



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLX, No. 14

April 8, 2011



Join us this Sunday for a dessert auction in support of our youth who are heading to Guatemala this summer! Bidding will begin immediately following Soup 'n' Bread. The desserts will be scrumptious, the bids will be flying, and our auctioneer **Mark Esary** is sure to provide us all with entertaining competition for the tasty sweets! For questions, call **Jan Thornton** (541-231-8704).

## RELIEF FUNDS TO BE SENT SOON

All donations from our congregation for Japanese disaster relief must be received by this *Sunday, April 10*, to be included in the single check to be sent via the Takarazuka Church to the Nagata Center in Kobe. Please make checks payable to First Congregational UCC.

## CE BOARD TO HOST ALL-AGES BOWLING

The **CE Board** is organizing an all-ages bowling event **THIS Saturday, April 9**, at 3:00 p.m. Bowlers of all ages

and all skill levels are invited to Highland Bowl for a fun afternoon of fellowship and bowling. We will have some lanes with bumpers down so that everyone gets a chance to have a good experience! Each game costs \$2.50 per person and shoe rental is just \$2.25. We hope you will join us! Questions? Contact **Ryan** or **Kristi** at the church or via e-mail.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

The **Bell Choir** will play for this Sunday's service and we will receive new members.

## THIS SUNDAY

*April 10*

**Adult Forum:** **Rob Bell's** new book, *Love Wins*, is causing all kinds of theological debate! **Ryan Lambert** will be discussing this book and what is so exciting about what Rob Bell is saying!

**Scriptures:** Psalm 130

Matthew 19:16-26

**Sermon:** Peter Gomes' "Riches"  
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

During this time of year much of our weekly staff meeting is consumed by work to finalize details for our Holy Week services. As I hope you know, we work really hard crafting each service so that each one conveys the distinct and important theological moments of the week. We also work at making sure that these services are approachable for everyone. This means that we think about how we tell the story, how we use lighting and music, what movement is required, what elements are beloved by tradition, what new things we might add, and how we can involve as many people as possible. As you might imagine it is often difficult to discern how to address so many needs and issues when crafting our services.

Our Maundy Thursday service exemplifies the challenge of balancing many elements when creating worship. This year we are planning a service that attempts to give us more insight into the traditional Passover meal. In order to do this, the liturgy for the meal includes a great deal of reading and interaction for everyone who attends. As we seek to make this an intergenerational experience we are planning to include children in our cast of readers and there are many parts of the meal that we think children might enjoy. However, the liturgy is long, and as a staff we are challenged by concerns that children and families might feel uncomfortable if “kids are kids” during the meal. After much discussion we finally decided that we would go ahead with longer liturgy based on the assumption that, as a community, we want a service that feeds our desire to learn at the same time it feeds our desire to be an intergenerational community. This seems like an obvious truth, but as a parent I also recognize that being open to intergenerational learning is an easy thing to say and a difficult reality to create. Can we successfully engage people from age 4 and up? Will the parents be able to engage while also helping their children learn? Who will actually show up? Can everyone worship “above” the noise that children naturally create? How can we best say, “All are welcome!” and really mean it as more than just words?

Honestly, I’m not sure there is any correct answer to the question of how to do intergenerational worship, or how best to form intergenerational community. However, what I know and what I hear expressed over and over within our church is that we deeply value the breadth of experiences, passions, ages, and talents that we find here. And so I invite us—as we enter the building for any event—to think about whom we might interact with during the course of our worship, work, or fellowship and to give thanks for what each person brings. Enjoy the mixing bowl that is our church community! Enjoy and learn from the child-like perspectives, the experienced voices, the people who bring new questions, and the gifts of other traditions. Enjoy and give

thanks, for each one is a blessing!  
Blessings to you!

## Ryan



The **Middle** and **High School** youth will be meeting at the church on *Friday night, April 8, at 9:00 p.m.* for a Skype call to Jerusalem. We will be conversing with and learning from some Palestinian youth that **Betty** and **Gary Massoni** met on their recent visit. Plan to join us for the call and the dessert to follow!

On *April 17*, both groups will be making cascarones for the children's Easter celebration. Plan to join us at 6:30 to help! Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail!

## YOU HAVE RUMMAGE? WE HAVE A SOLUTION!

The youth who are going on our church's intergenerational mission trip to Guatemala need to raise funds for their trip – so they are having a RUMMAGE SALE *Saturday, May 21*. Do you have quality children's clothes, jewelry, tools, antiques, toys, linens, art, or furniture to give to their sale?

Donated items can be placed, on Sundays only, on the designated table in Gatton Hall or on the table in front of the office. Mondays through Saturday, con-



tact **Ginnie Esary** (541-754-8077; [ginsbiz@comcast.net](mailto:ginsbiz@comcast.net)) or **Rich Kaestner** (541-929-4589; [richk@alyrica.net](mailto:richk@alyrica.net)) to schedule delivery of your items.

## WORKSHOP LOOKS AT PREVENTING TEEN SUICIDE

Of deep concern across Benton County are recent teen suicides. Benton County Health Department is responding to the crisis with an opportunity for education for those who touch the lives of parents and children. A Suicide Prevention Workshop is available on *May 16-17*, and members of our congregation are invited to attend.

There will be only 30 seats available, so please make your reservation soon by contacting **Kelly Locey**, Adolescent Health Promotion Coordinator, Benton County Health Department, 530 NW 27<sup>th</sup> St, Corvallis (541-766-6247 or [kelly.locey@co.benton.or.us](mailto:kelly.locey@co.benton.or.us)).

