

February 24, 2016



GOOD NEWS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (*Disciples of Christ*) 432 Ferry St. SW, Albany, OR 541-926-8606
Vol. 60, No. 4 Web site: <http://www.fccalbany.com/>



JOIN US ON OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

8 A.M. WORSHIP

More than Chocolate: A Journey through Lent

Life and faith are about the journey, but our journeys are not always easy or straightforward. Sometimes we are challenged to consider each in a new way; to open ourselves to a different path.

What happens when our understanding is flipped upside down?

Turned inside out?

What happens when our journey changes or we are called to embark on an entirely new path?

Join the 8 a.m. Worship in the Round for an exploration, through music, film, conversation and prayer, of our Lenten theme of "More than Chocolate: A Journey through Lent."

The worship is in Fellowship Hall. Enter through the alley doors at the west of the church.

- Feb. 28 Round-a-bouts of life
- Mar. 6 A Long and Winding Road to Home
- Mar. 13 Beyond Barricades and Barriers
- Mar. 20 Considering the Rear-View Mirror

First Christian Church's *Lenten film Series*



A CINEMATIC JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

Movies can move us, challenge us, inspire us and confound us. We are never left unaffected. Through these popular films we will look more deeply at our own life journeys, our own seeking toward something more.

A free community meal is served (4:30 – 6:30 PM) prior to each film
A short conversation about the themes of the movie follows each film.

Everyone is invited. Come as you are. Bring a friend!

Film Schedule

Please join us at 6:30 PM for these Tuesday night movies.

- February 16 The Way (PG-13)
- February 23 Chocolat (PG-13)
- March 1 The Long Walk Home (PG)
- March 8 Into The West (PG)
- March 15 The Hundred Foot Journey (PG)
- March 22 Everything Is Illuminated (PG-13)

First Christian Church is an open and affirming congregation

All are welcome here

Albany First Christian Church
432 SW Ferry Street (541) 926-8606

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

The family of JoAn Widmer
Fern Dixon at Timberview
Sue Stein, whose brother-in-law died
Stephan Selvage, who had surgery
Nita and Allen Campbell
Dell Alexander
Cherie Jackson
Jace Lukenbaugh
Rollie Bilyeu
Harryette Anderson
Larry Stothoff
Linda Bricker
Jan Goby
Joan Miner
Annette Hobbs, who has cancer
Tony and Maura Wilson's new
grandchild who had surgery

Attendance and Giving

Sunday, Feb. 14

Attendance 90
General Fund giving \$7,348
Building Fund giving \$1,475

Week of Compassion
Offering \$2,125

Sunday, Feb. 21

Attendance 73
General Fund giving \$663
Building Fund giving \$650

CROCKPOT LEFT BEHIND

If you brought soup to church in a crockpot in January, it is still sitting in the church kitchen. Please pick it up soon.



IN LOVING MEMORY

JOAN WIDMER

MARCH 3, 1930 - FEB. 9, 2016

On Feb. 20, we celebrated the life of JoAn Widmer who passed away on Feb. 9 surrounded by her loving family.

Born in Great Falls, Montana, JoAn spent her early years in Montana and Washington, California and Wisconsin. Her family settled in Albany in 1937 when she was 7 years old. She graduated from Albany High School in 1948 and attended Willamette University.

She married her childhood sweetheart, Leon, at the Methodist Church in downtown Albany. They raised three daughters, DeeDee, JoLee and Susanne. In addition to raising children, JoAn taught art for 14 years in the adult education program at LBCC.

JoAn grew up in the Methodist Church where she formed her strong Christian faith which would last her lifetime. She joined First Christian Church on June 22, 1975, when Wayne Bryant was the pastor. JoAn was active in worship, Sunday school and a study group. She was also active in the community through her involvement with the hospital auxiliary, Beta Phi, Thursday Study Club, P.E.O. and Friendship Force International.

She was passionate about her faith, her family, friends, music, art and travel. Her warm smile and kindness brightened all our lives and she will be dearly missed. Please hold her family and friends in your prayers.

POTLUCK AND GAMES NIGHT ON MARCH 6

Join your church family for an evening of fellowship, food and fun from 5 to 7 p.m., Sunday, March 6. Bring a potluck dish to share, your favorite board games and your own table service. Beverages will be provided.

