



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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November 4, 2011



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

Remember to set your clocks back an hour this *Saturday night, November 5* – and enjoy that extra 60 minutes.

LAITY/ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Usually Laity Sunday is the 5th Sunday of the month, but this Sunday it will be combined with All Saints Sunday. The clergy aren't the only members of the congregation who have known saints, and some of our lay people are looking forward to talking about the saints in their own lives. Join us for this special service which includes the "reading of names." In the worship bulletin will be a form to fill in the names of loved ones you would like read during the service; the forms will be collected during the welcome. Also, if you wish, you may bring a candle (with holder) to carry forward and light before or during the prelude, or during the first hymn. We will also have our usual Communion Sunday collection of canned and packaged food for the food bank.



Gifts For A Better World Holiday Store, a nonprofit, fair-trade store, will be open *Satur-* *day, November 5,*

through *Sunday, November 27* here at our church. There will be many NEW and DIFFERENT handmade items from 30 fair-trade cottage industries in developing regions of the world. Several local nonprofits also sell merchandise at GFBW. Please join us in helping international craftspeople achieve economic independence through shopping at Gifts

[continued on page 2]

THIS SUNDAY

November 6 – Communion

Adult Forum: The first part in a series on marriage is a video titled "After Happily Ever After" – different couples in different kinds of relationships consider how marriages are successful. Discussion follows.

Scriptures: Hebrews 11:1, 12:1-3

Sermon: "Saints I Have Known"
Julia Lont, Ted McCann

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

I am leaving this Friday, November 4, for the East Coast, first to go see my sister outside of Boston and then to travel to New Haven to see my “surrogate parents” with whom I lived through college and graduate school. I will be back in town on Friday, November 11.

Between my upcoming trip and our celebration of All Saints’ Day this coming Sunday, I have been thinking about family and all the meanings and layers of family we have in our lives. There is biological family—those people to whom we are related by blood and marriage for good and ill (and I have yet to know anyone in whose extended biological family, there is not both good and ill!). Beyond that, there is what I call family of choice, those people with whom we share no DNA, but who through relationship have become real family to us, sometimes closer than biological family. And then there is the family of the church of other “institutional families,” those with whom we have chosen to walk parallel lives towards a common end. In all of our layers of family, there is an inherited or created history, family stories, people once a part whose chair is visibly empty now at family gatherings, but whose legacy remains.

I love the commemoration in worship of All Saints’ Day at our church. It is ironic to me that most congregational churches do not mark All Saints’ Day, and yet we are the denomination that has proclaimed throughout our history that we are all the saints, and that each of us is called by God into some vocation of doing valuable work in the world. When we light our candles and read the names of those who have gone before us, we are celebrating family in every sense of the term: all the layers of family in our lives. We offer the names of those who are important to us, yet just as significantly, we listen to the names of those who have been important to others. We sit in community together, holding in our hearts those who have made a difference to us, those who made a difference to others around us, and those who have impacted our shared history.

Layers and layers. It is what makes life full and good and grounded in community. Though it will be good to be with my sister, I will miss you all on Sunday, and this special annual celebration in our community’s life.

God bless you all.

Liz

GIFTS ...WORLD *page1*
for a Better World. All money made beyond yearly expenses is donated to local

charities. Come see the store, open after worship this Sunday!

Jody Eleveld



Attention, Middle and High School youth!

The Sunday Night
Youth Group at

First Congregational meets on the 2nd
and 4th Sundays of the month, from 6:00-
8:00 p.m. Make a note of these upcoming
activities, so you don't miss out:

November 13: Scavenger Hunt

November 27: Service Night

December 11: White Elephant
Christmas Party

Have questions? Contact **Jen** at 541-
757-8122, 541-760-8114, or by e-mail,
jen@ucc-corvallis.org

And join us at church for **Rec. Night**
on Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. to just
hang out. This is a (mostly) unstructured
time for youth to spend time with each
other and adult advisors in community.
We do everything from Wii tournaments
to baking cookies together.

CHRISTMAS CHOIRS FORMING

*Invitation for Church Families
with Children in Grades K-5:*

Beginning *this Sunday, November 6,*
the Children's Choir will be practicing
songs to sing during
Advent and at the
Christmas Eve, 5:30
p.m. service. We will
meet immediately af-
ter church in the Mu-
sic Room each Sunday until Christmas
Eve. Among the songs we plan to sing



are "One Candle," "Silent Night" with
American Sign Language and "Go Tell It
on the Mountain."

Invitation for Youth Grades 6-12:

Beginning *Sunday, December 4,* a
youth choir will be formed to practice
descants and counter-melodies to ac-
company the Children's Choir for the
Christmas Eve, 5:30 p.m. service. Stay
tuned!

Questions? Please call **Laura Relyea**
at (541-967-6585) or **Kristin Rorrer** at
(541- 908-1559).

Trick-or-Treat for **UNICEF**

The final numbers are not yet in, but
it looks like the children have far sur-
passed their \$100 goal. Much gratitude
to all of you for your generosity with our
children! Final numbers will be reported
when the children return their UNICEF
boxes after *real* trick or treating.

