



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIX, No. 22

May 28, 2010



This Sunday, in a lay-led worship service, we will be celebrating our church's commitment to inclusivity. This service is part of the Worship Committee's "Fifth Sunday" program: an on-going invitation to groups of church members to take the opportunity of the four fifth Sundays of the year to create special worship around themes important to them. This week's service includes perspectives on being an Open and Affirming community from **Marion Whitney, Emily Raines and Erika Danner, and John Hawkins.** Come and join us!

And if you have an idea for a fifth Sunday service, please contact **Liz** or **Ryan.**



INQUIRERS' CLASS TO START

Those interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ and First Congregational in Corvallis are invited to join the Inquirers' Class, to meet *Sunday evening, June 27*, from 5:00 to 8:00. Dinner at the home of **Ann** and

John Hawkins is included, so please call the church office if you plan to attend, or if you need further information.

Class participants who decide to join the church will be received into membership during worship on Salmon Barbecue Sunday, *July 11.*

PLAN NOW FOR THE SALMON BARBECUE



Our Annual Salmon Barbecue will be held on *Sunday, July 11*, at noon, in Han-
[continued on page 4]

THIS SUNDAY

May 30

Adult Forum: **Liz Oettinger** will introduce a video featuring the highly-regarded preaching of Barbara Brown Taylor, in the last session in our series on women theologians.

Scriptures: Psalm 27:1,4 13-14
Romans 8:35, 37-39

Sermon: "Reflections on Inclusivity"
[see left]

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

Dear Friends,

Last year the Just Peace Committee purchased a new anti-torture banner to hang on the outside of the church during the month of June. With this banner we joined with the supporting congregations of the National Religious Coalition Against Torture (NRCAT) to observe Torture Awareness Month. Our old banner had worn out and I must admit that I was hoping that our need to hang another banner had ended. However, although our nation's policies have made strides toward erasing the use of torture and "enhanced interrogation" techniques, such techniques have not been fully erased from our policies and those responsible for the use and promotion of such techniques have not yet had to answer for their decisions. And thus, as we move into yet another June our congregation will once again display a banner decrying the use of torture.

In preparation for the re-hanging of the banner, I share this press release from the NRCAT:

June 26th is United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. Several years ago, religious and human rights organizations in the United States declared the month of June to be Torture Awareness Month as a way to provide greater visibility to this issue and provide an opportunity for coordinated actions across the country.

This June, NRCAT encourages congregations and people of faith to focus on two primary efforts:

1. Passing federal legislation granting the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) access to all detainees in U.S. custody.
2. Securing a comprehensive investigation, a Commission of Inquiry, into the use of torture by the United States since September 11, 2001 - learning from the past is the best way to build a torture-free future.

Under the theme "Ending Torture: Our Nation's Unfinished Business" we seek to codify in law one of the key elements of President Obama's January 2009 Executive Order – ICRC access to detainees – and we continue our call for a nonpartisan Commission of Inquiry to be appointed by the President and/or the Congress. NRCAT has also called upon the Attorney General to appoint a Special Prosecutor to investigate the use of torture.

As we enter into June, watch for information about this issue from the Just Peace Committee and visit the website for the National Religious Coalition Against Torture to learn more about continuing to speak faithfully against torture policies.

In Christ's peace,

Ryan

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ENDS YEAR

Join us on *Wednesday, June 2*, at 11:45 a.m., for lunch and the installation of Women's Fellowship officers for the coming year. Enjoy a wonderful meal, get to know the new officers and other women in the church.

The cost is \$5.00. Sign up on the list in the church foyer this Sunday, or call the church office to let us know you're coming.

TORTURE AWARENESS MONTH

June is Torture Awareness Month and *June 26* is United Nations International Day in support of victims of torture. UCC Congregations are supporting the National Religious Campaign against Torture. Our church will fly a banner reading: "Honor God. Stop Torture Now" starting June 1st.

An opportunity will be available to sign and support "A Call for a Commission of Inquiry to investigate United States Torture Policies and Practices." Postcards will also be available calling on Members of Congress to support legislation to assure that the International Committee of the Red Cross has access to all detainees held by the United States.

Torture is a denial of our common humanity and of the Divine Spark within every human being. Its practice causes lasting harm to the victim but also to the perpetrators. It reflects a spiritual void that precedes physical violence and is part of a culture of hate. The use of tor-

ture contradicts our nations deepest values and corrupts the moral fabric of our society.

Warren Hovland



**Be a
Summer Musician!**

During the summer months, our Sanctuary Choir is on vacation, and our worship music is provided by our many talented instrumentalists and singers. If you -
- returning college student, youth, adult -- would like to play or sing, as a soloist or in a small ensemble, please call the church office and let us know the dates you are available.

FACE THE DISPLACED EXHIBIT

All forty photos of displaced Colombians are on display this week at Westminster House, 101 NW 23rd. The four churches that helped to put this together are:

First Congregational UCC
First United Methodist
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship

The photos and accompanying statements from each person are a powerful reminder that all is not well in Colombia. The faces implore us to think seriously about how our foreign policy may be contributing to human rights violations in that country.

The **Just Peace Committee** encourages you to visit the exhibit at West M and to write a comment in the guest book.

ATTENTION: UCC WOMEN

Northwest Regional Women's Retreat IX, is on *November 5-7*, at Kah-Nee-Ta Resort in Warm Springs, Oregon. For more information about registration and workshops, please visit the website at www.nrwr-ucc.org. Printed registration forms are available in the church office. The deadline for the early registration price break is *July 1*.

