

April 9, 2014



GOOD NEWS

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

Join the All Church Clean Up crew from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 12. There are many cleaning tasks that need our helping hands – washing walls, deep cleaning the kitchen, 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.

Muffins, coffee and juice will be served to fortify the workers. 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!

BRING PLANTS FOR EASTER

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.



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 - GOOD FRIDAY

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 now.

Church Family News

In Our Prayers

Keith Fleshman
Erik and Kim Free in Mozambique
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
Lynn Evans
Harryette Anderson

Attendance and Giving

Sunday, March 30

Attendance 156
General Fund giving \$5,191
Building Fund giving \$365

Sunday, April 6

Attendance 138
General Fund giving \$9,646
Building Fund giving \$1,040

General Fund giving in Apr. \$9,646
Amount needed monthly \$24,537

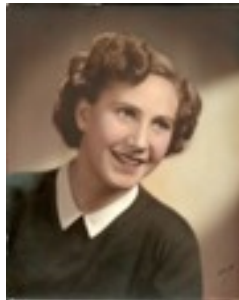
Building Fund giving in Apr. \$1,040
Amount needed monthly \$8,925

OUR MISSION

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

IN LOVING MEMORY

JUNE FLESHMAN



At a memorial service on March 29, we celebrated the vibrant life of June Fleshman. From the time she was born on March 16, 1935 until the day she slipped away, three days shy of her 79th birthday, June's life was a life of praising God with faithful work and joyful song.



Born in Pasadena, CA., June moved with her family to Grants Pass OR. when she was twelve. Her father owned an auto repair shop, her mother taught fourth grade, and June studied piano and accompanied the high school choir. At age seventeen, she went to the University of Oregon, majoring in music education. There she met Keith Fleshman, a pre-med student. They married four years later and together pursued further studies preparing to be missionaries of the United Christian Missionary Society, a predecessor mission body of Global Ministries.

Over a period of forty years June taught music and English, learned three foreign languages, and raised a family of four, often in challenging conditions compounded by three national revolutions. She and Keith served as missionaries in what today is the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, and Nepal.

For the children's teen years, June and Keith returned to Lebanon, OR. where Keith practiced orthopedics.

Music, church work and square dancing were June's passions. She was an active member in our church choir and faithfully attended worship. She frequently wrote notes and letters of encouragement to church staff and others.

Please hold June's family in your prayers at this time of loss.

FLOWER DELIVERY DRIVERS NEEDED FOR MOTHER'S DAY WEEK

Once again Jim Schulte and Jim Sompii at The White Rose are providing the opportunity to raise funds for our youth programming. They will need delivery help for the Mother's Day holiday. Drivers will be in teams of two and work a two-hour shift. Vehicles and directions will be provided. Drivers are needed for Friday, May 9 and especially Saturday, May 10.

A sign-up sheet is on the rolling cart by the church office. If you have questions you may chat with Jim Schulte or Jim Somppi at church.

MY CHURCH FAMILY

Thank you so much to the ones who came to the house with flowers and for the calls, the cards and the prayers. I missed every one of you.

Helen Wells

LOOKING AHEAD

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 4

Congregational Meeting after
worship

May 16

7 p.m. Movie "Happy"

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 is \$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.

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>.

Dearest friends,

There are hardly enough words to adequately express my gratitude for the 6 1/2 years of ministry I have been able to share with this congregation. As I packed books and thumbed through files, I came across precious reminders of how much I have learned and loved in this place. Pictures of members of this church family - eating s'mores at the beach, building houses in Mexico, shaking hands after Sunday worship, and sharing meals around tables; notes of encouragement, thanks, and even challenge tucked away to give me courage on hard days; and the many lessons I have learned about a community willing to struggle and rejoice with one another, embrace the diverse gifts of all of God's people, and embody the call to be disciples in service to others, relationship with one another and deep spirituality.

This place has so graciously loved us and our children and my prayers are ever with this congregation for all of the seasons to come.

Blessings and love,

Sara Staton

DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

CELEBRATING NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

On Easter Sunday, April 20 we will celebrate the baptisms of three of our young people – Bailey Wood, Grace Catlin and Michael Varner. We will bear witness as they take an important step in their journeys of faith and affirm their partnership with Christ and the community of Christ’s disciples. We will hear what this moment means to them and ask God’s blessing on their new life in Christ.

