



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLX, No. 15

April 15, 2011

Palm Sunday

This Sunday, children will gather in Room 5 at 10:00 a.m. for a small, quick snack; those who are interested will wear costumes. As people arrive for worship, we will gather in Gatton Hall to receive our palms. The children will lead the Palm Sunday processional into the sanctuary, followed by the choir and the rest of the congregation. The children will then line the center aisles of the sanctuary, waving their palms, as we take our places in the pews. Those wishing to go directly to the sanctuary will be given a palm branch there.

We have a special musical treat this Palm Sunday! We welcome **Anthony Brown**, internationally acclaimed baritone. Over the last ten years, in addition to his oratorio and operatic performances, Brown has focused his work as a promoter of peace and goodwill in places as diverse as Afghanistan and Somalia, as a tribute to his Mennonite background. His musical repertoire includes Broadway show tunes, opera arias, art

song, folk ballads, and Spirituals, and his stirring performances have connected people across race, language, religion and culture. He is the Artist in Residence at Hesston College, Kansas. This Sunday, in addition to singing with our Sanctuary Choir, he will sing "Ride On, King Jesus!" as the postlude.

Brown is here this weekend as part of a program of the Oregon Sacred Festival Chorale, featuring 8-part sacred choral music. It will be presented on Friday (tonight, for most receiving this newsletter), *April 15*, at 7:00 p.m. at First Assembly of God, 2817 Santiam Hwy., in Albany. Guest Conductor will be **Steven Zielke**.

THIS SUNDAY

April 17

Adult Forum: We will view and discuss Tyler Roberts' video titled "Secular and Postmodern Theologies."

Scriptures: Psalm 118 (cantored)
Matthew 21:1-11

Sermon: "What Do You Want
from Jesus?"
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

It's only a few short days until Holy Week begins. It is the center of the Christian faith and story, and it is the busiest week of the year for the church. Already dozens of staff and volunteers have begun working, and as the days go on, more and more will be added to their number. Worship, meals, set-ups, clean-ups, flowers, music, a vigil to keep, Easter eggs to be hidden; the list is seemingly endless.

At no other time of the year am I so aware of the variety of gifts and service that church members give to one another in our community. Only at this special time do so many of us work side by side to create. Sometimes, I know, it seems overwhelming how much we pour into making the events of this week happen. But what I want to say to you as we begin is that it matters. It matters that our worship is creative and beautiful. It matters that we take this week's inherent drama and play it out as fully and faithfully as possible. The purpose of Holy Week is to create a lens through which to view the immensity of God's love for us. Together we experience both the fullness of our humanity and the fullness of God's divinity. In our worship, in our common meals, in children's fun and in solitary reflection, we keep faith with each other and with God. We do our best to create opportunities for each person in the church to have his/her faith nurtured, to see God, to see our lives in new perspective.

How do we understand a God willing to suffer and die for us? How do we wrap our minds and hearts around a crucified and risen savior? In one sense, it is a highly individual journey. In another, none of us travels the road alone because the whole body is working together, each one taking a part, so that all of us might have the possibility to have our faith and lives enriched.

In this work of creation and commemoration, each one's job is important, whether that job be washing dishes or writing prayers, arranging flowers or delivering plants to shut-ins, organizing volunteers or baking bread, singing or tending luminarias, serving communion or serving breakfast. It's all part of the whole. It's all a gift to God. It's all a gift to each member of our community.

So thank you in advance for making Holy Week come alive again this year. I pray that as we worship, and work, and share meals and fun and stories, something new will come to you, whether that be a great insight, a small nuance of faith, or a connection never made before. And I pray that whatever your part in this week's journey, you will know it as a gift, an offering of love, important to God and important to all of us.

God bless you all,

Liz



The **Middle and High School Youth** will gather at the church at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday night to make cascarones for Easter Sunday. Join us as we prepare for Easter!

Looking ahead: The High School group will be taking the midnight to 1:00 slot at the prayer vigil on *Friday, April 22*, and then go for late-night dessert at Shari's. Please let **Ryan** know if you plan to attend!

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

The **Young Adult Group** will take the 10:00 a.m. slot at the prayer vigil on *Saturday April 23*, and then share a late morning brunch. All young adults between 19-30 are welcome! Please let **Ryan** know if you plan to attend.

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 1

6:30—dessert; 7:00 p.m.—meeting

Agenda: 1) election of lay leaders, 2) adoption of Council recommendation for Search Committee members, 3) reports from the West Side Committee and the Visioning Committee.

TOO MUCH STUFF?

The church's RUMMAGE SALE would like to have your quality discards! We're looking for donations – clean and in good condition – of linens, jewelry, tools, antiques, art, furniture, gardening

items, children's toys, house wares, art supplies, children's clothes (no adult clothes please), etc. All proceeds benefit our youth participating in our church's intergenerational mission trip to Guatemala. On Sundays, donated items can be placed on the designated table in Gaton Hall or on the table in front of the office. Monday through Saturday, contact **Ginnie Esary** (541) 754-8077 ginsbiz@comcast.net or **Rich Kaestner** (541) 929-4589 richk@alyrica.net to schedule delivery of your items.



Sign up this Sunday to help prepare, serve and clean up on our Stone Soup day for April, which is the 19th. This ministry is housed at First Christian Church, near Central Park. Work starts at 3:00 p.m.

COPY FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER?

Ann Hawkins will edit the next issue (*April 22*) of the *Congregational News*. Please e-mail directly to her with articles and information for that issue, or leave hard copy in the office mailbox. Thanks!

