

January 28, 2015



GOOD NEWS

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

INTERACTIVE REFLECTION TIME

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18, 6:00 – 7:30 P.M.

This year, we will mark the first day of Lent with an interactive reflection time in the sanctuary between 6:00 and 7:30 p.m. There will be several family-friendly prayer stations set-up to help individuals or families explore the meaning of Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent.

You are invited to come for as much time as you would like, whether a few minutes to receive ashes and communion or an hour to explore all the prayer stations, including the labyrinth.

Much like the season of Advent before Christmas, which calls us to journey to Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph, during Lent we journey with Jesus through his ministry and eventually to the cross. Lent is a self-reflective season where we are encouraged to open ourselves to the fullness of God-With-Us and to accept the call to work towards the wholeness of all creation. We hope you will join us for this special interactive worship time. If you would be interested in helping create a prayer station, please let Douglass Anne or Patty know!



SAVE THE DATE

ALL CHURCH CLEAN UP

Saturday, March 28
8:30 a.m. to noon

Let's spruce up the church building and grounds before Easter.

LES PETERSON TO PREACH FEB. 8

It is wonderful to have eight ordained clergy members in the congregation and be able, from time to time, to dip into the deep pool of faithfulness and gifts they bring to our congregation. Jeff Taylor, Les Peterson, Amber Churchill and Renee Windsor White recently led the Advent Study on Sunday mornings. Paul Pritchard and Ray Lindley are actively involved in worship leadership on a regular basis. All bless our congregation with their presence and many gifts and graces!

On Sunday, Feb. 8 both Patty and Douglass Anne will be attending the Women's Retreat at Silver Falls Conference Center and Les Peterson has graciously volunteered to bring the morning sermon at our 10 a.m. worship service.

Les is an alumnus of Northwest Christian University, Phillips University Seminary and the School of Theology in Claremont, California. He served as a Disciple pastor for 25 years, a chaplain for 5 years and as a case manager for 13 years. He and his wife, Deanna, joined our church family in October of last year. Thank you Les for sharing your faith with us and giving our pastors a Sunday break!

Charlie and Henry at the G2 Fun Zone



Church Family News

In Our Prayers

Rollie Bilyeu
Marcia Stevens
Tom Cochran
Linda Bricker
Jan Goby
Nancy Robb's brother
Jack Miner
Lynnie Evans
Harryette Anderson
Sarah Mack's step mom
Doreen Hilderbrand

For those in hospice care:
Phyllis Silsbee
Cheryl Hersom

Attendance and Giving

Sunday, January 18

Attendance 116
General Fund giving \$7,923
Building Fund giving \$1,460

Sunday, January 25

Attendance 114
General Fund giving \$3,291
Building Fund giving \$360

General Fund giving in Jan. \$21,635
Amount needed monthly \$24,322

Building Fund giving in Jan. \$3,620
Amount needed monthly \$8,950

WELCOME ROGER MCINNIS

We are delighted to welcome Roger McInnis to our church staff. Roger began his service as our new custodian on Monday, Jan. 26. He comes to us with over 20 years experience as a custodian. He and his wife Jeannie live in Salem and have a ministry with homeless people seeking a new start in life. Roger is working approximately 17 hours a week and you will find him in the building primarily between Monday and Friday. Welcome Roger!



FINANCIAL UPDATE

The congregation entered the new year with a strong financial base. It is always good to end the year with no deficit. The generosity of the church family is key to staying out of deficit and keeping our ministries vital, expansive and well resourced. The General Fund needs regular, generous giving to build a strong foundation for ministry.

The Building Fund is also a crucial part of our life together. It covers the monthly building mortgage. Our building is a great tool and resource that helps the congregation fulfill its mission and extend the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed. The building does so much more than just house our worship. It reaches out in service and compassion to our whole community – providing a place for recovery support, counseling services, ministries to youth and children, mental health support groups, a pre-school, a place of warm hospitality and nurture on Community Meal nights, and a loving home for all the activities of our church family. Right now our Building Fund giving is down and needs our generous attention. Be mindful that every gift, large or small, to both the General Fund and Building Fund are greatly appreciated and carefully used.

OUR MISSION

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

Thank you for honoring me as member of the year and I was totally surprised, yet grateful! Thank you so much for being the church family you all are. The love, grace, and care that exists with this congregation is awesome and heartwarming. I look forward to many wonderful continued days of service to Christ with you all. Each one of you are Honored Members.