Dear church family,

Graham will be having surgery to repair the mitral valve of his heart on March 3. I will be out of the office during his hospitalization and the first two weeks at home to care for him. Please call our pastors directly (Eric 707-280-2670)(Douglass Anne 541-286-5085) or contact them through email fccalbany.eric@gmail.com and fccrevda@gmail.com.

Thanks to the volunteers who will be in the office during the mornings each week. If you need access to the church, please call ahead to be sure the building is open. Preschool is here in the mornings so the doors are open until noon.

We appreciate all your prayers and support in these days ahead.

Nancy Anderson

LOOKING AHEAD

Feb. 27

Envisioning Our Journey 9-4

March 6

Potluck and Games 5-7 p.m.

March 13

Inquirers class after worship

March 17-26

Mission trip to Mexico

April 21-24

Reiki II training

April 24

Potluck and Games 5-7 p.m.

May 20-21

Regional Assembly in Springfield

Doug Collins has postponed his ordination until late in the year as he attends school for another quarter. There is longer update from Doug available on the rolling counter.

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, March 25. We will have tags to attach to the plants to remember loved ones.



TRUE COMMUNITY



The altar piece that bears the shape of a cross was created from driftwood by a Dr. Fitch, a retired veterinarian. He owned a small resort on Lake Superior in Minnesota, and liked to make "curios" from the driftwood he collected. A curio is something that inspires imagination in the eyes of the beholder. This curio was given to my mother by Dr. Fitch some 65 years ago, and I have always referred to the piece as "The Woman of the Cross."

– Rev. Keith Brudevold
Member of the church Reiki Circle

HOLY WEEK

March 20 – Palm Sunday Worship

Worship in the Round at 8 a.m.

Living the Questions at 9 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m.

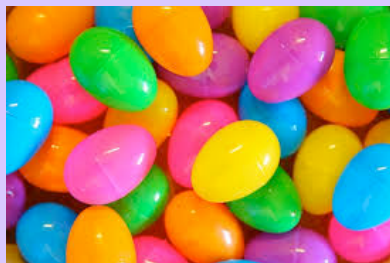
March 25 – Good Friday Service of Darkness

7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

March 27 – Easter Sunday

10 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

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



We need individually wrapped candy to fill the plastic eggs for our Easter egg hunt. Please drop donated candy in the office by March 16.

DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

So we have begun our Lenten journey – we are off, with Jesus to Jerusalem, with each other as we discern our future, our calling from God, our ministry at this time and place in history ...



here at the corner of Ferry and 5th in Albany, Oregon.

Lent is traditionally a time for reflection – for spiritual disciplines and practices that take us deeper, into our hearts, into our personal and communal journeys following the one we call the Christ, the Messiah. How are we, how are *you*, on your journey of faith? Where is the Spirit calling you, personally, and calling us, together as First Christian Church of Albany? How will we respond to the movement of the Holy Spirit?

Lent is traditionally a time for preparation – originally those preparing for their own baptism on Easter, then for all as a reminder of their own baptisms, for renewing baptism vows and participation in the body

of Christ. How do we prepare for the new life offered by the resurrection?

Reflection, preparation; both are the subject of the day on Feb. 27, when you will together Discover and Inquire into the life-giving forces and themes here at FCC. You will then Dream and Imagine what might be, what you feel you are being called to today and into the near future. What you discern this day will go into your FCC Church Profile, that is used to connect with potential new ministry staff.

On March 5 a smaller group composed of the FCC Church Board, the Program Cabinet, and the Transition Team will engage in a discernment process of Dialogue and Design looking at what will be the ideal staffing model to best move the church in the directions you have chosen.

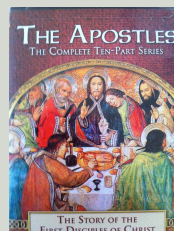
This is an exciting time in the life of FCC. Like following Jesus, the road is never sure, always full of twists and turns, adventures, surprises, unknowns; but our guide is there with us, always.

