

March 26, 2014



GOOD NEWS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (*Disciples of Christ*) 432 Ferry St. SW, Albany, OR 541-926-8606
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JOIN US FOR COVENANT SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Who is a member of the First Christian Church of Albany? That is actually a complicated question. It is complicated because our church bylaws are much more legalistic than the long-time practice of the church. Our bylaws state that a person becomes a member of the church in one of two ways – by publicly confessing one’s faith and being baptized or by transfer of membership from another church. Those ways of becoming a member are still and always available to everyone who seeks to “join” the church. The starting place for becoming a part of the church in this way is to have a conversation with the pastor and arrange a time to make those declarations.

But, it is also true that for at least 30 years, this congregation has welcomed people into a covenant of fellowship and membership in a much more informal way. When people are drawn to share their lives and faith with this congregation and become regular participants in the full life of the church, happy hearts and open arms receive them unconditionally. By the sharing of their lives they are received and welcomed as members of the church and together we travel the road of faith, mutually supporting and encouraging each other along the way as we grow in our understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Christ. This is membership too.

However and whenever you became a part of the First Christian Church of Albany, we are joining together on Sunday, April 6 to celebrate the covenant of love we share. Everyone will have the opportunity to be counted and claimed as a part of this community of faith. There will also be an opportunity for people to join the church in a formal way – to transfer their membership from another church or to declare their faith in Jesus and seek the waters of baptism on Easter.

To help make this celebration special we are asking individuals and families to take a digital “selfie” picture of themselves and email the picture to fccalbany@comcast.net. These pictures will be used in worship over the next few weeks and will also be put on a bulletin board to help us become better acquainted with each other. Be creative and have fun with your pictures. Show us the joy you feel at being a part of this church family.

Also, on Sunday, March 30 you’ll have the opportunity to pick up a hand print. We’d like you to write your full name on one side of the hand print. On the other side, tell us what makes you happy about being a part of the church. Bring these handprints to worship with you on Covenant Sunday, April 6.

If you won’t be able to be in worship on April 6, send or bring your hand print to the church office if you want to be counted and claimed as a part of the First Christian Church of Albany.



Church Family News

In Our Prayers

Keith Fleshman - his wife June died 3/13

Erik and Kim Free in Mozambique

Mark Spence, shoulder surgery

Tom Cochran

Linda Bricker

Jan Goby

Betty Rea

Linda Morse's brother Gil

Nancy Robb's brother

Sarah Mack's step mom

For those in hospice care:

Phyllis Silsbee

Cheryl Hersom

Nadine Wood's mom

For those who are battling cancer:

Rollie Bilyeu

Jack Miner, Laurie Miner

Lynnie Evans

Harryette Anderson

Attendance and Giving

Sunday, March 16

Attendance 141

General Fund giving \$4,064

Building Fund giving \$1,070

Sunday, March 23

Attendance 132

General Fund giving \$2,570

Building Fund giving \$1,005

General Fund giving in Mar. \$21,217

Amount needed monthly \$24,537

Building Fund giving in Mar. \$3,820

Amount needed monthly \$8,925

OUR MISSION

is to be a faithful, growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality, and a passion for justice.

IT'S SPRING CLEANING TIME!

The sun is out! The trees are in full bloom! The air is sweet with the fragrance of spring! All these lovely signs remind us it is time for spring cleaning at the church. There is a long list of cleaning tasks that need our helping hands – washing walls, giving the kitchen a good deep cleaning, wiping down hymn books, vacuuming worship chairs and woodwork, etc. Many helpers are needed to spruce up the building and yard for our Easter celebration.

Join the All Church Clean Up crew on Saturday, April 12 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Muffins, coffee and juice will be served to fortify the workers. Work sign up charts will be available each Sunday before the 12th. If you can't join the work day, you can sign up for a task and do it during the week. All hands are needed!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our regular, faithful giving supports an amazing expanse of ministry. The General Fund undergirds the ministries of the staff, Christian education for our children and youth, meaningful worship, leadership development and compassionate service here in Albany and around the world. It is at work everyday helping us to fulfill our mission to be a growing church that demonstrates true community, deep spirituality and a passion for justice.