Blessing and thanks,
Jim Schulte

LOOKING AHEAD

Feb. 7-8, 2015

Women's Weekend at Silver Falls Conference Center (remainder of fees due Feb. 1)

Feb. 12, 19, 2015

Mindfulness of Gratitude, Forgiveness & Compassion

Feb. 18, 2015

6-7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Interactive Reflection time

March 22-27, 2015

Mission trip to JustLiving Farm

March 28, 2015

All Church Clean Up

April 5, 2015

Easter Sunday Celebration

May 24, 2015

A Celebration of Patty's ministry with us on her last Sunday

July 18-22, 2015

SAVE THE DATE

FAMILY CAMP

August 21-23, 2015

Camp Tumalo
in the Bend area

Registration in the spring.
If you have questions, talk
to **Teralee Weir.**

TRUE COMMUNITY

HOSPITALITY TEAMS

An important part of Sunday morning is the fellowship time that happens before and after worship. It's a time to meet and greet visitors and get to know each other better.

We have eight hospitality teams that take turns hosting on Sunday mornings. If you would like more information on what the teams do or want to help on a team, please see Nancy in the church office. We presently have a need to add volunteers to one of our teams.

READY FOR POTLUCK AND GAMES NIGHTS?

Does it sound like fun to have some church family fun nights with potluck and games offered? The Program Cabinet is considering this programming and would love to hear from the congregation. What day of the week and times would work the best?

Let Tony Wilson, co-chair of the congregation and Program Cabinet chair, know what you think. Or drop a note to the church. The Program Cabinet will be looking for someone who would head up the first Potluck and Game Night. Think about it and pass the word to Tony if it sounds good to you!

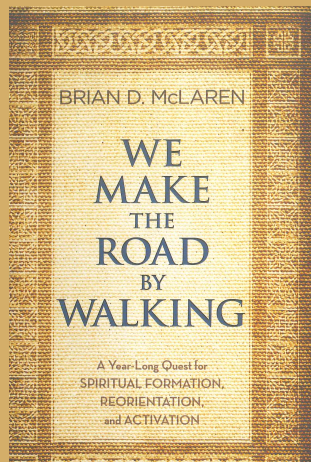


Thanks to Rowland Gaal who has been taking photos on Sunday mornings to put on our kiosk. Rowland is a member of the Program Cabinet and he is helping us get to know each other. If you haven't had your picture taken, stop by on Sunday morning in the gathering space.

DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

'WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING'

If you are reading Brian McLaren's book "We Make the Road by Walking" as a part of our yearlong congregational spiritual quest, be sure to pick up the reading schedule which will guide this exciting spiritual quest. The schedule is available in the church office and on the rolling counter outside the church office on Sunday mornings.



Throughout the year opportunities to gather for discussion will be offered. The first quarter reflection will be coming Feb. 23. (See related article on this page.)

SUNDAYS AT NINE

A discussion group is currently meeting on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. and will continue to meet through March 29. Books are available for purchase in the church office. If you are trying to keep pace with the congregation, read and reflect on chapter 5 by Feb. 1.



FIRST QUARTER REFLECTION

If you are reading Brian McLaren's "We Make the Road by Walking" and would like to meet with a small group to reflect on your reading to date, you are invited to a conversation group at the home of Denise Tafen on Monday, Feb. 23 from 9:45 to 11:00 a.m. By that date everyone should have read the first eight chapters of the book. Come for reflection, fellowship and community building! Please call the church office if you plan to attend so Denise will know how many to expect.

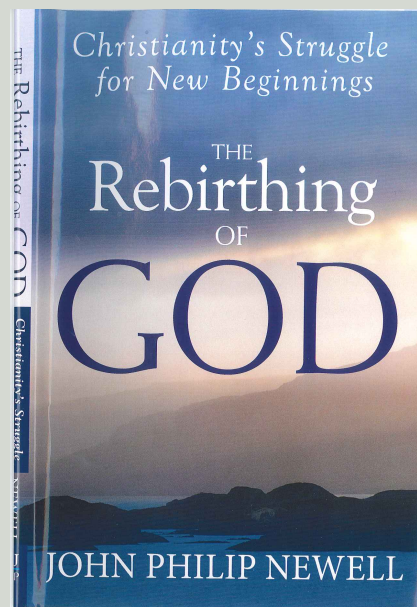
WEDNESDAY GROUP WILL BEGIN A NEW BOOK ON FEB. 11

All are invited to join the Wednesday Morning Book Study which meets every Wednesday in the Cornerstone Room from 10-11:15 a.m. The group has just completed Marcus Borg's "Convictions" and is ready to begin a new book. The selected book is "The Rebirthing of God" by John Philip Newell. The class will begin reading on Wednesday, Feb. 11.

