



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIX, No. 35

October 1, 2010

World Communion Sunday *Missionfest Focus*

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Since 1946, Church World Service has provided disaster relief, refugee assistance, community development, hunger relief, and education across the globe in partnership with, and on behalf of, 35 Orthodox, Protestant, and Anglican denominations. Church World Service (CWS) is a key humanitarian organization that is working in almost every place of need that is imaginable -- for us.

Join the **Mission Board** after worship in Gatton Hall to learn more about who are our CWS partners, what types of work the Church World Service is doing, and how we can learn more and share in this important work! Also, you are invited to sign up to walk or sponsor a walker in Corvallis' *October 17 Crop Walk*—an endeavor which will benefit local food banks and support global hunger eradication efforts. Join us for wonderful post-worship snacks and get educated about all the people and places that Church World Service is impacting!

During worship this World Communion Sunday, we will have the opportunity to hear some special music. The **Sanctu-**

ary Choir will be singing three movements (*Gloria, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei*) from the *Missa Kenya*, a Mass from that country. Much of the music and gestures owe their existence to East African choral traditions, fusing together Kenyan musical styles with references to late 20th century American “classical” music -- creating a synthesis of sorts between the two musical cultures.

In many ways, this is the gift that the composer, Paul Basler, gave to the loving friends he left behind in Nairobi. The composer ends quietly with the *Agnus Dei*, a prayer for peace, and understanding throughout the world.

THIS SUNDAY

October 3- Communion

Adult Forum: “Marriage & Family Across the Lifespan-Changes and Challenges” series continues – 9:30 a.m.

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12:12-21,
26-27

John 17:6-11

Sermon: “Just One Body”
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

This Sunday is World Communion Sunday, the day we remember and give thanks for our connection to the whole body of Christ: the Church in all its many iterations all over the world. We are celebrating this day at First Congregational with a service of Holy Communion from the Anglican Church of Kenya, and music by the choir from a Kenyan mass. So our order of service will be different, with words and images that are a blend of familiar and unfamiliar to us.

I invite you to make a special effort to attend this service, a time to reflect on the spiritual mystery that we are one body with Christians whose life experience is far outside our own, whose theology sometimes agrees, and sometimes disagrees radically from our own. All of us try to minister to the world in Christ's name.

One of my life goals is to go to a gathering of the World Council of Churches. I remember seeing a video several years ago of one world-wide gathering held in Australia. The initial procession brought tears to my eyes: men and women of over 100 nations dressed so many different ways, each one bearing a gift that represented an offering of their faith and culture to dress the altar. The beauty of that diversity humbled me, and made me realize how little I think about the church outside ourselves.

I hope our worship this Sunday takes you to a not-often-traveled place, that unfamiliar words and intonations mixed with more familiar elements give your heart a window onto this larger context of what it means to be the church.

See you there!

God bless you all and all our Christian brothers and sisters around the world.

Liz

**CELEBRATING GLOBAL
MINISTRIES ON WORLD
COMMUNION SUNDAY**

Emily Goldthwaite-Fries, who grew up at First Congregational UCC in Eugene and was a classmate of **Ryan's** at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, is currently serving as a UCC/DOC missionary in Jerusalem through Global Ministries. Global Ministries is the joint ministry of the United Church of Christ and the Christian

Church (Disciples of Christ) that is responsible for nurturing relationships with international partners on behalf of our two denominations. Check out the blog that Emily and her husband **Tim** are keeping as they spend a year in Jerusalem:

<http://followingarrows.blogspot.com>

THEY'VE MOVED!

Ed and Nancy Henderlite are now at: 1955 Dallas Hwy. #827, Salem 97304.



We will be walking together at the Crop Walk on *Sunday, October 17*. Pick up your Crop Walk pledge sheets this Sunday and begin gathering pledges to support local and international hunger eradication efforts. Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail or facebook.

SOUND TESTING IN SANCTUARY

A process is currently underway to evaluate and update our sanctuary sound system. Over the next few weeks you will see microphones flown in various ways amid the pews. This is for testing purposes only, but the information gleaned from these tests will guide future installations and updates. Thank you for your patience! Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BEGINS OCTOBER 6

Women of the church are invited to the first lunch of this program year, at noon in Gatton Hall. The cost is \$5. Following the meal, there will be a program in the Meeting Hall: "The Rigorous Pursuit of the Truth: The Salem Witchcraft Trials of 1692" by the Rev. **Elizabeth Oettinger**.

If you do not have two hours for lunch, come to either the lunch or the program. Sign up at church on Sunday or call the church office. Child care is

available if requested in advance by calling the church office (541-757-8122).

GOSPEL EXPLOSION BENEFITS PARTNERS PLACE

The "Housing First" fundraiser will be held at the First Christian Church, 602 SW Madison Ave., on *Sunday, October 24*, at 7:00 p.m. Performers include: Ramblin' Rex, Pete Ballerstedt, Michael Riley, Inner Strength Gospel Singers, and more!

Tickets are \$10 at Grass Roots book Store, or from any board member. Partners Place will provide permanent supported housing for chronically homeless persons. The project is sponsored by the Corvallis Homeless Shelter Coalition. For more information, contact **Barbara Ross** (541-752-3605)

CLERGY EVALUATION SURVEYS

The **Pastoral Relations Committee** (PRC) has created an electronic survey style evaluation for both **Ryan** and **Liz**. Everyone with e-mail access should have received the link to the survey via e-mail this week. Please complete survey by *October 15* or sooner. If you prefer paper copies of the evaluation please let **Nita Phillips** know and the committee will get them mailed out to you. If you would prefer to make your comments in person to a PRC member please contact one of us directly.

Nita Phillips, Chair
Mary Bolton, **Al Goldner**,
Gary Massoni, **Annie McDaniel**



Congregational News (USPS 128-820)
PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT CORVALLIS OR
Postmaster: Send address changes to:
Congregational News, 4515 SW West Hills Rd.
Corvallis OR 97333-3925. Published weekly
except twice a month in July and August by
First Congregational United Church of Christ

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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, October 5.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, October 1

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum

Saturday, October 2

10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir

World Communion Sunday, October 3

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir

9:30 a.m. Christian Education

10:30 a.m. Worship

(following) Missionfest,
Gatton Hall

Tuesday, October 5

10:15 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

Wednesday, October 6

Noon Women's Fellowship
lunch, Gatton Hall

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, October 7

6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

F•Y•I

Ryan Lambert will be away *October 3-10*.

BANQUET OF THE BEST

Corvallis Repertory Chamber Singers, conducted by Steve Zielke, offers five courses of gourmet listening this *Sunday, October 3*, at 3:00 p.m., at First United Methodist Church.

Tickets are \$17 (or \$55 for the four-concert season) at Grass Roots and Gracewinds, Beard Framing in Timberhill, or Sid Stevens in Albany. Students are free.

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Erna Esbensen**, now bed-bound at Stoneybrook Assisted Living. Although new to our church, she is a life-long UCC member and appreciates having visitors. If you would like to be one of the folks who will drop in on her, please call the church office.