

April 15, 2015



GOOD NEWS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (*Disciples of Christ*) 432 Ferry St. SW, Albany, OR 541-926-8606
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Thanks to all who helped with our Easter Sunday celebration by preparing breakfast, donating candy, filling the baptismal tank, bringing plants to beautify the sanctuary, sharing beautiful music, and cleaning up.



Above: Aspen Prucha reads her faith statement before her baptism.



Above: Graham Kislingbury shares his thoughts about his faith.

Congratulations to both Aspen and Graham who were baptized on Easter Sunday.

Church Family News

In Our Prayers

Family of Jack Miner who died
Gordon Kirbey, recovering from triple
bypass surgery
Ray Lindley, recovering from surgery
Billie Jo Cruzan, recovering from knee
replacement surgery
Sandy Jenne
Mary Lou Estes in the hospital
Helen Wells in the hospital
Jen Collins, being treated for leukemia
Chuck Leland, his brother-in-law died
Linda Bricker
Jan Goby
Nancy Robb's brother
Jack Miner
Lynnie Evans
Harryette Anderson
Sarah Mack's step mom
Cheryl Hersom, in hospice care
Our Transition Team

Attendance and Giving

Sunday, April 5

Attendance 177
General Fund giving \$7,070
Building Fund giving \$6,170

Sunday, April 12

Attendance 126
General Fund giving \$6,826
Building Fund giving \$3,235

General Fund giving in Apr. \$13,896
Amount needed monthly \$24,322
Building Fund giving in Apr. \$9,405
Amount needed monthly \$8,950

Deficit for March \$2,020
Year-to-date deficit: \$7,351

OUR MISSION

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

GENERAL FUND DEFICIT GROWS

Our General Fund continues to move steadily into a more serious deficit, now at \$7,351 for the year to date. What does this mean to the work of the church? We tighten our belts programmatically. Resources that would be helpful for education and worship are not purchased. Projects are delayed until the financial picture brightens. We keep doing our best to be Christ's vital and loving church in Albany and the world and trust the resources we truly need to do this work will be present when they are needed most. We persevere and we spread the word that every gift to the General Fund is money applied to ministry and mission.

Most of the time, when the word goes out that the budget is struggling, generous folks will step up with an extra love gift to the General Fund. Other folks will remember how blessed their lives are and will respond by sharing an extra blessing with the church. Other folks will catch up with pledges and intentions made but not fulfilled due to busy schedules and stretched resources. People who hadn't thought they had anything to give experience the joy of placing a regular gift in the offering plate. Together, we make up the difference and the work of the risen Body of Christ continues to proclaim, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!"

NEW YOUTH GROUP MEETING TIME

Beginning April 19, our CYF (High School) and Chi Rho (Middle School) groups will meet 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday afternoons.

QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The second quarter congregational meeting will be held on April 19 following the Sunday Morning worship service (approximately 11:30 a.m.)

The financial statement will be reviewed and Cathy Myers Wirt will be present to share important information about the congregation's transition and long-term search and call. There will be time for an open microphone.

If you have a concern or item of business that you would like to see discussed at this meeting, please contact Graham Kislingbury, co-board chair, at g.kislingbury@comcast.net or 541-974-2075.

Dear Church Family,

It is with grateful hearts that we thank all those who shared words of sympathy or assisted with the memorial service and reception for my sister, Phyllis Silsbee-Haddan. A special thank you to Patty for visiting with Phyllis and working with Douglass Anne, Nancy, Caren and Paul to provide a lovely memorial service. Truly we have felt the warm embrace of our church family during this difficult time.

In appreciation and love,

Charlotte and Chet Houser and family

LOOKING AHEAD

April 19

11:30 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
Choir Appreciation

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. Register now.

Nancy Powell is seeking donations of books for the Friends of the Library book sale. If you have books to donate, please pass them on to her.

TRUE COMMUNITY



Thanks to Tony Wilson who organized our Potluck and Games Night in March. There were 37 participants and the Program Cabinet is planning more of these for the last Sundays of the months of April, May and June.



