

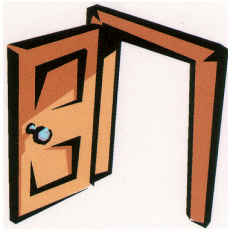


Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIX, No. 32

September 10, 2010



A NEW “OPEN DOOR POLICY”

The Trustees have recently installed a magnetic door holder for the second entry door off the Gatton Hall foyer. This is not the door to the exterior, but the one between the Gatton foyer and the hallway to the main foyer. In the past, we have had trouble when we have wanted that door open, and to hold it open would push against the electric handicapped door closure. With our wonderful door mechanic, we found a setting for the door that allows it to stay open without using or damaging the motor (saving both energy and the life of the door closer)!

The door is required as a fire door, and the magnetic holder is wired into the fire alarm system to close in the event of an emergency. Most of the time, it is more convenient to have the door open. It will be closed and locked at night, and can be closed when we need “noise separation” between events in Gatton Hall and those in the Sanctuary. But from now on, its usual position will be open to allow free access through the building.

IN THE BEGINNING: NEW WORSHIP SERVICE FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN!

As part of our desire to accommodate the needs of young families in the congregation, on *September 19* we will be starting up a once-a-month 5:00 p.m. worship service geared for parents and young children together -- and, of course, anyone else who would like to be there. The service will be held on the floor of the chapel, and feature simple songs, simple prayers, and Bible stories told on a flannel board. The service will last 20-30 minutes, and be followed by a
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THIS SUNDAY

September 12

Adult Forum: 9:30 in the Meeting Hall [See “Thought for the Week,” on page 2]

Scriptures: Micah 6:6-8
Matthew 15:21-28

Sermon: “It’s Who We Are”
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

Dear Friends,

Ready or not...here we go! As I write this a hard rain is falling outside my window, reminding me that summer nights are quickly becoming a memory. Not that I could have missed the change in the calendar! School supplies are seemingly everywhere, so that children and youth can return to classes with the supplies they need. In the sports world college football has begun and the baseball season is winding down. In the garden the summer fruit is disappearing and fall fruits are heading toward their peak season. In the church, the start of the program year is upon us and **THIS** Sunday it will all begin!

As we kick off the program year for our Christian Education classes we will once again start our classes with an intergenerational church school hour at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday. We will all meet in the Meeting Hall for prayer, singing, and an intergenerational exploration of our scripture lesson. Partway through the hour the children and youth will head out to their classes and the adults will remain in the Meeting Hall to engage the lesson together. I appreciate being able to bring our classes together as we begin the year so that we can all see each other and so that we can be reminded of the many ways that we learn from childhood through our adult years.

This is a particularly important time for our children as we begin the program year because, when we separate into age-specific classes, the children and youth will be heading to **THEIR** church school rooms. This intergenerational beginning allows our children to begin the year with their families and then to wander off with their teachers and classes in a way that we hope will make for a comfortable transition and a warm welcome to church school. We have wonderful teachers in all our classes and much of the work that they do is focused on providing a safe, nurturing environment where they can learn and grow...and our first Sunday of the program year is always an important starting point!

I hope adults and children alike will join us this week for our Christian Education kick-off so that we can start the year with a joyous and creative time together!

Blessings,

Ryan

FRISBEE GOLF WITH THE GUYS!

The next "episode" of Guys' Night Out will convene at 8:30 a.m. on *Saturday, September 11*, at Sam's Station. We will gather first for breakfast at

Sam's and then head to Willamette Park for a round of Frisbee Golf. Contact **Ted McCann** at elprofemac@comcast.net if you have questions or to let him know you are coming!



Middle School and **High School** youth and their parents are invited to a “Fall Kick-Off

Dessert” on *Sunday night, September 12*, at 7:00. Each family should bring their favorite ice cream sundae topping and we will outline the upcoming program year. Since **Ryan** will be using both e-mail and facebook as primary communication tools please make sure he all contact information for your family! Questions? Contact Ryan via e-mail, facebook, or at the church!

WE CELEBRATE MOLLY’S SERVICE

On *Sunday, September 12*, following worship, we will celebrate the many gifts **Molly Chambers** has brought to our church family as our CE Associate.

We will all miss her creativity and vitality, and we thank her for the development and enhancement of the Christian Education program in our church, particularly her outreach to young families. Please join us this Sunday for cake and kudos!



ACTIVITIES DIRECTORY IS HERE!

Curious about opportunities in music, education, and fellowship at the church? The new Activities Directory is available for pick-up on the name tag cabinet in the foyer, starting this Sunday. It con-

tains descriptions, and contact information for the choirs, fellowship groups for various ages, classes, sports teams, and more. Be sure to get yours.

MAD AS HELL DOCTORS RALLY THIS FRIDAY

Join **Mike Huntington** and the other Mad As Hell Doctors as they rally for sustainable real health care reform in our sanctuary, *Friday, September 10*, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. There will be music and documentary videos.

WORSHIP from page 1

simple child-friendly supper. After supper, there will be time for the children to play and the parents to get to know each other and talk about parenting issues. The evening will end at 6:30 so everyone can get home early.

If you plan to come to this first service on the 19th and stay for supper, please let the church office know so we have the right amount of food. And please invite friends to join us! Remember: this is an experiment. It may be chaos. It may be wonderful. It will probably be a little of both! We’re looking forward to it; we hope you are too! Please contact **Liz Oettinger, Donna Joiner, or Susie Nelson** with any questions.

READ & FEED MEETS

Nancye Ballard will host this *Sunday, September 12*. The group will discuss *Will the Circle Be Unbroken?* by Studs Terkel.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT NEW PROPERTY?

