



# Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLX, No. 32

September 16, 2011



## WELCOME BACK SUNDAY SUNDAES

Please join us for the Welcome Back Lunch and Ice Cream Social in Gattton Hall this *Sunday, September 18*. There will be a soup and ice cream following worship. We ask that you bring your favorite ice cream topping to share. If you have any questions or if you can help in the kitchen, please contact **Tanya Andersson** (541-231-9713).

## QUESTIONNAIRE INSERT AGAIN THIS WEEK

There will be a bulletin insert again this Sunday asking for information to assist the **Associate Pastor Search Committee** in completing the Church Profile. "One" question is actually a long one: We are asking you to select the top 12 qualities (from a provided extensive list) that you value in our next Associate Minister.

You may wish to arrive a few minutes early for worship or stay a few minutes after, enjoy the Prelude/Postlude, and take some time to fill



out the questionnaire. When you've finished, you may place your insert in the Offering plate when it is passed, or give it to a Search Committee member as you leave the sanctuary.

For those who would prefer to fill out the survey at home and bring it in this Sunday, you may go to: [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org). Select "Church Stuff"; go down to "Leadership and Ministry"; to the right appears a sub-menu: click on "Ministerial Profiles." Locate "Local Church Profile (PDF)" and print off the pages that correspond with Questions 25, 27 (c) and 32."

Thank you for your assistance in this important part of our process.

## THIS SUNDAY

*September 18*

**Adult Forum:** Third Sunday round-table discussion in Gattton Hall, 9:30 a.m. [See page 5 for details of this monthly program.]

**Scriptures:** Jonah 3:1-4:11

**Sermon:** "Broken Prophets"  
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday was a great beginning to a new program year, and I am looking forward to the Welcome Back event this coming Sunday. There is so much energy in the congregation! One of the things I love about church life is the point and counterpoint of each year. There are the customary rhythms of the church: new beginnings in September, Stewardship and Thanksgiving in November, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and then end-of year celebrations, and summer Vacation Bible School and the Salmon Barbeque, and on to September again. These seasons and events unfold every year, the background connective tissue of our life together, a mix of both liturgical discipline and congregational tradition. But every year brings new challenges, new leaders, new needs, new projects, new energy for change. For all these things, we need church members who step up and say “I can do this” or “I will take on that.”

Volunteer time is the most valuable resource we have in the church. We are serious that the ministers of the church are the entire congregation. The question for me these days is how do we best connect the people in the church with the ministries that match their gifts, or help members develop unknown gifts? Yes, there is a certain amount of “housekeeping” that we all share: setting up and taking down tables and chairs, making food, washing dishes; you all know the jobs. They need to be done, and we all take our turn at them as part of the community. But beyond that, when was the last time you asked yourself the question, “What ministry of service or leadership best fits my gifts? What are the jobs that I can take on, and when I’m finished, I will feel satisfied—like I have given and received a spiritual benefit for the time put in.”

What satisfies our sense of contribution is as individual as we are. In my first church in Duluth, there was a man in the church we called the “closet king.” He was a retiree who loved to come in and restore order to both the office storeroom and the Christian Education closet. It gave him a sense of satisfaction, and it made life so much easier for so many people. Then there was a woman in my church in Seattle. She was the church flower lady, creating beautiful creative flower arrangements for Sunday services, teaching classes for others. There are so many ways we serve. The trick is to match all of you with the gifts you want to give, the gifts that give you a sense of ministry.

Since the staff and church board members don’t always know what you can give and what you like to do, we are going to begin a new feature in this newsletter: a “help wanted” column [*see page 5*]. It will include “job listings” for both on-going and one-time opportunities to serve the church. We’ll see how it works to match your gifts and our needs.

I know that for myself, there are obligations I take on that aren't even a lot of work, but when I'm done, I'm just tired. "I did my duty." In other circumstances, even large assignments are rewarding because I chose them and/or because I feel like my particular skills made a difference. The goal in the church is that every hour you spend in the life of the church be rewarding to you: that it deepen your spiritual life, connect you with community, and/or give you a genuine sense of having made a difference.

If you have ideas about ways to make that happen, please let me know.  
God bless you all.

