



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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December 17, 2010

MORE MUSIC OF THE SEASON

Our **Bell Choir**, under the direction of **Kim Thackray**, will provide music for Sunday's service. As the prelude, they will ring "Arioso," by Mary G. McCleary; the offertory will be "People Look East," arranged by Linda Lamb; and the postlude is "Wassail, Wassail," arranged by Sandra Eithun.



The **Sanctuary Choir** will be here to sing "What Shall We Sing for the Child," arranged by Howard Helvey.

SIGN UP TO GIVE BLOOD

The need for blood is even greater around the holidays, so we are scheduling another Red Cross drive in Gatton Hall on *Tuesday, December 28*. Sign up



this week in the foyer for an appointment from 12:30 and 6:30.

If you'd like to make an appointment from home, go to the Red Cross website <https://www.givelife.org/index.cfm?group=op&es=true>. (For "zip code," use 97333 or 97330; 97321 doesn't work.) Once you get to the website enter your e-

mail address and date of birth. If you have used the online appointment system before your information will display for your approval. If you have not used the online system before you can fill out the form with some basic information that the blood bank will need. Then click the "Continue and View Blood Drives" button. You will see our blood drive. If you went to the site without using the link and don't see our drive enter **convallisucc** where it asks for the sponsor code. Click the circle to the left of the day you would like your appointment. On the next page, pick a time. Then you will

[continued on page 3]

THIS SUNDAY

December 19

Adult Forum: Our final "Faith Journey" this season will be by **Charles Helsabeck**. Join us at 9:30 a.m. in the Meeting Hall.

Scriptures: Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon: "What Can We Learn From Joseph?"
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Ryan Lambert*

Dear Friends,

Over the next couple of weeks you will be seeing inserts in your worship bulletins that invite you to sign up to be greeter/hosts and ushers. We will then follow with a short training that will take place after worship on January 9. The roles that the greeters, hosts, and ushers play on Sunday morning are key to making everyone feel welcome—from long-time members to first time attendees. The Outreach and Evangelism Committee of the Diaconate is inviting people to sign up to help with the positions on Sunday mornings in an effort to more broadly share the responsibility of welcoming folks and serving in worship.

But what do greeters, hosts, and ushers do? **Greeters** stand near the front entrance and provide a friendly greeting as people enter the church. They also invite new folks to sign the guest register and make sure that people can find the nursery or the coat rack as needed. We are combining greeting and host duties because the **host's** responsibility is to see to the needs of new folks *after* worship by assisting new folks to find our fellowship time or perhaps even a quick tour of the building. This helps cement the beginning of a relationship for those who are seeking a church home! **Ushers** hand out worship bulletins and collect the offering during worship. These two distinct parts of the job assure that everyone knows what is happening next in worship and also has lay members playing an important role in worship leadership.

I invite you to sign up to take one of these important positions—they can be done by people as young as teenagers and with the January 9 training we will make sure you are comfortable with the job!

Advent blessings,

Ryan

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR AD

The full-page statement of unity signature ad appeared in last Sunday's *Gazette-Times*, but donations are still needed to cover the cost of the ad! Checks, written to the church, should have "G-T ad" on the memo line.

Thanks to all who contributed to this important message of mutual respect, and to those who have offered and will offer financial support.

To the First Congregational UCC,

The students at LBCC who run the Lunch Box (food bank) thank you for your generosity in food donations to needy students at LBCC. The demand for this service has greatly increased in the three years the Lunch Box has been in operation.

Thank again and have a blessed and peaceful holiday season.

Donna Reishus



The **Middle School** and **High School** youth groups will be having their annual White Elephant Gift Exchange at 6:30 p.m. on *Monday, December 20*, at the **Rorrer** home. Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift (things that are festive, funny, or fun) and a snack to share with the group! Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

Pageant Schedule

Rehearsals

Saturday, December 18 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, December 21 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 23 5:30 p.m.

Performance

Friday, December 24 5:30 p.m.
 (4:30 arrival)

EARLY NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK

To increase the chances that all will receive the next issue of *Congregational News* **before** Christmas, we ask that copy for that issue be submitted by *Monday, December 20!* Mailing will be Tuesday, instead of Wednesday.

COME BOWL WITH MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group meets on *Saturday, December 18*, at 2:00 p.m. at Highland

Bowl for bowling and fellowship. Men of all ages are invited! Questions? Contact **Ted McCann** or **Ryan Lambert**.



IT'S FLOWER FUND GIVING TIME

Flower Fund inserts will again be in this Sunday's worship bulletin. This fund is used to purchase poinsettias for Christmas time, azaleas for Easter, and flower arrangements for special occasions throughout the year. Names of contributors are listed in the worship bulletins for the two Christmas Eve services. The cost of a poinsettia is \$15.

NEED REIMBURSEMENT FOR CHURCH EXPENSES????

If you still have expenses needing reimbursement from the church, do your finance officers a favor and submit your request right away!

BLOOD DRIVE *from page 1*

receive an e-mail confirming your appointment.

Alternatively, you can call Joan **Caldwell** Site Coordinator, (541-753-2106) to sign up.



... to the congregation at the Salman al-Farisi Islamic Center for their gift of the lovely flowers in our sanctuary.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Monday noon, December 20.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday, December 18

9:00 a.m. Pageant rehearsal
 3:30 p.m. Badminton

Sunday, December 19

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Children's Choir
 (following) Occasional Congrega-
 tional Orchestra
 5:00 p.m. In the Beginning
 service, Chapel

Monday, December 20

6:30 p.m. Youth gift exchange,
 Rorrer

Tuesday, December 21

10:15 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 3:00 p.m. Stone Soup
 5:30 p.m. Pageant rehearsal
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Wednesday, December 22

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Group

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, December 23

5:30 p.m. Pageant rehearsal

Friday, December 24

Office closed

4:30 p.m. Pageant participants
 arrive
 5:00 p.m. Instrumental carols
 5:30 p.m. Family service
 11:00 p.m. Communion service



In the busy week before Christmas, let us not forget the hungry in our own town. Sign up this Sunday to help prepare Stone Soup on *Tuesday, December 21*, at First Christian Church. The regular crew could use your help.

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Ginny White**, who is undergoing treatment for lymphocytic leukemia. Cards are welcome -- and visits, too, but please call first.