



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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October 7, 2011

Special Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, October 30
at the end of worship**

to vote on replacing the sanctuary roof and the sanctuary furnace and including the cost in the fall capital campaign. There will be informational meetings after worship on *October 16* and *23* to provide details and answer questions.

CELEBRATING CINDY'S MINISTRY

Join us after the service in Gatton Hall this *Sunday, October 9*, for cake and thank-yous to resigning Interim Associate Minister **Cindy McNutt-Kaestner**. We honor her dedication and all her hard work getting this year's youth programs so well-launched.

NEW PLAN FOR

It is difficult for the clergy (i.e., **Liz**) on Sunday mornings, when her mind is already full of details, to have congregation members come up



at the last minute with announcements they want made. Then it is embarrassing to said clergy to be fumbling around with numerous slips of paper as the service begins, and forget to make an announcement. **Ann Hawkins** prints out announcements on Friday mornings. If you want an announcement to be included, please call or e-mail Ann (office@ucc-covallis.org) with the specifics. It will make the process more efficient, more effective, and keep the aforesaid clergy from tearing out her hard-won hair!

THIS SUNDAY

October 9

Adult Forum: Well-known community volunteer **Walter Frankel**, of the Oregon Cultural Trust, will speak about the Trust and also the Benton County Cultural Coalition – 9:30, Meeting Hall

Scriptures: Exodus 32:1-14
Matthew 22:1-14

Sermon: "The Moments When Attire Counts"
Elizabeth Oettinger

Dear Friends,

I need to speak with you honestly about something which is difficult. I ask you to try to put yourself in the shoes of all of the people involved as I move through this. One of the distinguishing features of our worship is our time of concerns and celebrations. There are many, including me, who consider it the most important community-building time we have at First Congregational. We learn the burdens that others carry; we hear stories of new life and hard-won successes. Through Celebrations and Concerns, we are given the opportunity to speak with each other, to support each other at a more personal level that we would otherwise. We broadcast to newcomers that we are a prayerful people who care about the life of the people we know and the life of the world, and I am always warmed when a visitor feels comfortable sharing a concern.

However, in our enthusiasm or concern, we sometimes give too much context for our prayer request. That makes some people uncomfortable because they feel it is too much information; others end up feeling spiritually burdened by knowing so much about situations in which they are powerless. At other times, even those who love the concept of sharing our concerns and celebrations grow restive when this part of the service becomes lengthy. Last Sunday, Celebrations and Concerns ran 17 minutes; a few weeks before, it was 22 minutes. When that part of the service goes so long, many people are made uncomfortable, even impatient. Others, who had concerns they wished to share, decided to be silent because the time had run so long.

There is no set amount of time that worship should take. However, the staff works hard to keep the worship service to 70 minutes on “regular” Sundays and 75 minutes on Communion or Baptism Sundays, or days when we have other special elements to our worship. We choose shorter hymns; the sermon is shortened. We have shorter or longer Communion liturgies we can use. We make these adjustments because we know that for some people, an hour and a half is difficult, too much time either because their children get restless, or they have to get back to where they live for meal time, or simply because they have other commitments. The parts of the service we have little control over are announcements and Concerns and Celebrations. On page 1 of this newsletter, you will read a new policy on announcements. But what I want to say here is that to be a community of respect and wholeness, we need to be mindful about concerns and celebrations time. Let us all try to limit our sharing to one sentence or two sentences at the most. Think about your words ahead of time. If we do this, then all of us will benefit. We want to be a caring community. We want everyone to be heard. And we want to respect each other’s needs and commitments.

We are one community together. It is part of our service to God to be a blessing to each other. This is an important issue. In consultation with the Worship Committee, I made the decision to speak frankly to you all about it before it becomes a divisive issue among us. Thank you for paying attention and for your prayerful consideration.

God bless us all.

Liz

LETTERBOXING FOR KIDS THIS SUNDAY

Letterboxing is a fun outdoor activity that combines treasure hunting with rubber stamping.



After worship on Sunday (rain or shine), our kids will try letterboxing at MLK Park (on Walnut Blvd.). Meet at the park's barn with sack lunches.



OCTOBER MISSION OFFERING

The **Neighbors in Need** Mission Offering, which we will receive during October, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries

office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forbearers of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. In addition, CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.



CONSIDERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

Those interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ and First Congregational in Corvallis are invited to join the Inquirers' Class, to meet after worship on *October 9* and *16* in the Fireplace Room.

Lunch will be provided both days so it would be helpful to know if you are attending (call the church office), but last-minute additions to the group are welcome.