**Liz**



**SUNDAY NIGHT  
YOUTH GROUPS  
BEGIN  
OCTOBER 2!**

Our "Sunday Night Youth Group" program year begins *Sunday, October 2*. For the most part, our middle school and high school "Sunday Night Youth Groups" will meet at different times, but to kick off our Sunday night program with **Cindy McNutt-Kaestner** (our new Interim Associate Minister) and our new Youth Advisors, we will meet as one group. Rev. **Tim Stover**, from Westminster House, will lead us in a "Team Challenge Course" which he uses with OSU students to enhance camaraderie and build trust in groups. More information will come soon, so reserve the 2<sup>nd</sup> as our first Sunday Night Youth Group!

**ACTIVITY HOUR UPDATE**

An important piece of our new Activity Hour is our Talking Stick. We believe that it is very important for each person wishing to speak to be carefully listened

to because everyone's ideas are valuable. We aim to both listen carefully from our hearts and speak truthfully from our hearts.

This past Sunday we shared a brief lesson on the history of the Native American talking stick, its significance and how it is actually used. The children created their very own Talking Stick, which we will use rather than a microphone during our Announcements and Celebrations & Concerns. The children decorated the Talking Stick with traditional Native American representations using beads, feathers, animals, etc. We are looking forward to using this tool so we can listen with respect and caring for everyone.

If you'd like more information about talking sticks and how they are used in councils, let me know. I'm glad to share the information I collected about talking sticks and councils; these tools can be used for *family councils* (though I like to use Mr. Potato Head instead of a talking stick ☺).

**Kristi Muro-Dougherty**

## YOUTH, COME JOIN THE FUN!\_

Every Tuesday night from 7:00 -9:00 p.m., the youth will be at Tuesday Night “Rec.” (as in “Recreation”) Night at our church! The night is yours to do what you want: play volleyball, badminton or Nerf hockey in the gym. OR you can choose to eat tasty snacks, play pool, do homework, play board games or Wii in the youth room (Room 1, downstairs). If you get tired of those activities, you can bake fresh cookies or brownies in the kitchen. There’s always time to just hang out with friends and talk. There are no preplanned activities on Tuesday Night “Rec.” Nights – just come and make new friends and have a good time! Hope to see you there!

**Cindy McNutt-Kaestner**  
Interim Associate Minister

## TUESDAY NIGHT “REC NIGHT” YOUTH ADVISORS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN!\_

Seven members of our congregation have graciously agreed to serve as once a month as Youth Advisors for our youth’s Tuesday Night “Rec.” Night. They are **Annie McDaniel, Joe and Molly Chambers, John Hawkins, Tammy Skubinna, Rich Kaestner, and Brian Lee.** In addition, **Shahnaz Sahnaw** and **Mark Esary** have agreed to serve as substitutes.

At each Tuesday Night “Rec.” Night, there will be three Youth Advisors (one in the gym, one in the kitchen, and one in the youth room.)

## CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS GUIDELINES

As we begin a new program year, we thought it would be helpful to review the guidelines for Celebrations and Concerns, adopted by the **Diaconate Worship Committee** several years ago. The Committee wants to help ensure that all Celebrations and Concerns are heard equally, and offers the following to help guide us in our sharing:

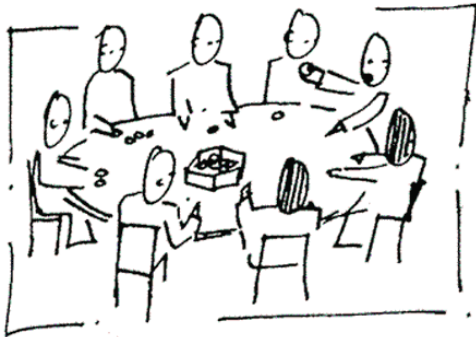
- **Please–be brief.** For example, “I ask for prayers for (who), recently diagnosed with (what).” “I celebrate (who) for (what).”
- Either **ask permission beforehand** when sharing information about other people or speak in such a way to not violate the person’s privacy.
- **Some celebrations**, such as personal accomplishments, children’s activities, etc., might better be **celebrated in the newsletter.** (Just e-mail the information to [susanwickes@comcast.net](mailto:susanwickes@comcast.net) or drop a note in the office mailbox.)
- Especially when bringing up political concerns for prayer, remember that others might hold that prayer from a different perspective. Please **frame your request** so as to allow others to hold a different view and still be prayerfully concerned.

