



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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July 22, 2011

GUATEMALA PILGRIMS ARE BACK!

This *Sunday, July 24*, the just-returned participants in the mission trip to Guatemala will lead worship and tell us about their experiences.

In the meantime, if you'd like to see a bit of what they did there, you can check out these short YouTube videos:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdiW6FsdXMU> (where **Claire** and **Brooke** are under the mass of children at the rock/dirt piles having their hair braided by children); and

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8gYOPtv9mE&NR=1> (in which the children were trying to teach **Charles** and another team member, **David**, to count to 5 in Cakchique).

SALMON BARBECUE SUNDAY IS HERE!



Join us at noon this Sunday for our annual Salmon Barbecue in Hanson Grove – there are still some tickets available for purchase Sunday morning!

Remember your table setting(s) and potluck dish(es) to share – you

may bring them to worship with you and stash them in the Gatton Hall kitchen, or go home to get them after worship and return for the festivities. Families bring two items (vegetables or bread, **and** salad or dessert); singles bring one item.



July 24

Scriptures: Isaiah 2:2-4
John 21:15-19

Sermon: “Reflections on
Guatemala
Pilgrimage”

July 31

Scriptures: Genesis 32:22-31
Romans 9:1-5

Sermon: “Marked by God”
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

The months of June and July have been a veritable marathon in the church's life: Ryan leaving, new staff coming on, a search committee formed, General Synod, the Guatemala pilgrimage, several deaths and serious illnesses of long time members, Salmon Barbecue and VBS just around the corner. I like to think of summer as the quiet season of the church's life, but this summer has been anything but quiet. For me, it has been a significant reminder that life persists, life insists on going forward no matter how much at times we would like to have it slow down because we aren't ready to move forward with it.

I look at my garden. Even there, my flowers are starting to explode, and even though I try to be diligent about the weeds, it seems that I just turn my head for an instant, and a whole new crop of them has sprung up. Life persists and moves forward.

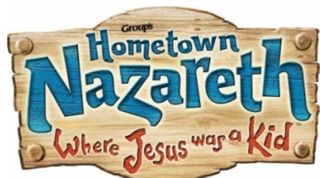
This next year of our life together is going to bring a lot of change. New staff, new church lay leadership always signal change, and in between times see more transition than most. And the choice we are left with is to resist—to try to hold on to things as they were just a bit longer—or to do our best to be welcoming of new ways, to see change and movement as a reaffirmation of life, strap ourselves in, and move as gracefully as possible where new winds and new waves are taking us. We can choose to see ourselves as adventurous and curious, on a mission together to meet the future and make it ours.

This summer, our scripture lessons in the lectionary are taking us through the book of Genesis—the book of beginnings. And Genesis is all about moving forward, learning lessons wonderful and hard, then moving forward again. It is the perfect backdrop for us as we choose how we will meet the transitions ahead of us. And the choosing is important. We, none of us, can stop life from happening at whatever pace it chooses for a particular season. We can only choose how we will face change. We can try to fight it, but we will lose. We can resent it, and grow bitter and insulated. Or we can grab for God's grace and as much of our own as we can summon, and move forward: a nomadic, pilgrim people, always on a journey, always in movement, always growing and learning together, becoming more God's people every day. That is the underlying lesson of Genesis. That's the underlying lesson of life.

So, let us choose to move forward together and make an adventure of the changes before us. If I had to choose a group of people with which to go on a journey, I would choose all of you. This is a community of great strengths and great commitment, so many different skills and gifts. I can't think of better companions for an unknown road ahead.

God's blessing on you all.

Liz



The **CE Board** is very excited about this summer's VBS curriculum, "Hometown Nazareth," because participants of all ages will get to experience a bit of what life was like when Jesus was a child. **VBS will go from 5:30-8:00 p.m. daily from Sunday, July 31-Thursday, August 4.**

We are looking for volunteers to fulfill a myriad of VBS needs. We can use any and all willing volunteers! We need help before and during VBS (set-up will happen on *Saturday, July 30*) so if you have time (even just a few hours) or materials to give, please contact **Kristi Muro-Dougherty**.