SAFE SPACE: ENDING ANTI-GAY BULLYING IN OUR CULTURE – AND IN CORVALLIS

Lee Wing, writer, blogger, speaker and Trevorspace Book Club advisor will create a safe space to talk about what's behind bullying, homophobia, prejudice, and the climate that creates gay teen suicides and murders. Lee challenges all of us to stand up to prejudice when we see it – and to critically examine the anti-gay and anti-minority bias in the words we use and in the history, laws, and culture surrounding us.

The talk will happen on *Tuesday, October 11*, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, 645 NW Monroe Ave. The event is sponsored by Friends of the Library and Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. For more information call 541-766-6794.

MAGIC BARREL READINGS BENEFIT FOOD BANK

The 18th annual **Magic Barrel: A Reading to Fight Hunger** is set for *Friday, October 21*, at the Corvallis High School Theatre.

Eight fine local writers will read delectable samples of their work, and there'll be sweet and savory tidbits from Corvallis's best chefs and bakers. Suggested donation is \$7, but no one will be turned away. As always, all the money raised goes to **Linn Benton Food Share** to help alleviate hunger in our community.

This year's readers are: **Keith Scribner, Alison Clement, Tom Birdseye, Jon Lewis, Debra Gwartney, Tim Black, Karen Holmberg, and Ann Staley.**

The jazz group **Sideways Portal** will play before and during the show. The emcee will be **Mike McNally.**

CONTEMPLATING THE ADVENT OF ADVENT

Advent begins at the end of November. The **Worship Committee**, thinking about how difficult it is to find a still, reflective place in this our season of holy reflection, would like to solicit the congregation for daily reflections to run through Advent. If you are interested in writing one or two, please see **Dorothy Price**, Worship Committee chair. These reflections will be put together in a booklet or you can sign up to have them emailed to you every day during Advent.

FREE COMMUNITY CPR TRAINING OFFERED

On *Tuesday, October 10*, **Samaritan Heart & Vascular Institute** will host a free community CPR training, as a part of its monthly education seminars, Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies. CPR training helps us be prepared for a wide range of emergencies, providing the needed confidence, skills and experience in case of emergency.

This one-hour course – from 6:00-7:00 p.m. – is designed for family members, friends and members of the general community who want to learn CPR but do not need a course completion card. The training covers adult CPR and choking. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

The class will be held at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, 3600 NW Samaritan Drive, in the HP/Starker Conference Room. Call to register: 541-768-4752.

THANK YOU FROM CASA

Casa—Voices for Children has received the donation from the First Congregational Church [July Mission Offering] in the amount of \$1,445. We are grateful to your membership in presenting us with this generous donation. On behalf of the many abused and neglected children in Benton County who find themselves in the foster care system through no fault of their own, I again want to thank all of you for your generosity and kindness.

We continue to recruit, train and support community volunteers as advocates in order to give a voice to these needy children. This year ten new advocates were sworn in by Circuit Court Judge **Janet Holcomb** after completing eight weeks of extensive training in court protocol, child education, health, special needs, emotional well-being, court report writing and culturally responsive services. We have 43 advocates who serve each of the 78 children in foster care and are proud that our program is the only CASA in Oregon with an advocate trained and ready for assignment to serve every child in the system.

We are inspired every day by the many people in Benton County who support our vulnerable children in foster care, and we remain dedicated to our mission to provide a safe and nurturing home for every child in need.

Respectfully,

Maria Chavez-Haroldson,
Executive Director

THANKS FROM WE CARE

Dear Friends,

Each week We Care helps 3-5 households get back on their feet. Nearly 50% of the funds available go to housing security, helping avoid eviction or covering move-in costs. Your support allows We Care to help our neighbors through these challenging times. We couldn't do it without you!

Thank you.

We Care Board



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, October 11.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, October 7

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum,
 Shari's Restaurant
 7:30 p.m. Badminton

Sunday, October 9

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 10:30 a.m. Worship
(following) Reception for Cindy
(following) Inquirers' Class,
Fireplace Room
(following) Letterboxing,
MLK Park [see p. 3]
 7:00 p.m. Read & Feed,
 Stebbins [see right]

Monday, October 10

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, October 11

9:00 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 7:00 p.m. Rec Night
 7:15 p.m. Mission Board

Wednesday, October 12

7:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast

Group, Darrell's
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, October 13

6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142
 7:30 p.m. C E Board

Friday, October 14

7:30 p.m. Badminton

HELP WANTED

We still need a child safety door knob cover for the Nursery. Can be left at CE Desk.

READ & FEED MEETS

Read & Feed will meet this *Sunday, October 9, at 7:00 p.m.* at the home of **Bob and Monine Stebbins**. The book for this month is Molly Gloss's novel, *Wild Life*.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The memorial service for **Hokie Adams** will be held in our sanctuary at 2:00 p.m. on *Sunday, October 16*.