LIBRARY SHELVES REARRANGED

Many thanks to **Janice Engle** and **Marion Whitney** who rearranged the library shelves last week to make more room for books. Now it will be easier to locate books to check out for summer reading and there will be plenty of room on the shelves when folks return the ones they are currently reading.

EAGLE SCOUT CEREMONY INVITATION

Gavin Milligan will receive his Eagle Scout Award from Troop One, on

Tuesday, June 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the church's Meeting Hall. He and **Harrison Fontaine**, who built the shed at the church last fall, will share the ceremony. Members of the congregation are invited to attend.

SALMON BARBECUE *from page 1* son Grove. Tickets will be on sale at church, beginning *June 13*.

This is the church's oldest fellowship tradition. While we no longer cook the salmon on stakes as the Native Americans did, our cooking crew serves up some truly fine salmon grilled over our barbecue pit. If you don't eat salmon, there will be a host of potluck side dishes available.

Yard activities are available for children and all ages: slippy slide, croquet, badminton. Come and enjoy this wonderful event!



GRADUATION NEWS REQUEST

Thanks to all who have sent information about their families' 2010 graduates. The deadline is **June 8**, but don't hesitate to send news early. If additions or corrections need to be made later, it's fine to send them through the 8th.

Drop off in the church office or e-mail sbwickes@comcast.net, the following about your graduate: **graduate's name, school, and plans for the coming year(s), plus any other pertinent information.** Thanks!

Holy Sox Game Schedule

<i>June 6</i>	5:40 p.m.	N. Chintimini
<i>June 13</i>	7:00 p.m.	Porter
<i>June 20</i>	8:40 p.m.	E. Sunset
<i>June 27</i>	7:20 p.m.	W. Sunset
<i>July 11</i>	4:40 p.m.	E. Sunset
<i>July 18</i>	4:20 p.m.	Porter
<i>July 25</i>	4:20 p.m.	S. Chintimini
<i>August 1</i>	6:00 p.m.	Pioneer
<i>August 8</i>	3:20 p.m.	Pioneer

Karen & Kim Jones 6/18 (33rd)
 Doug & Sue Richmond 6/20 (29th)
 Nancy & Ray William 6/21 (41st)
 Joni & Neal Peterson 6/24 (43rd)
 Carol & Mike Huntington 6/25 (22nd)
 Ching-Yue & Chunhwei Chi 6/26 (28th)
 Bryan & Maria Wright 6/30 (8th)

* * *

To add your dates to our birthday and anniversary lists, e-mail the information to sbwickes@comcast.net or drop a note in the church office Newsletter mailbox.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Anna Harding 6/2, Karen Jones 6/5, Kyle Skyllingstad 6/8, Amy Nafshun 6/10, Nadine Skyllingstad 6/18, Elena Wright 6/20, Mary Hall 6/20, David Zielke 6/23, Paul Barkley 6/23, Sandy Piper 6/24, Wally Christianson 6/24, Kristin Rorrer 6/25, Julie Corbett 6/27, John Erkkila 6/27, Aleita Hass-Holcombe 6/27, Cynthia Janes 6/27, Michael Henthorne 6/28, Carl Lucker 6/28, Hal Harding 6/29

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Jan & Larry Small 6/9 (47th)
 Don & Ruth Leeper 6/9 (59th)
 Lee & Paul Barkley 6/10
 Irwin & Kay Harris 6/11 (68th)
 Chris & Jim Cantey 6/12
 Pete & Susie Nelson 6/14 (43rd)
 Ed & Nancy Henderlite 6/14 (51st)
 Mary & Russ Youmans 6/15 (52nd)
 Marj & Norm Elwood 6/16
 Terry & Sally Robertson 6/17 (43rd)



The **Harding** family celebrates the birth of **Cameron Patrick Harding**, our fifth grandchild, who was born on May 16, at 6 lbs. 5oz., to **Benj** and **Andrea Harding** in Vancouver, Washington. But for lack of sleep, everyone is doing great!

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Chris Cantey**, who suffered a cracked pelvis while in California visiting her children and grandchildren;

... and with **Sarah Hoffman**, now house-bound due to progressive illness. She really enjoy visits and cards!

... and with **Pete Nelson**, recovering from thumb surgery;

... and with **Donna Reishus**, at Mayo Clinic for treatment of an autoimmune disease. Her address there is 5516 S. Feather Bush Court; Apache Junction, AZ 85218.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, June 1.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, May 28

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Laity Sunday, May 30

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir

9:30 a.m. Christian Education

10:30 a.m. Worship
NO youth groups

Monday, May 31-Memorial Day

Office closed

Tuesday, June 1

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, June 2

11:45 a.m. Women's Fellowship
 luncheon, Gatton Hall
 [see page 3]

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, June 3

1:30 p.m. Spirituality Group
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

Friday, June 4

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

Mark your calendars!

LOOKING AHEAD:

June 6: Christian Education Recognition Sunday, during worship, with reception following in Gatton Hall

June 13: Graduate Recognition Sunday, during worship, with reception following

June 20: Summer worship schedule begins: No Christian Education hour; worship at 9:30 a.m. (through Labor Day)

July 11: Salmon Barbecue [See pages 1 and 4 for more information.]

July 18: We will, once again, enjoy the beauty of outdoor worship in Hanson Grove. **Amara Jo Som** will be baptized during the service.