



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

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March 19, 2010

## HOMELESSNESS FORUM THIS SUNDAY

Join the **Mission and Outreach Board** in the Meeting Hall after worship on *Sunday, March 21*, for a conversation and strategy session concerning how our congregation will respond to the needs of the homeless in our area now that the cold-weather shelters have closed. Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

## EGG SHELLS NEEDED FOR EASTER

The **CE Board** needs blown, dry, intact egg shells to make "cascarones" for the Easter Egg hunt. Eggs should have no larger than a dime-sized hole. Please bring them to the church office in cartons for **Ryan** or **Molly** by *March 28*.



## HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR THE **Easter Breakfast?**

The Easter Breakfast that we enjoy only happens with the help of you all!

We need more casserole and bread bringers; five more set-up people at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday; five more peo-

ple to help in the kitchen on Sunday a.m. (one from 8:15 - 9:45 a.m. and four from 9:15 - 10:30 a.m.), and five more people on the clean-up team, including one more dishwasher.

Please take a moment to sign up this Sunday so we can have complete committees!

## GUEST MUSICIAN SUNDAY

This Sunday, as our Musical Offering, pianist Mary James Swanson will play J. S. Bach's Fugue in B flat minor from the *Well-Tempered Clavier*.

## THIS SUNDAY

*March 21*

**Adult Forum:** Part 5 of the Lenten series on Worship focuses on the sacrament of baptism -- 9:30 in the Meeting Hall.

**Scriptures:** Isaiah 43:16-21  
John 12:1-8

**Sermon:** "There's that Woman Again!"  
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

I have been connected to Hospice care since 1982 when St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth opened its inpatient and home care hospice service. In those days, Hospice was an avant garde concept. Most hospice patient received their care in a special hospital unit. The general public didn't really believe that family members and friends -- well-meaning volunteers -- could provide adequate end-of-life care for a loved one. And the idea of palliative care -- care directed towards comfort rather than cure -- was seen as medically questionable. I was proud to serve on the first Hospice board in Duluth. In Seattle, I worked with Hospice of Seattle as a volunteer and board member. Here in Corvallis, I have interacted with Benton Hospice Service as a Board member, occasional in-service provider, and one who stood on the sidelines as a pastor or friend, watching Hospice's work with patients and family members.

I thought I knew everything there was to know about Hospice care. But since the beginning of this week, when the doctor and I made the decision to admit my mother to Hospice, I've developed a new appreciation. Hospice provides excellent nursing care and help with caregiving. It has a range of medical and psycho-social-spiritual services for patients and families. Hospice workers have a whole bag of tricks most of us have never thought of to solve logistical problems and improve the comfort of patients. All this I knew before. What I didn't know is how insecure and unable you feel when the patient is *your* loved one and you are responsible for his/her care. I didn't know how much it would mean that the hospice nurse is confident and unharried in the face of your scattered confusion, that the staff makes what seems impossible to you seem in the realm of possibility.

The word "compassionate" means "having a passion to be with," neither leading nor supporting, but standing alongside, a partner. I feel like I have a team of partners in taking care of my mother. And I share this with you all in the hope that if there are any of you out there who find yourselves in a position to use Hospice's services but worrying that you don't have what it takes to make Hospice care work, you will be encouraged. More is possible than we believe. We are capable of more than we believe. That's true in most of life, not just Hospice. I just learned it again.

God bless you all.

**Liz**

### **EASTER BOOKS ON DISPLAY IN LIBRARY**

The church library now has Easter books as well as some new acquisitions on display for both children and adults. What we need now are readers to check them out!



**Middle and High School** youth are invited to try their hand at rock climbing

at the Dixon Recreation Center on *Thursday, March 25*, at 5:30 p.m. Please meet at the climbing center at Dixon Hall. The cost is \$6 per person.

Both youth groups will also be making the cascarones for the Easter Egg Hunt during youth group at 6:30 p.m. on *Sunday, March 28*. Join us and learn how to make this festive Easter egg craft that will be enjoyed by the children during the Easter Egg Hunt.

### **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETS WEDNESDAY**

The Women's Fellowship will meet on *Wednesday, April 7*. The luncheon is at noon in Gaton Hall; the cost is \$5. The program, "UCC's Extravagant Welcome," will start at 1:00. The presenter is **Joan Caldwell**, our church Facilities Coordinator.

If you need child care, contact **Ryan Lambert** (541-575-8122); if you need transportation, contact **Alice Morrow** (541-752-3541.) Please let us know you are coming on the sign-up sheets available before and after Sunday worship or by calling the church office.

We hope you can come to both luncheon and the program. If your schedule does not allow this, you are most welcome to attend either the meal or the program.

### **SUNDAY'S AFGHANISTAN TALK LOOKS AT WAR, ENVIRONMENT**

**Dana Visalli**, a naturalist and activist from north-central Washington, will be speaking about his recent travels to Afghanistan at 7:00 p.m., *Sunday, March 21*, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis, 2945 NW Circle Blvd. Dana has traveled several times to Iraq to study the impact of modern warfare on human society and on the natural world. His recent trip to Afghanistan focused on the status and well-being of women and children, as well as the impact of 30 years of war on the Afghan environment. His presentation will provide current perspectives on the war there, and the state of the natural environment. He will also raise the question of whether modern warfare is diminishing our capacity to make the transition to a "sustainable society," one that lives within the carrying capacity of the ecosystems that support us.

The talk is free and open to the public. For more information: [info@vfpcorvallis.org](mailto:info@vfpcorvallis.org). Co-sponsored by: The Peace Action Council of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis and Veterans For Peace, Chapter 132.

### **Our Thoughts and Prayers**

... are with **Libby Ankarberg**, recovering from knee surgery performed on March 10;

... and with **Logan Oettinger**, who has been placed on hospice care.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, March 23.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Friday, March 19*

7:30 p.m. Badminton

*Sunday, March 21*

9:30 a.m. Christian Education

10:30 a.m. Worship

**(following) Homeless Response Forum, Meeting Hall**

7:00 p.m. Speech Choir rehearsal, Meeting Hall

*Monday, March 22*

Spring Break begins

*Tuesday, March 23*

8:45 a.m. Staff

Noon Lectionary class

**NO** Boy Scout Troop 1

7:15 p.m. Church Council

*Wednesday, March 24*

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Group

5:30 p.m. Lenten supper

6:15 p.m. Lenten worship

6:45 p.m. Lenten classes

**NO** Sanctuary Choir

*Thursday, March 25*

1:30 p.m. Spirituality Group

5:30 p.m. Middle and High School youth rock climbing at OSU

7:00 p.m. Speech Choir rehearsal

*Friday, March 26*

7:30 p.m. Badminton

**WOMEN'S CLUSTER MEETING SCHEDULED**

Central Pacific Conference women have scheduled a cluster meeting for our area at Salem First Congregational on *Wednesday, April 7*. **Susan Smith**, a Willamette University faculty member who has spent time in Haiti on a water project (before the earthquake), will be the speaker.

Please contact **Nancy Klingeman** to make reservations for the gathering which will begin at 9:30 a.m. and cost \$7 for lunch. Corvallis women will present the short worship that day and carpools will be arranged.