

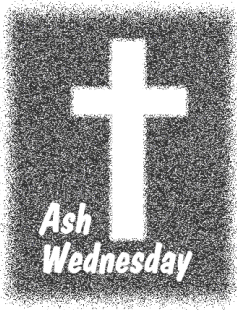


Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIX, No. 7

February 12, 2010



We begin our Lenten schedule this *Wednesday, February 17*. Join us for a penitential meal in the Fireplace Room, followed by worship and the imposition of ashes in the chapel. Classes begin immediately afterwards. Watch for posted signs with class locations that evening!

Descriptions of the class offerings may be found in the February 5th issue of *Congregational News*, available on the church website: <http://www.ucc-corvallis.org/newsletter.htm>

STILL TIME FOR PANCAKES!

This is the last Sunday to sign up for the Shrove Tuesday pancake suppers, in members' homes, on *Tuesday, February 16*. You can also call the church office.

ADULT FORUM LENTEN SERIES PLANNED

Charles Helsabeck and **Ryan Lambert** will lead the Adult Forum for Lent on the subject of "Christian Worship: What makes it 'Christian' and What Makes it 'Worship?'"

- *February 21* - What is Worship and why do theologians make it so complicated?
- *February 28* - The Stuff of Worship: Prayer, Word, Music, and Offering
- *March 7* - Worship Time and Space: The Church Year, Lectionary, and Liturgy
- *March 14* - Sacraments: Baptism
- *March 21* - Sacraments: The Lord's Supper
- *March 28* - Children in Bathrobes and Angel Wings as Worship

Join us Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Meeting Hall.

THIS SUNDAY

February 14

Adult Forum: The second half of **Kate Hunter-Zaworski's** presentation on transitions that families face when older family members cease to drive.

Scriptures: Exodus 34:29-35
Luke 9:28-36

Sermon: "A Moral Compass"
Charles Helsabeck

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

Dear Friends,

Next Wednesday we mark the beginning of Lent with a service that includes a confessional litany and the imposition of ashes. As we enter into this holy season of Lent we are starting the long journey that will include confession, forgiveness, desolation, and celebration. Over the next weeks we will remember stories of Jesus healing the sick, confronting the powerful, and teaching the disciples. We will also read into the stories our knowledge of the torture that lies ahead for Jesus and his followers. This is a powerful and profound season, and as we accept the ashen mark and utter our confessions on Ash Wednesday we are joining with followers across the generations who have struggled to understand what the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus mean in their context.

Ann Weems, in her book *Kneeling In Jerusalem* (Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992) writes this to describe this season:

Lent

Lent is a time to take the time
to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events
get up and walk around in us,
a time to intensify
our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over
the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem
or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder...

Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

And so I ask you: what does Lent mean for you this year? What is the fresh taste of that you need to experience? This is your season.

Blessings,

Ryan



No youth group this week due to Winter Weekend, but here is our schedule for the next few weeks!

- *February 21:* 5:00-6:30 -- Middle and High School gather for the next in our series on Spiritual Practices: "God in a Box?"
- *February 28:* Middle School at 5:00 p.m.; High School at 6:30
- *March 7:* Academy Award Party 5:00 p.m. Location TBA
- *March 14:* Community Soup service project to benefit Community Outreach, 4:30-7:30 p.m. at First Congregational UCC

February's Mission Offering
JACKSON STREET
YOUTH SHELTER

Youth who live on the street, or who are removed from home for their own safety, can end up cold, hungry and without a bed to sleep in. They are in desperate need of opportunities and support from caring adults and professionals to turn their lives around. Many are run-aways and struggle with abuse, neglect, and medical, mental health, educational, or substance abuse problems. Jackson Street Youth Shelter is the only organization between Salem and Eugene that provides shelter services to unaccompanied minors.

Besides providing emergency shelter and crisis stabilization, Jackson Street

Youth Shelter staff advocate for the youth in accessing appropriate community support services for their mental and physical health, education, and personal well being. They provide support services for youth through follow-up care, which may include peer support groups, facilitating treatment for drug and alcohol addictions, and family mediation services. And importantly, the staff help the youths articulate a positive vision of their future and identify the steps necessary to reach their goals.



Tuesday, February 16, is our church's day to prepare and serve Stone Soup at the First Christian Church kitchen, beginning at 3:00 p.m. New people are always welcome to join the regulars in this important ministry. Sign up on Sunday or call the church office to volunteer -- for just one time, or regularly.

IN OUR CHURCH LIBRARY

Books about black history and civil rights are on display in the church library for both adults and children. Some of the children's books would be perfect to read aloud to your little ones. So, visit the library and check out whatever interests you. The fiction shelf is overflowing these days.



