



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLIX, No. 40

November 5, 2010



Beginning *November 7*, designated folks in the congregation will begin making calls to member households to schedule a visit about the church. You will be give your pledge card for 2011; it is our hope that you can return your pledge to your caller at that time. All pledges will be dedicated on *Thanksgiving Sunday, November 21*, with Thanksgiving dinner following.

Also this Sunday, will be the reception of new members and the baptism of **Simon Scheessele**, son of **Erin** and **Evan**, and brother of **Peter**. In light of these extra celebrations, **Liz** plans a shorter sermon, (or "petite homilette," which the staff thought sounded classy.)

WE'RE HAVING A NATIONAL FRIENDRAISING!

We want you to invite someone to our church for this *Sunday, November 7*.

Perhaps you've been waiting for the right season or theme to bring that friend, neighbor, or coworker for a visit. Or maybe you know someone who would find the Sunday adult education topic of interest. This is the national date

on which the United Church of Christ will again proclaim its extravagant welcome. Bring someone for a taste for a welcoming, justice-minded, progressive Christian community where God is still
[continued on page 2]

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

Once again, getting to the church on time means remembering to reset your clocks *Saturday night, November 6*, when Daylight Saving Time ends for this year.



THIS SUNDAY

November 7

Adult Forum: Using portions of the Howard Zinn biography "You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train," we will explore Howard Zinn's life and faithful call to activism. 9:30 a.m., Meeting Hall

Scriptures: Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon: "What Can You Make?"
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

I am writing this on Election Day, long before we have any returns to celebrate or gripe about. It seems worth mentioning to me that instead of excitement over candidates and issues, what I have heard most today is that now it will be “safe” to answer the phone or watch the TV. Everyone is tired of overblown attack ads and automated phone calls concerning this or that issue. No matter how much it is talked about, we have made little progress in political civility.

Weekend before last, I was in Chicago at a weekend conference concerning church endowments. As part of that event, I spent four hours listening to economists of varying backgrounds and points of view discuss our national economy--how much it has recovered, why, and where things should or might go from here. What was extraordinary to me is that our presenters went out of their way to explain the philosophical reasons for their differing opinions and how they looked at important indicators; they joked respectfully about themselves and each other; they emphasized that there is no one right way, and that we (the audience) deserved to hear all sides of the economic debate presented as candidly and carefully as possible.

Now, I know the stakes were not as high in that Chicago hotel conference room as they are with state and national elections, and yet I found myself wishing, yearning even, that we could carry on political discourse at that level. All presenters spoke frankly about the downsides of their opinions. All denied any one magical right path, though they had strong opinions about better and worse. They gave great information-- and made really bad jokes about CPAs, actuaries, economists, and persons who worked for the Federal Reserve!

It is deeply imbedded in our Congregational roots to appreciate, participate in, and demand respectful, balanced, informative, well-reasoned debate on matters crucial to people’s lives. Fairer than parallel attacks. Smarter than 30-second sound-bites. How do you think we could get there from here?

God bless you all.

Liz

NATIONAL FRIENDRAISING
from page 1
speaking.

For more information, check out:
<http://www.ucc.org/god-is-still-speaking/friendraising.html>

<http://www.ucc.org/news/ucc-will-launch-new.html>

UCC will launch a new 60-second internet video *on November 5* to kick off the Friendraising weekend. Look for it on www.ucc.org .



The **Middle and High School** groups will be meeting at 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. on *Sunday, November 7*, for fellowship and fun. Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail or facebook.

SIGN UP TO HELP AT THE COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE

The Community Holiday Food Drive will begin on *November 13*. Our church will be working at the Fairgrounds collection site from 1:00-3:00 on that day, sorting food as it comes in to prepare it for distribution to those in need. This is a terrific intergenerational activity -- sign up at church this Sunday and join in the work and fun! Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

This year, the numbers of those relying on emergency food assistance in Benton County is at an all-time high. To many seniors, single parents, disabled, and unemployed struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living here, a special holiday meal is simply out of reach.

Local Boy Scouts and other service groups will be collecting food and cash donations during their annual Door-to-Door Food Drive on *Saturday, November 13*, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This is the food volunteers will be sorting at the Fairgrounds.

Types of food needed are: **canned fruits and vegetables, canned pumpkin, canned cranberry sauce and**

canned milk, peanut butter, stuffing mix, tuna and other canned fish and meats, baby foods, olives, Jell-O, and cake mixes. Fresh apples and fruits, winter squash, potatoes and other fresh vegetables. No home-canned good can be accepted. Monetary donations, and food not picked up at homes may go to:

Community Holiday Food Drive
@ Coldwell Banker Valley Brokers
109 NW 9th St., Corvallis, OR 97330
Let's make the holiday season a time for everyone to celebrate.

KNITTING FOR THE KNEEDY

The **Young Adult Group** is meeting *Sunday, November 14*, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. We will be knitting scarfs and making hats for the homeless.

November Mission Offering MEALS ON WHEELS/DIAL-A-BUS

Currently **Meals on Wheels** serves 107 homebound clients in the Corvallis, Philomath, Adair Village areas. We certainly are more than just a meal delivery to many of our clients who have no family or friends nearby, and our drivers are the only people they see all day. These volunteer drivers are trained to watch for and report changing health issues. Our meals cost \$7 each; we ask only a donation of \$3.50, the average donation is \$2.35. Our mission is to provide nutritious meals necessary to prevent the inappropriate or premature institutionalization of elderly homebound residents of

Corvallis. We are committed to fostering independent living with dignity for as long as possible.

