



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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November 6, 2009

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE! A CHORAL CELEBRATION

This *Sunday, November 8*, at 3:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, choirs from United Campus Ministry partner churches will participate in a fundraiser concert for that organization. Members from our choir will be singing. The combined mass choir will perform an arrangement of Psalm 100, by guest artist Linnea Good. A free-will offering will be taken. We hope many of you will be able to attend join in supporting UCM at Westminster House.

SOUP 'N' BREAD THIS SUNDAY IS FUNDRAISER!

This Sunday is our monthly Soup 'n' Bread following worship, and it is a fundraising opportunity for United Campus Ministry at Westminster House. The Rev. **Tim Stover** will be with us during worship to tell us a little about this important outreach to OSU students and the wider community. First Congregational UCC, along with First Christian (Disciples of Christ), First United Methodist, and First Presbyterian are the four partner churches which support WestM. We hope many of you will attend the

meal and donate generously to the ministry of UCM; all proceeds will directly benefit their program offerings.

Thanksgiving Dinner



Sign-ups begin this Sunday after worship (or call the church office) to participate in the preparation, clean-up, and, best of all, eating of our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. The event takes place following the service on *Sunday, November 22*, in Gatton Hall.

When you list your name to attend,
[continued on page 4]

THIS SUNDAY

November 8

Adult Forum: Our theologian series continues with a program on Dietrich Bonhoeffer. **Ryan Lambert** will lead.

Scriptures: Micah 6:4-8
Matthew 6:24-34

Sermon: "Practicing Generosity"
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

Dear Friends,

This weekend First Congregational UCC will be alive with youthful energy and activity. We are playing host to the Central Pacific Conference's Fall Youth Event. This annual event is planned by the conference Youth Events Squad (Y.E.S) in an effort to help the youth of the conference deepen their faith and their connections to one another. This year we were asked to open our building and provide some hands-on mission activities for the youth while they are here. Thus, along with a host of games, study, and worship activities the youth will be volunteering some time at Community Outreach and the Cold-Weather Shelter and preparing a choral piece for our Sunday morning worship.

Along with providing meals, some volunteer work, and a place for the youth to stay, our role as host congregation includes welcoming the youth attendees to our Sunday morning worship. Welcoming them on Sunday morning is a critical piece of this event, because although they will have been living in our church for nearly 40 hours by Sunday morning, they will only really get to know most of us in and around Sunday's worship. So...I would like to invite everyone to wear your nametag on Sunday morning and to be aware of "new youth-y folks" who are hanging around when you come to worship. Welcome them when you see them and invite them to join you in your pew. Be courageous about speaking to our youth visitors as you wait in line for Soup 'n' Bread, or be brave and invite yourself into a huddled mass of youthful energy that you might see on Sunday morning. They want to meet you, and their experience and our experience as hosts will be much richer if we are intentional about welcoming these youthful visitors into our midst.

See you in church (with your nametag!),

Ryan

Gifts For A Better World celebrates its 20th season this year! This seasonal fair trade gift store opens on *Saturday, November 7*, at 10:00 a.m. right here in our own church, upstairs in the education wing. Unique crafts from artists the world around are available to purchase

and the store also supports local non-profit groups by giving them a venue to sell gift items. This store makes giving a double pleasure; your purchases benefit people from developing nations, as well as those receiving the gifts.

The store is open for the month of November only and purchases require cash or checks. Want more information? Call **Rhonda** (758-1667).



This weekend our church hosts the Fall Youth Event for high school youth.

Even if you aren't coming for the whole event plan to be at church school on Sunday morning to hang out with youth from around the conference!

Middle and High School youth groups will be meet next on *November 15, immediately* after worship for pizza and a visioning session. This is a dedicated session to make sure that youth input is included in our congregation-wide visioning process AND YOU GET PIZZA! Make sure to be there so that your hopes and dreams for our church are included!

THE CHICKENS ARE COMING! THE CHICKENS ARE COMING!



Our mission project this year our Sunday schools classes is to raise money to buy flocks of chickens through **Heifer International**. Each class will have their own chicken to decorate with colorful feathers (a feather represents 10 cents) as a visual aid to see how close they are getting to their goal of \$20.00 per flock. Heifer's goal is to empower families in poverty stricken areas of the world by providing animals and education about care and uses of their animals. The families use the animals for food, sell any excess at market, and pass offspring on to another family in need. Please support our children by asking them about their

chickens and offer them that extra dime that's weighing you down!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR BEGINS

Students in K-5th Grade: Come and sing with the church's Children's Choir as we prepare two pieces on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals start this Sunday, November 8, right after worship in the Music Room, and will last about 20 minutes. Singers can eat Soup 'n' Bread after the rehearsal.

Rehearsals will continue each Sunday through *December 20*, with snacks provided. Questions? Please contact **Kristin Rorrer** (753-2848).

THANKSGIVING DINNER *from p. 1* please add the item you will bring to share. We will need about two times more side dishes/salads as desserts.

Volunteer sign-ups will include requests for turkey carvers, set-up and clean-up crews, and kitchen help Sunday morning -- most importantly, a **kitchen monitor** to oversee the re-heating, etc. from 8:45 until the end of worship.

THE LEAVES THEY ARE A- FALLIN'...

Have you noticed? It is leaf raking season! Yesterday we were spoiled by one of the folks from the **Project Action** clean-up team who raked up all the leaves from our yard and landscaped areas. At the same time, our lives were enriched knowing we had provided a homeless man with the dignity that paid

work can bring. These are hard times for so many in our country, and even an affluent community such as Corvallis is hard hit. If you need mowing, weeding, general lawn maintenance, attic or garage cleaning, please consider calling Project Action at 738-7500. Anyone referred for work is known by **Barbara Ross** and **Aleita Hass Holcombe**; we should all have such good references!

