

February 11, 2015



GOOD NEWS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (*Disciples of Christ*) 432 Ferry St. SW, Albany, OR 541-926-8606
Vol. 59, No. 3 Web site: <http://www.fccalbany.com/>

ASH WEDNESDAY

INTERACTIVE REFLECTION TIME

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18, 6 – 7:30 P.M.

This year, we will mark the first day of Lent with an interactive reflection time in the sanctuary between 6 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, Reiki prayer, seed planting and creative opportunities for children.

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.



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.

Church Family News

In Our Prayers

Ray Lindley, who was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer
Family and friends of Don Brash, who died suddenly on Feb. 5
Tom Cochran, who is at OHSU recovering from a heart transplant
Marcia Stevens
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, February 1

Attendance 110
General Fund giving \$6,723
Building Fund giving \$1,170

Sunday, February 8

Attendance 127
General Fund giving \$5,346
Building Fund giving \$815

General Fund giving in Feb. \$12,069
Amount needed monthly \$24,322

Building Fund giving in Feb. \$1,985
Amount needed monthly \$8,950

OUR MISSION

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

TRANSITION TEAM ESTABLISHED

The Church Board, in consultation with Regional Pastor Cathy Myers Wirt has established a Transition Team. This team will meet regularly over the next year and more to support the congregation in its search to find a second pastor. Between now and the time Patty retires, this team will create an interim staffing plan, create a congregational profile for hiring an interim pastor, assist in the calling of interim pastor, make sure a farewell celebration for Patty is planned and accomplished, and make sure the congregation is prepared for the arrival of an interim pastor who will work alongside Douglass Anne in the months ahead.

The Transition Team includes Chet Houser, Paula Moore, Ross Jackson, Nadine Wood, Linda Lees and will be facilitated by Graham Kisingbury as an ex officio member of the team. We are grateful for the willingness of these faithful servants to take on this important work and hold them in our prayers.

CHURCH BOARD APPOINTMENTS

At its Feb. 9 meeting, the Church Board made the following appointments. Charlotte Houser, Maura Wilson and Vicki McClanahan were appointed to serve on the Personnel Committee joining Dale Gray, Ethel Ellingson, Sharon Gisler and Sarah Mack in service. Sarah Mack chairs this committee.

Candice Muckey, Sue Stein and Jeff Taylor have all agreed to serve as deacons. We are grateful for the generous sharing of time, talent and faith offered by these willing workers. Please add their names to the officer lists in the front of your new church directory.

MANY THANKS

Many thanks are extended to the Rev. Les Peterson for bringing the morning sermon and leading the Children's Moment on Sunday, Feb. 8. His excellent leadership and faithful sharing blessed the congregation and made it possible for both pastors to attend the Women's Retreat at Silver Falls. Grateful thanks are offered to him and to Jim Schulte, MaryDale Salston, Chet Houser and our excellent musicians and faithful elders and deacons for leading a wonderful service of worship.

Dear Church Family:

Thank-you for keeping my mother in your prayers during her 15 months in hospice care. Your prayers meant so much to her, and she felt so blessed knowing this church family was praying for her. Since her death in November, your cards and kind words of support have been a comfort for my family and me.

In gratitude,
Nadine Wood

LOOKING AHEAD

Feb. 12, 19

Mindfulness of Gratitude,
Forgiveness & Compassion,
7-8 p.m.

Feb. 18

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

March 22-27

Mission trip to JustLiving Farm,
Yakama, Washington

March 28

All Church Clean Up
8:30 a.m. to noon

April 5

Easter Sunday Celebration
Breakfast hosted by youth

May 24

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

July 18-22

General Assembly in Columbus,
Ohio

July 26-31

High school and middle school
regional camps at Suttle Lake

Aug. 10-14

Grade School Camp

Aug. 21-23

Family Camp at Tumalo in the
Bend area. Registration will be
in the spring.