THIS CHURCH SHOWED THE LOVE

Wow – it needs to be said again – WOW! There was some serious love shown for God's Creation this past Saturday morning. There are (84) new native plants that are now calling our little piece of Dunawi Creek "home." It is hard to miss all of the new plants in Hanson Grove and along the exit drive. One can only imagine what this will look like in a few years as the plants grow. A total of 36 passionate, caring people that made this happen.

We made some new friends from OSU who generously helped: **Jean Rosenbalm, David Foster, Andy Foster, Michael Zahler, Sam Olsen, and Blake Bowman.**

Our members included **Nancye Ballard; Greg Christianson; Logan, Seth and Kim Hannigan; Bob and Judy Hannigan; Jim Hall; Dorothy Price and Pat Johnson; Kiko Kimura; Brian Lee; Marin, Grace, Shauna and Ryan Lambert; Lee and Suzanne Lazaro; Eileen Marma; Claire, Gwyneth and Regan McMorris; John Murphy; Bob Stebbins; Nick Som; Tommy and Bryan Wright; Tim, Jan and Larry Thornton.**

The entire Caring for Creation team wants to voice our sincere appreciation for everyone's tremendous support. Who says you cannot have some fun with a little rain, mud and a shared concern for God's creation! *[More photos on the C4C bulletin board in the hallway!]*

[Photo deleted]

GRAMMY AWARD PIANIST IN FREE CONCERT

Former pianist for the Grammy Award-winning Imperials of Nashville, **Randy Coryell** will perform live in a solo piano gospel concert at 4:00 p.m. on *Saturday, February 20*, at our church. A free-will offering will be taken.

Randy is currently pianist/organist at the Boise United Church of Christ. He will also be a part of our next morning's worship service.

The Saturday concert will feature music in several musical genres: black gospel, country, classical, ragtime, even rock! "One Man's Improv," a classical showcase, demonstrates his remarkable ability to improvise classical music. And, with over 20,000 documented songs committed to memory, the highlight of the concert will be two on-stage improvisations of songs as requested by the audience!

As a child prodigy, Coryell was playing the piano at 4 years of age, and made his debut as church pianist at the age of 12. He has given over 5,000 concerts worldwide, as a soloist and with many television and radio performers, and is an award-winning film score composer.

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... continue to be with **Liz Oettinger** who is doing well after last Friday's surgery, recovering at home. Cards and e-mails are appreciated during this first week or so of recuperation.

THANKS FROM WE CARE

Dear Friends,

During the past year we were able to assist 69% of the 317 cases referred to us by the Community Services Consortium case worker, Cindy Pratt. Of these, 63% (138) were families with children. Overall, needs for rent and utilities were of the highest demand with move-in costs the next urgent need. We distributed \$63,070.09 with an additional \$29,790.00 of disbursements and direct contributions to the Endowment account.

Our annual fund appeal [brought in] \$8,655. In a gesture of supreme generosity, We Care receives from an anonymous donor the amount of \$1000 per month for a period of 36 months -- until March 2011.

We are grateful to report that by the close of 2009 all of the 20 members of the Council of Religious Organizations had made their contributions. On behalf of all those who have benefited from your compassion, we say thank you for giving us the privilege to serve as the We care Board for 2010.

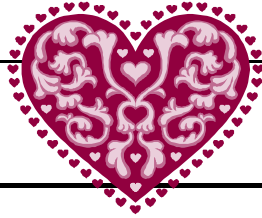
Sincerely,

John Fradet, President
Wendy Sutton, Secretary
Lyn Martin, Treasurer
Becky Charbonneau, Donna Megy,
Joni Peterson

F•Y•I: Our church Emergency Food Coordinator is **Julie Maloney**. This month's chair is **Karen Miller**.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, February 16.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday, February 13

**Winter Weekend
 (through Monday)**

10:00-noon Dunawi Creek
 weed pulling

Sunday, February 14

9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Soup 'n' Bread
NO youth groups

Monday, February 15 - Presidents' Day

Office closed

Shrove Tuesday, February 16

8:45 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 3:00 p.m. Stone Soup
**6:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday
 pancake suppers**
 7:00 p.m. C E Board
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Ash Wednesday, February 17

**5:30 p.m. Lenten supper,
 Fireplace Room**

6:10 p.m. Child care, Room 7
6:15 p.m. Lenten worship
6:45 p.m. Lenten classes
7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, February 18

11:45 a.m. Lunch Group
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

Friday, February 19

7:30 p.m. Badminton

CORRECTIONS ALERT!

* Last week's schedule of Lenten classes indicated that the Lenten bell choir was for experienced ringers. Actually, director **Kim Thackray** is eager for **beginners** to join the group, too! Sign up after church on Sunday to participate, or send an e-mail to Kim at thackray_family@yahoo.com.

* **Ryan Lambert's** e-mail address is missing its hyphen in the new photo directory. It should be ryan@ucc-corvallis.org.