An Amazon review shares the following about this book from the former abbot of Iona Abbey in the Western Isles of Scotland.

"John Philip Newell's new book is an inspiring and prophetic meditation on one of the most important phenomena in the world today. Much is being said and written about the decline of traditional Christianity, and people are simultaneously noticing the burgeoning interest in matters of faith and spirituality, contemplative prayer and healing, theology and spiritual practice. Cynthia Bourgeault, an Episcopal priest, author, and much-sought-after teacher on centering prayer, has said that she can't decide if she is a hospice worker or a midwife. Clearly, something is dying, but something is also coming to life. John Philip Newell sees this dying and rising again as a sacred moment in history that calls for reverent attention."

Books are available in the church office for \$17 and are offered first to people who plan to attend the discussion class.



PASSION FOR JUSTICE

TRANSITION NEWS

The announcement of Patty Evans' planned retirement on June 1 and subsequent resignation as our senior pastor was received by the Church Board at their Jan. 12 meeting. With this information and action, the process of ministerial transition has begun.

Key leaders met with our Regional Pastor Cathy Myers Wirt to discuss how to move creatively, thoughtfully and faithfully through this time of transition.

Cathy will be spending a lot of time with the congregation over the next several months and the congregation will be in very strong and gifted hands under the leadership of Cathy, Douglass Anne, an interim pastor and all the great staff and fine lay leaders of this congregation. Our office administrator, Nancy, will continue to keep us informed as the process unfolds and will assist in the transition time over the next couple of years. Be sure to read your newsletter and attend the informational sessions that will be offered in the spring.

The first task of the Church Board is to appoint a transition team. The team will be made up of five trusted leaders who know, understand and love the congregation well. They will guide the congregation



Rev. Cathy Myers Wirt chats with Keith Fleshman.

through the transition time which may extend as much as two years. They will create an interim leadership plan, rethink how we do church in this time, write the interim's job description, create a congregational profile for the Search Committee and support and encourage the staff and lay leaders on a daily basis.

The transition team will be announced in the next newsletter and commissioned and blessed in worship in mid February. The transition team will have its first meeting on Feb. 17 and will keep the congregation fully informed of its work.

Make a habit now to remember the transition team members in your daily prayers as they share their faith, time and talents in the care and keeping of the church.

MINDFULNESS OF GRATITUDE, FORGIVENESS & COMPASSION

Major religions teach that gratitude, forgiveness, and compassion are keys to happiness. But how do we manifest these keys in our daily lives? Mindfulness practice directed toward gratitude, forgiveness, and compassion offers one path to this goal.

You are invited to begin your journey along this life-changing path by exploring the nature of these three traits and how they are stimulated through mindfulness practice. Please join us for a two-hour workshop spread over two consecutive Thursdays (Feb. 12 & 19). The sessions, led by Terry Wood, will run 7-8 p.m.



This workshop is sponsored by our church and Sacred Path Ministry.

Prior to taking this class, participants must have established a mindfulness practice or completed the introductory class, "Mindfulness for Healthy Living." Registration is highly recommended. Cost is \$35 for two sessions. To sign up contact Terry or Nadine Wood at 541-924-0976 or terrywood4@comcast.net. Checks should be written to Sacred Path Ministry.

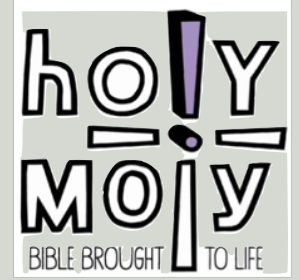
**REGIONAL
SUMMER CAMPS
AT SUTTLE LAKE**

CYF and Chi Rho Camp
– July 26-31, 2015

Grade School Camp –
August 10-14, 2015

HOLY MOLY

This winter our children (ages 3 through 5th grade) are being offered the opportunity to ignite their biblical imaginations in Children’s Worship with a program called “Holy Moly!” With a combination of animated videos, creative activities, and age-appropriate Bibles, Holy Moly brings the Bible to life. Every Holy Moly lesson follows a four-part sequence: Discover, Relate, Connect, and Create. Each week, our kids watch an animated Bible story video, talk about the story, read their Bible Storybook or Bible, and try a creative leaflet activity.



CHI RHO MIDWINTER RETREAT

All middle school youth are invited for an overnight retreat on Feb. 21-22 at Lynchwood Christian Church. The retreat will include a trip to a water slide park. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Andrew Shepherd. Cost is \$25 which includes the water park fee and food. Talk to Douglass Anne if you want to attend. Registration forms are due in the church office by Feb. 8.



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