Also, please be sure to stop by the VBS bulletin board in the hallway and take one of the new "We still need..." sheep if you are able to loan or donate any of the items we're looking for now.

COME TO "COSTUME PARTY"

The **Vacation Bible School Committee** is looking to create some simple costumes for VBS and that can later be used for other drama events during the church year. We will be sewing Thursday morning, *July 21*, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the church (for those who get

their newsletter electronically and therefore early). Please bring your sewing machine, any spare (plain colored) fabric or most importantly, your willingness to help. Sewing experience is not a requirement!

REGISTER YOUR CHILD NOW!

Register your child for "Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid." Preschoolers through children entering 5th grade are invited to attend. The program is free and dinner is included. To register, visit the CE Desk and complete a registration form or contact **Kristi Muro-Dougherty** at the church or at ce@ucc-corvallis.org.



NO FEET, PLEASE

The floors of the back church (parking lot) entrance foyer and bathrooms as well as the Fireplace Room kitchen will be refinished on *July 29-30*. If you need to enter the building during this time while they are drying, please use the NW corner door (by the trash cans) or the church's front entrance.



We will no longer be collecting bottles and cans at the church. You may now collect that 5¢ deposit for yourselves! We thank everyone for their participation through the years.



THAT'S MY FARMER

“That’s My Farmer” participation has a new look this season. Our church family has supported this program for quite a while now. The whole idea of buying local and supporting area farmers is a significant action for a church that believes in sustaining the earth. Last year’s purchases were down from years previous. We are hoping that this year our church family can again get behind this program with greater support.

To participate, look for coupons being sold after church. The new look is that for \$25 one buys one coupon redeemable at the Corvallis Farmers’ Market for \$20 in tokens. The extra \$5 you spent is a charitable contribution to “That’s My Farmer SNAP Incentive Program.” A brochure is available explaining how the SNAP Incentive Program supports local farmers and low-income families.

Get your coupons and a brochure next Sunday.

Aleita Hass-Holcombe

Just Peace Committee, Chair



Come join church friends for another CE Board-sponsored “Night with the Knights.” We’ll be along the first base line to watch the game on *Friday, July 22*, with added entertainment by the Zooperstars. The game starts at 6:30 at Goss Stadium on the OSU campus. Tickets are \$5. Questions?

Contact **Kristi Muro-Dougherty** at the church or at ce@ucc-corvallis.org.



SUPPER CLUB

Have you ever thought how great it would be to go to the freezer and find dinner already made? Just defrost, preheat and bake. What if you could spend a few hours in the kitchen with friends and take home 3-5 nights worth of dinners for the family? Smaller portions can also be made for smaller families or singles. We would also like to make dishes to put in the freezer for the “In The Beginning” service and emergency meals. If this sounds like something you might like to do, please contact **Tanya Andersson** (541-231-9713 or colinsmom@hotmail.com).

BELLS IN AUGUST

If you would like to play bells on *August 21*, plan to meet **Kim Thackray** for the first practice on *August 14*, following worship, in the Music Room. Depending on how that goes, the group can schedule another practice if necessary. Ring on!

CHURCH MFOS (MOST FREQUENTLY OVERLOOKED)

Less intense use in summer can be wasteful or risky for our lovely facility. When you leave – or just pass by – these rooms, please give a glance to see if:

Sanctuary

- Candles are out! ... and lights are out, including the valances;

- Piano is closed and covered;
- Piano not over heat vent;
- Fire Exit doors are fully closed — they are often opened for air, then not quite closed.
- Tall double doors out to foyer are closed;
- Accordion door to Fireplace Room is closed.

