



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLX, No. 12

March 25, 2011

DO YOU USE OUR CHURCH'S WEBSITE



This resource is easy to navigate, is always up to date, and everything works! – thanks to our staff and the efforts of **Judah Stevenson** at Illumi-nage in Seattle.

At www.ucc-corvallis.org, you can find past issues of the *Congregational News* in addition to the current one. New issues are posted on Thursday morning, even before the mailed copies arrive!

Printed versions of sermons can be seen there, including the current series of great sermons from well-known preachers. Even if you miss worship, you don't have to miss the sermon.

WELCOME BACK, DANA!

Please help us welcome (back) **Dana Poling** as our Activity Hour Leader. Dana has agreed to step in as our Activity Hour Leader through the end of our program year. Dana is a retired school teacher and has *many* years' experience working with children – not to mention the fact that she has lead Activity Hour for our congregation for several years in the past and remembers several of our kiddos from when they were just babies

or pre-schoolers. Her daughter, **Marissa**, who is a senior in high school, will be her assistant. Please help us give her a warm welcome and our genuine thanks!

POSTLUDE PLUS THIS SUNDAY

As a Postlude Plus for Lent, **Myles Criss** will play a three-stanza setting of the *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God) by Johann Sebastian Bach. In this piece Bach uses the German chorale tune, *O Lamm Gottes*, which carries the text, "O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us."

THIS SUNDAY

March 27

Adult Forum: **Aleita Hass Holcombe** will provide an update on Colombia in advance of the upcoming Days of Prayer and Action – 9:30 in the Meeting Hall.

Scriptures: Genesis 1:1-2:3

Sermon: William Sloane
Coffin's
"In Praise of Rest"
Ryan Lambert

Dear Friends,

For those of you who are new to the UCC, you should know that there are few things which are as essentially UCC as the process of calling a pastor. The episcopalian system of church organization places the responsibility and the authority to assign, or to approve, pastoral placement in the hands of a body of bishops, or presbyters. Churches that are purely congregational are left to their own resources with little, if any, assistance outside of the congregation. The UCC is a covenantal church organized of independent units united by our covenant to each other. What this means for calling a pastor is that we are free to call anyone we choose, but we have a church organization that can assist us.

Our congregation is beginning this process to call a new associate pastor. The Church Council met Tuesday night. Walter John Boris, our Conference Minister, met with the Council and explained the search process. Here's an outline of the process of saying goodbye to Ryan and moving through our interim time.

In order to get a representative cross section, Church Council, at its February meeting, made a list of interests and constituencies they wanted to see represented on the Pastoral Search Committee. Names were suggested, and an article placed in the newsletter for those who wished to be entered into the nominating process. Our church by-laws allow a Pastoral Search Committee to be composed of no more than 12 members. A small group of Council members—Monine Stebbins, Brian Lee, and Verlyne Phillips, together with Liz Oettinger, ex officio—met to match suggested names and constituencies and contact potential Search Committee members. At our meeting Tuesday night, they presented their “slate:” Anna Som, Bryan Wright, Bob Stebbins, Gwyneth McMorris, Ann Hawkins, John Erkkila, Tammy Skubinna, Tanya Andersson, Bob Hannigan, Angie Dahlke, Ted McCann, and Ginny Lucker. The next step in electing this committee is to present the names to the congregation to be voted on at the Annual Meeting of the congregation, May 1.

Ryan's last Sunday with the congregation will be June 19th. Watch your newsletters to see how we will be celebrating his ministry among us before we send him off! During the interim period, Cindy McNutt-Kaestner will be working half-time as Associate Minister and Kristi Muro-Dougherty 15 hours a week as Christian Education Director. I will be carrying Adult Education and pitching in as needed.

The Pastoral Search Committee starts its work by putting together what is called a church profile (about 15 pages long!). It asks a long list of questions about what the church is like demographically, what the church's style and priorities are, and what the church is looking for from new clergy leadership. As this document is being put

together by the Search Committee, you will have a variety of opportunities to help answer questions about the church hopes and values. Once the Profile is finished, the position can be listed with the national church, and the Search Committee will start accepting ministerial profiles of interested candidates. On an average timeline, this would take us to late fall. The committee then starts winnowing the candidates. The list of candidates being considered will, of course, be confidential. Eventually one candidate will be presented to the congregation for a vote. We hope to have a new minister in place before the fall of 2012.

The process is deliberately long in order to allow a congregation to grieve the loss of a trusted pastor and friend, and be ready to wholeheartedly accept a new pastor into the church.

It's hard to say good-bye to Ryan, but he is following his call to a new form of ministry, and that is a cause for celebration. During the interim, you can expect regular updates from the Pastoral Search committee, telling us of their progress. If, during the months ahead, you have questions or concerns, feel free to talk with Liz or the Church Moderator (that would be me until May, and Monine Stebbins after the Annual Meeting).

This is a time of loss. It is a time of celebration. It is a time of challenge and change. May God be with us and bless us as we move through this process.

Faithfully,

Charles Helsabeck, Moderator



The **Middle** and **High School Groups** will be meeting at 6:30 p.m. on *Sunday*

March 27, for a combined evening of games and fellowship. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring a jacket so that we can take advantage of the longer daylight hours. Friends are always welcome! Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.

Upcoming events include a Friday April 2nd Skype session with the Palestinian high school class. Ryan will have compete details on Sunday!



YOUR LENTEN BUDDY

We hope your Lenten friend has been in contact! Remember to do something for your buddy this week – a special prayer, a little picture, a short note. Thank you all for participating!

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with the friends and family of **Myron Cropsey**, who died on March 19. The memorial service will be in our sanctuary on *Friday, March 25*, at 11:00 a.m., with a reception following in Gattton Hall.