## HELP WANTED

Are you a Facebook “expert”? Please contact **Cindy McNutt-Kaestner**. We would like to pick your brain about the church’s and the church youth’s Facebook presence. (929-4589, or [cindy@ucc-corvallis.org](mailto:cindy@ucc-corvallis.org).)

Do you like to organize? We could use a volunteer to take on the CE closet. Contact **Kristi Muro-Dougherty** (720-838-5288, or [ce@ucc-corvallis.org](mailto:ce@ucc-corvallis.org)).

## ADULT FORUM - 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAYS



At its July meeting, the **Diaconate Outreach & Evangelism Committee** discussed its goals for the coming year, and the number one priority was getting to know each other better! Whether we are relatively new to this congregation or a long-time member, can we call each other by name? What do we know about each other’s lives?

Out of this discussion came a proposal to the **Board of Christian Education’s Adult Ed Committee**. Why not

try round-table discussions on a particular faith topic on the third Sunday of each month, and do it in Gatton Hall over a shared “meal.” Well, perhaps not a full meal, but certainly some breakfast snacks to go with our coffee. This idea was presented to the Adult Ed Committee whose membership enthusiastically endorsed it.

So. . . following up on the 9/11 Remembrance topic of last week’s Adult Forum discussion, this Sunday we will gather around tables in Gatton Hall at 9:30 a.m. and have an opportunity to discuss the questions and observations raised during that time as well as during the sermon which followed.

Those who wish will be invited to offer their thoughts. It is the O & E Committee’s hope that these third Sunday discussions might provide a setting in which we come to know each other a little bit better. Each table will have a facilitator to help lead the discussion and to make sure everyone who wishes to share has the opportunity to do so. We look forward to seeing you in Gatton Hall at 9:30 a.m. this Sunday.

*Dress Warm!*

### IT’S COOL IN THE FURNACE

It really is – in the sanctuary furnace, which would now leak gas if used. So, as the **Trustees** gear up to get a new one, consider joining the choir; the robes are cozy! Non-choir folks may want to bring a sweater or light jacket to worship until our heating system is restored.



## ALL CHURCH MOVIE NIGHT! \_

On *Saturday September 17*, we will have a “double feature” movie in the west end of our parking lot. We’ll have a movie geared to children (“Rio”) which begins at 7:00 p.m.

The second feature will be geared to youth which will begin immediately after the first movie. There will be four youth movies available for viewing, and the youth present will get to choose which one they see. (There will be another group using our facility that night, so we will have part of the parking lot sectioned off just for the movie goers.)

**Bring your chairs and drinks**, because lots of popcorn and good movies will be provided!

## TIME TO REGISTER FOR WOMEN’S CAMP IS NOW!

The registration deadline for Central Pacific Conference’s Women’s Camp is fast approaching. “Native American Spirituality & Art” will be the topic at Camp Adams on the *October 7-9* weekend with leaders Rev. **Denise Andersen** and her daughter **Caitlin**.

Rev. Andersen has been the pastor at Clackamas UCC for 21 years and Caitlin is involved with the Celilo Indian Education Project.

Registration forms are at the Women’s Fellowship bulletin board as well as on-line at [www.cpcucc.org](http://www.cpcucc.org) under Events.

Total cost is \$105 which includes meals from Friday dinner until Sunday brunch. Grant forms for financial assistance are available in the church office. Carpools will be arranged from Corvallis. For additional information, please contact **Nancy Klingeman** (541-753-3350).

## *September Mission Offering* **HOME LIFE, INC.**

The Mission Offering for the month of September is Home Life, Inc. The last two newsletters have provided information about the history of Home Life and the eight group homes and Supported Living program that provide the opportunity for improved health, happiness and quality of life to 51 Benton County people with developmental disabilities. This topic for this week is the funding of Home Life.

Home Life receives funding through a contract with Benton County Disability Services. In October, Home Life will be facing up to a 6% cut in funds from the county. Additional support is provided thorough community fundraisers which provide you additional ways to help Home Life while having fun.

One of the Home Life Fundraisers – the **Great Pumpkin Run** – takes place on *October 9* The Great Pumpkin Run has something for everyone – a 1K fun run, a 5K run/walk and a 10K run. If you are a Beaver fan and have a difficult time finding a convenient parking place for the OSU Football games, go to the parking lot run by Home Life. It is at the old

KLOO radio station at 15<sup>th</sup> and Philomath Boulevard.