The **Trustees** will host two more meetings to gather input for development of the property to be purchased to the west of the entrance driveway. Bring your questions and let them hear your thoughts at one of the next meetings, this *Sunday, September 12*, or *September 19*. The meetings are in the church library immediately following worship. Plan to be there.

ELECTRONIC CLERGY EVALUATIONS OFFERED THIS YEAR

It is the responsibility of the **Pastoral Relations Committee** (PRC) to conduct an evaluation of the clergy on a regular basis. The purpose of these evaluations is to appreciate our clergy's strengths in ministry and to help them focus attention in areas of their work where they could improve. For the benefit of the evaluation we need as many of you as possible to evaluate **Liz** and **Ryan**.

This year we'll be doing an electronic evaluation and you'll be sent the link to complete the evaluations. If you would rather have a hard copy format we can make that available as well. If you would prefer to offer your evaluation responses verbally, a PRC member will arrange to meet with you and include your comments in the evaluation tabulations. Please notify a PRC member of this preference so that we can arrange a timely meeting.

It is the desire of the PRC to have completed the collection of data by the middle of October. You'll be hearing more soon about the process.

Contact information for the PRC members is:

Nita Phillips, Chair

nita.phillips@comcast.net 541-758-0758

Mary Bolton

mbolkher@comcast.net 541-752-6853

Al Goldner

apgoldner@aol.com 541-753-1236

Gary Massoni

gmassoni@hotmail.com 541-745-5460

Annie McDaniel

a_mw84@hotmail.com 541-231-2973

We look forward to receiving your responses and comments and strongly encourage to take part in this opportunity to participate in the life of the church.

SUNDAY'S CHILI COOK-OFF

OFFERS FAMILY FUN

The chili cook-off is at the Benton County Fair Grounds from noon to 4:00 p.m. on *Sunday, September 12*. The cost is \$5.00; with military ID the cost is \$2.00. Children under 5 are free.

There will be 20 chili booths that offer tastes. Various attractions such as dunk tank, bounce house, helicopter, K-9 unit, search and rescue team, ambulance, fire truck, voting on chili in various categories, awards for various categories of chili, raffles, music and more.



All the proceeds will go to We Care! We hope it will be a very successful event and we have lots of support from the faith communities that support We Care.

O.K. (OLDER KIDS) CHORALE

The **O.K. Chorale** welcomes new singers into its four-part gospel/good-time chorus of retirees who perform for care-center residents in Albany and Corvallis. Beginning *September 13*, the group practices at 10:00 a.m. on Mondays in the choir room at the First Baptist Church, 125 N.W. 10th St., Corvallis. Coffee follows.

For more information, contact **Ron or Colene Voll**, 541-745-5122, or vollheim@hotmail.com.

ENNEAGRAM PRESENTATION BY FR. WILLIAM MENINGER

Fr. **William Meninger**, co-founder of Centering Prayer, will offer a presentation entitled "The Enneagram: Tool for Spiritual Transformation" in Corvallis on *Sunday, September 26*, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Upper Social Hall at St Mary's Church. During the week of *September 24 to 30*, Fr. Meninger will also be making presentations in Eugene, Salem and Portland on other topics related to prayer and Christian spirituality. The cost of the Corvallis presentation is \$15.

Tickets are available online at <http://meningerevents.eventbrite.com> or at the door. Contact **Norman Carlson** at 541-754-9945 for additional information.

During the week following this presentation Fr. Meninger will visit two Centering Prayer groups in Corvallis. On *Monday, September 27*, he will be at St Mary's in the Sienna Room from 2:00-4:00 p.m., and on *Wednesday, September 29*, he will join a group at First Presbyterian from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in room B-3. Anyone interested is welcome to join these groups for a period of Centering Prayer and a chance to converse with Fr. Meninger.

Fr. Meninger is a Trappist monk from St. Benedicts Monastery in Colorado. In 1974 he originated the workshop on Contemplative Meditation (later known as Centering Prayer) which he now teaches worldwide along with workshops on Forgiveness, the Enneagram, Sacred Scriptures, and Prayer. He leaves the monastery only four times each year to do this lest he lose his own monastic orientation while sharing it with others. His books include *The Loving Search for God*, *The Process of Forgiveness*, and *Julian of Norwich: A Mystic for Today*.

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with the family of **Sarah Hoffman**, who died on Sunday, September 5. The date of her memorial service will be announced soon. Cards may be sent to Sarah's daughter and family: **Rachel** and **David Carlisle**, and **Erin** and **Ian**, 5260 NW Highland Dr., Corvallis 97330



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, September 14.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, September 10
 7:00 p.m. Mad as Hell Doctors
 Rally, Sanctuary

Saturday, September 11
 8:30 a.m. GNO (page 2)
 3:30 p.m. Badminton

Sunday, September 12
9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
9:30 a.m. Christian Education,
Meeting Hall
10:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Reception for Molly
 Chambers,
 Gatton Hall (page 3)
 (following) Listening meeting,
 Library (page 3)
 6:30 p.m. Middle and High
 School youth, parents
 dessert kick-off (p. 3)
 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed, Ballard
 (page 3)

Monday, September 13
 7:00 p.m. Mission Board

Tuesday, September 14
 10:15 a.m. Staff
Noon Lectionary class
 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Wednesday, September 15
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, September 16
 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142
 barbecue

**LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY
 RESUMES ON SEPTEMBER 14**

The lectionary bible study will re-convene beginning on *Tuesday, September 14*. We meet in the library at noon and spend an hour reading the lectionary texts, learning about their biblical context, and using them to explore our own faithful understanding of our bible. Everyone is welcome and folks often bring their lunch along!

Questions? Contact **Liz** or **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.