Yours, trusting the power of the Holy Spirit to constantly surprise us beyond our wildest expectations,

Eric

LEARN ABOUT JAMES

On Feb. 28, the video on the apostle James will be shown at Sundays at Nine. A short discussion will follow.



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 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

April 21-24 - Reiki II training with Elaine Andres
If you're interested or have questions, call Debbie Burchfiel at 541-974-2012 or Elaine Andres at 541-246-2030.

The Reiki gathering scheduled for March 13 has been postponed.



Women's Weekend was held Feb. 20-21 at Silver Falls.

FEB. 27: DISCERNING OUR FUTURE

ENVISIONING OUR JOURNEY

On Saturday, Feb. 27 our church will spend the day discerning its future. You can still sign up to be a part of this day of sharing hopes and dreams.

Over the course of the day we will spend time in pairs, sharing one-on-one. Sometimes we will be in small groups to talk about what we are discovering, and sometimes we will work as a large group. These different settings – pairs, small groups, large group – help us learn from each other, to gain the eyes and ears of everyone as we become conversant with the whole picture emerging from everyone's experiences.

Each of these activities will lead us toward imagining a new future for First Christian Church, a future in which we carry what is best about our past with us.

Lunch will be provided and child care is available.

To help you prepare, the questions that will be considered are below.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Opening Question

1. Reflecting on your entire experience at our church, remember a time when you felt the most engaged, alive, and motivated.

Who was involved?

What did you do?

How did it feel?

What happened?

What made it so meaningful?

Value Questions

2A. Think about your experiences at our church and what has contributed most to your *spiritual life*.

What particular characteristics, traits, or experiences of our congregation are most valuable as we grow spiritually, both personally and as a church?

2B. Think about our relationships with each other, our *fellowship*.

How would you describe those times when you have seen Christian behavior and qualities that have increased the congregation's social health, faithfulness, love, and unity?

2C. Think about how our church has related to *our community and to the world*.

When we are at our best, how do we express God's love and mercy and justice to others?

What do you believe are the most important and meaningful elements of our church's *outreach*?

What have been your own most valuable experiences?

2D. What are the most valuable ways you contribute to our church personally – your personality, your perspectives, your skills, your activities, your character? Give me some examples.

Summary Question

3. Think about the most important, life-giving characteristics and values of our church?

When we are at our best, what is the *single* most important value that makes our church unique?

Wishes

4. Make three dreams for the future of our church. Describe what the church would look like as these dreams come true.

LABEL LEFTOVERS

Please label and date everything you leave in the church refrigerator and freezer. If you have leftovers to donate to the Tuesday-Community Meal or Helping Hands, please talk to Charlotte Smith and then label them.

Each week the cook for the Community Meal purchases whatever is needed for that Tuesday and finds out from Charlotte what is available in the refrigerator or freezer.

Please don't leave food that will not stay fresh until Tuesday. It goes bad in the refrigerator and has to be thrown out. Helping Hands comes once a week on Wednesday morning to pick up leftovers.

If you know we are low on a grocery item needed every week, please leave a note for Charlotte.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Nancy Powell

Community Meal Steering Committee

THANK YOU FROM OUR YOUTH

A huge thank you to all those who helped make our dessert silent auction a great success – we raised more than \$750 for our mission trip.

Many thanks to those who contributed all the delicious treats: Charlotte Smith, Judie Lindley, Jim Somppi, Jim Schulte, the Weirs, Rich Catlin, the Rouses, Mary Dale Salston, Sharon Edwards, Amber Churchill, Caren Luckenbill, Nadine Wood, and Kim Welsh. We would especially like to thank Nadine Wood and Mary Dale Salston who organized this fundraiser. We hope you all had a wonderful Valentine's day and thank you, again, for your continued support of our mission opportunities.

Love, FCC Albany Youth

MISSION TRIP

During the 10 a.m. worship on Sunday, March 6, we will be blessing the six youth and one adult who will be embarking on a 10-day mission trip to Mexico. Plan to be there to celebrate this opportunity and please keep them in your prayers. The mission trip participants are: Haley Weir, Kendall Weir, Alyssa Nelson, Ryan Nelson, Connor Welsh, Bennett Edwards, and Douglass Anne Cartwright.



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