SUPPORTERS TO SIGN LETTER

Over the next two weeks, the **Mission Board** will be gathering signatures for a letter to the editor in support of the Levy (02-74).

The text of the letter is: The Board of Outreach Missions at First Congregational United Church of Christ voice support for the Corvallis Local Option

Property Tax Levy (02-74). We support this levy because we believe the services offered through the Senior Center, Public Library, Osborn Aquatic Center, and the city's Social Service budget serve critical needs for the citizens of our community.

We support this levy because we do not want needed services cut or community gathering places closed. The Senior Center, the Library, and the Osborne Aquatic Center provide education and improve quality of life and health for the citizens of Corvallis.

We support this levy because the city's Social Service budget provides critical funding for services that help at-risk populations.

The Board of Outreach Missions and the undersigned members of First Congregational United Church of Christ support the Local Option Levy (02-74). Please join us in voting **YES** on May 17!

ADDICTED TO FAILURE THIS MONDAY

Mark your calendars for the Witness For Peace speaker tour "ADDICTED TO FAILURE: U.S. Drug War Policy in the Americas." Sanho Tree is a Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and Director of its Drug Policy Project. A former military and diplomatic historian, his current work focuses on policies concerning international drug control, counter-insurgency, and counterterrorism.

Speaking for IPS Sanho states that "Establishing humane and sustainable alternatives to the drug war is (our) man-

date as one of the major contemporary social justice issues at home and abroad." Sanho also serves on the National Board of Witness For Peace. In this capacity he advocates for their mission statement which supports peace, justice and sustainable economies in the Americas by promoting change in governmental policies and corporate practices that contribute to poverty and oppression in Latin America.

His presentation will be *Monday, April 18*, at 7:00 p.m. in the Journey Room in the Memorial Union at Oregon State University. Hearing Sanho and his powerful message will be an occasion you don't want to miss.

Just Peace Committee

SWEET SUCCESS!

Our dessert auction to benefit the Guatemala pilgrim youth was an outstanding success bringing in a total of \$2,281! A huge thank you to everyone who baked all the tantalizing sensations, to those who bid on and purchased those delectable delights, and to those behind the scenes who made this all happen. Thanks also goes to **Alice Mills-Morrow** and **Mari Goldner** for the use of their Guatemalan mementos for displays, of course, to our co-auctioneers **Ginnie** and **Mark Esary** for making the auction fun for everyone. Once again, First Congregational has demonstrated its abundant support for our youth as they prepare to embark on their mission to Guatemala.



PALM SUNDAY

[See page 1]

MAUNDY THURSDAY

From the Table to the Garden. Our service begins with a celebratory modified Seder meal, then moves to the solemnity of the Sanctuary for the story of Jesus' betrayal and the stripping of the church. (Please sign up on Palm Sunday or call the church office by *Monday, April 18*, so we know how many to cook for.) Child care will be available for younger children beginning at 7:00.

GOOD FRIDAY

The story of Christ's crucifixion and death as seen through the Gospel of Luke and the Passion portion of Handel's *Messiah*. Child care will be available.

EASTER SUNDAY

8:30 a.m. – Celebration service with communion and participation by our youth. Contemporary music featuring a quartet from the OSU Chamber Choir, piano, guitar, and drums -- Elizabeth Oettinger preaching

9:30-10:30 a.m. – Easter Breakfast will be served between the two services in Gatton Hall (\$2.50/person).

10:15a.m. – Easter egg hunts for Pre-kindergarten through Kindergarten, and First through Fifth Grades in the Christian Education wing.

11:00 – Worship with music by the Sanctuary choir, brass, and timpani. The children will decorate the Flower Cross during the opening hymn.

HOLY SOX PRACTICE

The Holy Sox coed softball team will practice this *Sunday, April 17*, at 4:00 p.m. We will meet at the new OSU intramural fields, at the corner of Washington and 26th Streets, across from Gill Coliseum by the railroad tracks. We will see if there is room for us there.

If you arrive late and we have had to move, call **Tammy** on her cell phone (541-760-4221) to see where we have gone. If you plan to attend and need directions, please contact Tammy **Skubina** at 541-752-4214 or Skuby1@comcast.net. Join the fun!



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, April 17.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, April 15

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Palm Sunday, April 17

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 4:00 p.m. Holy Sox, OSU [p. 5]
 5:00 p.m. In the Beginning young
 family service, Chapel
7:00 p.m. Middle and High
 School Youth, Rm. 5

Monday, April 18

7:00 p.m. C E Board

Tuesday, April 19

10:15 a.m. Staff
NO Lectionary class
 3:00 p.m. Stone Soup
 5:30 p.m. Holy Sox practice
 7:00 p.m. Spirit Quest
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Wednesday, April 20

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir,
 Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 21

11:45 a.m. Lunch Group
 6:30 p.m. Service with modified
 Seder meal

Good Friday, April 22

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
 8:00 p.m. Worship
 9:00 p.m. Vigil begins

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE
 WANTS YOU!**

If you are looking for a way to serve your church, the **Nominating Committee** asks you to consider a term on the CE Board, Board of Deacons, or as our United Campus Ministry representative. There is one 3-year term on the CE Board, one 2-year term, and one 3-year term on the Board of Deacons currently vacant. We would like to bring those Boards up to their full complement. Please contact the church office (541-757-8122, office@ucc-corvallis.org) or **Cliff Trow** (541-752-5395, trowcj@comcast.net) if you are interested.