TRANSITION TEAM NARROWS INTERIM PASTOR CANDIDATE FIELD

Regional Minister Cathy Myers Wirt presented four interim pastor candidate options to the FCC Transition Team on April 6. The team narrowed the field to two options.

A representative from the Transition Team attended the April 13 church board meeting to present the interim pastor job description, salary and benefits, associate pastor job description for the interim period, and the updated congregational profile.

At its next meeting on Saturday, April 18, Cathy and the team will develop reference questions for calls to be made in the next week. The team hopes to make an offer soon after the calls are completed.



TRANSITION TEAM NEWS

Judie and I want to thank you for all the prayers, words of encouragement and support you sent our way that helped get us through the surgery on April 1. I am thankful for the excellent medical care I received throughout. The short visits by Patty and Douglass Anne and by several of you at the hospital were appreciated. I especially appreciated the "singing pastors" serenading me with "Happy Birthday" on the early morning of my surgery, in harmony, no less. Your cards, texts, emails have kept us surrounded by your caring presence. My recuperation is progressing slowly with its expected ups and downs. We will be back at church before too long.

Ray and Judie

DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

SUNDAYS AT NINE



April 19 at 9 a.m.

Meet and Greet Cathy Myers Wirt

On Sunday, April 19, at our “Sundays at Nine” gathering, everyone is invited to meet and greet our Regional Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Cathy Myers Wirt.

Cathy will be present to share about the exciting and important ministries of our regional church which encompasses Disciple congregations in Oregon and Southwest Idaho. She will share her insights and expertise on the congregation’s work of hiring an interim pastor, discerning future staffing possibilities and the search for a permanent pastor to join Douglass Anne Cartwright in pastoral leadership. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about the congregation and to join in shaping a vision for ministry and mission that extends beyond transition into the future.

April 26 at 9 a.m.

Catch Up with the Transition Team

On Sunday, April 26, “Sundays at Nine” will include an introduction to the work of the Transition Team and an opportunity to hear what they have been working on recently. Come and hear about the Interim Pastor search and the job description developed for this position. Also the Congregational Profile, which guides the work of both the Transition Team and the future Search Committee, will be available to read. There will be plenty of time to ask questions, offer ideas and share concerns. This is an excellent opportunity to become well-informed.

Nursery care will be provided if the need for child care is communicated to the church office by Friday morning before the Sunday gathering.

WHAT COMES NEXT?

Douglass Anne and I had lunch recently with the pastors at Eugene FCC. Our congregations have been paired as “Partner Churches” as a part of the regions’s visioning project. So we visited and talked about how we might intersect in mission. As we visited Dan asked me, “So when does it begin?” I wasn’t sure what he was talking about. “When does WHAT begin?” I asked. “Your retirement!”

Crazy as it seems, I was stunned. When does it begin? My thoughts on retirement have been about what is ending and the “lasts” I am observing - my last Lent with you, last Good Friday, last Easter, with a last Sunday looming. When someone asks me about future plans, I don’t have much of an answer because I am focused on ending not on beginning.

I thanked Dan for his question because I needed a paradigm shift! Lasts might be good for the memory bank but “what is beginning” is embedded with hope, excitement, new life and affirms that God is still working in what happens next.

So what comes next for me? I hope to teach. I’m open to the possibilities of doing an interim ministry. I’m looking forward to leading spiritual growth retreats and workshops through Sacred Path Ministry. I plan to finally get out my cello, and join a string ensemble. I want to experiment with different art mediums. I look forward to traveling. I want to widen my circle of friendships and explore what God is calling me to do in ministry in the community and world. Wow – sounds like I’m going to be busy!

So what comes next for you? All that we have done together over these last 11 1/2 years has been good. But what has been is not as important as what comes next! These are challenging times and cultural shifts are calling the church to explore new horizons of faithfulness and out-reaching love.

Douglass Anne is well-trained and well-equipped to provide pastoral leadership for such a time as this. Soon she will have a new partner in ministry and together this pastoral team, great support staff and you will continue to grow and respond in faithfulness to living the Good News of Jesus Christ in this community and world. What comes next is embedded with hope, excitement, new life and affirms that God is still and always working in what happens next.

