

January 27, 2016



# GOOD NEWS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (*Disciples of Christ*) 432 Ferry St. SW, Albany, OR 541-926-8606  
Vol. 60, No. 2 Web site: <http://www.fccalbany.com/>

## FINDING OUR PURPOSE

At its meeting on Jan. 12, the Transition Team began to lay the foundation for the Envisioning Our Journey gathering on Saturday, Feb. 27. The intended outcome of the day is to find our purpose as a church.

Some in the congregation may believe that the Transition Team, in reading books and meeting regularly, have determined which direction our congregation should move into the future. Making that determination is not the focus of the

Transition Team – it is the business of the entire congregation. That is why it is critical that all attend on Feb. 27.

Our Interim Pastor, Eric Dale, has had many years of experience leading congregations through this process. We want to make the best use of our time together and at the end of the day have some concrete goals to guide our actions as people of God.

Additionally, the goals we set will determine the staffing we hire.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the Envisioning Our Journey on Feb. 27. There is a sign-up sheet. Lunch will be provided so please let us know if you plan to attend.

Child care will be available if we know that you need it.

### TRANSITION TEAM MEMBERS

Nadine Wood, chair  
Chet Houser  
Linda Lees  
Paula Moore  
Ross Jackson  
Tony Wilson (ex officio)

## LAST CALL TO REGISTER FOR WOMEN'S WEEKEND

Jan. 31 is the last day to register for the Women's Weekend set for Feb. 20-21 at Silver Falls Conference Center. Debbie Burchfiel, Kris McLaughlin, Christine Webb and Douglass Anne Cartwright have selected the theme "Frames of Reference." This year the group will explore how we understand the world, ourselves and others.

After Jan. 31, we will turn back any unused reservations to avoid paying for spaces that are not needed. At the moment, there are 13 women registered for the retreat with spaces for 11 more.

If you would like to attend, register now in the church office.



## SIGN UP NOW

Transition Team will host an exciting opportunity for you to envision the future of the church.

## ENVISIONING OUR JOURNEY

9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 27  
Take an active part in the future of Albany FCC.

## OUR MISSION

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

## Church Family News

### In Our Prayers

Nancy Robb, who had knee surgery  
Tony Wilson, who had knee surgery  
Marshall Smith, who had hand surgery  
Allen and Nita Campbell  
Dell Alexander  
Cherie Jackson  
Jace Lukenbaugh  
Rollie Bilyeu  
Harryette Anderson  
JoAn Widmer  
Larry Stothoff  
Linda Bricker  
Jan Goby  
Fern Dixon  
Joan Miner  
Kathleen, daughter of Emily Killin,  
Doug Collins as he writes his thesis

### Attendance and Giving

#### Sunday, Jan. 17

Attendance 108

General Fund giving \$6,375

Building Fund giving \$1,680

#### Sunday, Jan. 24

Attendance 92

General Fund giving \$3,678

Building Fund giving \$180

General Fund giving in Jan. \$19,341

Amount needed monthly \$24,322

Building Fund giving in Jan. \$3,255

Amount needed monthly \$8,950

## POTLUCK AND GAMES NIGHTS

At its January meeting the Program Cabinet scheduled three Potluck and Games Nights from 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28, April 24 and May 22.

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.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Thanks to Ann Ayers who recruits liturgists to serve each Sunday morning. Liturgists give a call to worship, an opening prayer and read scripture. If you are willing to take a turn being a liturgist, please contact Ann at 541-926-8003. She is in need of more volunteers to serve about once every three months.

Another 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.

## DOUG COLLINS' ORDINATION SET FOR JUNE 25

Doug Collins has sent a brief synopsis of the project he is working on for his thesis as he completes his seminary training. Doug will be ordained in our church on June 25. Please hold Doug in prayer as he works to complete his degree.

Doug will take a serious look at intersectionality\*, the ways in which intersectionality affects the formation of one's identity, and one's relationship with the Holy as a child, as a member of a greater community, and beyond.

*\*(Intersectionality describes the ways in which oppressive institutions (racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, xenophobia, classism, etc.) are interconnected and cannot be examined separately from one another.)*

He will take a look at Womanist theology (an offshoot of feminist theology that takes into consideration race, economics, gender, and sexual orientation), to find what this liberation theology can offer to children with regards to the way in which pastors and the church raise them. How might children be encouraged to imagine and experience their own spiritualities with their own visions of who God is and how to live in response?



# LOOKING AHEAD

## Feb. 10

Ash Wednesday Healing Service at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary (Choir will rehearse at 7:30 p.m.)



During Lent there will be movies and discussions weekly in the evening. Stay tuned for details.

## Feb. 20-21

Women's Weekend at Silver Falls Conference Center

## Feb. 27

9-4 Envisioning Our Journey

## Feb. 28

Potluck and Games 5-7 p.m.

## March 13

Inquirers class  
2 p.m. Reiki gathering

## March 17-26

Mission trip to Mexico

## April 21-24

Reiki II training

## April 24

Potluck and Games 5-7 p.m.

