

March 12, 2014



GOOD NEWS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (*Disciples of Christ*) 432 Ferry St. SW, Albany, OR 541-926-8606

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THE JOURNEY OF LENT

Beyond the rain clouds and mud puddles, spring is beginning to blossom. The bright yellow bonnets of the daffodils bear bright witness to the liveliness of spring. Easter is just around the corner – its surprising new life blossoms out of the somberness and introspection of the Lenten season. There is spiritual goodness in taking time to consider those things that get in the way of embracing new life.

Lent is a good time to meditate, pray and prepare one's heart for the lively surprise of Easter. Our worship services through out the next few weeks will be an opportunity to travel the Lenten road with Jesus and his disciples – learning from them as we go and finding ourselves more and more ready to give our lives in loving service and let our lives bear bright witness to the message of Easter. Come and worship with your church family!



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Drivers are needed to transport church members to worship. A schedule has been set up with a different driver for each Sunday in the month. We currently need a driver on the fourth Sunday of each month and for the fifth Sunday in March, June, Aug., and Nov. Please contact Charlotte Houser if you are able to help in this ministry.

DEACON TEAM A

The deacon team A serving in April is encouraged to sign up on the deacon task sheet. Please sign up for at least three different tasks during the month. With Palm Sunday and Easter in April, your help will be greatly needed and appreciated.

NEW GREETING RESPONSIBILITY

A new greeter position has been added to the deacon's responsibilities. Not only will there be a greeter at each entrance, but there will also be a greeter at the guest book next to the sanctuary main doors. This new greeter position will watch for newcomers, have them sign the guest book, and introduce them to congregation members.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Ethel Ellingson, Chair of the Search Committee

On March 2, the search committee had its first meeting. Members are Mary Dale Salston, Ethel Ellingson, Kris McLaughlin, Elizabeth Wood, Ray Lindley, Rollie Bilyeu, Jay Mack, Mary Boucher, Alyssa Nelson, and Mandee Varner. Our congregational co-chairs, Nadine Wood and Graham Kislingbury, and Patty Evans will resource and support the committee.

The committee is looking forward to receiving input from the congregation. Please watch for information on meetings that will give you, the congregation, an opportunity to let the search committee know what you feel is important as we look forward to filling this important ministry position in our church.

Thank you for your trust in us. Please continue to pray for the search committee as we do our work. The committee meets twice a month, every other Sunday.

Church Family News

In Our Prayers

Mark Spence, shoulder surgery

Don Heintzman

Tom Cochran

Linda Bricker

Jan Goby

Betty Rea

Lois Hobbs

Fern Dixon

Linda Morse's brother Gil

Nancy Robb's brother

Sarah Mack's step mom

For those in hospice care:

June Fleshman

Phyllis Silsbee

Cheryl Hersom

Nadine Wood's mom

For those who are battling cancer:

Jack Miner, Laurie Miner

Lynnie Evans

Harryette Anderson

Attendance and Giving

Sunday, March 2

Attendance 148

General Fund giving \$7,580

Building Fund giving \$870

Sunday, March 9

Attendance 125

General Fund giving \$7,002

Building Fund giving \$875

General Fund giving in Mar. \$14,582

Amount needed monthly \$24,537

Building Fund giving in Mar. \$1,745

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.

CHURCH PROGRAMS

At the monthly meetings of the Program Cabinet, there are ministries to celebrate, ministries in discernment and ministries in progress. The list below includes programs that are underway in the life of the church right now. Some are weekly ministries while others are once a year or once a month.

MINISTRIES IN PROGRESS

(These events are on the calendar and have leadership that is at work on them.)

ONGOING MINISTRIES

- Sunday Morning Education, Worship and Fellowship - Staff
- Choir Rehearsal – Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. – Gary Ruppert
- Chi Rho Fellowship – Sundays at 4:30-5:45 p.m. - Sara Staton
- Christian Youth Fellowship – Sundays at 6:30-7:45 p.m.- Sara
- Wednesday Book Study – 10 a.m. - Patty
- Community Meal – every Tuesday, 4:30-6:30 p.m. - Team
- Prayer Shawl Ministry – 1st and 3rd Mondays, 10 a.m. – Jan Hagemeister
- Elders' Study and Prayer – 4th Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Ethel Ellingson
- Reiki Prayer Ministry – Thursdays, 4th Saturday – Debbie Burchfiel
- Christian Women's Fellowship – 4th Monday at 1 p.m. – Cathy Feeney and Laverne Bilyeu
- Caregiver Support Group – first Saturday 10-11:30 a.m. - Patty

SPECIAL MINISTRIES

- Youth Mission Trip – 3/22-3/30 – Sara
- Good Friday Service of Darkness – April 18, 7:30 p.m. – Patty, Sara
- Easter Breakfast – 8 - 9:30 a.m., April 20 - Community Meal team
- Easter Worship Celebration – April 20 at 10 a.m. – Patty, Sara
- Egg Hunt after Easter Sunday worship- Renee
- "Do the Math" Presentation – April 6 – Anne Catlin
- Covenant Sunday – April 6 – Patty and Sara
- All Youth Day Retreat – April 19 - Sara
- Flashpoint! on Immigration Issues – April 27, 9:15 a.m. – Sharon Gisler
- Congregational Meeting – May – church board
- Graduate Recognition – June 1 – Patty
- Choir Recognition – June 8 – Patty
- Chi Rho/CYF Church Camp – July 27-Aug.1 – regional church
- Junior Camp – Aug. 11-15– regional church
- Family Camp - Aug. 8-10 at Honeyman State Park- the Weirs

LOOKING AHEAD

March 16

Mission Trip Blessing in worship

March 22-30

Mission trip to Oakland

April 20

8:00-9:30 Easter Breakfast

10:00 Worship Celebration followed by an egg hunt for the children

May 2-3

Regional Assembly in Hood River

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

During March and 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.

