



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLX, No. 41

November 18, 2011

Thanksgiving Sunday

During the worship service this *Thanksgiving Sunday, November 20*, our 2012 pledges will be dedicated. And please remember our on-going food drive for UCC's Mission 1. To participate, bring commercially-canned or packaged food items to be carried forward during the first hymn and added to the Thanksgiving decorations. Cash or checks are also very welcome!

After worship, join us in Gatton Hall for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner of turkey, stuffing, potatoes and gravy, and cranberries, and a host of potluck offerings. Even if you haven't signed up, just come. Potluck items to bring are a side dish, salad, or dessert to serve ten.



*Hanging
of the Greens*

We will start sign-ups this week after worship for the intergenerational Hanging of the Greens which happens on *Saturday, December 10*, at 10:00 a.m. There will be children's activities and lunch provided at the event as we decorate our church

for Advent and Christmas. Join us!

If you have greens to donate or other questions, please contact **Tanya Andersson** (541-231-9713).

THIS SUNDAY

November 20

Adult Forum: This third Sunday of the month, we will follow up on the "Marriage Matters" series. **Barb Clauson's** muffin ministry continues, so come to the Meeting Hall at 9:30 a.m. to enjoy discussion. Some questions to think about: Why do people want to get married? What can each of us do to be a "bridge builder" with individuals and institutions in terms of gay marriage? How does the Good News make a difference to you and how does Christianity allow us to speak our truth? See you at 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

Scriptures: Proverbs 3:19-24,
27-30, 35

Revelation 21:1-5

Sermon: "The Best
Thanksgiving"
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. I love the relative lack of commercialization of it, the idea that we deliberately set aside a day for gratitude, the time spent with people I love. Over the decades, my Thanksgiving Day has assumed several different patterns—from my parents’ home, to 10 years of being a “student orphan,” to turkey with my special stuffing served in my house with all the attendant commotion, to being an empty nester with alternate years of taking in company to being someone else’s company. When I think back on all my Thanksgivings past, it’s like a walk through the chapters of my life: each one different, each one with its own pleasures and challenges.

The one challenge that remains steady through it all is to remember to live life grateful for the gifts of today even if they are different from treasured gifts of yesterday. The challenge is to find the best there is in wherever we are, and remember to look outside ourselves to see ourselves relative to earth’s others. We are people richly blessed, and the posture of gratitude is both a spiritual discipline and a spiritual gift worth cultivating.

I wish for all of you in the week to come a renewed sense of both your particular blessings and the interconnectedness of all life. I wish you Thanksgiving tables rich with memory and laughter. I wish for you the special gift of living truly and completely in this moment and being filled up with its particular blessings.

Happy Thanksgiving!

God bless you all.

Liz**WRITE TO HEAL WORKSHOP**

Marjorie Power, widely published poet and breast cancer survivor, will present a workshop on writing as a major aspect of healing at the November meeting of “Writers on the River,” on *Monday, November 21*, from 6:30- 9:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church annex, Corvallis, 9th Street & Monroe Street.

She is the author of *Flying on One Wing: Poems for Breast Cancer Survivors and Those Who Love Them*. This

collection, now in a third printing, was published by Samaritan Health Services in Corvallis. For more information, inquire at wotrcorv@gmail.com.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

There will be a memorial service on *Sunday, November 20*, at 3:00 in our sanctuary for **Neal Patrick Milligan**, father of **Don**, father-in-law of **Eileen**, and grandfather of **Ian**, **Steve**, and **Gavin Milligan**.



There will be NO Youth Rec Night the week of Thanksgiving, *November 22*. We'll see everyone again on *Tuesday, November 29*.

The next Sunday Youth Event will be a service project on *November 27*. Look for details in next week's newsletter and on Facebook. Yes, we have a Facebook page; help make our presence thrive! "Like" First Congregational United Church of Christ, Corvallis, on Facebook!



OOPS! SAVE THE DATES - AGAIN!

There was a slight mistake in last week's announcement about the dates for **Vacation Bible School**. VBS will be the last full week of July next summer as announced, but it will be **Monday, July 23** through **Friday, July 27**, a day shift from what was written. Put the dates on your calendar and plan your summer so your family will not miss out on the fun.



HEIFER PRICES FOR ADVENT FESTIVAL

On *Sunday, November 27*, the Advent Festival in Gattton Hall from 9:30 to 12:30 will feature a table for Heifer Project International so folks can order Alternative Gifts for the holidays. Here is the price list to assist you with your

planning. Checks should be payable to Heifer International.

- \$10 will buy one share of rabbits, tree seedlings, a pig, a sheep, or a goat.
- \$20 will buy a flock of ducks/geese, a flock of chicks, or a share of a llama, or a share of a Gardener's Basket.
- \$25 will buy a share of a water buffalo.
- \$30 will buy a hive of honeybees or a share of fish fingerlings.
- \$48 will buy a share of a knitter's basket.
- \$50 will buy a share of a heifer.
- \$60 will buy a trio of rabbits, tree seedlings, or a flock of hope.
- \$85 will buy a share of a camel.
- \$90 will buy a share of a cheese basket.
- \$120 will buy a pig, a sheep, or a goat.
- \$150 will buy a llama or a share of Joy to the World.
- \$170 will buy a Gardener's Basket.
- \$250 will buy a water buffalo.
- \$300 will buy 3 schools of fish fingerlings.
- \$480 will buy a Knitter's Basket.
- \$500 will buy a Heifer.
- \$850 will buy a camel.
- \$1500 will buy Joy to the World.

Anyone who wants to participate in this sale but will not be at church that day, should contact **Nancy Klingeman** before *November 27*.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is **Monday noon, November 21.**

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday, November 19

2:00 p.m. Dinner set-up

Thanksgiving Sunday, November 20

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir

9:30 a.m. Christian Education

10:30 a.m. Worship

(following) Children's Choir,
Music Room

**(following) Thanksgiving dinner,
Gatton Hall**

3:00 p.m. Memorial service for
Neal Milligan [p. 2]

Monday, November 21

Newsletter deadline

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

7:00 p.m. Trustees Board

Tuesday, November 22

10:15 a.m. Staff

Noon Lectionary class

7:00 p.m. Rec. Night

7:15 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday, November 23

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Group

Thursday, November 24-Thanksgiving

Office closed

Friday, November 25

Office closed

LOOKING AHEAD: *November 27:* Advent Festival, before and after worship

NEWS DEADLINE CHANGE

Due to the holiday, copy/information for the next issue must be submitted by **Monday, November 21.**

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with **Jeannie Hoelscher** and the family of **Dwight Hoelscher**. Dwight was our minister from 1975-1979. He died at Pilgrim Place on November 9. Cards may be sent to Jeannie at 777 Plymouth Road, Claremont, CA 91711-4279;

... and with **Nancy Orcutt**, who has been hospitalized with pneumonia. Cards may be sent to her home: 4153 NW Tamarack Dr., Corvallis 97330.