



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

Vol. XLX, No. 43

December 2, 2011



Sign-ups will continue in the church foyer this Sunday to participate in the Hanging of the Greens, our annual decorating of the church for the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

This intergenerational event will be on *Saturday, December 10*, starting at 10:00 a.m. Lunch for all our volunteers will be served in Gatton Hall at the end of the event. Come for fun and fellowship for all ages and help dress the church!

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

TUNING UP FOR CHRISTMAS

Rehearsals begin this *Sunday, December 4*, for the **Occasional Congregation**

Orchestra, which will play Christmas carols from 5:00-5:30 on Christmas Eve, under the direction of **Jeffrey Larkin**, Assistant to the Music Director. Band and orchestral instrumentalists, young



and old, are invited to come the Fireplace Room after worship this Sunday for the first rehearsal. Other rehearsals follow worship on *December 11* and *18*.

CHECK OUT OUR PICTURE KIOSK!

If you enter or exit through the Gatton Hall entryway, you will notice our kiosk full of pictures! If you haven't taken time to look at it, you might want to check it out. **Nancye Ballard** quietly updates the kiosk with pictures as events happen in the life of the church. The

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THIS SUNDAY

December 4- Communion

Adult Forum: **Bob Hannigan** will start off this year's series with his "Faith Journey" – 9:30 in the Meeting Hall.

Scriptures: Mark 1:1-8
Isaiah 40:1-11

Sermon: "Good News: Promised and Delivered?"
Jennifer Butler

Dear Friends,

On Black Friday, the clothing manufacturer Patagonia ran an ad in *The New York Times* featuring their newest jacket with the headline, “Don’t Buy This Jacket.” It went on to explain that as a company committed to environmental sensitivity, it was their mission to remind people to be mindful before they bought any new items, even Patagonia’s items. As part of the “Common Threads Initiative,” Patagonia encourages people to repair, reuse, recycle, reduce: anything to lessen our environmental footprint.

Since Friday, there has been a stir of blogs, tweets, and other commentary about whether Patagonia’s ad was sincere or just really slick marketing. I don’t know the answer to that, but at one level, it really doesn’t matter. “What do you want for Christmas?” It’s the question of the season. But what if the answer is “Nothing: there really is no thing I want.” I was talking with a friend yesterday who was complaining that her children simply refused to take her seriously that she didn’t want anything. She would prefer that they save the money they would have spent on a present or give the money to charity. “But they just get upset, and say I’m making their life more difficult. So now am I supposed to make up things I want?” I could see both sides of the issue.

Even though we talk a lot about reducing consumption at Christmas, some of us (I’m one of them) still feel residual guilt or at least a vague unease when we don’t give something to the people we care about. The thing is a symbol of our affection, and we want to express that affection. But I think it’s time to get over it, we who feel compelled to give stuff. We need to take seriously those who would prefer, who would feel more valued with a contribution to Community Outreach, or the humane Society, or the Heart Association, or ...the list is endless, and all non-profits are hurting these days. It’s okay not to give something. It’s not a lack of caring. It’s our problem, not the problem of the person who really does have everything they want. Have I convinced you? I’m working on convincing myself because it’s the right thing to do for so many reasons.

God bless you all.

Liz

KIOSK *from page 1*

most recent additions include pictures of new members; Halloween costume participants; and the Día de los Muertos cel-

ebration. Nancye is substantially aided in her work by receiving timely pictures from **Brian Lee**, which she then carefully captions and mounts.



On *Sunday, December 11*, we're having a White Elephant Christmas Party

for Middle and High School Youth, Join us from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the church.

We're on Facebook! Friend us!

HELP WANTED

We need **substitute Sunday School teachers** and **children to collect the offering** in the service during the Children's Message. Contact **Kristi** or stop by the CE desk.

...an "elf" to remove wax and polish the candlesticks for Christmas. Call the office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Once again this holiday season our 1st through 3rd grade class at the First Congregational United Church of Christ will be participating in a service project to help others in our community. The class will mix, bag, and deliver trail mix to the men's homeless shelter here in Corvallis. The Corvallis men's homeless shelter is located at Westside Community Church, not far from our own church home. There are beds for up to 42 men to have a nightly respite from the sometimes harsh winter weather.

Over the past weeks, the class has been learning about the homeless and ways we can each help them. At the end of the project, the children will travel to the homeless shelter to deliver the gifts. **Aleita Hass-Holcombe** has kindly

agreed to give them a tour to help understand what the shelter is and how it helps people.

Jan Thornton

CHILDREN, YOUTH CHOIRS REHEARSE SUNDAY

The Children's Choir is practicing for Advent and the Christmas Eve, 5:30 p.m. service. Children grades K-5 meet immediately after church in the Music 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."

Youth Grades 6-12 begin practice this *Sunday, December 4*, immediately after worship in the Meeting Hall. We will be adding fun descants and counter-melodies to accompany the Children's Choir on Christmas Eve

Please join us and bring a friend! Questions? Please call **Laura Relyea** at (541-967-6585) or **Kristin Rorrer** at (541-908-1559).

DECEMBER MISSION OFFERING

The December Mission Offering is for the **Vina Moses Center**. The Center was founded by Vina Moses in 1918 who ran it out of her home until her death in 1971. Then, under the leadership of **Ruth Page**, a longtime member of our church, the Center was incorporated and a building was purchased. Currently the center is located at 968 NW Garfield Avenue. The concept of the

Center is simple and wonderful. People who have clothing, toys, and household goods they are no longer using donate them and they become available at no cost to families who need them. Each month the Center welcomes more than 1,000 families who select needed items. Next week we will tell you other ways the Vina Moses Center serves low-income families in Benton County.