If you are interested in being baptized, please contact Patty Evans or Sara Staton.

A SEASON OF FAREWELL

It is so difficult to say goodbye, but our time to muster up the emotional strength to do so is coming very quickly. Easter Sunday marks the last day that Sara Staton will be serving as our associate pastor. It has been a wonderful six and half years of ministry together and we have been richly blessed as a congregation to have Sara on staff for those years.

We will be celebrating her ministry with us and expressing our heartfelt farewells on Sunday morning, April 27. The youth will be sharing a special tribute and the whole congregation will have the opportunity to express its appreciation with cards, gifts and many hugs. If you have a story, remembrance or special tribute to share on this day, please contact Patty Evans in the next couple of weeks. If you would like to financially share in the church’s gift to Sara, please send your donation to the church office by April 20.

Sara and her family will continue to live in Albany and will always be a part of our church family. Our hearts are linked in ways that cannot be separated. It is very possible that the family will eventually choose to share their lives in worship, fellowship and loving service, but this will follow a time of necessary separation. Sara needs the time to disconnect from her position and to place her focus on her family. This time of separation also encourages us to open a space in our lives to receive a new associate pastor who will have new ideas, many gifts and a lot of love to share.

A *Happy* STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

by *Graham Kislingbury*

Our 2014-16 stewardship campaign kicks off Sunday, April 27 and it will be a happy one.

Inspired by singer-songwriter Pharrell Williams’ vibrant hit, “Happy,” we’ve adopted “Happy” as the theme of our month-long pledge campaign in support of the General Fund and Building Fund.

We think there’s plenty to be happy about at First Christian and the “Happy” campaign will reflect that.

We’ll have the “Happy” song, along with a “Happy Hat” (similar to the distinctive one Williams’ wore at the Grammys and Academy Awards), “Happy Moments” with brief weekly presentations about the “Happy Campaign and “Happy” images.

A showing of the “Happy” movie, a 2012 documentary about happiness, is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, May 16, in Fellowship Hall.

If you’d like to invite your neighbors and friends, just tell them that 10 to 11 a.m. April 27, May 4, 11 and 18 will be “Happy Hour” at First Christian Church.



Judie and Ray Lindley

Judie - member since Mar. 1978

Ray - member since Dec. 1975

PASSION FOR JUSTICE

PROCESSION OF THE SPECIES

10 A.M. PARADE IN DOWNTOWN ALBANY

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Gather at 9:30 at the courthouse



FLASHPOINT! ON IMMIGRATION

At 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, April 27, we will have a Flashpoint! on immigration. The topic “Exploring Two Concepts - Dreamers or Trespassers” will address the question of what the immigration debate means in Albany, and why it matters to us and our community.

Javier Cervantes and Nancy Greenman will share information, and consider some popular misconceptions around the issues of immigration including the Oregon Dream Act called Tuition Equity, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals in Oregon (DACA), the impact of deportations on our community, and the Oregon Drivers Card.

Javier Cervantes serves as the Director of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion at Linn-Benton Community College. Nancy is the Prevention Program Coordinator for the Oregon Attorney General’s Sexual Assault Task Force and a member of Albany Peace Seekers.

STAFF POSITIONS OPEN

Two staff positions will be open in the near future and have been posted at various employment sites. We are looking for a church custodian who will work 15 to 17 hours a week and an audio visual/sound technician who will work approximately 4 hours each week. This is a Sunday morning job and anyone applying must be able to make a solid commitment to be at the church every Sunday. Job descriptions and applications are available in the church office and must be submitted by April 14 to be considered. Church members are not given preferential consideration but are welcome to apply.

IMPORTANT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

May 4, 2014 – following worship

Agenda:

A Happy Moment

Report from the Search Committee

A Time to Talk about a new Associate Pastor

Open Microphone



Rev. Sandhya Jha speaks to our mission trip participants before a political rally in Oakland.

LISTENING SESSIONS WITH THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

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.

Glass punch cups available
for purchase - 6 for \$1
Get them now in the church office!



SUNDAY YOUTH GROUPS

On April 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.**



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