# TRUE COMMUNITY

## ENVISIONING THE JOURNEY

We've probably all heard before the saying, "If you don't know where you're headed, it doesn't matter which road you take." Usually we use it in reference to someone else, don't we? And we kind of laugh, because, well, it's true, and it's kind of cute, and funny, but we don't really take it in because it's not about us; we don't have to really take it seriously. Well, what if it was about us?

What if the driver of our car/train/plane got out and said, "Ok, take it away gang!" We could probably keep the car moving along for a while ... until it ran out of gas, needed oil, or a new transmission. We could probably steer it along the same road, until we came to a fork in the road or a dead end or a freeway on-ramp... What would we do then?

We'd have to find out who among us could change the oil, if anyone knows how the transmission works, who is a good navigator. And, heck, whether we even had the right map – now there's something to think about. What if we're barreling down the road and 200 miles along, we check the map and someone realizes we're in Oregon but the map is of Wyoming? And, to push this analogy a bit farther, it wouldn't even matter if we got a new driver, if we didn't know where we were going.

You of FCC Albany are traveling along on your journey as a congregation. You have been given the opportunity to pause for a moment, to reflect, reassess, consider your options, check in, take stock, of where you are, of how you are, and which direction you want to take on the next leg of your journey. In theological language, discern the will of God for FCC at this time in history.

This is our task for "Envisioning Our Journey," the all-church workshop on Saturday, Feb. 27. Our process will reveal FCC's central and important values, those that have made you what you are and that you want to be sure continue with you. We will also dream or envision what God is calling FCC to be about in the near future. See you there!

Yours, trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit to continuously surprise us beyond our wildest imagining, already bringing about the caring, committed, vibrant, joyful community that is First Christian Church,  
Eric





# DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

## WOMEN'S PRAY AND PLAY DAYS

Pray and Play days are three-hour mini-retreats hosted by the regional church. The first one is 9:30-12:30 Saturday, Feb. 13, at Salem FCC followed by one on Feb. 20 at Eugene FCC.

This is an opportunity to gather with women from the region for prayer and play. This year the theme is taken from 1 Corinthians 13 on love.

The cost is \$10.

## INQUIRERS CLASS ON MARCH 13

If you have been attending church here for months or just a few weeks and have questions about the church, we invite you to attend the Inquirers class which will be offered on Sunday, March 13 after the 10 a.m. worship. The class provides an overview of Disciples churches and specifics about the structure and ministries of our local congregation.

If you plan to attend, please tell one of the pastors.

## REIKI HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY

More opportunities to train in Reiki healing are coming.

April 21-24 Reiki II with Elaine Andres. If you're interested or have questions, call Debbie Burchfiel or Elaine Andres.

March 13 - Save the date for Reiki Healing-related class and sharing stories.

- Thursdays 1-3 p.m. - Contact Terry Wood.
- Fourth Saturday, 9-11 a.m. - Contact Deb Burchfiel.

*"If we are to be disciples of Jesus who healed, we must heal. We cannot substitute fine words or understanding nods for the actual attempt to heal, to respond to the hurt. If the church is to have the right to call itself the church of Jesus Christ, it must practice healing. It must practice healing among its members; and it must practice healing among those who sit by the roadsides of life, like so many blind beggars, regularly ignored except perhaps for a coin tossed at them by a passerby."*

- from *'When Christ Lives in Us, by Justo L. Gonzalez*



Nadine Wood,  
Transition Team  
chair

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# PASSION FOR JUSTICE



## LAST RACISM WORKSHOP ON SUNDAY

Thanks to the elders and the open and affirming team for providing lunch at our recent racism workshops. The last one is this Sunday, Jan. 31.

Thanks to leaders Kerry McQuillin and Teresita Alvarez-Cortez for leading us in understanding our personal and social identities, societal rules and unquestioned norms and power. The class handouts are available through the church office.

## MISSION GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE DUE

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 the end of February in the church office or can be given to Paula Moore.



## WEEK OF COMPASSION WILL BE FEB. 21-28

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.

At this moment WC is helping provide clean water in Flint, Mich., where water is contaminated with lead.

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUTH

1/31 Workshops on Privilege and Racism (We'll have an all-youth table.)

1/27 DA's Office hours 2-4 p.m. at Monkey Fridays located in the Two Rivers Market downtown

2/7, 2/14, 2/21 Youth groups meet 4-6 p.m.

2/27 Envisioning Our Journey, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come and help shape the future of our church.

2/28 Potluck and Games Night 5-7 p.m.



### BRING REDEEMABLE BOTTLES AND CANS

The youth are continuing to collect bottles and cans as a fundraiser for the mission trip to Mexico.

You can also make a donation directly to the trip by putting money in the offering plate but earmarking it for the youth mission trip.

## JOB OPENING

Thanks to Bailey Wood for the five years she has served in our nursery and lovingly cared for our little ones. Bailey has given notice that she will not be continuing in the nursery.

We are now accepting applications for a nursery attendant on Sunday mornings. A job description and application are available in the church office. The deadline to apply for the job is Feb. 10.



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