Our Building Fund provides a facility that is efficient, well-cared-for, and supports not only the congregation but a wide array of community service programs that bring hope and healing to people's lives.

Every gift, large or small, makes a difference and is gratefully received and carefully used. Remember the General Fund and Building Fund in your weekly gifts to the church.

THANK YOU

Thanks to Jim Schulte and Don Albright who mounted the AED on the wall in Disciple Hall. The AED training was held March 11 and ten people have been trained in its use. They are: Ethel Ellingson, Sharon Gisler, Patty Evans, Nancy Anderson, Graham Kislingbury, Don Albright, Jim Schulte, Chet Houser, Dale Gray, and Mary Dale Salston.

MEMORIAL SERVICE ON SATURDAY

The memorial Service for June Fleshman will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 29. Thanks to Norma Dennis and Laverne Bilyeu who are coordinating the reception. If you can bring finger foods, please contact them.

DOCUMENTARY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

After worship on Sunday, April 6, a documentary movie on climate change, "Do the Math" will be shown and a discussion will follow. Bring a sack lunch and come learn about a movement to try to encourage humanity to reduce our carbon footprint over the next 40 years.

LOOKING AHEAD

April 6

After worship - "Do the Math"
documentary on climate change

April 12

8:30 - noon All Church Clean Up

April 18

7:30 p.m. Good Friday worship

April 19

10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Youth Event

April 20

8:00-9:30 Easter Breakfast
10:00 Worship Celebration
followed by an
egg hunt for the children

April 27

Kick off stewardship campaign

May 2-3

Regional Assembly
in Hood River

June 1

Graduation Sunday

July 27 - Aug. 1

High school and middle school
camp at Suttle Lake

August 8-10

Family Camp at Honeyman

August 11-15

Grade School Camp at Suttle
Lake

TRUE COMMUNITY

REGISTER FOR FAMILY CAMP BEFORE MAY 1

During April, we are registering people for Family Camp which will be Aug. 8-10 at Honeyman State Park. Reservations of nine tent sites and ten RV sites have been made in the E loop at Honeyman. Thanks to Teralee and Doug Weir who are coordinating this year's Family Camp.

The cost will be \$55. The registration form/brochure is available on the rolling counter by the office. The fee must be paid when you register to hold a spot. Make checks payable to First Christian Church. The deadline to register is May 1.



BRINGING PLANTS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

To beautify our sanctuary for Easter Sunday, we are encouraging people to bring flowering plants that they have selected and purchased. Bring them to the church on Good Friday, April 18. We will have tags to attach to the plants to remember loved ones and an opportunity to have names appear on a bulletin insert.

If you have questions, please see Nancy in the office.

THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF OREGON AND SW IDAHO

MAY 2-3 • HOOD RIVER VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

"Getting our Feet Wet" is the theme of the 2014 Regional Assembly that will be held at the Hood River Valley Christian Church. We have new regional partners and boundaries to celebrate and new opportunities and visions as a people of faith to explore.

There will be inspiring preaching by Rebecca Hale on Friday and Saturday; interesting and helpful workshops on church leadership and spiritual life; a regional choir; the launching of the 2014 regional church garden; a variety of displays on resources for congregational life; and a chance to make new friends and to see some long time friends.

Registration forms, housing contacts and general information are available from the church office and at the regional website oidisciples.org.

DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Here is the schedule for Holy Week.

Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday

The congregation will celebrate the joyful entrance of Jesus into the heart of the city as we enter into Holy Week. As a part of the celebration:

- Children will be invited to help bring the palms into the sanctuary during worship. Children will gather at 9:40 a.m. at the back of the sanctuary to receive palms and instructions from Renee Windsor White.

- Mission trip participants will share stories and pictures from their week of service and learning in the heart of the city of Oakland, CA. Participants will rehearse at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary with Sara.

8:30 Morning with the Word

9:30 Coffee House

10:00 Worship followed by fellowship

Friday, April 18 -

7:30 p.m. - Good Friday worship

Sunday, April 20 - Easter Sunday

8:00-9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

Hosted by the Community Meal.

Donations will benefit the meal.

10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration

After worship: Easter Egg Hunt
for the youngest children

We need donations of treats to fill plastic eggs or filled plastic eggs for this egg hunt. Bring donations to the church office in early April.



