



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLX, No. 20

May 20, 2011



RUMMAGE SALE THIS SATURDAY!

You all come – on *Saturday, May 21*, between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., at the home of **Ann and John Hawkins**, 2910 NW Taft (corner of 29th and Taft) to find those treasures. Among the many items for sale are furniture, housewares, a gas grill, microwave, bicycles, vacuums, artwork, vintage glassware and china, brass, silver set; children and infant clothes, toys, a canoe, trampoline and much more. Also, Fair Exchange coffee/goodies will be for sale. All proceeds benefit the 2011 Guatemala mission trip.

WE APPRECIATE TEACHERS, MUSICIANS THIS SUNDAY

Join us this Sunday in giving thanks to our great Christian Education teachers and wonderful musicians as we recognize them during our worship service.

SALUTING PASTOR RYAN

Ryan's last Sunday with us will be *June 19*. We plan to have a luncheon immediately after worship, at which time he will be "lightly roasted/toasted." For

purposes of set-up, it will be helpful to know how many plan to attend; so this Sunday there will be a sign-up sheet in the church entrance. We look forward to you all being a part of this send-off for Ryan.

MIDDLE EASTERN CAFÉ NIGHT: TO GAZA WITH LOVE

Make reservations now for dinner and a live auction fundraiser for three local activities traveling to Gaza in July with U.S.-Gaza Cultural Exchange. It's all on *Friday, May 20*, at 6:30 p.m. at the Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center. 128 SW 9th Street.

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THIS SUNDAY

May 22

Adult Forum: Experiences and insights of our military vets *[see page 3]*

Scriptures: John 14:1-14
1 Peter 2:2-10

Sermon: "The Way, the Truth,
and the Life"
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

Last weekend I was in Berkeley, CA, for my daughter Jessie's graduation from the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley. One of the graduation speakers was Robert Reich, former Secretary of Labor for President Clinton, now a faculty member at the Goldman School. His address concerned the growing gap between rich and poor, questions of health care, education, energy, all of them arenas of public policy in America. "Your job," he challenged the graduates, "is to go out and change the world." Not an insignificant charge!

On the plane ride home, I was thinking about his charge, and this particular group of newly-minted public policy graduates. In the graduation program, each graduate's name was listed as well as their APA—Advanced Policy Analysis, a real project for real clients required for graduation. Here are some of the projects undertaken: "Performance Management in the City of Oakland," "Curbing Speculation in Commodity Futures Markets; Best Policies for Stabilizing Corn Prices in Mexico Given Constraints," "Clean Diesel Incentives in California: Costs and Benefits of Diesel Emission Reduction Technology," "Shifting from 'delinquent' to 'client': Expanding the Use of Evidence-based Practices in San Francisco's Juvenile Probation Department," "Water Utilities' Incentives to Participate in Water and Energy Conservation Programs." Don't these sound like reading material you just can't wait to settle into on a free evening? I read my daughter's APA and parts of two others. They were mostly dry, technical, heavy on data and analytical tools. And then I thought again of Reich's charge: "Go out and change the world."

Over the past two days, I have found myself thinking of those APAs and changing the world. As we work for social justice and positive change, there is only so much that intelligent, well-meaning amateurs (people like me!) can do. A lot of the real work for change has happened and will continue to happen because well-educated and trained people take the time, are given the opportunity to do thoughtful studies that, boring as they may be, give us valuable information about what works and what doesn't work, how we might find new ways to tackle old problems. It's not fast. It's not flashy. There's nothing at all "sexy" about this kind of work—except that when done well, it is essential and will continue to be essential to solving the problems we face in community.

So this week, I'm feeling thankful to all of you and all the people I don't know who are skilled in using real specialized tools to describe, evaluate, and solve real problems. I'm thankful for data crunchers and statisticians, for public policy nerds (my daughter's term, not mine) and engineers, and people whose job titles I can't

even guess, people who work for change one project, one analysis, one step at a time and who, most of them, are almost invisible in their work. Thank God for their brains, their patience, and their commitment.

God bless them all—and all of you, as well.

Liz



The **Middle** and **High School** youth groups will be going to playing disc golf at Willamette Park on Sunday after worship. Please bring a sack lunch to eat in the Fireplace Room after worship, a disc, and wear outdoor shoes and weather appropriate clothing. **Ryan** has a couple of extra discs and they can also be purchased at “Play it Again Sports.” Questions? Contact Ryan at the church or via e-mail.

SECOND CALL FOR VETS

One of the pleasures and benefits of being a church member is recognizing each other for our unique, sometimes surprising and inspiring pasts. If you have a military past we think the congregation would like to hear about it. We know of twenty veterans in the church and most have responded, but we want to miss no one, so please e-mail or call one of us if we haven’t contacted you already.

At this Sunday’s Adult Ed meeting (*May 22*) we would like you to share with us a three-to-five minute glimpse of your military experience how it may

have shaped your outlook on life or your faith. **Mike** or **John** will be calling vets this week to more formally seek your participation. We would like photos from your service time and would appreciate receiving them digitally (mchuntington@comcast.net). Also, please bring photos, mementos, and uniforms if you have them. At the *May 29* worship service, you will be asked to stand to be recognized and may be asked to be an usher.