## FCC MEMBERS ARE ALSO MUSEUM SUPPORTERS

The **Board of Trustees of the Benton County Historical Society and Museum** recognized special donors by naming spaces for these members of our congregation: the Collections Vault, a gift from the **Starker** family, and the **Cliff** and **Jo Anne Trow** Exhibition Preparation Room. The Society recog-

nizes the outstanding support of these donors and thanks them.

### **SIGN-UPS CONTINUE FOR HOLY WEEK**

Have you put your name of the lists for Easter Breakfast volunteers, the Easter Vigil (beginning Good Friday night at 9:00), and the Maundy Thursday service with meal? Stop by the table in the foyer and tell us where you will participate.

### **MISSION OFFERING FOR APRIL**

The **Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center** is the recipient of the April Mission Offerings. The CDDC is more than a low budget coffee stop. The CDDC serves as a point of entry for individuals in our community who are homeless and/or low to no income to connect to a variety of needed resources.

Currently there are two sites where help is provided. The larger group drop-in center is located in McLean Hall at First Christian Church and operates from 9:00 to 2:00 weekdays to provide referrals to services that meet immediate needs. The smaller site, which houses Project Action, is located in Suite Q under the downtown Starbucks and operates from 10:00 to noon weekdays to respond to ongoing needs that may require more than a quick response.

**BOTH SITES ARE STAFFED BY VOUNTEERS.** Harm reduction happens every day because of the trust that is built through interactions between CDDC guests and volunteers.

Unfortunately, procuring money for the operation of the CDDC is always a challenge. Although the CDDC receives some operation money from a City Development Block Grant, it is not enough to cover the annual rental expenses. To make up the deficit, the CDDC depends on generous donations from faith communities and service organizations. The bottom line is that the CDDC is always worried about having enough to pay the bills each month.

The CDDC appreciates the opportunity to obtain financial assistance through the April mission offerings. Thank you for being generous in your support of the Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center.

**Aleita Hass-Holcombe**  
CDDC, President

### **DAYS OF PRAYER AND ACTION FOR COLOMBIA, APRIL 8-11**

With five million internally displaced people, Colombia now has the world's largest displacement crisis. Our church joins others in the U.S. and Canada to raise awareness during Days of Prayer and Action For Colombia.

This year's theme is "Hand in Hand for Peace in Colombia." Please drop by Gatton Hall after worship on Sunday to see how you can lend a hand. On March 27, **Aleita** shared examples of the banner pieces being put together to send support to the Colombian communities and organizations under threat. You can lend a hand to trace onto a banner piece and add a message in English or Spanish.

In addition there will be postcards that can send a message to Capitol Hill asking to do the following:

- Prioritize funding to support displaced people, refugees, and victims of violence.
- Stop sending military aid to Colombia that fuels the war.
- Promote a negotiated end to the conflict and a just peace
- End spraying programs and support alternative development aid
- Do not move forward with any U.S.-Colombian trade agreement that could cause further mass displacement and cement drastic inequalities.

Thanks for lending a hand!

**Just Peace Committee**

### **PLANT SALE IS TROOP ONE FUND-RAISER**

Scouts from Boy Scout Troop One, sponsored by our church, will be taking orders for garden plants this Sunday in Gatton Hall. The plants will come fresh from the green house on *May 11*.

### **WALK/RUN 4 WATER 2011**

Join hundreds of people walking or running to support wells, trees, and education in schools and communities in Gondar, Ethiopia on *Saturday, May 14*, at 9:00 a.m. at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Western. Clean water, healthy water-



sheds, and developing active learning about water in schools will improve health and livelihoods for more than 250,000 people in Corvallis' Sister City.

Learn more and register early at <http://walk4watercorvallis.org/>.

### **ADDICTED TO FAILURE: U.S. DRUG WAR POLICY IN THE AMERICAS**

On *Monday, April 18*, at 7:00 p.m., Witness for Peace Northwest presents Institute for Policy Studies Fellow and Drug Policy Project Director **Sanho Tree**.

Tree is a former military and diplomatic historian; his current work focuses on policies concerning international drug control, counterinsurgency, and counterterrorism.

The program, sponsored by United Campus Ministry, will be held in the Journey Room of the OSU Memorial Union.

### **SPIRITUALITY AND END-OF-LIFE CARE PRESENTATION**

Samaritan Evergreen Hospice invites the public to a free community showing of the Hospice Foundation of America's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual National Living with Grief Program, Spirituality and End-of-Life Care on *Wednesday, April 13*, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Lebanon Community Hospital, and *Thursday, April 21*, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at Albany General Hospital. Pre-registration is required. Call 541-812-4780.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, April 5.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Friday, April 8*

7:30 p.m. Badminton  
 9:00 p.m. Youth Skype session,  
 church office

*Saturday, April 9*

3:00 p.m. Intergenerational  
 Bowling,  
 Highland Bowl [p. 1]

*Sunday, April 10*

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir  
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education  
 10:30 a.m. Worship  
 (following) Soup 'n' Bread,  
 Gatton Hall  
**(following) Dessert Auction,**  
 Gatton Hall  
 6:30 p.m. Youth Adult Group  
 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed, Cantey

*Tuesday, April 12*

10:15 a.m. Staff  
 Noon Lectionary class  
 5:30 p.m. Holy Sox practice,  
 Gatton Hall  
 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

7:15 p.m. Mission Board

*Wednesday, April 13*

7:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast  
 Group

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

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

*Thursday, April 14*

6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

7:30 p.m. Young Adult Bells

*Friday, April 15*

7:30 p.m. Badminton

**READ AND FEED MEETS**

**Chris Cantey** is hosting this Sunday's meeting of Read & Feed at 7:00 p.m. The focus of the discussion will be Marilynn Robinson's *Gilead*.

The book selection for next month is *Mennonite in a Little Black Dress* by Rhoda Janzen.