



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIX, No. 9

February 26, 2010



## OUR FIRST 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY "POSTLUDE PLUS"

The fourth Sunday experiment in worship that was mentioned in the January 29 issue of the *Congregational News* begins this Sunday. The sermon time will be shortened slightly to allow **Myles Criss** and our lovely pipe organ a chance to offer music that doesn't fit into our usual 2½ to 3½ minute postlude slot. This Sunday's piece is Johann Sebastian Bach's well-loved "Tocatta in D Minor," which is about 7½ minutes long.

Everyone is invited to stay and enjoy; but if you need to leave, feel free to quietly do so.

## COMMUNITY SOUP IS COMING

Mark your calendars so you don't miss the second annual Community Soup event, to be held in Gatton Hall. The soups are sponsored by local religious communities (including us), so the earnings from ticket sales (\$9/individual; \$23/family) all go to fund the work of Community Outreach for the Mid-

Willamette Valley's homeless and uninsured. Local restaurants and chefs are coming together to provide soup, bread and dessert for the event. There will be live music provided by Dancing Moon Orchestra and a raffle highlighting each of Community Outreach's integrated programs. Tickets will be available in the church office starting next week.

In addition, **Karen French** and the art guild will offer handmade ceramic bowls for purchase -- again to benefit COI. Community Soup will be on *Sunday, March 14*, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

## THIS SUNDAY

*February 28*

**Adult Forum:** Our Lenten series on Worship continues with: "The Stuff of Worship: Prayer, Word, Music and Offering" -- 9:30 a.m. in the Meeting Hall.

**Scriptures:** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Psalm 27  
Luke 13:31-35

**Sermon:** "Brooding in Lent"  
Caroline Zaworski

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK***Ryan Lambert*

Dear Friends,

As you know, we have entered into the season of Lent. During Lent our tradition is to take down many of the decorative touches that add warmth to our sanctuary during the rest of the year. Each year entering the sanctuary on the first Sunday of Lent seems especially stark after the vibrant colors of the Epiphany Art Festival have disappeared. For me this seems especially true this year, and I must admit that Sunday I found myself wrestling with how to sneak a little bit of color into our worship space. I was especially thankful then for the music that Randy Coryell brought to our worship experience as it provided welcome brightness to contrast with the stark Lenten feeling of our worship space.

How we create our Lenten worship space is an important way to encounter Jesus and join him as he travels toward the cross. This is a season for reflection and contemplation, not joy. The stark feeling created in a bare sanctuary is meant to remind us of the gravity of this journey and, as I look around at the bare hooks and lament the blank walls, I am reminded of the darkness that Jesus ultimately encountered on his journey. As we look forward to seeing anew the release of artistic beauty in our worship space we acknowledge that the empty tomb is still weeks away and our Alleluias will have to wait!

Our bare walls are truly a small sacrifice during Lent. As we move through the coming weeks of Lent, I invite you to notice the feelings and emotions that you encounter as you worship amid the bare walls of Lent. I invite you to celebrate the ways that music and art infuse your life with meaning and I invite you to be intentional in missing the "normal" vibrancy of our space!

Welcome to the difficult and faithful trek that is Lent!

Blessings,

**Ryan**

**PEACE ACTIVISTS TO SPEAK**

**Monadel Herzallah**, national coordinator for the U.S. Palestine Community Network, and **Rebecca Tumposkey**, International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network, will speak on Gaza from both a Jewish and Palestinian anti-Zionist viewpoint. The presentation will demon-

strate Palestinian and Jewish peace activities working together for human right for all in the area.

Held at the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, 2945 NW Circle Blvd., Corvallis, the talk will be on *Saturday, February 27*, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Free will donations will be gratefully accepted.



The **Middle School** youth group will meet this week at 5:00 p.m. and the High School group will follow at 6:30 p.m. This week we will be exploring Lenten observances, playing games, and enjoying snacks. Friends are always welcome! Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

### YOUNG ADULT NEWS

We had another young adult gathering on February 21 and we will next gather to serve on the dishes/clean-up crew for the Community Soup benefit for Community Outreach on *March 14*. Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail for more details.

### DISHES ARE READY TO GO HOME

People who have prepared and delivered food to **Liz** can pick up their dishes in the Conference Room this Sunday. Thanks!

### SIGN UP SUNDAY FOR WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship will meet on *Wednesday, March 3*. Lunch (\$5) is served at noon in Gatton Hall. The program will be on Witness for Peace, presented by **Aleita Holcombe**, at 1:00 in the Meeting Hall. If you need transportation, call **Alice Morrow** (541-752-3541). If you need child care during the lunch-

eon, call **Ryan Lambert** (541-757-8122).

**WANTED:** The loan of an Exer-saucer for the second week of March, for the enjoyment of **Joan Caldwell's** granddaughter during her visit. Let Joan know if you have one to lend.

### JUST PEACE QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you for taking time to complete the Just Peace Questionnaire that you received last week. If there is more than one person in your household that wishes to respond, there are several ways to do this. One is to copy the questionnaire and each person can turn one back to us. Another way is to use more than one pen...indicating multiple responses for each item.

However you choose to respond, the Just Peace Committee would like to hear from "you all."

You can return your questionnaires this Sunday in the basket marked "Just Peace Questionnaires."

Peace,

**Aleita Hass-Holcombe**

Just Peace Committee, Chair

### JAMMING FOR THE HUNGRY UPDATE!

Jamming continues on Monday nights from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. We are getting many volunteers from the Sustainability class at OSU. Thank goodness for our 4 or 5 regular jammers who know the process



well enough to guide the “newbies” we have each week. With all the volunteer help, we are able to make 50 to 100 jars each session. Since we started in September 2008, we have made over 2500 jars of jams and jellies! Since we produce more, we are now serving Community Outreach, Jackson Street Youth Shelter, and the OSU Campus Food Pantry, in addition to South Corvallis Food Bank, and Philomath Food Bank.