* * *

HELP WANTED

- Adults to help lead our children in a
story or craft during Activity Hour.
Please contact **Kristi** to sign up or for
more details at ce@ucc-corvallis.org.
- Looking for a few good children (and
toddlers) who are interested in help-
ing us collect the offering during our
Time with Children. No training or ex-
perience
- needed (except perhaps a parent to
help balance the collection plate)



▪ **Jen(nifer) Butler**

[2nd from R in photo]

She and husband, **Peter Walker**, share two cats, Dot and Karl Marx. She is employed at Second Glance clothing store, First Congregational UCC (as a seminary intern), and George Fox Seminary, where she is an M.Div. candidate. Her interests include reading, eating good food, drinking strong coffee and red wine. She was attracted to our church for its Just Peace and Open and Affirming stance, its progressive Christian ethics and inclusive language.

▪ **Gayle Dee** *[missing from picture]*

Gayle and her husband, **Ed**, moved to Corvallis from the Bay Area just six months ago. Ed is a professional musician. Gayle's first career was in business; she then decided to go to seminary and is now a graduate of the Pacific School of Religion. Gayle enjoys swimming, playing the guitar with Ed, and geeky computer stuff.

▪ **Rich Kaestner** *[3rd from L]*

Rich and his wife, **Cindy**, have three daughters: **Ashley**, 19, and twins **Brooke** and **Heather**, 14 *[at either end of photo group]*.

Rich is self-employed, working in K-12 education technology. His hobbies are building things, motorcycling, tennis, and youth. He was attracted to our church for its liberal view, and local choice (UCC polity).

▪ **Cindy McNutt-Kaestner** *[2nd from L]*

Cindy is an ordained United Methodist pastor (although transferring to the UCC), and has worked at a church in Portland and as a hospital chaplain. She is also a fiber artist. She appreciates the inclusivity of our denomination and the local congregation. She and Rich and their daughters share their home with a dog and three goats.

▪ **Peter Walker** *[3rd from R]*

Peter is in management at OSU Federal Credit Union and is also a seminary student. He enjoys creative writing, blogging, theater, theology and reading. A warm atmosphere, friendly people, and progressive beliefs drew him to our church.

*[Thanks to **Brian Lee** for our new members photo.]*



Mark Your Calendars**HELPING AT THE FOOD DRIVE**

All are invited to help sort food for the Benton County Holiday Food Drive. Our time slot will be from 1:00 -3:00 p.m. on *Saturday, November 12*, at the Benton County Fairgrounds.

HANDS TOGETHER CHANGES MEETING DATE

Hands Together decided not to meet in November. Thanksgiving is very close to the date we had scheduled and some of the people let us know that they would be out of town, so we decided to move the date to *December 7*, our Women's Fellowship date. Since Women's Fellowship will be a morning brunch, we will make it a day and do the cloth holiday bags following the brunch. These holiday bags will be available to purchase (a donation) on the following Sunday with the money going to Vina Moses.

We have made good progress on making the Sunday School altar cloths. We have made green and purple cloths, using boiled wool. Now we need white cloths for Christmas. Some of the quilters suggested we make them as small quilts, using any combination of white and gold and making them about the size of a placemat. They can be rectangular, square, round or any shape you desire. They need to be flat enough to have a votive candle sit firmly in the center. If you are a quilter and would be willing to make one by Christmas (using any de-

sign you wish), please call **Monine Stebbins** to volunteer (541-754-8039 or stebbinr@peak.org).

NOVEMBER MISSION OFFERING

Currently **Meals on Wheels** serves 107 homebound clients in the Corvallis, Philomath, Adair Village areas. We certainly are more than just a meal delivery to many of our clients who have no family or friends nearby, and our drivers are the only people they see all day. These volunteer drivers are trained to watch for and report changing health issues. Our meals cost \$7 each; we ask only a donation of \$3.50, the average donation is \$2.35. Our mission is to provide nutritious meals necessary to prevent the inappropriate or premature institutionalization of elderly homebound residents of Corvallis. We are committed to fostering independent living with dignity for as long as possible.

Dial-A-Bus provides special transportation services to seniors (age 60 plus) and persons with disabilities and underserved children throughout Benton County connecting with adjoining counties. Services include: demand/response transportation, four contract service routes, Corvallis-Albany Connection and the Coast to Valley Express. Demand/response service is a curb-to-curb, wheelchair accessible service for those who cannot use fixed route service. Our contract service routes provide services Monday thru Friday for developmentally disabled clients who need transport to

and from their residential facilities to work/rehabilitation.

The Corvallis Albany Connection operates three days per week with four round trips offered each service day. Coast to Valley offers service between Benton and Lincoln Counties three days per week. A year ago, we begin 99Express between Monroe/Junction City and Adair Village on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Fares range from \$2.00 each direction, to \$4.50 in Rural Benton County. Dial-A-Bus serves over 1600 clients with over 70,000 rides per year. We remain volunteer based with 45 active drivers to support our mission.

