

November 2016



GOOD NEWS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (*Disciples of Christ*) 432 Ferry St. SW, Albany, OR 541-926-8606
Vol. 60, No. 12 Web site: <http://www.fccalbany.com/>

Holy Sips:
Pub Theology
DELUXE BREWERY
10/26, 11/30,
12/28
@
6:00 P.M.
#FCCALBANY

IMPORTANT DATES

Celebration of Eric's Interim Ministry

Sunday, November 20 will be Eric's last Sunday as our Interim Minister. The Transition Team is hosting a celebration of his ministry during the coffee hour after the 10:10 service. Plan to join your church family to bid Eric farewell and recognize his ministry with us over the last 14 months.

Advent Decorating

We would like to invite the congregation to help decorate the sanctuary for Advent on Monday, November 21 at 6:00 p.m. We will have pizza and cookies, and all ages are welcome!

FCC Congregational Meeting

Our next quarterly Congregational Meeting will be held after the 10:10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 4. This is an important congregational meeting because this is when the congregation votes on the proposed budget for 2017, as well as on the slate of officers and other church leaders nominated for the coming year. "The entire church community is encouraged to attend congregational meetings. Only members of the congregation may vote." Please plan to be there.



**Advent Evensong
& Tasting Tea**
Sunday, November 27th
7:00 p.m.



Meet our new custodian!

We would like to introduce the newest member of the FCC Staff, Sharon Isted. Sharon is our former custodian's wife, and she is doing a beautiful job keeping our facilities clean, and always has a smile on her face.

We are going to miss having Rich around every day, but he has trained Sharon well, and she is a wonderful new addition.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

In Our Prayers:

Mary Lou McCorkle and daughter
Debbie Reimer

Cathy Feeney and family: Dakota, Bill,
Michelle, Cadence, and Trevor

Rhyson Houser and Houser family

Eric Dale's mom, Dotty Dale
Sue Stein's dad, Al Stein

David Fryer
Muckey Family
Delores Kelly
Fern Dixon
Jace Lukenbaugh
Jan Goby
Laverne Bilyeu

Attendance and Giving

Sunday, October 2, 2016
Attendance 83
General Fund giving \$7,201
Building Fund giving \$1,785

Sunday, October 9, 2016
Attendance 91
General Fund giving \$3,846
Building Fund giving \$340

Sunday, October 16, 2016
Attendance 83
General Fund giving \$4,381
Building Fund giving \$1,150

Sunday, October 23, 2016
Attendance 85
General Fund giving \$2,081
Building Fund giving \$245

**We will give a full financial report for
October in next week's FCC Weekly.**

Our church is having a Book Fair!

Looking for that perfect Christmas gift for your kids, grandkids, or other children in your life? Check out the SparkHouse Book Fair (the same company who produced our Holy Moly curriculum) and shop award-winning Bibles, books, and videos for babies to twelve-year-olds.

Look at these awesome books and videos on Sundays, Oct. 30, Nov. 6, and Nov. 13 between 9-10 a.m. or after 10:10 a.m. worship to get faith-filled books and videos for your kids and to save up to 40% PLUS free shipping on all titles.

Each book and video is designed to help parents instill an open-hearted, transformational, lifelong Christian faith in their children at every age and stage. Ask Douglass Anne if you have any questions!

McCorkle Award

On November 6, the Open & Affirming Committee will give an annual award during the 10:10 a.m. Worship Service. Come celebrate the McCorkle award recipient with us and feel free to stay after church for cake and coffee.

Reiki Dates

Reiki Sharing:

November 19 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
December 17 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

Thanksgiving Day Potluck Dinner

Join your church family at our annual Thanksgiving Day potluck dinner, set for 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 24. Bring your favorite holiday foods to share. This is an easy way to enjoy the holiday without having to clean your house and do all the cooking. In order to know how many places to set around the tables, we ask folks to sign up on the clipboard, which will be on the Welcome Table (next to the elevator) on Sundays and in the office on weekdays.