Ann and John Hawkins

THEOLOGY ON TAP

The next gathering of Theology on Tap is at 7:00 p.m. on *December 3*. Once again we will meet at Woodstock's Pizza on Kings Blvd. Plan now for an evening of food, fellowship, and theological conversation! More details will be forthcoming as the date approaches!

NOVEMBER'S MISSION OFFERING IS SENIOR MEALS

A warm smile and a hot meal are two of the many ways in which the **Senior Meals** program serves our oldest residents. In addition to an active presence in Corvallis, Philomath residents have just recently been added to this program. Seniors may have meals delivered to their homes or go to a dining site where a meal is served in a friendly environment. Another plus is the fact that these housebound folks have someone to informally check on their safety and well-being.

Dial-a-Bus, not only provides transportation to essential appointments such as doctor's offices in Corvallis and the

Social Security Office in Albany, but also provides transportation to the coast. Dial-a-Bus offers seniors and disabled folks independence and allows them to stay connected in their community. For some it is their only transportation to the Senior Center for games, conversation, and a nutritious meal. Please give generously to our November Mission Offering to continue this valuable service!

GRACE NOTES

Our stewardship campaign "Grace Notes" continues this week with a new profile.

Name: Julie Rorrer

Member since: Officially a member since 2006, but I've been a part of the church since I was born.

Why I joined First Congregational:

First Congregational church has supported me and taught me how to be a better Christian all my life, and I wanted to continue my journey of faith with this congregation.

Why I've stayed: I have become involved in so many great projects within the church community and outside of it that attract me to First Congregational. I love the sharing of ideas in worship, insightful sermons, experiences with the youth group, and the beautiful music every week.

My fondest hope for the church:

That all members and nonmembers alike can find their place in the church com-

munity and that we can continue to be welcoming to all people for many years to come

Moment of grace: My favorite part of worship is the passing of the peace, because the people you greet can range from people who have been an important part of your life for a long time to new strangers.

My hidden talent: I had the opportunity to use my Spanish skills on the pilgrimage to Guatemala this summer. I wish to continue to use this talent, along with my ability to connect with others, to make a difference in the community.

What I offer to the church: I feel that as a youth, I help add to the diversity of the church and can connect with younger children and adults alike. I work with the Vacation Bible School children and am an active participant in the youth group. I also enjoy sharing music with the church and expressing God's word through my violin.

(If you're interested in being the subject of a "Grace Note" profile, call or e-mail **Mike McInally** at 905-4282 or mmcinally@aol.com.)

"ONCE UPON A MATTRESS" PERFORMED AT CHS

The fall musical at Corvallis High School, "Once Upon a Mattress," features two of our own youth--**Claire McMorris** and **Grant Thackray**. This entertaining play, an interpretation of "The Princess and the Pea," runs *November 12 through November 22*. Tickets

can be purchased at Gracewinds Music or at <http://www.csd509j.net/theaters/>.

HEIFER PROJECT IS COMING

There will be a Heifer Project table at this year's Advent Festival on *Sunday, November 29*. We will have catalogs and donor cards there so you can add alternative gifts from Heifer to your Christmas shopping list. More details later.

POINSETTIAS FOR SALE

Carl Lucker is taking orders for Poinsettias as a fundraiser for the Crescent Valley Ski Racing Team. The large, 6-inch poinsettias sell for \$12 a piece, are available in red, white and pink, and are locally grown at Peoria Gardens. He will deliver them to your home Thanksgiving weekend. Carl will be available to take orders after church this *Sunday, November 8*, in Gatton Hall (during Soup 'n' Bread) or you can contact him at 753-4648 or carl628@gmail.com.

Congratulations!

... to **Charles Helsabeck** who has completed his certification process to serve as a Pastoral Counselor.

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Steve Milligan** as he reports for duty with the navy -- first stop, Illinois.

...and with **Jordan Rogers** and his mom, **Julie Corbett**, as he begins wearing his brace for scoliosis for 23 hours/day for one year!



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Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - Noon
 Office Phone: 757-8122
 Facilities Coordinator: 753-2106

Susan Wickes, Editor: 754-0117
 e-mail: sbwickes@comcast.net
 Website: www.ucc-covallis.org

Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, November 10.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, November 6
 7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum
 8:00 p.m. Youth Event (through
 Sunday lunch)

Saturday, November 7
**10:00 a.m. Gifts For a Better
 World store opens**

Sunday, November 8
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Children's Choir,
 Music Room
 (following) Soup 'n' Bread
 fundraiser for West-M
 11:30-5:00 Gifts For a Better
 World store
 Noon Visioning session,
 Fireplace Room

Monday, November 9
 9:00 a.m. Staff
 7:00 p.m. Mission Board

Tuesday, November 10
 Noon Lectionary class,

Conference Room
 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1
Wednesday, November 11-Veterans' Day
Office closed
 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
Thursday, November 12
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142
Friday, November 13
 7:30 p.m. Badminton



... to **Gregg Smith, Kim and Logan Han-nigan, and Shauna Lambert** for cleaning up after the Día de los Muertos celebra-tion on Sunday;
 ... to **Carol Huntington, Ann Haw-kins, and Nancy Swain** for providing the Stewardship luncheon;
 ... and especially to **Mike Hunting-ton**, who recruited our Dixieland Jazz band for the All Saints Day service.