A SEASON OF FAREWELL

As our time with Sara as our associate pastor moves to a close, we feel a tugging at our hearts. It is hard to say goodbye. Of course, she and Matt, Lena and Evan will be living in Albany and we will see them from time to time. Eventually they may well be back in worship. Certainly they will always be a part of our sense of church family.

But Sara's pastoral ministry in our midst is coming to a close and we need to find ways to send her off with our love, best wishes and deeply felt gratitude. So be sure you mark your calendar and plan to be in worship on Sunday, April 27 as that service and fellowship time will be an opportunity to express our love and thanks in many ways. Take the time between now and then to write a note, draw a picture, capture a photo, recall a story that can be shared in some way on that special day.

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY ON MAY 2-3

On the weekend of May 2-3, you're invited to the Regional Assembly being hosted by the Hood River Valley congregation. Join with Disciples from Oregon and SW Idaho and enjoy spirited worship, interesting workshops and the beauty and hospitality of Hood River Disciples. This year's theme is "Getting our Feet Wet."

As the regional church celebrates new life with expanded borders and new friends to meet, those gathered at the Assembly will hear from Rebecca Hale who will address how to move forward in faith in our new partnerships. Rev. Hale's current work with the National Benevolent Association includes launching new intentional communities for young adults and seeking ways for congregations to work in hands-on mission.

There will also be the beginning of a conversation in our regional church on how to reframe work and structures to meet the opportunities of the new regional shape and leadership.

Registration materials for the May 2-3, 2014 Regional Assembly in Hood River will be online at <http://www.christianchurchinoregon.org/> and in our church office.

DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Although Lent has just begun, Holy Week and Easter will be here before we know it. Here is the schedule for Holy Week.

Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday

- 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.



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.



BRINGING PLANTS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

The season of Lent began on March 5 with Ash Wednesday and continues until we arrive at Easter Sunday on April 20. In previous years, we have beautified the sanctuary by taking orders for flowering plants to honor and remember loved ones.

This year instead of taking orders, we are encouraging people to bring flowering plants that they have selected and purchased. Bring them to the church on Good Friday. 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.

PASSION FOR JUSTICE



MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS:

Leaders: Ethel Ellingson, Stuart Welsh, Tina Shuck, Mandee Varner

Youth: Connor Welsh, Salina Dobson, Brandon Dobson, Alyssa Nelson, Haley Weir, Kaylee Varner, Bennett Edwards, Kaylee Moore, Maxine Shuck, Wyatt Blais

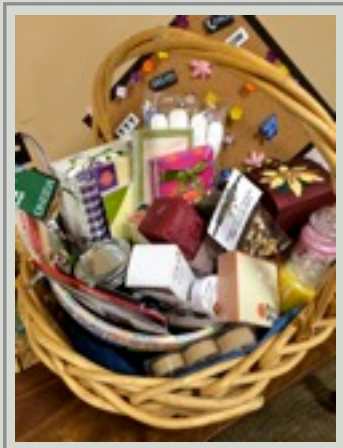
CAR WASH FUNDRAISER ON SATURDAY

If you did not sign up to get your car washed, please call Sara at 541-981-8904 to see if there are any openings on the schedule. Thank you to all who signed up to bring their cars on March 15. All proceeds will directly benefit the mission trip.

CWF TO RAFFLE BASKET

Christian Women's Fellowship is selling raffle tickets on Sunday mornings for the basket pictured to the right.

It's a Mix Up Basket with a wide assortment of items in it. The proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets will go to mission projects.



MISSION TRIP UPDATE

Mission trip leaders, participants and their parents will meet at 9 a.m. on Sunday, March 16 in the Youth Commons for a brief informational meeting. There will be a review of final details. If you have questions regarding the trip, bring them to the meeting.

All participants should plan to stay for 10 a.m. worship. The congregation will lift up prayers on behalf of the travelers and offer their blessings for the work and learning trip.

On March 22-30, mission trip participants will travel to Oakland, CA for a week of hands-on service, workshops and learning opportunities in and around Oakland. The Rev. Sandhya Jha, director of the Oakland Peace Center will lead the group in reflecting on each day's experiences and will teach tools for effective peace-building in local communities.

They will have the opportunity to work with these Oakland organizations:

- "Project Darreis" provides food and clothing and works to curb violence. It was founded in memory of Darreis Toyfoya, an 18-year-old who was killed in a random shooting.

- "Urban Releaf" plants trees in disadvantaged neighborhoods to combat poor air quality and other environmental health hazards, and provides education and stewardship opportunities for at-risk youth.

- "Food of God for the People of God" serves hot, nutritious meals to homeless people in outdoor settings each week.



SUNDAY YOUTH GROUPS

Youth groups will meet on Sunday, March 16 at 4:30-5:45 p.m. (grades 6-8) and 6:30-7:45 p.m. (grades 9-12) in the upstairs youth commons. During spring break, the groups will not meet on March 23 and 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.

During March and April, the groups will hear a new story about the person of Jesus. Through a time of reflective questioning, they will discover deep connections about God, themselves, and the church.

SAVE THE DATE FOR A CELEBRATION

On Saturday, April 19, middle and high school youth groups will be invited to a day of fellowship, celebration and goodbyes to mark the end of Sara's ministry. Times and details will be announced soon.

DOORS TO BE REPLACED

The northwest alley doors which have deteriorated over time and have a gap that lets in cold air are going to be replaced in April. Memorial gifts will be used to cover the expense. The new doors will match the set of doors just above them on the fire escape stairway to the youth commons. The order has been placed and the installation is expected before Easter.



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