

February 10, 2016



GOOD NEWS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (*Disciples of Christ*) 432 Ferry St. SW, Albany, OR 541-926-8606
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JOIN US ON OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

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

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE OF HEALING

On this Wednesday, Feb. 10 we will have a service of healing at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. The service will include song, scripture, silent meditation, the imposition of ashes, and an invitation to receive Reiki.

Choir will rehearse at 7:30 p.m.

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. 14 Paths Out of the Wilderness
- Feb. 21 Roadblocks to Goodness
- 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

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,
who died Tuesday afternoon
(her service will be 2 p.m. Sat., Feb. 20)

Fern Dixon at Timberview

Nancy Robb

Marshall Smith

Nita and Allen Campbell,

Nita's sister Bernice died

Sue Stein, whose brother-in-law died

Dell Alexander

Cherie Jackson

Jace Lukenbaugh

Rollie Bilyeu

Harryette Anderson

Larry Stothoff,

in a care facility in Redmond

Linda Bricker

Jan Goby

Joan Miner

Kathleen, daughter of Emily Killin

Annette Hobbs, who has cancer

Attendance and Giving

Sunday, Jan. 31

Attendance 89

General Fund giving \$1,889

Building Fund giving \$475

Sunday, Feb. 7

Attendance 90

General Fund giving \$7,246

Building Fund giving \$5,980

General Fund giving in Feb. \$7,246

Amount needed monthly \$24,322

Building Fund giving in Feb. \$5,980

Amount needed monthly \$8,950

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.

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.

Dear First Christian Church Family,

Don and I want to thank you for selecting us as Honored Members.

What we do is a labor of love. This church has been our "home" since July 1981. We will continue to help with the Community Meal and with the 8 a.m. service as long as we can. We love our church family.

Thanks again.

Don and Wilma

Dear First Christian Members:

Thank you for your contribution to Sacred Path Ministry of \$320 for the year 2015. Your steady support of our ministry is making a difference.

The number of pastors receiving spiritual direction has increased. This means that more local congregations are also being served. Your gift also makes it possible to meet the needs of those with limited financial resources. Your generosity matters and supports us in making certain that all who seek God's direction in life are welcomed.

Thank you for joining us as we, together, seek to empower people and bring healing to our world – one person at a time.

Blessings,

Elaine Andres

Executive Director

Dear church family,

I have enjoyed working as the office administrator for First Christian Church for 16 years, but there is a time for everything and now is the time for me to turn my attention to retirement. After much careful thought I have decided to retire June 1.

As a member of the ministry team at First Christian, I have learned so much and gotten to work with many wonderful people with big hearts and a deep love of this church and its mission. I am so grateful that I was given this opportunity to serve.

During the summer, I plan to take some rest and time away as I shift my role from staff member to church member. There is a lot to be excited about as the church sets its course into the future.

Thank you for all the ways you have enriched my life.

Nancy Anderson

LOOKING AHEAD

Feb. 20-21

Women's Weekend at Silver Falls Conference Center

Feb. 27

Envisioning Our Journey 9-4

March 6

Potluck and Games 5-7 p.m.

March 13

Inquirers class after worship
Reiki gathering 2-6 p.m.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings (March 7, 9, 10, 14, 16, 17) from 9 a.m. to noon to greet visitors and answer phones in the church office. If you are willing to help, please tell one of the pastors or Nancy in the office.

Nancy will be out of the office for two weeks to help Graham after his heart surgery.

TRUE COMMUNITY

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we prepare for the all-church “Envisioning Our Journey” day on Feb. 27, we are beginning a series of conversations and activities that will help us talk about and build on the most life-giving forces in our church. There are numerous stories that tell of God’s grace in our church’s founding and in the many years of ministry. It is very common for churches to do evaluation and planning. Sometimes we are well served by activities like reviewing our goals, analyzing what we’ve been doing, evaluating the results, and so forth.