In the spring, Home Life will host the Sprout Film Festival. The films feature adults with developmental disabilities and is a fun event. Additional funds come from private grants and donations.

### **TRY A NEW FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY?**

Our 2011-2012 Activities Directories will be out soon, but, in the meantime, here is a sampling of fellowship groups for adults in the church. (It's not just the kids who have all the fun!) Then, check out the Directory of a complete list of groups.

#### ***First Friday Forum***

**WHO:** Men ages 18-110

**WHAT:** Small group meets for breakfast and discussion

**WHEN:** 7:00 a.m. on the first Friday of each month

**WHERE:** Shari's Restaurant, 1117 NW 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Corvallis

**WHY:** To tackle any local or world-wide problem, however insignificant, enjoy fellowship and participate in serious projects as they arise with hands-on or financial support

**HOW:** Just come, or contact Dale Kirk (541-753-7498 or [kirkdelk@aol.com](mailto:kirkdelk@aol.com)).

#### ***Guys' Night Out***

**WHO:** All guys (18 and over) who lead "active" lives

**WHAT:** Group activities such as bike rides, basketball, Frisbee golf, darts, shuffleboards, etc.

**WHEN:** As called; watch the church newsletter for date, time, and place

**WHERE:** Various local venues.

**WHY:** To provide opportunities for fun activities and fellowship

**HOW:** Just appear or contact Ted McCann (541-738-8811 or [elprofemac@comcast.net](mailto:elprofemac@comcast.net))

#### ***Women's Fellowship***

**WHO:** All church and community women

**WHAT:** A monthly (except January) gathering for lunch (\$5) and a program -- December's meeting is a morning coffee.

**WHEN:** First Wednesday of month, October through May, from noon to 2:00 and at 10:30 a.m. in December

**WHERE:** Gatton Hall and/or Fireplace Room and Meeting Hall

**WHY:** To provide fellowship, discuss topics of concern and interest to women, to work on special projects as the need arises

**HOW:** Reservations for lunch may be made in the church entry the Sunday before meetings or through the church office (541-757-8122).

#### ***Women's Breakfast Group***

**WHO:** Women of any age, although most are over 60; newcomers are welcome!

**WHAT:** A social group that meets for breakfast, conversation and friendship before starting the daily routine

**WHEN:** Second and fourth Wednesday mornings at 7:30 a.m., for about an hour

**WHERE:** Darrell's Restaurant, 2200 NW 9<sup>th</sup> St., Corvallis

**WHY:** Fellowship and support, sharing joys and concerns

**HOW:** Contact Priscilla Zaworski (541-754-7604 or [pczring@earthlink.net](mailto:pczring@earthlink.net)).



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Editor: 541-754-0117 or  
 susanwikes@comcast.net  
 Facilities: 541-753-2106

Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, September 20.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

*Friday, September 16*

7:30 p.m. Badminton

*Saturday, September 17*

**7:00 p.m. All-church drive-in movie** (see page 3)

**8:30 p.m. All-church drive-in movie** (see page 3)

*Sunday, September 18*

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir

9:30 a.m. Christian Education

10:30 a.m. Worship

**(following) Welcome Back Event**  
 (see page 1)

*Monday, September 19*

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

7:00 p.m. Trustees Board

*Tuesday, September 20*

10:15 a.m. Staff

Noon Lectionary class

3:00 p.m. Stone Soup

7:00 p.m. Rec. Night (see p. 3)

7:00 p.m. Spirit Quest

*Wednesday, September 21*

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

*Thursday, September 22*

1:30 p.m. Spirit Group

*Friday, September 23*

7:30 p.m. Badminton

**PEACE DAY CELEBRATION**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual **Corvallis Community Celebration of International Peace Day & Pinwheels for Peace** will be held on *Saturday, September 24*, from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. All ages are invited to gather on the Benton County Courthouse south lawn to make pinwheels to place around sidewalk's edge at courthouse square, fold peace cranes, write peace quotes on the banner, enjoy face painting, and listen to music by River-Rocks. Also, we will hear Proclamations by City and Benton County officials.



The sponsors of this event are Active for Peace & Justice FUMC, Just Peace UCC, NAACP, VFP, Alt2War, Albany PeaceSeekers.