Mike Huntington (541-745-5635)

John Hawkins

Norm Elwood

MAY 31 FIFTH SUNDAY OFFERING: TREES FOR GONDAR

Our upcoming 5th Sunday Mission offering will support the Corvallis-Gondar Sister Cities project that is focused on restoring the Angereb Watershed. We are joining other Corvallis faith communities to help fund this project that will provide trees and thus stop erosion in this 36 square mile area that includes the reservoir that provides much of Gondar’s drinking water. Watch for more details next week!



A NEW MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY

You may have noticed a 20-something young man with red hair and beard who has been worshipping with us lately. His name is **Braden Jordan**, and for as long as he is in Corvallis, he would like to make this his regular worship community. Braden was in a motorcycle accident two years ago, and sustained a severe brain injury. He has recovered remarkably, and is an intelligent and friendly young man, but sometimes has trouble intuiting social cues and responding appropriately. He and his mother met with **Ryan** and **Liz** last week, and thought it would be helpful for the whole congregation to be aware of Braden's background and disability. He is hoping to move to a living situation in Portland and to go back to college to finish his engineering degree. But for whatever time he is with us, we want you all to have the necessary information to welcome him to our church and be helpful if he needs help.

BEST FRIENDS WORKSHOP OFFERS INFORMATION FOR DEMENTIA CAREGIVERS

This six-course workshop, at the Mennonite Village Chapel, 5353 Columbus St SE, Albany, teaches practical, useful information in the care and interaction with someone who suffers from Alzheimer's and/or related dementia. Through discussion and hands-on teaching, participants will learn Alzheimer's

disease basics, elements of friendship, Alzheimer's care, communication techniques, and elements of knack. This workshop is beneficial for family members, home care providers, facility caregivers, state workers, respite workers, social workers, and anyone who has experienced the effects of Alzheimer's disease in their lives.

Sessions 1, 2, and 3: *Saturday, June 4*, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sessions 4, 5, and 6: *Tuesday, June 7*, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The cost is \$20 per individual or \$150 per facility. Mennonite Village employees may attend at no cost. Pre-registration is encouraged, as class size is limited.

For information, contact **Mary Scott** (<mailto:mary@mennonitevillage.org> or 541-928-7232, ext. 407).

For online registration see: <http://www.mennonitevillage.org/best-friends/index.htm>



INTRODUCING "GRANDFAMILIES"!

The members of the **Visioning Implementation Young Families** group (focusing on how to attract more young adults and families to our congregation) have noticed something interesting: several of our most involved current families are three-generational. Grandparents, parents, and kids all participate in their own ways, sometimes together, sometimes on their

own. It appears to us to be an important part of their relationships as a family.

So what can we do to give that special experience to young families whose extended family is not nearby, or not interested in a church community? We believe there are many people in our congregation that would be willing to “adopt” a family (or “adopt” some grandparents) in an official way. This is what we are calling *Grandfamilies*.

Being a part of these *multi-generational families of choice* will entail some commitment over a period of time from all the adults involved. Here’s what would be expected of you—

- Attend periodic *Grandfamilies* events or congregational special events together
- Agree to share a meal (breakfast, lunch, coffee, dinner...) once a month
- Attend church together once a month

Other potential activities—such as babysitting so the young parents can have some time off, or assisting the senior generation with tasks—are up to you. You are asked to commit to this relationship for a minimum of six months; we are hoping the relationship lasts a lifetime!

We have many friendly people in our congregation, but the relationships with new people seldom go past the “acquaintance” phase. Having a structure in place for getting really connected as a family to another pair of adults will give

new members an anchor, and an important link to the rest of our community. If you are interested in participating in your own *Grandfamily* (no matter what generation you belong to), please contact

Kim Thackray

(thackray_family@yahoo.com) or

Tanya Andersson

(colinsmom@hotmail.com),

or as usual, you may sign up after church.

GRIEF GROUP FOR MEN TO START

Benton Hospice Service is offering a “Men’s Coffee Hour Grief Group,” the first Tuesday of each month, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at New Morning Bakery, 219 SW Second, Corvallis. This informal, drop-in group is for adult males who are grieving the death of a person. It will be facilitated by male hospice staff and trained volunteers and is open to any member of the community.

For more information about the group or to talk with a bereavement counselor, please call Benton Hospice Service (541-757-9616)

PALM SUNDAY THANKS FROM ECO-PALMS

Thank you for choosing Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday this year! As a result of your support, the program has continued to grow. This year we’ll send over US\$40,000 back to the communities in Guatemala and Mexico!





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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, May 24.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, May 20

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Saturday, May 21

**8:00-2:00 Rummage Sale,
 Hawkins' home
 [see page 1]**

Sunday, May 22

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Youth, Fireplace Room
 to go to outdoor
 Frisbee
 (following) Children's Choir K-5th,
 Music Room
 5:40 p.m. Holy Sox game,
 Washington Park

Monday, May 23

7:30 p.m. C E Children and
 Youth Committee

Tuesday, May 24

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

NO Church Council
 [moved to *May 31*]

Wednesday, May 25

11:30 a.m. Women's Fellowship
 Board potluck,
 Fireplace Room
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, May 26

1:30 p.m. Spirit Group, Library

Friday, May 27

7:30 p.m. Badminton

F·Y·I

Lectionary class will stop at the end
 of May for the summer .

MIDDLE EAST DINNER *from page 1*

The dinner includes Palestinian olives, hummus, pita, mujadara, Moroccan Chicken with Lemons and Olives over couscous, mint and pomegranate teas. The cost is \$10-15 on a sliding scale.

For more information about the dinner and auction, contact valori@peak.org or 541-766-8229.

