

March 25, 2015



GOOD NEWS

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

Palm Sunday Worship Celebrations

Worship in the Round at 8 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m.

Good Friday Service of Darkness

Friday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The ancient name for this contemplative service is “Tenebrae” which means “darkness.” The service is marked by the gradual dousing of candles and concludes in total darkness. Light does not return to the sanctuary until Easter morning. This is an opportunity to reflect on Jesus’ death in order to more fully experience the joyous light and life celebrated on Easter.

The service will include silence, reflective readings, special music and visual reminders of the Passion Story of Jesus Christ.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5

8-9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

A delicious breakfast cooked and served by our youth! Proceeds support sending our kids to camp this summer.

9 a.m. “We Make the Road by Walking”

Discussion

Pick up your breakfast and come to the Cornerstone Room to eat together and discuss the Holy Week readings. In readiness for this time of fellowship and reflection, read Chapters 32 (Parts A, B, and C) and Chapter 33.

10 a.m. Resurrection Sunday Worship

Celebrate the Risen Lord with great music, warm fellowship around the Lord’s Table, baptisms and creative telling of the great story of life.

11:15 a.m. Egg Hunt for the youngest ones upstairs

IT’S SPRING CLEANING TIME!

It is time for spring cleaning at the church.

There is a list of cleaning tasks that need our helping hands – deep cleaning the kitchen, wiping down hymn books, vacuuming worship chairs and cleaning table legs etc. Many helpers are needed to spruce up the building and yard for our Easter celebration.

Join the All Church Clean-Up from 8:30 a.m. to noon on this Saturday, March 28.

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. Please bring them to the church on Good Friday, April 3. 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.



**We have 300 plastic eggs.
We need individually wrapped candy
to put in them for our Easter egg hunt.
You can drop donations of treats
in the office.**



Church Family News

In Our Prayers

Our mission trip participants

Our Transition Team

Jen Collins, being treated for leukemia

Bob Soleman, having heart problems

Ray Lindley, having surgery

for prostate cancer on 4/1

Tom Cochran, recovering from

a heart transplant

Linda Bricker

Jan Goby

Nancy Robb's brother

Jack Miner

Lynnie Evans

Harryette Anderson

Sarah Mack's step mom

Cheryl Hersom, in hospice care

Attendance and Giving

Sunday, March 15

Attendance 111

General Fund giving \$5,636

Building Fund giving \$1,420

Sunday, March 22

Attendance 117

General Fund giving \$3,971

Building Fund giving \$800

General Fund giving in Mar. \$21,059

Amount needed monthly \$24,322

Building Fund giving in Mar. \$9,095

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.

POTLUCK & GAMES NIGHT

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 • 5-7 P.M.

Join your church family for an evening of fellowship and fun. Bring a potluck dish to share, your favorite board games and your own table service. Beverages will be provided.

We'll start by enjoying dinner together and then have a time of playing games. It will all be wrapped up in time for kids to get home and get ready for bed or to finish homework.

Thanks to Tony Wilson who has agreed to lead this event. If you want to help him with the set up or clean up, please let him know.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Beautiful spring days beckon us to take off for the coast or the mountains on the weekend and sometimes that means we miss worship at the church. It is good to get away for this rest and renewal, but don't forget that your weekly offering still makes a big difference.

If you can't be in your place in the sanctuary, send your offering on ahead of you and you will still be supporting the important ministries of the congregation from the faith education of our children to the care of our wonderful building which serves so many people. Thank you for making a difference through your faithful, regular giving!

REGISTER FOR FAMILY CAMP BEFORE MAY 1

We are now registering people for Family Camp which is set for Aug. 21-23 at Tumalo State Park near Bend. Reservations of 5 RV sites and 7 tent sites have already been made. Thanks to Teralee and Doug Weir who are coordinating this year's Family Camp.

The cost will be \$60. 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. Please make checks payable to First Christian Church. The deadline to register is May 1.



Thanks to Rowland Gaal for offering four Chair Yoga classes on Wednesday mornings in March.

LOOKING AHEAD

April 3

7:30 p.m. Good Friday service

April 5

Easter Celebration and Baptisms

April 12

Mission Trip sharing

April 19

11:15 a.m. Congregational meeting

April 26

Kick off stewardship campaign

May 24

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

June 7

Graduation 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 is now underway.

TRUE COMMUNITY

PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

The preschool will hold registration for fall classes starting Monday, March 30. On Monday and Tuesday there will be registration for those who have children attending now. On Wednesday, registration will be for families who have previously had children in the school. There will be registration for new students on Friday, April 3 and continuing until the classes are full.

School runs September to May from 9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday. There are two-day, three-day, four-day and five-day classes as well as a speech and language class for young ones who would benefit from additional assistance.

For more information and to register, please talk to Beth Morse, our preschool director.

Church Family,

Thank you for your financial donations to Pre-Primary over the last week. The preschool carnival and silent auction raised \$2,536 for educational materials and to help provide scholarships for students in our Speech and Language program.

Thank you to Anne Catlin, Karen Ruppert, Ray Lindley, Liam Lindley, Bob and Judy Ross, Kathwren and John Hayes, Sara and Matt Staton for helping out during the week and at the carnival. The staff appreciated your support in making this an enjoyable event for the preschool families.

Beth Morse

Right: Preschool Director Beth Morse

Below: Fellowship Hall became a jungle for the preschool carnival on March 13.



DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

SEARCH FOR AN INTERIM PASTOR

FCC's Transition Team met March 10 to work on the first draft of the interim pastor job description. The team met with Regional Minister Cathy Myers Wirt on March 19 and OK'd the final draft of the interim pastor job description, along with a proposed salary and benefits package and an update of our congregational profile. The team will present those recommendations to the church board on April 13. Cathy will return April 6 with interim pastor candidate profiles for the Transition Team to consider.



The Transition Team has scheduled three opportunities in April for the congregation to learn about the transition and long-term search and call process. Cathy will join the team for the first talk at 9 a.m. Sunday, April 19, and during the quarterly congregational meeting that morning following the 10 a.m. worship service. The team will also hold a session at 9 a.m. Sunday, April 26.

Members of the Transition Team are Nadine Wood, chair; Chet Houser; Linda Lees; Paula Moore; and Ross Jackson. Co-board chair Graham Kislingbury is an ex-officio member of the Transition Team.

REIKI PRAYER MINISTRY NEWS

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 with the exception of March due to spring break.

There will be a reunion gathering of all Reiki students/practitioners at Patty's home from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 9.



SUNDAYS AT NINE IN APRIL

Don't miss these great opportunities for learning, growing and fellowship at 9 a.m. three Sunday mornings in April.

April 5 – Easter Sunday – “We Make the Road by Walking” Discussion Group. We will be discussing the Holy Week chapters in this wonderful book.



April 19 – Conversation with the Regional Pastor. Cathy Myers Wirt will be with us and will share the work of the regional church, answer questions about the search process and anything else you want to talk about.

April 26 – Checking in with the Transition Team. Come and hear what the Transition Team is working on. Ask questions! Keep informed!

PARENT/GUARDIAN & YOUTH GATHERING

Instead of usual youth groups on Sunday, April 13, there will be a parent/guardian and youth gathering from 4-6 p.m. in the Youth Commons.

Parents/guardians and youth should plan to bring their calendars and ideas for what our Chi Rho and CYF groups could do in the upcoming months.

The plan is to get to know each other a little better, do some brainstorming, and enjoy some dinner and fellowship together!

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Every first Saturday of the month people gather at 10 a.m. in the Cornerstone Room to share life, stories, encouragement and prayers as they encounter the joys, sorrows, blessings and challenges of caregiving. Anyone who is providing care for a loved one is invited to attend.



Gordon Kirbey has planned the menus for the Community Meal for the next few weeks.

3/31 Chili Macaroni

4/7 Meatloaf

4/14 Betty Rea recipes

PASSION FOR JUSTICE

HARD ANSWERS TO DIFFICULT QUESTIONS



Do you have to leave?

How long do you have to stay away?

Will we ever see you again?

These are questions I've been fielding since announcing my retirement in January. It seems like a good time to tackle them while we still have an opportunity to work our minds and hearts

around the answers.

Yes, I have to leave. When my retirement date comes on June 1, I will have to leave. No one is "making" me do this – it is just the right thing to do. There is nothing more important to me than to see the First Christian Church in Albany stay healthy, strong, faithful and growing. To do that, the congregation needs to get acquainted with, bond and learn to trust new pastoral leadership. I don't think that can happen as quickly and deeply as it needs to happen if under our present circumstances a former pastor is hanging around the edges of things. You'll need to trust me on this – in the long run it will be a whole lot better for me and for the church if I move on and make space for new lay and pastoral leadership to rise up. If I am around, I'll poke my nose where it doesn't belong. My ego will want to hang on in ways that will make it difficult for new ways and ideas to emerge. The church family will come to me for support and encouragement when new pastoral leadership is eager, ready and longing to connect. I know me and I know you – I need to leave.

Another hard but necessary thing to say is that I will not be keeping track of your lives via Facebook, text messages, snap chats or any other techno-widgets that I can barely understand. At this point, there are no ethical guidelines for former pastors as regards such means of communication, but my own sensitivities tell

me that my "liking" and "commenting" on Facebook would only make it more difficult for us to keep healthy, ethical boundaries. So please, try not to be offended when I "unfriend" you on Facebook. You will always be in my heart – friends for life – but, for a time, not so accessible. I WILL be thinking of you and praying for you every single day.

How long? A good long while – long enough for the church to move through the interim period and well into the ministry of the pastoral leadership to come. Even then, I will not risk reentering the life of the congregation without consulting with our regional ministers and the future pastors of the church.

So, May 24th will be my last Sunday in worship with you. Between that day and June 1, I'll be finishing up some bits and pieces of work but you will not see me in worship on Sunday, May 31. I hope you will be there to support each other and show that your faith commitment is not to me, but to Christ and His Church. It will not speak well of my ministry in your midst if my leaving is a catalyst for members to disconnect and not be supportive of each other during the challenging days of transition. Please be present for each other and love each other no matter who is giving pastoral leadership.

Will you ever see me again? You can count on it! You'll see me around town, at the movies, in the store, out for walks, at community events, here and there. We don't need to avoid or ignore each other. Just remember, I won't be your pastor anymore and I need to not get involved in the ups and downs of church life. You know me – if I know too much I'll want to have an opinion about it and no one needs that!

We can trust the love that binds us together. This love will help us carefully observe the ethical boundaries that are designed to keep the church faithful and responsive to its call.

Keep on loving!

Patty



Above: Mission trip participants are Shanna Jenne, Haley Weir, Ryan Nelson, Jay Mack, Elizabeth Wood and Douglass Anne Cartwright



MISSION TRIP NOW IN YAKAMA

Currently, three of our youth and three adults are in the Yakama Valley working on the JustLiving Farm and learning about issues of culture, economics, landscape, and justice!

Please be in prayer for this group as they continue learning and serving.

Also, don't miss our mission trip sharing in worship on April 12!



Albany, OR 97321

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