Save the Date

Doug Collins' Ordination: God willing and the people consenting, we will gather for the ordination of Douglas Owen Collins into the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on Saturday, December 17, 2016 here at FCC Albany, 3:00 p.m. Please RSVP for dinner following the service on Facebook by searching "The Ordination of Douglas Owen Collins" or by emailing douglascollins80@gmail.com by November 17. Clergy vestiture: red."

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS



TRUE COMMUNITY



Fish Food Drive a Huge Success

Thanks to everyone who pitched in to help during the annual Fish Food Drive on Oct. 22. The FCC volunteers in the photo (and three others) went door to door collecting food for nearly three hours. Twenty-one other people from FCC helped with the Food Drive Volunteer Breakfast. We counted 174 plates served and more than 210 people in the building before volunteers fanned out around town to collect food. And we give special thanks to our wonderful breakfast coordinator, Charlotte Smith.

News Flash From the Search Committee

Your FCC Search Committee is in the process of holding informal meetings with two exciting candidates. We are optimistic about the possibilities of good gifts from either individual. We are making good progress so stay tuned for further details.

Your FCC Search Committee news reporter, Jerry Blais

Transition Team Update

At its meeting on October 18, the Transition Team began preparations for concluding Eric's interim ministry with us. The team decided on questions to use in an exit interview and made plans for a celebration of Eric's ministry with us on his last Sunday, November 20.



OUR MISSION

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

HELP WANTED

Veterans Day Parade Hospitality Table

The sign-up sheet is nearly filled up, but we could still use a few more people to help staff our Veterans Day Parade FCC Hospitality Table on Friday November 11. This is a first for First Christian. We'll be serving free coffee, hot chocolate, tea and doughnut holes before and during the annual parade, which ends in two places: in front of the courthouse on Fourth Avenue; and in front of the Ferry Street side of our building. We should have plenty of customers.

FCC Albany Kindness Bags

On November 20 at 9:00 a.m., you are invited to help put together kindness bags for those in our community who need a little extra help. For the next several weeks, we will be collecting donations for these bags in the basket outside the church office. Each week we will be focusing on different items to bring.

Once the bags are put together, anyone that wants to take a few bags to distribute to those in need are welcome! A little kindness goes a long way!



Hospitality Teams

Help Wanted! No Experience Necessary!

Help is needed on several of our seven **hospitality teams** that set out and clean up coffee hour refreshments before and after the 10:10 a.m. worship service each Sunday. You would be assigned to an existing team of experienced hospitality workers, and take a turn about **every seven weeks**. Your help would be a great addition to our Sunday morning "friendliness quotient". A **sign-up sheet** for new volunteers will be available each Sunday morning during November.

Evensong and Tasting Tea Volunteers

Please join us on November 27 at 7 p.m. for our annual FCC Evensong worship service followed by a Tasting Tea with yummy desserts and finger foods to start off the Advent season.

We will be needing volunteers for set up, decorating, food service, and tear down. We will also need people to bring holiday finger foods for the Tasting Tea.

A **sign-up sheet** for volunteers will be located on the Welcome Table near the elevator on Sunday mornings for the next few weeks. You can also call Anita in the church office to sign up at: 541-926-8606.



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

4:30-6:30 p.m. Community Meal
6 p.m. Budget Committee Meeting
7 p.m. Transition Team Meeting

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

10 a.m. Book Study

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

1-3 p.m. Reiki

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

10-11:30 a.m. Caregivers Support Meeting

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Daylight Saving Time ends

8 a.m. Worship in the Round
9 a.m. Sundays @ Nine
10:10 a.m. Worship Service - O & A Award
11:30 a.m. Connection Team Meeting
12-2 p.m. Youth Group

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

4:30-6:30 p.m. Community Meal

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

10 a.m. Book Study

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

11:45 a.m. Executive Committee Lunch
1-3 p.m. Reiki

7 p.m. Mindfulness Group

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Church Office Closed for Veterans Day Holiday
10 a.m.-1 p.m. FCC Parade Hospitality Tent

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

8 a.m. Worship in the Round
9 a.m. Sundays @ Nine
10:10 a.m. Worship Service
12-2 p.m. Youth Group

