



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

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December 31, 2010

## UNHANGING OF THE GREENS

After worship on *January 2*, help is needed to take down the greens and trees around the building. Many hands make for quick work! Please plan to stay for a short time after the service and help “de-deck” the halls! Thank you.



## U2 + EUCHARIST = U2CHARIST

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland is holding a “U2charist” at 6:00 p.m. on *Saturday, January 22*, to honor Dr. King’s legacy and help fight hunger. This worship service is set to the music of the Irish rock band U2, which has written several popular songs about the fallen civil rights leader. The alternative liturgy will feature Trinity’s multi-generational Alt.Liturgies Band, as well as the words of MLK and a multimedia tribute. A free-will offering will benefit Trinity’s Hunger Ministries, which fed nearly 20,000 people last year. **Ryan Lambert** will lead a delegation up to Portland to participate in this worship experience. Contact Ryan at the church or via e-mail if you would like to go!

## INTERGENERATIONAL ROLLER SKATING THIS SUNDAY

The **CE Board** is sponsoring an afternoon excursion to the Skate World in Springfield on *January 2*. People of ALL AGES are invited! Bring a sack lunch to eat after worship and we will carpool down to Springfield.

Admission is \$5.75, which includes 4-wheel skate rental. In-line skates are available for \$3.00 extra. We will try to leave the church by 12:30 p.m. Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

## THIS SUNDAY

*January 2*

**Adult Forum:** A video from the series, “The Great Course: Theology and the Challenge of History,” by Tyler Roberts, Professor of Religious Studies at Grinnell College – 9:30 a.m. in the Meeting Hall

**Scriptures:** Matthew 2:1-12  
Ephesians 3:1-12

**Sermon:** “The Outside is In”  
Ryan Lambert

Dear Friends,

This week we start a new year, a traditional time for New Year's resolutions, for making changes that improve our quality of life. At First Congregational Church, all of us who are worship staff would ask the congregation to make a New Year's resolution to no longer respond by applauding for the postlude and other musical parts of worship. The subject of applause is perennially uncomfortable for the church staff, but this request comes at this particular time because during this fall's every member canvass, the most often repeated wish for things to be done differently concerned applause. Some people have shared that they find it distracting from their sense of worship. Others are more seriously disturbed. They feel that applause sets the music apart from the service as a whole -- that we treat the music as a concert and not as part of worship. We don't applaud for prayers, or scripture readings, or sermons, only for music. We on the staff would like to think that the reason only music gets applause is not because the music is the only part of worship done well (!), but because we have all been "trained" in concert settings to clap as a sign of our appreciation.

This request for change comes not just from the clergy, but most strongly from the music staff. Steve and Kristin do not want the musical aspects of Sunday morning seen as something apart, but as pieces of an integrated whole. When the staff sits down and plan worship together, we work at putting together services that will lead worshippers to encounter the divine in a variety of ways: in the words the congregation speaks and the words they hear, in music sung together and music where we can just close our eyes and just let those melodies settle into our souls. Good worship engages us on a variety of levels. It can cause us to think about something in a new way, or fire up our commitment. It can move us to deep reflection, or allow us to hear the still small voice of God soothing our souls. Good worship opens us to God, to the community of believers, and to God's world. It makes us think, invites us to feel, leads us to things mysterious we cannot name.

I am always gratified when someone tells me that he or she liked my sermon on any given Sunday, but the best comment you can make to those of us who plan worship is not "That was a great sermon," or "I loved the anthem or the postlude," but "That was a wonderful service!" Then we know we have all done our jobs well, and have created an integrated whole that is meaningful.

Our church is blessed with gifted musicians, and they enjoy knowing you appreciate their offering to God. But applause not only negatively impacts some worshippers, it makes the musicians uncomfortable. The beginning of a new year gives us a "natural" time to start doing things differently. So you will notice in Sunday's worship bul-

letin, after the postlude, there will be line asking you to refrain from clapping. It may feel strange for a while, but I promise you, it will not make our musicians feel unappreciated.

If you have any questions or comments about this change, feel free to talk not only with me or Ryan, but with Steve and Kristin as well.

God bless you all.

**Liz**

## **TAKARAZUKA CHURCH NEWS**

Dear Brothers and Sisters  
at First Congregational UCC in Corvallis:

We would like to send you a Christmas message from Takarazuka, thanking you for your warm fellowship throughout this year. We also sincerely pray that, in this coming year, there will be no hatred, wars, poverty and hunger on earth and we will become a world where everyone respects and supports each other.

Our God began redemption of the world from a manger in Bethlehem, a little village in Palestine, Judea. Our savior was born, among poor and persecuted shepherds, as a big joy to the parents who had been pushed away to a corner of the society. God showed us a fact that no matter how small and how hopeless we are, there certainly are a joy of God and a plan of salvation by God.

The partnership between us is a small occurrence in the world, yet we believe this small connection leads to peace on earth. We hope we can continue working together for peace. We look forward to seeing you in Okinawa, either next fall or spring in the following year, learning together the facts of war, and talking about what we can do together.

Members of Takarazuka Church  
The Rev. Masato Tsukuda  
The Rev. Harumi Ishikawa

## **STILL COLLECTING FOR CARDV**

Our first through third grade class will continue to collect items for CARDV through *January 9*. Please place these unwrapped **new and gently used items** in the box in the foyer: VHS children's movies such as *Finding Nemo*, *Lilo and Stitch*, *A Bug's Life*, *Monster's Inc.*, etc. , children's books, blocks, Bristle Blocks, Duplos, Legos, and balls, Play-Doh, wooden puzzles for preschoolers, Etch-a-Sketch, board games, and unwanted cellphones and batteries.

We will deliver the items to CARDV on *January 9* during our regular Sunday School time. Thank you for helping us to show God's love in the world as we share with others!

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Mary Bolton 1/1, Bill Buckley 1/1, Isaac MacLean 1/4, Gregg Smith 1/5, Kim Thackray 1/5, Alessandra McCann 1/6, Marilyn Starker 1/8, Nancy Orcutt 1/12, Jim Ballard 1/13, Kaye McCluskey 1/13, Ed Henderlite 1/13, Doris Sherry 1/16, Leah MacLean 1/19, Lee Lazaro 1/22, Sara Fisk 1/24, Gretchen Morris 1/26, Myron Cropsey 1/29, Carol Huntington 1/29, Sarah Thornton 1/29



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, January 4.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Friday, December 31*

7:30 p.m. Badminton

*Sunday, January 2*

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir  
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education  
 10:30 a.m. Worship  
 (following) Roller skating [page 1]

*Tuesday, January 4*

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, January 5*

Noon Women's Fellowship  
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

*Thursday, January 6*

6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

*Friday, January 7*

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum  
 5:30 p.m. Staff party, Hawkins  
 7:30 p.m. Badminton



... to all those who helped make the Christmas services at First Congregational so wonderful: the clergy, the readers, the lay worship leaders, singers and instrumentalists.

Special thanks to **Donna Joiner** for preparing the Christmas Eve pageant, and to **Gregg Smith** and **Lew Barton** for their special sound assistance.

Thanks, also, to the parents of all the children who participated in the pageant and the choir for making sure the children got to the rehearsals to prepare for the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Family service.

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Kim and Mark Thackray 1/9  
 Beth and Wally Christianson 1/14 67<sup>th</sup>  
 Alan and Aleita Holcombe 1/17 36<sup>th</sup>  
 Pat Johnson and Dorothy Price 1/26 (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
 Karen and Rowland French 1/30