



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIX, No. 34

September 24, 2010



Welcome Back Mixer

Join us this Sunday – whether you signed up or not – after worship for soup, bread, and hand-made ice cream! We will gather in Gatton Hall for food, fun and fellowship. Please bring your favorite ice cream topping to share.

STEWARDSHIP SEASON IS ALMOST UPON US

Already Stewards are tapping Captains and Captains recruiting workers so that everyone can be called upon in our Every Member Canvass. Being part of the canvass is fun! You get to visit three members of the church--old friends or new acquaintances--in order to talk with them about the church. What is going well? What concerns do they have? At the same time, your job is to deliver that family's pledge card and make sure it gets back to the church.

Most people enjoy the canvass, but we know there are some of you out there who would prefer either a) not to be asked to be stewardship callers or b) not be called on by our Stewardship callers. If you are in either category a or b and

you're not sure **Ann** and **Liz** already know, please call or e-mail the church office. Thank you.

Your Stewardship Committee
Mike Huntington, Mike McNally,
Nancy Swain

CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN

Confirmation is open to all high-school youth and is a year-long study of the history and traditions of the church which enables youth to make an informed decision about confirming their parents' decision to raise them in the church. Our first meeting will occur **this** Sunday night from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the church. Questions? Contact **Ryan**.

THIS SUNDAY

September 26

Adult Forum: Marriage & Family
Across the Lifespan - Changes and
Challenges. 9:30 in the Meeting Hall

Scriptures: Psalm 91: 1-6, 14-16
Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Sermon: "Investing in Hope"
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

Dear Friends,

The students at Oregon State University are back! You have probably noticed that stores are busier, parking places aren't as easy to find, and "Beaver Orange" is everywhere. As I write we are preparing for our "Welcome Back" event this Sunday—Soup, Bread, and Homemade Ice Cream—it all sounds pretty good to me! As we celebrate the beginning of the program year and welcome each other back I thought this might be a perfect time to remind everyone that fall is often a time when students and others visit as they look for a church home. As we greet old friends and catch up with each other we want to be aware that how we welcome new folks into our midst is also a critical part of our ministry. Being a welcoming church is not something that just happens, but it is something that we all share responsibility for.

Helping visitors feel welcome on Sunday morning can be as simple as saying "hello" to those you pass as you enter into worship and to those who sit near you in the pews. For those of us who have "done church" for a long time we know the traditions, the prayers, and when to stand up and sit down. Those cues aren't necessarily known to those who are visiting for the first time and our traditions may not be as easy to identify as we think. If you see someone struggling to know what to do next I encourage you to gently offer help. For those who don't know many people the "Passing of the Peace" can be an especially daunting moment, which means it is a critical moment to extend a greeting to someone who is new. Finally, as worship ends and people begin to exit the pew rows there is another critical moment to welcome folks. This is a great time to take notice of people you do not know, and as you exit the sanctuary take the opportunity to greet them and invite them for coffee and fellowship in Gatton Hall.

The beginning of the school year is bringing new folks into the church. I invite you to take an active role in helping First Congregational United Church of Christ become their church home! Evangelism is simply welcoming God's people and helping them become a part of the community of the church!

See you in church,

Ryan**RECITAL THIS FRIDAY**

You are invited to enjoy tenor **Jeffrey Larkin's** senior recital this *Friday, September 14*, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. **Nicola Nine-Zielke** will play.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Jan and Larry Thornton 10/1
Cliff and Jo Anne Trow 10/10 (41st)

Submit your family's information to be added to our list!



The youth groups will participate in the Crop Walk on *Sunday, October 10*. This event raises money for the ministries of **Church World Service**, which provides disaster relief around the world and alleviates hunger in local, national, and international locales. Pick up your Crop Walk pledge sheet **this** Sunday at church! Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail or facebook.

TAKARAZUKA CHURCH NEWS

We visited our partner churches in the Tajima district this summer, located in the northern part of Hyogo prefecture: Tajima Hidaka Church, Toyo-oka Church, Takeno Church, and Kinosaki Church. Twelve of us traveled 200 miles in two cars for this two-day trip.

This district is a thinly populated area, and the propaganda of these churches seems to be difficult. Evangelism in the district begun at the end of the 19th century, and one of the churches was established by American Methodists in 1955. The mission has not been easy, because of the earthquake in 1925, oppression during the World War II, and the depression after the war. To the present, despite the decrease in membership in addition to members' aging, a small group of zealous supporters has been working diligently and faithfully.

We were greeted by the ministers and

church members at Hidaka Church and Toyo-oka Church, and had a really good visit. We felt we had become friends and are look forward to our next visit.

We then visited Takeno Church, where we were welcomed with a wonderful dinner. We enjoyed a 10-minute walk to the Japan Sea and soaking in a hot spring.

The last day was Saturday, and we attended the worship service at Kinosaki Church, where they have the service on Saturday instead of Sunday. We shared Communion during the service. The Rev. Kobayashi serves for both Toyo-oka and Kinosaki Churches. Kinosaki is famous for its hot spring, and the church is located on the hill at its center. This might be another reason why it is difficult to have the worship service on Sunday, because everyone is busy with tourists on Sunday. The Rev. Kobayashi invites tourists, saying, "Come to church in your relaxed style, holding a towel in your hands." We enjoyed going to the hot spring after the service.

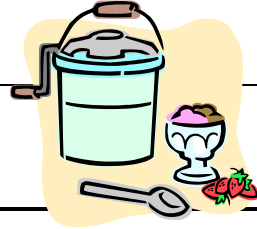
Our partnership with your church in Corvallis has encouraged us to move toward establishing partnership with churches in Okinawa and extending friendship with our close neighbor churches in the Tajima district. We pray for guidance for our partnership with First Congregational UCC in Corvallis as well as our partner churches in Japan.

Reported by **Kimiyo Higashimoto**

(Please see the pictures on the Takarazka bulletin.)



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, September 28.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, September 24
 6:00 p.m. Jeffrey Larkin recital,
 Sanctuary (page 2)

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Sunday, September 26
 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 10:30 a.m. Worship
(following) Soup 'n' Bread
Welcome Back
Ice Cream Social
 12:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal,
 Meeting Hall

6:30-8:00 Confirmation class

Monday, September 27
 7:00 p.m. C E Board

Tuesday, September 28
 10:15 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1
 7:15 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday, September 29
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Friday, October 1
 7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum
 7:30 p.m. Badminton

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Ray William 10/1,
 Douglas Pentland
 10/3, Patrick Yun
 10/3, Kiko Kimura
 10/4, Paul deLespinasse 10/4, Ryan
 Lambert 10/5, Beth Riley 10/6, Mary
 Vedaa 10/7, Kay Harris 10/7, Terry
 Robertson 10/9, Neal Peterson 10/9,
 Beth Christianson 10/9, Luke Elbinger
 10/11, Irwin Harris 10/12, John Koch
 10/13, Karen Miller 10/15, Rose Chris-
 tianson 10/16, George Mueller-Warrant
 10/19, Nancye Ballard 10/19, Doug
 Richmond 10/21, Sean Skillingstad
 10/21, Christopher Koch 10/25, Chase
 Cochran 10/25, Nancy Groesz 10/27, Er-
 ic Hall 10/28, Hokie Adams 10/30, Alan
 Holcombe 10/30, Julie Rorrer 10/31