UCC – MISSION: 1

The United Church of Christ is on a shared mission for 11 powerful days, *November 1 – 11*, to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice. This is MISSION: 1. Among the emphases for this time period:

In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will collect more than **1 million items of health food** and other households items for local food banks and outreach services.

In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will offer more than 11,111 **letters** to Congress asking our government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide, helping to provide a major final push to Bread for the World's 2011 campaign. The addresses for our representatives and sena-

tors:

www.merkley.senate.gov/contact/ www.wyden.senate.gov/contact/ www.defazio.house.gov

Our UCC motto and Jesus' prayer "that they may all be one" will become a focused, concerted mission emphasis across the United Church of Christ to educate ourselves and one another about food-related policy issues..., to advocate on behalf of hungry people at home and around the world. . . , and to raise money for hunger-action purposes.

At our church, throughout the month of November, when we especially give thanks for our abundance, the food barrel will be "front and center" in the entry-way. With unemployment at such a high rate, the need for food is especially great. The **Mission Board** invites you to bring non-perishable food items **EACH SUNDAY** as we seek to fill the barrel on a weekly basis.

Witness for Peace Northwest presents: **FOOD SOVEREIGNTY & THE ROOTS OF MIGRATION**

Eleazar Garcia, sustainable agriculture expert from Center for Integral Small Farmer Development in the Mixteca, will address the devastating impacts the North American Free Trade Agreement has had on the Mexican countryside, including an abandonment of traditional sustainable ways



of life of small farmers, as well as a boom in rural Mexican migration to the United States. Speaking from his experience of seeing this devastation first hand, Eleazar will not only share the negative impacts of this free trade model, but will also present a hopeful alternative that is being carried out to preserve the land, and to stem the tide of migrants leaving rural Mexico for the U.S.

The program is on *Tuesday, November 8*, from 4:00-5:30 at Westminster House, 101 NW 23rd, Corvallis.

For more information, contact: **Aleita Hass-Holcombe** (541) 740-3235.

THANKS FROM HOME LIFE, INC.

Dear First Congregational Church,

On behalf of our board of directors, staff and clients, I would like to thank you for your very generous donation [September Mission Offering] of \$1,113.00! This will help us fill in some of the gaps from our funding cuts and allow us to continue our work supporting people with developmental disabilities.

I really enjoyed spending the morning with your community. I felt welcome and I felt heard.

Thanks again for learning about our programs and inviting me to speak.

Sincerely,

Dave Zaback, Executive Director

KUDOS FOR MAD AS HELL DOCS

MadAsHellDoctors (MAHD) was honored at the annual Physicians for a National Health Program meeting Satur-

day night in Washington, D.C. We received the Dr. Quentin Young Health Activist Award. I had no idea that this was in the works. I urged the assembled 400 PNHP members to not only keep fighting for health care for all but have fun during the fight.

Mike Huntington

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Muchas gracias to **Betty Massoni** and her team! This celebration and dinner was a huge success! Over 50 of us, from the young to the young at heart, gathered to make paper flowers, altars, masks and sugar skulls. We enjoyed a delicious dinner of tortilla soup, chiles rellenos casseroles, authentic pan de muerto from Pilos Mexican Bakery and agua de jamaica. A wonderful evening!

Our Thoughts and Prayers

...are with **Luther** and **Mary McLean** and their family, and Luther's step-mother, **Sharon deLong**. Luther's dad, **Colin McLean**, died in Montana on October 24.

... are with **Ruth Shirley** and her family. Ruth's husband, **Del**, died in Corvallis on October 13. A memorial service was held on October 22 at First United Methodist Church. Cards for Ruth can be sent to 32320 Old Hwy. 34, Tangent, OR 97389;

... and with **Allen Agnew**, now on hospice care at Park Place. He cannot have visitors, but would appreciate cards.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, November 8.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, November 4

7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum
 7:30 p.m. Badminton

All Saints' Sunday, November 6

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Children's Choir,
 Music Room
 (following) Children's Committee
 potluck,
 Fireplace Room

Monday, November 7

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, November 8

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

Wednesday, November 9

6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, November 10

6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 20142

7:30 p.m. C E Board,
 Conference Room

November 20: Thanksgiving Sunday:
 Sign-ups start this week!

**AFTERLIFE: PERSPECTIVES
 FROM A VARIETY OF CHRISTIAN
 TRADITIONS**

This Life Compass Education Series Presentation will be held on *Saturday, December 3*, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Church of the Good Samaritan, 333NW 35th St., Corvallis. It focuses on teachings from Russian, Greek, Coptic, Syrian Orthodox, Roman and Anglican Church understanding of life after death and mystical phenomena related to after-life. Contact **Cammie Bella** (541-753-0020) or bellacd@peak.org for more information and registration. Cost is \$20.

CORRECTION

E-mail for **Caroline Zaworski** is:
cj.zaworski@gmail.com.