Fireplace Room

- Door to patio fully closed and locked — in nice weather it often has been opened;
- Long accordion door to sanctuary is closed;

Music Room

- Windows locked — often opened in warm weather, they recently stayed wide open for a week without being noticed! (hidden behind mini-blinds)

Meeting Hall

- Lights out, not dimmed. Move slider down until it clicks.

CE Wing

- Lights out
- Windows and doors closed & locked
- Faucets and toilets not dripping or running

Gatton Hall

- Lights needed at all in daytime? Or try 1/3 level, or 2/3 level (see sign).

Rest Rooms, Kitchens

- Lights OUT when not occupied

As ministers of the church, let's take care to protect our "stuff," our energy efficiency, and our widely admired church building.

CHURCH START DONATION REPORT

Once again this congregation demonstrated its generosity! We collected \$6,880 as start-up funds for **Ryan's** new church in Spokane.

LAST CHANCE FOR RAFTING!

There are still a few openings for the 3½ hour rafting trip on the McKenzie River now on *Saturday, July 30*. The cost is \$20 per person. Rafters must be 10 years or older and able to swim. If you want to go and haven't signed up yet, contact **Frank Hall** right away (541-829-4313 or frank@entredigm.com).

Participants will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. on the 30th to carpool.

TAKARAZUKA CHURCH NEWS

Dear Friends at

First Congregational UCC of Corvallis:

We express our sincere appreciation for the Earthquake Support Contribution through Takarazuka Church and Hyogo District, which has directly been used to support the earthquake victims. Though we miss the Rev. Lambert, who had been heavily involved in the partnership activities between the two churches, we pray with great hope for his success in building a new church.

It has already been four months since the earthquake, but little progress can be seen in the process of restoring those damaged areas. We never predicted such serious problems resulting from the leaks

of radioactive substances from the nuclear power station in Fukushima. The power company, together with the Japanese government, had always emphasized the safety of the nuclear power station and disguised the nation. On the other hand, we regret that we did not know and did not even try to know what would happen under such extreme circumstances. We also regret that we did not pay attention to the voices by those people who had been against nuclear power generation based on their thorough investigation on its safety. We, Takarazuka Church, would like to declare that the nuclear power is no longer needed and that we support those activities for realizing the society with no nuclear power stations.

I would like to use this opportunity to describe the incident experienced by disabled people, taking Naruki, my son and a church member, as an example. He experienced the earthquake that struck the Hanshin area 16 years ago. Because of aftershocks, we were evacuated from our residential area and could not come back to our own house for a while. Naruki's memory of this might have caused a "flashback," and he lost his mental balance after this recent earthquake. TV news kept reporting the situations in which senior people, children, and expectant mothers were placed. However, disabled people were never mentioned in any TV news, and this fact triggered and accelerated his depressed feelings. Why are disabled people not included in

news? He moved into a lonely world of deep sadness.

Naruki dictated a letter to me, addressed to NHK (the Japan's only public broadcasting organization), describing his sadness. Knowing of this letter, the Secretary of Hyogo District Conference UCC in Japan and Chair of the Committee for Discrimination Against the Disabled added their letters to be submitted together. Though Naruki received a reply from NHK, he had already gone into his lonely world, a so-called depression. After having struggled for 40 days with side effects resulting from prescription medicines, he went to work for the first time on July 1.

I would like you to understand the fact that not only those who live in the damaged area but also people who live far away have suffered from the earthquake disaster and nuclear power problems. I wish I could pray together for the society where everyone in the world truly supports each other.

I look forward to seeing you in Okinawa in February, 2012, where people work for the peace of World. Peace be with you.