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

6:30 p.m. Church Board Meeting

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

4:30-6:30 p.m. Community Meal
7 p.m. Transition Team Meeting

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

10 a.m. Book Study

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

1-3 p.m. Reiki

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

9-11 a.m. Reiki Sharing

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

8 a.m. Worship in the Round
9 a.m. Sundays @ Nine
10:10 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Celebration of Eric's Interim Ministry

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
5:30 p.m. Advent Decorating
6:30 p.m. Program Cabinet

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

4:30-6:30 p.m. Community Meal

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Newsletter Deadline

10 a.m. Book Study

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

8 a.m. Worship in the Round
9 a.m. Sundays @ Nine
10:10 a.m. Worship Service
7 p.m. Advent Evensong and Tasting Tea

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

6:30 p.m. Elder Meeting

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

4:30-6:30 p.m. Community Meal

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

10 a.m. Book Study
6 p.m. Holy Sips - Deluxe Brewing

Pastor's Reflection

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is the bitter sweet time of interim ministry – the bidding farewell . . . after working, praying, worshiping, visioning, studying, playing, and building together with you for these past 14 months (it will be just shy of 15 months at the end of November). It has been good and productive, this transition time.

As I look back at our time together we have accomplished a lot:

- The all-church retreat “Envisioning the Future” in February, and follow-up day with church leadership culminating in FCC’s Vision Statement, and material for your Church Profile;
- A series of “Listening” sessions to give and receive feedback on new staffing model, and ‘state of the congregation’;
- Creation of new “teams” for the work of FCC’s ministry – 3 under Program Cabinet: Worship, Education, Connections; 2 under the Board: Stewardship, Finance/Budget;
- Review and updating of membership roster;
- Hiring new Office Administrator and new Custodian, and by the time you read this, hopefully a new Choir Director!
- Renewed Stewardship effort with Stewardship Team coordinating personal visits with all members, as part of successful pledge campaign this fall;
- Small interest-based groups formed over the summer, some of which are continuing, and new ones being formed;
- Implementation of 5th Sundays’ community service projects;
- Plus all the on-going elements of being a faithful community: Community Meal continuing its vital and nourishing ministry, Family Camp, Youth events and retreats, Women’s Retreat, 2 weekly Worship services, Education classes and

programs, Elders caring for members, Deacons serving on Sundays, choir singing, youth band and other special music, Halloween Festivals, Property Committee and helpers caring for the building and facilities, Hospitality teams each Sunday, Reiki healing, on-going small groups, community service, and much, much more!

The Holy Spirit is indeed alive and well here at First Christian Church!

Your Search Committee is nearing the end of their work; the Transition Team will help with my leaving and with the arrival of your new pastor before they complete their work – a special thank you to the Transition Team for their tireless work helping to keep us all on track over these many months! Sometimes they may have felt thankless, but I know that without the Transition Team, FCC would not have managed this transition time as successfully as you have!

I am looking forward to being reunited with my wife, and we are excited about being together for Thanksgiving, Advent, and the Christmas holidays for the first time in 3 years! At this point I don’t have a specific next job in place, but I am in conversation with a few, so it shouldn’t be too long before my next position is known. And who knows, the next time I visit Albany the new Carousel may be up and running!

Many blessings to each and every one of you!
Yours, trusting the Holy Spirit to continue surprising us beyond our wildest imaginings,

Eric

COMING SOON



**Advent Evensong
& Tasting Tea**
Sunday, November 27th
7:00 p.m.

FCC Albany
Family Christmas Eve Service:
**A Celebration
of Light**
December 24th
7:00 p.m.

★ **Coming Soon** ★
Youth & Children's Christmas Program



Rehearsals during 10:10
worship on 11/6, 11/13, 11/20
&
11/27 & 12/4 from
11:30 am-12:15 pm

Dress Rehearsal & Lunch on
12/10 from 10 am - 1 pm

December 11th
during 10:10 a.m. Worship

**NEW YEAR'S EVE
PARTY**

@ FCC ALBANY
DECEMBER 31st
5:00 - 9:00 P.M.

5 - 6 p.m. Potluck Dinner
6 - 9 p.m. Games & Karaoke

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Albany, OR 97321

432 Ferry St. SW

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

GOOD NEWS

