

March 30, 2016



GOOD NEWS

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

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SUNDAYS AT NINE “LIVING THE QUESTIONS”

During April our Sundays at Nine will continue the series “Living the Questions.” You are invited to join in these engaging discussions on Sunday mornings.

Living the Questions is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers and instead strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what's next for Christianity.

People know that at its core, Christianity has something good to offer the human race. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a “thinking” Christian and that “salvaging” Christianity is a hopeless task.



What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought a heretic. “...virtually a manifesto of progressive Christianity” said Marcus Borg.

Each session includes conversations with leading theologians, church leaders, sociologists, and biblical scholars. The topics for the remaining weeks:

- “The Myth of Redemptive Violence”
- “Practicing Resurrection”
- “Debunking the Rapture”
- “Honoring Creation”

PENTECOST JAZZ

We will celebrate the coming of the spirit on Pentecost with our own kind of spirit. On Pentecost Sunday, May 15 we will experience a jazz worship service. All of the music used in worship that day will be in a jazz style. That includes hymns, service music, and the choir anthem. This celebratory music will raise our spirits in praise. Invite a friend to come with you on Pentecost.



INQUIRERS CLASS ON APRIL 24

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, April 24, 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.

A light lunch will be served. If you plan to attend, please tell one of the pastors.

Church Family News

In Our Prayers

Cyrena Ackerman whose son died
Ray Lindley
Leon Widmer
Fern Dixon at Timberview
Dell Alexander
Jace Lukenbaugh
Rollie Bilyeu
Harriette Anderson
Larry Stothoff
Linda Bricker
Jan Goby
Joan Miner

Attendance and Giving

Sunday, March 20

Attendance 105
General Fund giving \$3,705
Building Fund giving \$210

Sunday, March 27

Attendance 141
General Fund giving \$6,652
Building Fund giving \$750

General Fund giving in March \$20,803
Amount needed monthly \$24,322

Building Fund giving in March \$3,235
Amount needed monthly \$8,950

At the end of February, the year-to-date deficit was \$13,673.

OUR MISSION

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

HELP NEEDED ON THE CHURCH GROUNDS

Thanks to Steve Snyder who has been edging and mowing the church lawn while Graham Kislingbury is recovering from surgery. Steve welcomes help maintaining the church grounds, especially weeding and pruning. If you are willing to help, please contact him at 541-981-1490 or call the church office at 541-926-8606.

STAFF COMINGS AND GOINGS



Eric will be on vacation from March 28 to April 3. Douglass Anne will be gone from March 30 to April 1 to attend a conference, "Stepping into Stewardship." Douglass Anne will be gone April 14-22. Eric will be gone May 2-6.

Dear church family,

We are profoundly grateful to all of you for your care and love during the last months of our mother and wife JoAn's life-ending journey. From Sunday communion, pastoral visits, preparation and helpful presence during the day of her service, many of you cheerfully gave of your time so we could celebrate her life with our friends and family.

As a token of our appreciation, we have made a donation to the music fund at First Christian Church.

Thank you for your love and support.

The Widmer Family

Leon
DeeDee, Jerry, Tyler
JoLee, Steve, Katie, Ben
Susanne, Larry, Alex, Danielle

Dear church family,

During my last two months on the church staff, I will be working half-time. During April and May, there will be times when I am not in the office. If you need help, 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.

Preschool is here in the mornings so the church doors will definitely be open in the mornings.

Thank you for all your prayers, cards and support as Graham continues to recover from surgery.

Nancy Anderson

LOOKING AHEAD

April 4-8

Preschool registration for the 2016-17 school year

April 21-23

Reiki 1 and II training

April 24

Inquirers class after worship
Potluck and Games, 5-7 p.m.

April 28

Red Cross Blood Drive at our church, 1-6 p.m.

May 15

International Student Potluck
Dinner, 5 p.m.

May 20-21

Regional Assembly in Springfield

June 5

Graduation Sunday and youth-led worship service

July 31 - Aug. 5

Chi Rho and CYF regional camps at Suttle Lake

Aug. 8-12

Junior Camp at Suttle Lake

Aug. 26-28

Family Camp at Tumalo

TRUE COMMUNITY

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

After the congregational “Envisioning the Journey” event, the leadership team (Church Board, Program Cabinet and the Transition Team) took the values and dreams and grouped them into four areas: worship, small groups, learning and service. Each area was described in more detail and the team listed the functions that church staff would have fill to enact the plan described in the four areas.

The Transition Team continues to discern the staffing pattern to best meet the needs and dreams of the congregation.

SEEKING PART-TIME OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Our office administrator, Nancy Anderson, is retiring at the end of May and will be working half time in April and May.

At its March meeting, the church board made the decision to hire a part-time office administrator for six months. The job posting is listed below. Please share with anyone that you think might be interested.

Office Administrator (20 hours per week)

First Christian Church of Albany is seeking an Office Administrator to serve as the initial point of contact for church members and visitors while providing administrative, secretarial and clerical support for the church. The individual must be able to efficiently multi-task while providing a warm, caring and knowledgeable presence within the church office and on phone, e-mail and in-person communications. The individual must be detail oriented, able to work independently, exercise good discernment and judgement, handle matters confidentially and remain flexible. Responsibilities include maintaining the overall church calendar, creating various church publications, preparing notices, agendas, minutes and documents for church meetings, update the church’s website, guide those seeking assistance or resources to the appropriate personnel and other duties as assigned.