Etsuko Omori

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Tanya Andersson 8/1, Dorothy Price 8/2, Bart Eleveld 8/6, Gary Massoni 8/7, Nicki Zielke 8/8, Michael Chambers 8/12, Sally Robertson 8/16, Warren Hovland 8/17, Nancy Klingeman 8/18,



Sally McBride 8/20, John Murphy 8/22, Eleanor Martin 8/23, Allen Agnew 8/24, Karen Walker 8/25, Joni Peterson 8/26, Jennifer Koch 8/26, Sho Kimura 8/26, Amanda LaBonte 8/27, Brian Lee 8/27, Rose Hart 8/28, Bob Stebbins 8/30, Tim Cowles 8/31, Jim Hall 8/31, Ching-Yue Chi 8/31, Brooks McCann 8/31

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Doris and Paul deLespinasse 8/5 (44th)
 Arne Larson and Peggy Carrick 8/9 (18th)
 Hokie and Jean Adams 8/16 (64th)
 Luther and Mary MacLean 8/8 (5th)
 Jim and Nancye Ballard 8/19 (45th)
 Bettie and Keith Muckleston 8/19 (50th)
 Betty and Gary Massoni 8/21 (47th)
 Ed and Karen Miller 8/23 (45th)
 Greg and Kristin Rorrer 8/23 (25th)
 Verlyne and Wayne Phillips 8/24 (48th)
 Alice and Jay Sperling 8/26
 Don and Eileen Milligan 8/28
 Pat and Wayne Phillips 8/29 (64th)
 Alan and Karen Walker 8/30 (36th)
 Nancy and Pete Klingeman 8/31 (54th)
 Steve and Ginny Lucker 8/31 (26th)
 Eric and Nadine Skyllingstad 8/31 (25th)

MEMORIAL GIFT?

Those wishing to make a donation in memory of **Coral Torley** may do so by making a contribution to First Congregational United Church of Christ, with a notation on the memo line: **Robert Torley** Sound System fund.

This information was not included in Coral's obituary.



...belatedly, to **Cynthia Janes** for once again planting the many flower pots you see around the church, and to the **Boy Scouts of Troop 1** for the donation of the gorgeous pot of geraniums at the main door.

We're extremely grateful for all the assistance you folks have given me and my family during my surgery and subsequent recovery time. I'm pleased to say that my surgery went well and I am healing very nicely thanks to your comforting visits, healing thoughts, scrumptious dinners, sincere prayers, and hopeful cards.

Cindy McNutt-Kaestner

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Martin McLemore**, who is having eye surgery on *July 22*. He'll have to be off work for two weeks and cards and prayers would be appreciated. His address is: 4743 N. Willis Blvd, Portland 97203-3354;

... and with **Becky Flitcroft**, recently diagnosed with thyroid cancer.



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Salmon Barbecue



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday, August 2.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, July 22

6:30 p.m. Night with the Knights
(see page 5)

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Sunday, July 24

9:30 a.m. Worship

Noon Salmon Barbecue

4:20 p.m. Holy Sox,
 N. Chintimini

Tuesday, July 26

8:30 a.m. Staff planning retreat,
 Wickes (until 3:00)

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

7:15 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday, July 27

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

Thursday, July 28

9:00-11:00 Costume making,
 Library *(see page 3)*

1:30 p.m. Spirit Group

Friday, July 29

7:30 p.m. Badminton

Saturday, July 30

VBS set-up
 9:00 a.m. McKenzie River rafting
(see page 6)

Sunday, July 31

9:30 a.m. Worship

4:20 p.m. Holy Sox, Porter Park

5:30 -8:00 Vacation Bible School

Monday, August 1

5:30 -8:00 Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, August 2

9:00 a.m. Staff

5:30 -8:00 Vacation Bible School

Wednesday, August 3

5:30 -8:00 Vacation Bible School

Thursday, August 4

5:30 -8:00 Vacation Bible School

Friday, August 5

7:30 p.m. Badminton

THOMPSON MEMORIAL

There will be a memorial service on *Saturday, August 13*, at 10:00 a.m. for long-time member **Jeannette Thompson** in our Peace Garden. A reception will follow in the Fireplace Room.