Dial-A-Bus provides special transportation services to seniors (age 60 plus) and persons with disabilities and children throughout Benton County connecting with adjoining counties. Services include: demand response transportation, four contract service routes, Corvallis-Albany Connection and the Coast to Valley Express. Demand response service is a curb-to-curb, wheelchair accessible service for those who cannot use fixed route service. Our contract service routes provide services Monday through Friday for developmentally disabled clients who need transport to and from their residential facilities to work/rehabilitation. The Corvallis Albany Connection operates three days per week with four round trips offered each service day. Coast to Valley offers service between Benton and Lincoln Counties three days per week. In October, we begin an new service between Monroe and Adair Village five days per week. In addition, on two of those days we also connect to Junction City.

Stewardship Profile

Name: Lee & Suzanne Lazaro

FCC members since: late 2009

Why we joined First Congregational: We had a need and desire for spiritual growth; struggling with mid-life and relationship issues; needed more than secular life could offer but hadn't

yet found a church that met both of our needs; needed a way to worship and recognize life's higher power that felt authentic; liked the church's progressive mission, open and welcoming spirit; environmental stewardship and social justice orientation, & UCC's overall approach to personal and congregational spirituality.

Why we've stayed: Our ministers Ryan and Liz; wonderful and supportive congregation members; meaningful and moving sermons; member participation in the worship service; children's message; wonderful and talented musicians, singers, and choir; great mission focus and outreach to the Corvallis community, the state, other countries; Caring For Creation group.

Our fondest hope for the church: We hope that our congregation continues to grow, and to add more new members, particularly young people. We hope the Caring For Creation group continues to prosper and do good environmental stewardship works for our church and community. We hope that the mission offering continues to support our community, our environment, and our neediest citizens; we hope that Ryan and Liz will always remain as our ministers.

Our hidden talents: Suzanne is a wonderful artist and gardener. Lee is also a very occasional artist, a great cook, and has lived and traveled extensively overseas. We have a vacation home on beautiful Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia, one of the places God truly touches in this world, and where we are always very happy and comforted.

What we offer the church: Suzanne is an experienced fitness instructor, and also a registered & experienced Occupational Therapist who has worked with both elderly, young

persons, and developmentally disabled persons. She was also a state regulator and Deputy Labor Commissioner for whistle blower complaints. Suzanne is a very productive and focused volunteer in areas she is interested in. Lee is a very good writer and speaker; works well with all manner of individuals and cultural/ethnic groups; speaks Spanish; and has 33+ years of organizational, budget & finance, program management, professional consulting, and administrative experience to offer the church. We both have a strong environmental background, and extensive volunteer experience, including most recently with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. (Due to this, at the moment, we are pretty much maxed-out on commitments, however.)

How we would like to show "The Courage to Live Abundantly": We are both trying very hard to live abundantly at this time. We both came through troubled and challenging childhoods, which led to some significant problems in our adult lives and in our relationship. Despite this, we worked hard to be good and loving parents, contributing community members, and productive employees, but too often neglected our own personal spiritual growth, and to nourish our partnership, during our middle life. We are now working very hard to heal all relationships; to make progress in our journey of spiritual growth, and re-connect with ourselves; our friends; and our community. With the guidance of Liz and Ryan, we recently had a wonderful Re-commitment Ceremony at UCC, replete with many long-time and new friends and family. We are now joyously renewing and celebrating our 37-year marriage, and our desire for service and to give back to our community.

Lee & Suzanne Lazaro



Gifts For A Better World, a non-profit fair trade store, will be open from *Saturday, November 6*, through *Sunday, November 28*, in the C E wing of our church. There will be lots of **new** and **different** hand-made merchandise from 30 fair-trade cottage industries in developing regions of the world. Several local non-profits also sell merchandise at GFBW. Please join us in helping international craftspeople achieve economic independence through shopping at Gifts for a Better World Store. All money made beyond yearly expenses is donated to local charities.

Store hours are Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.; Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Sunday: noon - 5:00. Volunteers are needed to work in the store for one or more shifts. Please call **Ann** (753-7032) to volunteer. Thank you!

CHORAL CONCERTS BENEFITS UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY

Make a Joyful Noise! A Choral Celebration, featuring choirs and ensembles from Mid-Valley United Methodist Churches and partnering congregations (including ours!), supports United Campus Ministry at OSU. A free-will offering will be taken at the concert on *Sunday, November 7*, at 3:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 1165 NW Monroe, Corvallis.



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**Annual
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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, November 9.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, November 5

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

Saturday, November 6

1:00 p.m. Sarah Hoffman
 memorial, Sanctuary

Sunday, November 7

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 3:00 p.m. Choral Celebration
[see page 5]
 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
 6:30 p.m. High School Youth

Tuesday, November 9

10:15 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board
 7:00 p.m. Mission Board
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Wednesday, November 10

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Group
 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, November 11 - Veterans' Day

Office closed

6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

Friday, November 12

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Ryan Lambert** and his family, following the death of his grandmother, **Ruth Lambert**, on October 28, in Spokane;

... and with **Sharon Calhoun**, who would enjoy visits, now that she is confined to her home,

... and with **Donna Reishus**, who continues to struggle with an undiagnosed illness.

BAHÁ'Í MUSICAL CELEBRATION

The Corvallis Bahá'í Community invites us to a musical celebration on *Thursday, November 11*, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Corvallis Senior Center.