TRUE COMMUNITY

REMEMBERING DON BRASH

Our good friend Don Brash passed away suddenly late Thursday, Feb. 5. This was sad and surprising for all his family and friends. His graveside funeral service will be a private family gathering but we will have a memorial service at church at 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, to remember and give thanks for Don and the faithful witness of his life. Don joined our church in 1955 and faithfully served alongside us for the past 60 years. Please hold his sons and their families, his niece, Peggy Wilson, and family, and his beloved friend, Evelyn Ranck, in your prayers for comfort and strength.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR RECEPTION TEAM

Over the years, our Christian Women's Fellowship group has done a wonderful job coordinating countless receptions for memorial services and special events.

CWF continues to coordinate and provide most of the volunteers for these events, even though its membership has declined.

The organization would like some help for future receptions.

In the weeks ahead, we will be assembling a list of people willing to lend a hand to CWF when the need arises.

The reception team's duties include setting up tables and chairs, putting food on trays, making punch and coffee, serving beverages, putting away tables and chairs, putting away food after the reception, running the dishwasher and washing silver by hand.

If you can help, please contact Graham Kislingbury at g.kislingbury@comcast.net or 541-974-2075, or the church office, 541-926-8606. Also, you can sign up after church on Sundays, Feb. 15, 22 and March 1.

SUNDAY DRIVERS

We are in need of drivers who can take a turn once a month to transport folks who are no longer driving to church. If you are willing to take a turn, please let us know in the church office.

DESSERT TEAM NEEDS MORE HELP

Charlotte Smith is seeking volunteers to join her dessert-making team for the Community Meal on the first and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Right now she is a team of one so she could use some help! You can email her at charlottesmith@peak.org or just show up on the one of Tuesdays she is baking.

DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY



WORSHIP IN THE ROUND

Worship in the Round meets every Sunday at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Graham Kislingbury creatively leads this early morning worship and discussion gathering. Each week prayer and communion are shared and time is spent discussing either the lectionary texts for the day or other themes of current interest. This service is not a duplication of the 10 a.m. worship service, so those who attend both services enjoy a rich and diverse Sunday morning worship experience.

All early risers are invited to attend this intimate and interactive time of fellowship, prayer and faith exploration. For building safety, the main entrance doors do not open until 8:45 a.m. Worship in the Round participants can access the Fellowship Hall through the northwest alley entry. Many thanks are extended to Graham Kislingbury, whose generous sharing of talents and faith make this unique worship experience possible.

'WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING'

Our congregational project of exploring together Brian McLaren's "We Make the Road by Walking" is moving forward. A Sundays at Nine discussion group is exploring each chapter together in meaningful conversation. This group will continue to meet through March 29 and is an open group that is always happy to welcome new folks.

On Monday, Feb. 23 Denise Tafen is hosting a gathering for anyone who would like to discuss the first eight chapters. It will be held at her home at 2922 Squire St. N.W., between 9:45 and 11 a.m. Please call the office if you plan to attend so Denise knows how many to expect.

If you are reading the book on your own and would like to keep pace with everyone else, here is the reading schedule for the next several weeks:

February 15 – Chapter 7

February 22 – Chapter 8 (We will return to Part 1 of the book in the fall)

March 1 – Chapter 27

March 8 – Chapter 28

WEDNESDAY GROUP BEGINS A NEW BOOK THIS WEEK

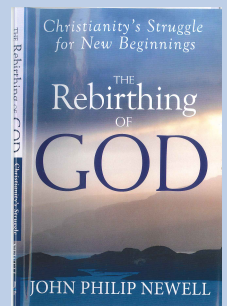
All are invited to join the Wednesday Morning Book Study which meets from 10-11:15 a.m. The group will begin a new book, "The Rebirthing of God" by John Philip Newell on Wednesday, Feb. 11.

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.

REIKI PRAYER MINISTRY NEWS

Thank you to Rev Elaine Andres for providing another Reiki training for our congregation in January. We continue to reap the benefits of wonderful healing touch.

Reiki Prayer Ministry meets from 1-3 p.m. every Thursday. If you are interested in experiencing Reiki, contact Terry Wood.

