



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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December 4, 2009

TUNING UP FOR CHRISTMAS

Rehearsals begin this *Sunday, December 6*, for the **Occasional Congregation Orches-**



tra, which will play Christmas carols from 5:00-5:30 on Christmas Eve, under the direction of **Jeffrey Larkin**, Assistant to the Music Director. Band and orchestral instrumentalists, young and old, are invited to come the Fireplace Room after worship this Sunday for the first rehearsal. Other rehearsals follow worship on *December 13* and *20*.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

If you haven't signed up to participate in the Hanging of the Greens on *December 12*, you can still do so this Sunday. Experienced garland makers are particularly welcome!



BRIGHT GIFTS SUNDAY IS COMING!

This is the last week to pick up one of the remaining tags on our entry Christmas tree.

Bring the gift you purchased for the recipient identified by the tag, from Vina Moses or Janus House, *next Sunday, December 13*. Gifts should be unwrapped and have the tag from the tree attached so the gift can reach its intended recipient.

COMMUNION FOOD REMINDER

Remember Communion donations for the food banks this Sunday. Checks made out to the church and marked for South Corvallis Food Bank are welcome, as well as canned and packaged food to be divided between the food bank and Linn Benton Lunch Box.

THIS SUNDAY

December 6 - Communion

Adult Forum: **Donna Reishus** offers the first of this season's "Faith Journeys" -- 9:30 in the Meeting Hall

Scriptures: Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 3:1-18

Sermon: "Wanted: Shock-jock, Custodian, Prophet"
Ryan Lambert

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

Dear Friends,

As I write it is Tuesday afternoon, December 1, which is a day marked across the globe as World AIDS Day. I happen to be sitting in a hospital waiting room where concerns about the flu dominate the signage, and as someone who grew up during the era of AIDS-related hysteria it is good to see that that time has passed. However, even as I laud the demise of AIDS hysteria, it is with a level of discontent that I mark this year's World AIDS Day.

I am discontented today because I wonder whether the perceived passing of the AIDS crisis has led us to forget about the 1.1 million people in the United States who are currently infected with AIDS. I am discontented that 56,000 new HIV infections occur each year in the United States when this disease is preventable with education and prevention methods. I am discontented that the crisis of the world-wide AIDS pandemic seems so distant when 33 million people worldwide are living with HIV infections that currently have no cure. I am likewise discontented that this disease has prematurely taken 25 million people away from their families and friends.

This year, U.S. AIDS organizations are marking World AIDS Day with the "9:30 Campaign"—meant to draw attention to how often a new infection occurs in the U.S. 56,000 new infections means that a new infection every nine and half minutes. Although you are receiving this after World AIDS Day I would invite you to mark World AIDS Day with a private and prayerful nine-and-a-half-minute observance. Pray for those who are currently infected, for those who have been lost, for those who do AIDS education, and for those who fear being tested. World AIDS Day is also a great opportunity for parents to have conversations with their children about AIDS awareness and prevention.

As we await the coming of the Christ child during this Advent season let us remember those who await a cure on World AIDS Day!

Blessings,

Ryan**THEOLOGY ON TAP NEXT WEEK**

We will meet at 7:00 p.m. on *Tuesday, December 8* at Woodstock's Pizza. Order the beverage of your choice, and join us for bible study (Exodus 16) and fellowship. Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

WANTED: SOUP MAKERS!

We're planning to have Soup 'n' Bread following worship on *December 13*, **if** we get some sign-ups for soup making! Look for the sign-up sheet on Sunday (or call the church office) and volunteer to bring soup.



This week both youth groups will hear a talk by **Mary Beth Tinker**, who was plaintiff in the landmark case *Tinker v. Des Moines* that found that students don't "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate." This should be an interesting talk about the ways that young people can have tremendous impact through simple actions. **Ms. Tinker is speaking at the church at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday night. Join us!**

Looking ahead in December the youth groups will be leading an intergenerational caroling group on *Sunday, December 13*, and will have their white elephant gift exchange, hosted at the Lucker home, on *December 20*. Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

FILM, FOOD BAZAAR COMING

We hope you can join us on *Saturday, December 12*, to see a documentary by Oregon filmmakers called "Ingredients," to be shown at Peavy Auditorium (30th & Jefferson Way) on the OSU Campus at 2:00 p.m. The film, which features farmers and ranchers in Oregon, Ohio and New York, plus chefs and food experts (including Gary Nabhan, Frank Morton and several other familiar local faces and names). Thanks to The Wait & Lois Rising Lectureship, this event will benefit three organizations working to

increase food security in our community: That's My Farmer, Slow Food Corvallis and Ten Rivers Food Web. A Local Foods Bazaar will follow from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 and available at Grass Roots Bookstore or Corvallis Brewing Supply (correct amount cash or check only - made out to "Slow Food Corvallis"). They'll also be available at the door, but seating is limited.



IT'S FLOWER FUND GIVING TIME

Flower Fund inserts will be in this Sunday's worship bulletin. This fund is used to purchase poinsettias for Christmas time, azaleas for Easter, and flower arrangements for special occasions throughout the year. Names of contributors are listed in the worship bulletins for the two Christmas Eve services.

GIFT TO WRAP? JUST BAG IT



Trade in the wrapping paper for reusable cloth gift bags that we will make on *Wednesday, December 9*, at 1:00 in the Library. **Ginie Capan** and **Judy Hannigan** invite you to come and sew (or just visit). You can tote along your sewing machine if you like, or use tools that are on hand. Clear out long-stored Christmas or general fabric and turn it into gift bags of all sizes. Extra bags will be sold to benefit We Care.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, December 8.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, December 4

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum

Saturday, December 5

10:00-noon Women's Shelter
 volunteer training

10:00-4:00 Gingerbread housing
 project, Gatton Hall

Sunday, December 6

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir

9:30 a.m. Christian Education

10:30 a.m. Worship

**(following) Occasional Congrega-
 tional Orchestra,
 Fireplace Room**

(following) Children's Choir

7:00 p.m. Youth to Mary Beth
 Tinker talk,
 Meeting Hall

Monday, December 7

9:00 a.m. Staff

Tuesday, December 8

Noon Lectionary class

6:00 p.m. Budget Committee,

7:00 p.m. Conference Room

Theology on Tap,
 Woodstock's

7:00 p.m. Trustees Board

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Wednesday, December 9

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Group

10:00-4:00 Gingerbread housing
 project, Gatton Hall

1:00 p.m. Gift bag making [p. 3]

6:30 p.m. Bell Choir

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, December 10

1:30 p.m. Spirituality Group

6:00 p.m. Caring for Creation,
 Library

7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Jean Adams**, at Corvallis
 Manor recovering from a broken hip.
 She welcomes cards and visits;

.. and with **Luther MacLean**, recu-
 perating from nasal surgery.