We had used up most of our fruit stash from last summer, but recently received several 5 gallon buckets of fruit puree from Linn Benton Food Share. Each bucket makes 50 pints of delightful jams. However, don't forget us when you clean out your freezers. When we ran low on fruit last month, I donated the frozen pie cherries from my freezer, and we made a delicious cherry jam.

Right now, our challenge is obtaining half-pint and pint jars, and canning jar lids. We are now getting about 20-30 jars returned each month. I hope that eventually, we will get enough jars back to keep us going. Occasionally, I repurchase our jars at Goodwill (they still have our “return this jar” sticker on the lid!). Please keep us in mind, if you are at Bi-mart, or a garage sale, and want to help our neighbors who need monthly assistance from food pantries to feed their families.

We also need sugar and Splenda. A 5-pound bag of sugar (or a bag of Splenda) sweetens about 40-50 jars of jam. Our jams have less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  the sugar

of “store bought” jams and jellies (and no corn sweetener or locust gum, etc). We also need bottled lemon juice for low-acid fruits.

And we can accept cash donations to the United Methodist Church (Jamming for the Hungry). We will need to renew our license in late June, and will need to purchase more pectin this summer (we buy bulk to save money!).

### COOKING CLASS/ COMMUNITY KITCHEN NEWS

**Rebecka Weinstein** is the new community kitchen coordinator (**Sara Power** had to resign for personal reasons). You may know Rebecka and her wonderful mustard, or in her work for Gathering Together Farms. She will be organizing some classes and working on the "micro-enterprise" aspects of the grant that supports "That's My Farmer" programs.



### THANKS

... to **Alice Morrow** and **Ann Hawkins** for the Ash Wednesday soups, to **Kiko Kimura** for her signature rolls, and to **Shauna Lambert** for the green salad and homemade dressing.

### F-Y-I

Our church Emergency Food Coordinator is **Julie Maloney**. Emergency Meals Chair for the month of March is **Doris Sherry**.

## TAKARAZUKA CHURCH NEWS

Dear friends at  
First Congregational UCC in Corvallis,

It has been already more than a month since the beginning of the year 2010. We hope you are all well. We always pray for Liz in the process of medical treatment, including the resent surgery. We also pray for all of you so that you are always with Jesus and blessed with protections by and comforts from God.

We observed the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hanshin and Awaji Earthquake on January 17. We prayed at our church in remembrance of those who lost their lives on the earthquake. There was a memorial service in the evening in Kobe, organized by the Hyogo District Conference of UCC in Japan. The service was attended by about 250 people from various churches. We thought about the lives lost, lives being lost even now, the links given to us, and new threads to spin. This was the theme of the worship service and gathering. One week prior to this anniversary day, there were many TV programs which reminded us of the earthquake as if it had happened recently. The Haiti Earthquake really hits us hard again.

We finally had a meeting on January 31 to report our visit in Corvallis. Each member of the delegation made an individual report with own reflections in front of the Church congregation. The Rev. Tsukuda showed a video. We all

shared the wonderful time we had with you.

We will have some more cold days ahead. Here in Takarazuka, early spring flowers are seen, such as red and white Japanese plums. We pray for your health.

**Nobumi Fukui**

Takarazuka Church Partner Committee

Dear Liz, Ryan and  
First Congregational Church,

Many, many thank for approving use of your facility for Gifts For A Better World for November 2010!

As provider of free space to operate Gifts For A Better World, we want to share with you details about who benefited from your generosity as a result of this past year's store. Nine different local nonprofits sold \$9,674 of inventory which allowed them to continue their services. Fair Trade vendors sold us \$23,023 worth of handcrafted items which provides healthy employment opportunities for artisans, education and health programs for communities, allows workers to feed, cloth and shelter families, and promotes economic justice

GFBW donated \$3,000 to local non-profit organizations: South Corvallis Food Bank \$250, St. Mary's Food Bank \$250, Janus House \$250, Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center \$250, Vina Moses \$500, Jackson Street Youth Shelter \$500 and Community Outreach \$1000. You made this possible!

Sincerely,

Sue Tappeiner, Coordinator GFBW



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, March 2.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Friday, February 26*

7:30 p.m. Badminton

*Sunday, February 28*

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir  
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education  
 10:30 a.m. Worship  
 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth  
 6:30 p.m. High School Youth

*Tuesday, March 2*

8:45 a.m. Staff  
 Noon Lectionary class  
 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee  
 6:30 p.m. Outreach & Evangelism  
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1  
 7:30 p.m. Diaconate  
 7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee

*Wednesday, March 3*

Noon Women's Fellowship luncheon, Gatton Hall  
 5:30 p.m. Lenten supper  
 6:15 p.m. Lenten worship  
 6:45 p.m. Lenten classes  
 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

*Thursday, March 4*

7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

*Friday, March 5*

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

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**



Clara McCormick 3/1,  
 Steve Elbinger 3/1, Caroline  
 Zaworski 3/2, Natalie  
 Lucker 3/3, Monine Stebbins 3/8, Linda  
 Hadfield 3/9, Meghann O'Dell 3/9,  
 Christopher Rorrer 3/14, Greg  
 Christianson 3/15, John Cochran 3/19,  
 Welcome Lahey 3/20, Tracey Meara  
 3/23, Jacob Zaworski 3/28, Logan Lamb  
 3/31

If your family's birthdays and anniversaries are not on our list -- and you would like them to appear -- please get the information to **Susan Wickes** via the office mailbox or e-mail. We don't publish ages, but your anniversary number may be included if you like.