It is also offered on the fourth Saturday of the month. The next gathering is Feb. 28. Contact Deb Burchfiel. There will also be Reiki offered at the Ash Wednesday reflection time on Feb. 18.

PASSION FOR JUSTICE

PUT YOUR COMPASSION INTO ACTION

SPECIAL OFFERING FEB. 15-22

Put your compassion into action! We invite you to be a part of Week of Compassion's special offering in February. The offering enables WOC to do the life-saving ministry of emergency relief, development, and refugee work that changes the lives of many people in North America and around the world.

In the critical aftermath of a disaster, it is typically inappropriate, and sometimes impossible, for any but the nearest neighbors to physically show up to help; yet Disciples are there because of our support and gifts to Week of Compassion.

The pattern is intentional and consistent: from the immediate extension of solidarity grants to affected Disciples members and churches to ongoing partnership and recovery grants, Disciples aim to be present for as long as needed.



TAKE-HOME MEAL FUNDRAISER TAKES IN \$690

The January fundraiser for the Community Meal brought in \$690 before costs. Thanks to all who supported it by purchasing a take-home meal. Donations to support the Community Meal can be given at any time during the year.

MISSION GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE FEB. 15

The church has a mission grant fund for projects outside of the budgeted/funded mission projects. Those funds are available to support members of the congregation who are interested in participating in a mission project; to provide a one-time grant for an ongoing mission project or to help develop a mission project. Guidelines and an application are available in the church office. Applications for receiving funds are due by Feb. 15. You can turn them in to the church office or to Paula Moore. If you plan to apply for a grant, please call Paula at 541-928-0127.

FIREWOOD SALE BENEFITS HELPING HANDS

Albany Helping Hands wood lot has seasoned firewood for sale. Prices range from \$100 to \$225 for a cord, depending on the kind of wood.

Campfire wood and bundles are also available at discounted prices. The wood lot is located next to their Garden Market at 5150 Santiam Hwy. S.E., just east of Coastal Farm. All proceeds benefit Albany Helping Hands, our local shelter.

BAPTISM/FAITH FOUNDATIONS

Baptism is one of the ways that we, as Christians, declare our intent to live intentionally in the way of Jesus. It is also an opportunity for the church to embrace and welcome individuals making this commitment of faith.

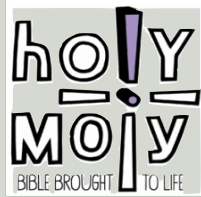
If you have an interest in being baptized this year, or if you're interested in learning more about some of the foundations of our faith (including baptism), talk with Douglass Anne. If there is interest, she will be creating a short-term learning group that will look at some of our faith journey steps and explore what it means to be part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

On Feb. 3, Tom Cochran underwent a heart transplant. If you would like to send words of encouragement as he recovers, here is his address: Tom Cochran, 820 4th SW, Albany, OR 97321.

HOLY MOLY

Holy Moly (our children's worship program) is off to a fantastic start! Each Sunday, after the Children's Moment, kids ages 3 through 5th grade are exploring a bible story by watching an imaginative video, answering questions about how the story relates to them, reading the story out loud, and then putting their creative spin on an activity inspired by the story. So far, they've learned about John the Baptist, how Jesus called the disciples and taught them to pray, and how Jesus calmed the storm.

In January, Jen Norman and Lacey McClellan led Holy Moly and did a wonderful job and this month, Denise Tafen and Alyssa Nelson are leading the kids each week! A big thank you to all of these excellent Holy Moly leaders!



YOUTH MINDFULNESS

This spring, our CYF (high school group) has the opportunity to engage in a mindfulness practice led by Terry Wood. Mindfulness is the ability to intentionally maintain awareness in the present moment without judgment. It has been used successfully in the medical field to treat chronic pain, in psychology to treat chronic depression, and in education to assist students in regulating their emotional behavior and enhancing their attention.

At the beginning of our weekly CYF gathering, Terry will facilitate a 15-minute mindfulness session. This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth and we are grateful for Terry's willingness to teach this practice to our high schoolers.



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.

Albany, OR 97321
432 Ferry St. SW
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



GOOD NEWS