5TH SUNDAY OFFERING THANKS

Thank you again for choosing SMART as the recipient of your fifth Sunday offering and for your generous donation.

Your gift will help us purchase wonderful books for the children in SMART at Lincoln and Mountain View Elementary Schools. You have made many children very happy!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Warmly,

Liz Degner

MAKE REUSABLE GIFT BAGS

Hands Together will be making Cloth Holiday Gift Bags in the library on *Wednesday, December 7*, right after the Women's Fellowship Brunch until about 2:30.

Bring your own fabric and make bags for your family or come and make bags from materials we have gathered. The bags will then be for sale after church with the donations going to Vina Moses. Please bring scissors and pins and any

material you want to use or donate. We will have sewing machines, an iron, various patterns and a cutting area.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Betty Massoni 2/2, Mike Huntington 12/10, Marion Whitney 12/17, Alice Mills Morrow 12/17, Norm Vedaa 12/18, Steve Lucker 12/18, Ellie Larson 12/20, Claire McMorris 12/23, Sandy Murphy 12/23, Kathie Merriam 12/26, Don Olson 12/26, Bev Whitmore 12/28, Becky Flitcroft 12/29, Wayne Phillips 12/30, Pat Johnson 12/30



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Nick and Susan Piasias 12/17 (39th)
Jack and Marion Whitney 12/20 (59th)
Harold and Charlene Hunter 12/20 (31st)
Lee and Suzanne Lazaro 12/22
Bob and Monine Stebbins 12/27
Norm and Mary Vedaa 12/28 (15th)
Keith and Doris Sherry 12/29 (55th)
Mark and Ginnie Esary 12/30 (28th)

Our Thoughts and Prayers

... are with the Milligan family. **Joyanne Milligan**, mother of **Don**, mother-in-law of **Eileen**, grandmother of **Ian**, **Steve**, and **Gavin**, died on November 24. A memorial service will be held on *Sunday, December 11*, at 3:00 in our sanctuary;

... and with **Betty Massoni**, recovering from knee replacement surgery on November 30.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2011



December 4, 11, 19, 9:30 a.m. – Adult Forum: “Faith Journey” accounts from our members in the Meeting Hall: Bob Hannigan on December 4; Jen Butler on December 11. On the 19th, Adult Education participants will have the opportunity to share their own mini-faith journeys in small group discussion.

December 4, 10:30 worship – The OSU Bell Choir will play for worship: “Let All Things Now Living,” arr. Cathy Moglebust; “Celebration”, Cynthia Dobrinski; and an arrangement of “Carol of the Bells” by the student director, Brian McFadden. (Come early to hear the entire prelude.) Sanctuary Choir sings.

December 4, 11, and 18, immediately following worship – Occasional Congregational Orchestra rehearsals, in the Fireplace Room, Jeffrey Larkin directing. The group is open to anyone who plays a band or orchestra instrument. Rehearsals will last a half hour. The orchestra plays carols on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. before the family service at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 10, 10:00 a.m. – Hanging of the Greens. Sign up to help decorate the church for Christmas with activities for all ages. After the work is done, lunch will be served to all volunteers.

December 11, 10:30 a.m. worship – The Sanctuary Choir sings “Magnificat” by Durante/Pergolesi, with orchestra and soloists. Bright Gifts will be collected.

December 18 – First Congregational UCC Bell Choir plays “Earth and All Stars,” arr. Timothy Shepard; “Huron Carol,” arr. Timothy Waugh; “Carol of the Bells,” Mykolo Leontovic, arr. Douglas Wagner. Sanctuary Choir sings.

December 24, Christmas Eve:

5:00 p.m. Carols played by the Occasional Congregational Orchestra
5:30 p.m. Family Service with Children’s Choir
11:00 p.m. A candlelight communion service and music by the Sanctuary Choir

December 25, 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Evensong in sanctuary; quartet will sing throughout this service. There will be no worship or Christian Education at First Congregational UCC on Christmas morning.



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, December 6.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, December 2

7:00 p.m. First Friday Forum

Saturday, December 3

3:30 p.m. Badminton

Sunday, December 4

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 (following) Children's Choir [p. 3]
 (following) Youth Choir [page 3]
 (following) Occasional Congrega-
 tional Orchestra [p. 1]

Monday, December 5

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Tuesday, December 6

9:00 a.m. Staff
 Noon Lectionary class
 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee
 7:00 p.m. Rec. Night
 7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee
 7:30 p.m. Diaconate

Wednesday, December 7

10:00 a.m. Women's Fellowship
 Christmas brunch

(following) Hands Together

6:30 p.m. Bell Choir

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, December 8

6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 20142

7:30 p.m. C E Board

Many thanks to everyone who chose an alternative **Heifer** gift! Our order is for nearly \$10,000 and will bless many families with animals, tree seedlings, and fish. Also, many thanks to **Alice Mills Morrow, Priscilla Zaworski, Sue Stultz, and Pete Klingeman** for their help with the sales table.

CYS WINTER CONCERT

The **Corvallis Youth Symphony** Winter Concert happens on *Sunday, December 11*, at 3:00 p.m. at the LaSells Stewart Center. The program includes the premiere of "Of Stellar Waters" by CYS alumnus **Greg Simon**. CYS musicians in this Church are **Justin Yun** and **Brooks McCann**.