicious. Please join us. Any questions? Contact **Osa Martinson** (752-2642).

IFFP/EMO (THAT'S MY FARMER)
COOKING CLASSES
NEED YOUR HELP!

These classes teach low-income folks how to prepare healthy foods from inexpensive and local ingredients. Our Farm-

ers provide us with great produce for the classes. We really need help with child-care for our cooking class students (those who have had a background check for working with children). We can also use some help with kitchen assistants. All volunteers get to share in whatever we cook – either a simple meal at the end of class, or a jar of canned produce made by the class. Please contact **Sara Power** at 231-6772 or iffpckc@yahoo.com or saragpower@gmail.com. All classes are held in the Community Center of the Corvallis First United Methodist Church.

IFFP Cooking Class Schedule for October

Date	Time	Topic
<i>October 7 Wednesday</i>	9:00 a.m.- noon	Cooking for Diabetics and for Diabetes Prevention with Carolyn Walsh, Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator
<i>October 13 Tuesday</i>	9:00 a.m.- noon	Making your Own Baking Mixes for pancakes, biscuits and more!
<i>October 27 Tuesday</i>	9:00 a.m.- noon	Pumpkin & Apple Pies, Fall Soups and Salads

JAM 4TH KEEPS JAMMING!

Yes, we're still jammin'! In the past year, we have made over 1700 jars of

jams and jellies, and blueberry syrup for South Corvallis, and Philomath Food Banks. We are averaging over 30 jars per jam session, and we get a great deal of satisfaction seeing the jars of completed treats ready for local food banks. Our jams contain less than ¼ the amount of sugar as traditional jams and jellies, making them relatively wholesome too! Stories come in from both food banks describing how much our jam is appreciated!

Over 75 different people jammed and around 25 have helped more than once. And almost everyone who has helped has made a new friend or two!!! If you would like to join in the fun, come on **Thursday nights from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.** (you can come late, leave early -- all help is appreciated!) to the **Community Center of the Corvallis First United Methodist Church in Corvallis** (park in the lot on Jackson Street, between 11th and 12th Streets.

We are still accepting jars (half-pints and pints only, please), **sugar, Splenda, lemon juice**, and **fruit** (frozen is nice, but if you have fresh apples, pears, or grapes those are great too!). If you have donations you can bring them by any weekday from 9:00-4:00 p.m. to the office of the First UMC, or call **Sara** at 231-6772.

Note: This program is an outgrowth of the Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership, a program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. Everyone is welcome to help!

ISRAELI SPEAKER ON PEACE

Gila Svirtsy, prominent Israeli writer and peace activist, will give a talk titled "Paths to Peace in Palestine/Israel" on *Tuesday, September 29*, at 7:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis, 2945 Circle Blvd. She will speak from her personal experiences as an activist and briefly lay out the problems, discuss the stumbling blocks, and her vision of viable and pragmatic elements of paths to peace in the region.

Svirtsy is the co-founder of the Coalition of Women for Peace in Israel which brings together nine Israeli women's peace organizations, as well as a co-founder of Women in Black. She is chair of B'Tselem, Israel's foremost human rights organization in the Occupied Territories, and a board member of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel, a program sponsored by the World Council of Churches that brings people of all faiths to accompany Palestinians and Israelis in their non-violent actions for peace.

REMINDER: NOW IS THE TIME TO REGISTER

Central Pacific's Women's Camp is only three weeks away, so the time to register is **now**. "Creative Spirituality" will be the theme with Rev. **Denise Andersen** as the leader for the weekend. She is planning lots of art related activities as well as fun with music. Registration forms are in the literature rack outside Gatton Hall and on the Women's

Fellowship bulletin board, so pick one up right away and turn it in to **Nancy Klingeman**. Total cost for the weekend is \$100 with \$60 of that due with pre-registration. Forms for financial aid from the Rev. Anne Smith Loan/Grant Fund are available in the church office. Carpools from Corvallis will be formed for the *October 16-18* retreat at Camp Adams. For more details, call 753-3350.



Stone soup sign-ups happen this Sunday for our second serving opportunity this month: *Tuesday, September 29*, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Add your name to the crew.

"LABELS FOR EDUCATION" NEEDED

For several years we have been supporting UCC-sponsored Crossroad school in Indiana by collecting "labels for education" from cans and food boxes. This residential school in Indiana assists emotionally troubled children with education and counseling. The labels program helps purchase equipment for the school. Please place any labels that you collect in the drawer which is closest to the office at the end of the nametag table. We send them to Indiana whenever there is a large enough batch.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Jan and Larry Thornton 10/1
Cliff and Jo Anne Trow 10/10 (40th)



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, September 29.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, September 25
 7:30 p.m. Badminton

Saturday, September 26
 10:00 a.m. Fall Festival begins

Visitors' Sunday, September 27
 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Worship Leader
 training, Library
 (following) Lay Reader training,
 Sanctuary
 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
 6:30 p.m. High School Youth

Tuesday, September 29
 8:30 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 3:00 p.m. Stone Soup
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Wednesday, September 30
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, October 1
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

Friday, October 2

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum
 7:30 p.m. Badminton



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Ray William 10/1,
 Douglas Pentland 10/3,
 Patrick Yun 10/3, Kiko
 Kimura 10/4, Paul de-
 Lespinasse 10/4, Ryan Lambert 10/5,
 Beth Riley 10/6, Mary Vedaa 10/7, Kay
 Harris 10/7, Terry Robertson 10/9, Neal
 Peterson 10/9, Beth Christianson 10/9,
 Luke Elbinger 10/11, Irwin Harris 10/12,
 John Koch 10/13, Karen Miller 10/15,
 Rose Christianson 10/16, George Muel-
 ler-Warrant 10/19, Nancye Ballard
 10/19, Doug Richmond 10/21, Sean
 Skillingstad 10/21, Christopher Koch
 10/25, Chase Cochran 10/25, Nancy
 Groesz 10/27, Eric Hall 10/28, Hokie
 Adams 10/30, Alan Holcombe 10/30,
 Julie Rorrer 10/31