Love,
Patty

PASSION FOR JUSTICE



HAPPY! STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Yes, we are still Happy!

Our 2014-15 Stewardship Campaign was “Happy!” and we enjoyed Pharrell William’s rendition of this snappy tune for several weeks last year when all were invited to consider their giving response to the multitude of happy blessings in our lives. Two-year General and Building Fund pledges were received and the campaign was a great success. Our General Fund and Building Fund were strongly supported by people’s generous giving intentions.

July 1 will mark the beginning of the second year of the Happy! campaign. In anticipation and celebration of the beginning of the second leg of the campaign, “Happy!” will be revisited.

Watch your mail at the end of the month for more information on the many ministries supported by the General Fund and the good work of building ministry supported by the Building Fund. This letter will also include a card that will give everyone the opportunity to affirm or change their 2015-16 pledges, or make brand new pledges for July 2015 through June 2016.

Let’s get Happy!



FLOWER DELIVERY DRIVERS NEEDED

Jim and Jim at The White Rose are seeking our help for delivery drivers during the busy Mother’s Day holiday. Drivers are needed for both Friday, May 8, and Saturday, May 9. In return for our help, the Jims will donate proceeds from delivery fees to our Community Meal.

Drivers will be in pairs for approximately two-hour shifts. Directions and vehicles will be provided by The White Rose. A sign-up sheet is on the cart by the church office.

JOIN THE PROCESSION OF THE SPECIES PARADE

All children and families are invited to participate in Albany’s annual Procession of the Species parade on Saturday, April 25. Come dressed as your favorite animal, bird, fish or plant etc. and meet at 9:30 a.m. in our church parking lot to walk the parade together!

This is a free community event for people of all ages. There are only 3 rules – no written words, no motorized vehicles and no live animals. The parade starts at 10 a.m. and winds through downtown Albany.

You can also come downtown to enjoy watching the parade.



MISSION TRIP UPDATE

by Douglass Anne Cartwright

On behalf of the youth and adults who went on the 2015 Mission Trip to JustLiving Farm (part of the Yakama Christian Mission), I want to say a big THANK YOU to all those who helped in fundraising, planning and praying for us while on the trip. We had a phenomenal time, with lots of very powerful experiences that have already impacted our lives.

THANK YOU to Mark Thomas Motors for donating the van that we used for transportation. It worked wonderfully and we all got to enjoy the trip together!

THANK YOU to the Mission Grant Committee and all those who have donated money to the mission grant fund! We were able to present a \$1,000 to the Yakama Christian Mission to further its wonderful work and ministry in the Yakama Valley.

THANK YOU to Dave and Belinda Bell, who hosted us, challenged and helped us think through all of the experiences on the farm and around the reservation, and for their willingness to share themselves with us during our week stay!

THANK YOU to FCC Albany for your support of our youth programs, including the Mission Trip. We are grateful for your prayers, your donations, and your love of the youth of this church.

WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING

The weekly “We Make the Road by Walking” discussion group will not meet in April so people can participate in the other Sundays at Nine gatherings being held. The next series of discussion times will be announced. But the reading continues! The schedule for the next month is as follows:

By April 19 read Chapter 35

By April 26 read Chapter 36

By May 3 read Chapter 37

By May 10 read Chapter 38

The monthly “Make the Road” discussion group will meet 9:45 to 11:15 a.m., Monday, April 27 at the home of Kathwren and John Hayes, 3350 Eagle View Dr., N.W.

The elders will discuss chapters 34-36 on Monday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m.

NEW BOOK STUDY BEGINS APRIL 22

The Wednesday Morning Book Study that meets from 10-11:15 a.m. every Wednesday will begin a new book on April 22.

They will be reading “The (Un)Common Good” by Jim Wallis. The book is an exploration of Jesus' vision of the common good – a vision that impacts and inspires our politics, our personal lives, families, churches, neighborhoods and world.

Copies of the book are available to purchase in the church office at a cost of \$12 each.

REGISTER FOR FAMILY CAMP BY MAY 1

There are four tent sites and one RV site still available for Family Camp. Family Camp is set for Aug. 21-23 at Tumalo State Park near Bend.

The cost is \$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.

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