CALLING ALL BAKERS!



Do you have a special cake recipe that everyone raves about? Or how about a cheesecake that relatives fight over at family reunions? Do people always beg for your pie recipe when you bring it to potlucks? Pull those recipes out of your file and bring the tasty morsels to be auctioned on *April 10* to benefit our youth involved in the Guatemalan pilgrimage. Other auction ideas could include coupons for homemade seasonal desserts, special occasion desserts, fresh fruits, berries, etc. Call **Jan Thornton** (541-738-8704) for questions or to sign up.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP LOOKS AT "MIDWIFE" AS A VERB

Women's Fellowship invites men and women to their luncheon (\$5) on *Wednesday, April 6*, at noon in Gatton Hall, followed by a program at 12:45 with speaker **Ginie Capan**, Certified Nurse Midwife (retired).

One way to think of midwifery is that it involves being present and attentive to profound experiences which transcend human comprehension, including but not limited to the births of new human beings. This program will be a sharing of some of the experiences and lessons of several decades as a midwife. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on and honor ways in which we "midwife"

each other through life. There will be a short film of a normal birth.

Child care is available if requested in advance by calling **Ryan Lambert** (541-757-8122). If you need transportation, call **Alice Morrow** (541-752-3541).



YOUNG ADULTS' BELL CHOIR BEGINS REHEARSALS

The **Young Adult's Bell Choir** will be starting up on *April 7*, from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Music Room. If you consider yourself a young adult, read a little music, and are interested in having some fun with bells, please let **Kim** know that you would like to join the group. You can reach her at thackray_family@yahoo.com or 541-758-8542.

LOOK TO THE LIBRARY THIS MONTH

Lenten, Easter, and books for Women's History Month are currently on display in the church library and ready to be checked out. Many thanks to **Janice Engle** for writing "overdue" notes to folks and to **Marion Whitney** for rearranging the "New Books" shelves as well as updating the bulletin board.

PFLAG TO MEET

PFLAG's (Parent's and friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Transgendered People) next monthly meeting is *Monday, March 28*, at 6:45 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church at the corner of

11th and Monroe in Corvallis, in the basement Martha Room.

Everyone who celebrates diversity gay or straight are very welcome to come for support, friendship and sharing. Snacks too! You do not need to be a member to attend. This month we will just have a casual meeting of sharing for those that would like to. We hope to see you there!!

Please note: PFLAG has a new phone number: 541-782-8829 and new e-mail corvallisalbanyflag@gmail.com.

FILM FOCUSES ON PEACEMAKING IN PALESTINE/ISRAEL



This *Friday, March 25*, the **First Presbyterian Mission Committee** and **United Campus Ministry** present “Little Town of Bethlehem,” a bold documentary which tells the gripping story of three men – born into the cycle of violence between Palestinians and Israelis – who have chosen to risk everything to bring peace to their homelands. A Palestinian Muslim, a Palestinian Christian and an Israeli Jew, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi, join together in a heroic and dangerous cause. Their story of nonviolent struggle brings real hope for this region and provides an inspiring model for peaceful resolution.

The program, which is free and open to the public, is from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Presbyterian Church’s Dennis Hall, 114 SW 8th Street, Corvallis.

A question-and-answer session following film will be led by: **Tim Stover**, Methodist Minister (Westminster House), **Valori George**, Corvallis-Albany Friends of Middle East Peace, and our own **Gary Massoni**, recently returned from Israel and the West Bank, meeting with United Church of Christ partner groups and others. All are welcome.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Chunhuei Chi 4/1, Samantha McNally 4/3, Ed Miller 4/5, Robin Miller 4/5, Kellyn MacLean 4/7, Diane McNally 4/9, Gavin Milligan 4/10, Jay Sperling 4/11, Mateo McCann 4/11, Marthanne Norgren 4/12, Brynne Snyder 4/14, Grant Elbinger 4/17, Steve Zielke 4/17, Rhonda Mueller-Warrant 4/19, Susan Wickes 4/21, Kaia Larson 4/21, Priscilla Zaworski 4/23, Ann Hawkins 4/24, Nancy William 4/24, Lila Gay 4/24, Joan Pelto 4/25, Charles Helsabeck 4/25, Bryan Wright 4/25, Luther MacLean 4/27, Gwyneth McMorris 4/27, Pam Ruzek 4/28, Bond Starker 4/28, Norm Elwood 4/29



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Gregg and Jacqueline Smith 4/5



If you would like to have your birthday(s) and/or anniversary added to our published monthly lists, get the information to **Susan Wickes** via the newsletter office mailbox or e-mail.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, March 29.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, March 25

11:00 a.m. Cropsey memorial
[see page 3]

Sunday, March 27

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Guatemala trip meeting
 Fireplace Room
 6:30 p.m. Youth groups *[page 3]*

Monday, March 28

7:00 p.m. C E Board

Tuesday, March 29

10:15 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class,
 Library
 3:00 p.m. Stone Soup
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Wednesday, March 30

5:30 p.m. Lenten supper
 6:10 p.m. Child care begins,
 Room 6
 6:15 p.m. Lenten worship
 6:45 p.m. Lenten classes

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
Friday, April 1
 7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum
 7:30 p.m. Badminton

LOOKING AHEAD: Sign-ups are coming soon for Maundy Thursday service with meal (*April 21*), the Easter Vigil (*April 22-24*), and Easter Breakfast (*April 24*). Plan ahead for your involvement in Holy Week and be ready on *April 3* to put your name on the lists where you would like to participate.



Stone Soup sign-ups continue this week for our serving *Tuesday, March 29*. Work begins at 3:00 p.m. at First Christian Church; any time you can give is appreciated.

F·Y·I

Sharon Calhoun has a new e-mail address: sscalhoun03@q.com.