But often, in that kind of committee work and in parking lot conversations, we express discouragement and criticalness. It is too easy for us to continue old conversations that have not previously created new life. And we too easily place our hopes in one more new program or some new tasks for pastors, staff, or other leaders.

We are going to do something different in these conversations. Everyone here has stories – how you have experienced God’s grace, the love of others, the excitement of ministry, the presence of the Holy Spirit. We all remember occasions when the congregation was at its best – when we were especially responsive to God’s love and when we embodied that love in unique and profound ways.

These stories will provide the “data” from which we together will imagine ‘what might be,’ taking the risk of imagination, and building toward consensus concerning ‘what should be,’ as we discover the most important themes.

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.

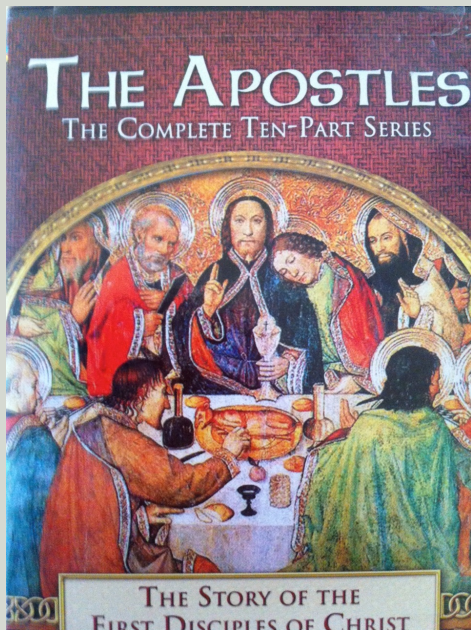
“... As people create meaning together, so do they sow the seeds of action. Meaning and action are entwined. As we generate meaning together we create the future” (Memories, Hopes and Conversations, pg.36).

The success of this venture and of your future is dependent on as many people participating as possible. Decisions will be made and directions set from the work of this day. It will be fun. There will be food and fellowship. You don’t want to miss it. See you there.

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

Eric

DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY



LEARN ABOUT THE APOSTLES

Join us on a Lenten journey learning more about the Apostles. Episodes of the video series "The Apostles: The story of the First Disciples of Christ" will be shown during Sundays at Nine in February. The episode on Andrew will be shown Feb. 14, starting at about 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. A short discussion will follow. Here are the coming episodes:

- Feb. 14 – Andrew
- Feb. 21 – John
- Feb. 28 – James

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

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

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.

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.

SIGN UP NOW

The 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.



*Nadine Wood,
Transition Team
chair*

PASSION FOR JUSTICE



WEEK OF COMPASSION 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.

Since the war broke out in Syria just four years ago, the severity of the global crisis has increased dramatically, and there are now more people displaced than at any time since World War II. Our displaced sisters and brothers are running from wars, famine, floods, droughts, earthquakes, and many other causes that make it impossible for them to return home. They are calling on the international community to respond. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada, through Week of Compassion, has and will continue to offer solidarity and support to those living through one of the greatest humanitarian crises in current memory.

Your gifts to WOC change lives around the world.



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUTH

2/17 DA's Office hours 2-4 p.m. at Monkey Fridays located in the Two Rivers Market downtown

2/14 Valentine's Day dessert silent auction

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

2/16, 2/23 Tuesday Free Movies at 6:30 p.m.

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

3/6 Potluck and Games Night 5-7 p.m.

3/6 Mission trip blessing in worship
mandatory trip orientation in Springfield
final payment due

VALENTINE'S DAY DESSERTS

On Sunday, Feb. 14, our youth will do a final fundraiser for their mission trip to Mexico. After the 10 a.m. worship they will host a dessert silent auction. You can bid on delicious desserts to take home. The bidding will last about 20-30 minutes during the fellowship time.



If you would like to contribute a dessert, please contact Nadine Wood at 541-924-0976.

All proceeds will help our youth on the trip.

JOB OPENING IN OUR NURSERY

We are still 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 Wednesday, Feb. 24.

Albany, OR 97321

432 Ferry St. S.W.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



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