**Filled eggs
needed
for Egg Hunt!**

EASTER SUNDAY BAPTISMS

Easter is the season for new life and new beginnings. As such, it is a perfect time to consider the sacrament of Christian baptism. Our congregation practices believer's baptism and those who are baptized are immersed in the waters of new life. It is a sign of putting away that which is broken, misdirected and self-involved and rising up from the waters of cleansing, healing, renewal and forgiveness to walk the Blessed Way with Jesus as guide and inspiration. It is a sign of covenant as the newly baptized one joins in mind and heart with all who have passed through the waters into new life.

If you are interested in being baptized this Easter Sunday, April 20, please contact one of our pastors. They will be happy to visit with you and discern if this Resurrection Day might be your special day to pass through the waters.

A NEW BOOK ON WEDNESDAYS!

Wednesday Morning Book Study has begun a new book and it is not too late to join this vibrant faith adventure. The class meets every Wednesday from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. and is reading and discussing Brian McLaren's book, "Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road? Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World."

This book challenges Christians to reclaim a strong benevolent faith that goes beyond religious tolerance to vigorous hospitality with people of other faiths. It explores how a new understanding of key Christian doctrines can end religious rivalry and foster new relationships. Blending history, narrative and insight the author challenges readers to stop creating barriers in the name of God and learn how affirming other religions can strengthen our commitment to our own faith and help us become more Christ-like.

PASSION FOR JUSTICE



EASTER BREAKFAST

8:00 - 9:30 A.M. • SUNDAY, APRIL 20

**ALL DONATIONS
BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY MEAL**

SEARCH COMMITTEE WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

The next meeting of our Search Committee will be on April 3 with our regional pastor, Cathy Myers Wirt. The committee has been busy creating a congregational profile, looking at demographics and has created a job description.

This spring there will be listening sessions with the youth, parents and others so the Search Committee can hear the congregation's hopes for this full-time associate pastor.

Your thoughts are always welcomed. The Search Committee members are Mary Dale Salston, Ethel Ellingson, Kris McLaughlin, Elizabeth Wood, Ray Lindley, Rollie Bilyeu, Jay Mack, Alyssa Nelson and Mandee Varner as well as congregational co-chairs Nadine Wood and Graham Kislingbury and our senior pastor Patty Evans.

LISTENING SESSIONS

Parents of Children and Youth

After worship on Sunday, April 13, parents of children and youth are invited to come and share their thoughts with the Search Committee.

Middle and High School Youth

On April 27, the youth in middle school and high school will have an opportunity to meet with members of the Search Committee during the regular Sunday evening youth group times.

The Congregation

On Sunday, May 4, there will be a congregational meeting after worship and there will be time for the congregation to give input to the Search Committee in Time to Talk circles.

YOU ARE INVITED!

The Board of Directors of Jackson St. Youth Shelter, Inc. is hosting its first Albany/Linn Co. fundraising reception on Thursday, April 17 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Albany Golf & Events Center, 155 NW Country Club Lane. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. There will be a short presentation at 6:15 p.m.

Jackson St. Youth Shelter is the organization that hosts the Cornerstone Outreach here in Albany which serves at-risk youth by offering a safe place to go after school. At Christmas time, we collected donations of snacks and supplies for them. And we had a Flashpoint! presentation by their director.



Visit our new web site at www.fccalbany.com Our thanks to Nate Otto, web designer who created it to be user friendly and easy to navigate.



SUNDAY YOUTH GROUPS

During spring break, the groups will not meet on March 30. On April 6 and 13, the groups will meet at the usual times and on Saturday, April 19 there will be a day of fellowship. Youth groups will not meet on April 20, Easter Sunday.

YOUTH CELEBRATION WITH SARA

On Saturday, April 19, middle and high school youth are invited to share a day together with Sara from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. The group will play games, watch a movie, do crafts through the day, enjoy dinner, and celebrate the wonderful years of ministry the group has had with Sara at a closing worship in the evening. Bring a sack lunch and a few dollars for Hasty Freeze. RSVP to Sara by April 13.



“Happy” Stewardship Campaign kicks off April 27.