



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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We are planning our traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake suppers, to be held in the homes of congregation members. If you can set a table for 8 and would like to host, please sign up on Sunday (or call the church office). Sign-ups will also begin on Sunday for those who would like to attend a supper. When we have the list, guests and hosts will be matched up for a fun evening on *Tuesday, March 8*. **Tanya Andersson** is coordinating this event.

Healthy Aging Coalition of Linn and Benton Counties will hold forums to help identify how our community can address the needs of our aging population – in Corvallis, at the Senior Center on *Tuesday, February 22, 3:00-5:00*.

COMMUNITY SOUP BENEFITS COMMUNITY OUTREACH, INC.

Come enjoy great soup and much more at the COI fund-raiser at our church on *Sunday, March 6*, from 5:00-7:00. Tickets are \$9 per person, or \$23

per family. For more information or tickets, call 541-748-3000.

SOUTH CORVALLIS FOOD BANK CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

There will be a celebration for the 10th anniversary of the South Corvallis Food Bank on the evening of *Thursday, March 3*, at the Methodist Community Center. If you are a supporter, donor, volunteer or client and would like to celebrate with us, please contact **Martha Clemons** to RSVP or for more information at 541-757-9627 or by e-mail clemm12@comcast.net.

THIS SUNDAY

February 20

Adult Forum: How does theology address the problem of evil? This question is explored in the Skeptics and Believers video entitled "Post Holocaust Theology" -- 9:30 in the Meeting Hall

Scriptures: Matthew 5:38-48

Sermon: "Is Your Jesus Too Small?"

Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

Over the last three weeks, as the world watched, we have witnessed not only a revolutionary moment in Egypt, but also a revolutionary moment for our time. As the protests mounted in Cairo I found myself wondering when the Egyptian army would be called upon to quell the uprising. Unfortunately, I didn't have much faith in the prospect of peace. I assumed that, eventually, Egyptian President Mubarak would use his dictatorial powers, and we would awaken one morning to find bloodshed in Cairo's Tahrir Square. Last Thursday night, after listening to President Mubarak's speech, I was almost afraid to go to bed out of fear of what the morning would bring. Eventually the need for sleep won out, and I walked away from my computer and turned off the television, and as I went to bed I prayed that Egypt would be in one piece when I awoke.

Upon waking the next morning I immediately checked the news and to my surprise guns were not being fired in Tahrir Square and tanks were not running over people—the peace had held! Miraculously, even in the face of President Mubarak's defiant speech the previous night, the crowds and the peaceful calls for revolution grew. And finally, President Mubarak bowed to the political realities and resigned. As I watched the jubilant Egyptians I could not help but celebrate what a profound moment this was—not just for Egypt, but for the world.

There are several things about this revolution that I believe will make it a key moment for our world and for those who work for peace. First, although Egypt still has a long way to go to ensure that its people taste the freedoms that brought them out to demonstrate, the fact that this was a largely peaceful revolution leaves them in a position where they are able to concentrate on this work, rather than on restoring civility or rebuilding. This is a victory for peace and peaceful resistance. Second, the peaceful manner of these demonstrations made it possible for support to come from across the globe and this support and the pressure it brought made this revolution “acceptable” in the eyes of even those who had relationships with the Mubarak regime. This demonstrated the overwhelming power that peace has to convert and change power structures. Third, watching this Islamic nation in the throes of peaceful revolution was a vivid reminder of the humanity of Islamic people and served as a rebuke to those who would paint Islam as a violent faith. Peace authored a statement for religious tolerance and understanding. Finally, because technological tools, especially facebook and cell phones, were such key tools in this revolution, we should take note of the true power and peace-making prowess that is enabled by these tools. I don't imagine that this was the “technological revolution” that anyone imagined, but I sus-

pect Egyptians will take it!

I celebrate and give thanks for what we have witnessed—peace is truly powerful! Blessings,

Ryan



No youth groups this week due to the holiday and Winter Weekend. The youth groups will be serving at the Community Soup benefit on *March 6* from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Please mark your calendar and watch for the sign-up sheet! Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The church library will honor “Black History Month” with books for children and adults on display and ready to be checked out. Please check at home to see if you have been keeping books there which need to return to the church so that other folks can read them!



EDUCATION LABELS NEEDED

For several years we have been collecting “Labels for Education” to send to the UCC sponsored residential school called Crossroad in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Needed are box tops from cereals, Betty Crocker and Pillsbury products as well as the barcodes from Campbell soups--- to name a few participating companies. Please clip the appropriate features

labeled “education” and bring them to the church. The second drawer in the nametag area closest to the office is our collection space. Every spring we mail our collection to Crossroad where they can be redeemed for school equipment.

JAMMERS NEED FRUIT DONATIONS

Jammin’ for the Hungry is almost out of fruit! Any frozen berries that you don’t think you’ll use would be appreciated! We made our 5000th jar a few weeks ago, and have plenty of volunteers and other supplies. Call **Sara** (541-231-6772).



INQUIRERS’ CLASS PLANNED

Those interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ and First Congregational in Corvallis are invited to join the Inquirers’ Class, to meet after worship on *March 13* and *20*. Lunch will be provided.

Class participants who decide to join the church will be received into membership during worship on *April 10* (changed from *March 27* as printed last week.) Contact the church office with questions or to let us know you will be attending.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, February 22.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday, February 19

Winter Weekend

Sunday, February 20

9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 10:30 a.m. Worship

Monday, February 21-Presidents' Day

Office closed

Tuesday, February 22

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

Wednesday, February 23

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Group
 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, February 24

1:30 p.m. Spirit Group

Friday, February 25

7:30 p.m. Badminton

LOOKING AHEAD: *March 9:* Ash Wednesday and start of Lenten schedule of classes and worship.

DANCE WITH LOCAL "STARS" AT CYS CLASSICAL CABARET

Corvallis Youth Symphony Association will be having a "Classical Cabaret - Dancing With Our Stars," featuring **Helen Higgins, Kristine Janes, Julie Manning, Travis Oefelein, Jon Nelson, and Dr. Michael Wong** - on *Saturday, March, 12,* at Ashbrook Independent School. Dinner will begin at 5:00 pm, and Cabaret will begin at 8:00 p.m. CYS musicians in our church are **Justin Yun** and **Brooks McCann**. Also you may vote your favorite dancers at www.cysassoc.org.



Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Neal Peterson** and his family. Neal's mother, **Elsie Peterson**, died on February 2 in Woodburn;

... and with **Sharon Calhoun**, who loves visitors at her new home at Corvallis Manor, 160 NE Conifer, Room 312.