Requirements: Two years of office experience with demonstrated ability to multi-task, prioritize duties and work independently; proficiency with a MAC computer platform and layout software; strong verbal and written communication skills.

Hourly wage: \$15 to \$18. No benefits are offered with this position.

To apply, please send resume with three professional references to:

First Christian Church

Attention: Eric Dale

432 Ferry St SW

Albany, OR 97321

Or email to fccalbany@comcast.net.

DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

By the time you read this our Lenten Journey will have concluded. Easter resurrection celebration will have come and gone. We will be in what the church names Eastertide, the season between Jesus' resurrection and Pentecost, the bestowing of the Holy Spirit.

Your transition journey also continues very well. You are proceeding on track with your timeline and process. In fact, compared to other churches in transition you are doing very well, you are moving along expeditiously, with intention and dedication. You are to be congratulated!

As your Transition Team constantly reminds itself, what is most important is that your process is done well, that is, that you do this transition thing right – the first time! I add a hearty “Amen!” to that.

I've witnessed too many churches throughout my 35 years of ministry try to speed up this process, “not worry about the details,” get all anxious and decide to move ahead before they are ready (before they have truly done their homework, their deep spiritual reflection and discernment) ... often with disastrous results! You don't want that.

I hear a few people concerned about how long the process is taking. Other than sharing the biblical story of the Hebrews wandering 40 years in their transition time after leaving Egypt (less than one year ain't so bad, folks!), I respond as I mentioned numerous times shortly after arriving, “it will take as long as it does to do it right.”



As we continue to move ahead on our journey of transition in the life of First Christian Church, let's hold before us Jesus' charge to his listeners at the end of the story of the "Good Samaritan": "Go and Do the Same."

Think of it as a very pregnant time – full of anticipation, of gestation, of both excitement and anxiety, of dreaming and trepidation. Think of it theologically – a time of trusting God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit, of being open to God doing a new thing, of moving ahead in the ministries to which you are called by God!

For this is not a “time-out” period in the life of FCC. This is the real, and only, thing. Right now, right here ... at the corner of 5th and Ferry in downtown Albany. What and how you all do now is what you will be in the near future. This is the time for all to participate, to pitch in, to dream, to work, to lay

the building blocks for the ongoing life and ministry of FCC. It's about something larger than yourself.

As Saint Paul writes, "I live no longer not I, but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). In the spiritual journey we

come to the day when we know we're not just living our own life by ourselves. We realize that Someone Else is living in us and through us, and that we are part of a much bigger mystery. We realize that we're a mere drop in a much bigger ocean, an ocean of love. We are a recipient, a conduit, a participant.

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

Eric

PASSION FOR JUSTICE



Three of the OSU students who plan to attend the FCC International Student Dinner on May 15: From left are Shali Lan, China, MBA, business analytics; Amreen Randhawa, India, engineering; and Kengo Sugimoto, Japan, athletic training.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DINNER SET FOR MAY 15

First Christian Church's International Student Dinner, an annual tradition from the early 1980s through the early 2000s, is returning this spring.

The event is scheduled for 5 p.m. Sunday, May 15, in Fellowship Hall.

Ten Oregon State University international students (including the three pictured above) will join us for a potluck dinner, followed by presentations about their countries.

We will need drivers to pick up the students at OSU and get them back to campus after the program.

The dinner will be a planned potluck. If you plan to attend, please bring both a main dish and a salad, bread or dessert and your table service.

We hope you join us for this wonderful time of fellowship with the students and the great opportunity to learn from them about their countries.

You'll find an International Student Dinner sign-up sheet on the rolling cart next to the office.

JACKSON ST. YOUTH SERVICES ANNUAL FUNDRAISING RECEPTION

"The Tipping Point"

5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. • Thursday, April 14

Albany Golf & Event Center

155 NW Country Club Lane

Drinks and hors d'oeuvres provided.

RSVP to Hannah at 541-360-0862

Jackson Street Youth Services gives youth a safe place to live and resources to get them on the road to a better life.

Founded to fill a gap in local support services for housing homeless youth, Jackson Street serves Linn and Benton Counties and relies on donations and partnerships from throughout the region to give a stable future to youth in crisis.

Our church supports Jackson St. through our local mission giving.

PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

The preschool will hold registration for fall classes starting Monday, April 4. 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 8, 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.

REIKI I AND II TRAINING

APRIL 21-23

Registration forms are now available for the Reiki I and II training being offered April 21-23 with Reiki master Elaine Andres. This is open to church members and the community. Encourage others to learn more about this healing ministry offered through our church.

The training runs Thursday and Friday evenings and all day on Saturday. All trained students are invited to join the class for a simple soup and salad lunch at noon on Saturday. Debbie Burchfiel is seeking help to prep, serve lunch and clean up. If you want to volunteer, please talk to her at 541-974-2012.

If you have questions about the training you can contact Elaine Andres at 541-543-3181 or Debbie Burchfiel at 541-974-2012.

Forms are available on the rolling counter by the office.



REIKI NEWS

The book group reading “God's Touch” meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, at the home of Deb Burchfiel. They will discuss chapter 4.

Reiki is available for anyone to receive:

- During worship by sitting in a chair in the rear of sanctuary
- By coming to weekly Thursday afternoon sessions, by reserving a spot with Terry Wood at penhiguy@comcast.net
- By calling Deb Burchfiel for arrangement for an on-site visit, either with a table or chair in your own home.

Healing touch can make a difference.



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