



Shalom

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**
700 Marion Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301
503-363-3660 www.uccsalem.org

Reverend Dr. Janet Parker, Senior Pastor
Reverend Emily Goodnow, Associate Pastor

Rick Bingham, Moderator
January 7, 2015

MEMORIES AND HOPES

As I reflect on the turning of the year, some memories and intentions bubble to the surface for me. My heart is moved when I think on these things: Faces lit by candlelight during our Christmas Eve services as our congregation and choir sang “Silent Night/Peace, Peace” and a holy awe settled over us; faces worn down by poverty and cold suddenly lit up with smiles upon being welcomed into our Emergency Warming Shelter during the cold snap after Christmas, and faces of our SIHN guests enjoying Christmas dinner, gifts and a Christmas party thrown just for them; faces of our volunteers working hard in both our SIHN shelter and the Warming Shelter, filled with joy at the opportunity to be of service; and more happy faces receiving the gift of Christmas from our Christmas Carolers and from Women’s Fellowship members and Deacons bearing cookie plates and poinsettias.

It is truly a joy to serve a congregation that is so generous, big-hearted and caring. Salem is blessed to have a congregation like ours bringing the light of Christ’s love and radical hospitality into

our community. I am aware that our congregation is struggling financially right now, and the challenge that poses to us is significant (see Stewardship update below); at the same time, I am also incredibly aware of how rich our congregation is in the most important things—love, caring, service, and prophetic witness.

As we move into 2015, my hopes for our church in the coming year include: Cultivating confidence in Jesus’ teaching that with the faith of a mustard seed, we can move mountains; expanding our willingness to become an “invitational, welcoming congregation,” taking personal action to reach out and invite friends, neighbors and co-workers to discover our congregation, even as we work to improve our website and other forms of outreach; creating even more enlivening and enriching worship services to feed our spirits, while increasing our opportunities for adult learning; solidifying our burgeoning ministry to children, youth and families; and delving into a conversation about financial stewardship as a spiritual practice for committed Christians.



I look forward to the ministry that we will do together in 2015, and know that Pastor Emily and our entire staff joins me in wishing each of you and your families a happy, blessed, and healthy New Year. ~Pastor Janet Parker



IN OUR PRAYERS...

Prayers of thanksgiving are offered for the life of **Mamie Quon Lew**, mother of **Don Lew**, who was laid to rest at the Willamette National Cemetery on December 30, as we continue to keep Don and Linda and their family in our prayers for their loss...

Prayers of thanksgiving are also offered for **Marianne Sweger's** recovery, as she continues to gain strength and health at home after a stay at Providence Benedictine Nursing Center in Mt. Angel...

Prayers of comfort for **Marianne Campbell** as she grieves the loss of her longtime friend, Linda...

Prayers for healing are appreciated for **Tom and Majel Parker**, parents of Pastor Janet Parker. Tom is recovering from a fractured femur and arthroscopic knee surgery and Majel is suffering from painful swelling of her feet and ankles.

PASTORAL SCHEDULE

Pastor Emily is away on vacation from December 25 through January 3, and at her Next Generation Leadership Initiative Fellowship from January 4—10. She's back in worship with us on January 11.

ANNUAL MEETING

January 26, 2015

Immediately following worship and lunch

We will approve the annual budget and elect officers and members of committees and boards as well as conduct any other business that needs to come before the congregation. Lunch will be served—details on that will follow.

STEWARDSHIP AND BUDGET UPDATE

On Tuesday night, the Stewardship Team met with the Trustees and our Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and Senior Pastor to discuss the state of our Stewardship campaign and proposed Annual Budget for 2015. The good news is that pledges are still trickling in, many of you increased your pledge in 2015, and we have 12 new pledgers. The challenging news is that we lost some significant pledgers due to death and relocation, and for various reasons a number of other pledgers still active in our congregation are either unable to pledge this year or have not yet been heard from. *We are eagerly awaiting those pledges from participating members of our congregation that we have not yet received.*

You will shortly be receiving a letter with more detail about the challenges that our church faces in putting togeth-

er a budget for 2015 with significantly reduced revenue. To date, our pledge income for 2015 is over \$15,000 less than for 2014, and our cash carryover to the new year will be \$2,844, not the \$15,000 we were unusually blessed to have for 2014. We also do not yet have the same amount of giving through one-time bonus gifts that we had last year.

At the budget meeting, we looked at a potential 2015 budget that requires painful cuts in order to stay within our means. These include cutting our support of our wider church (Conference and National UCC) by half, cutting the payment we make to our mortgage from the general budget to \$0 (more on this in the letter to come), instituting a wage freeze for our staff, and making significant cuts to committee budgets. If we receive more income by the Annual Meeting, these cuts can be restored, or the congregation will have the option to pass the budget we need and commit to raise the money over the course of the year. Please look for a letter soon that will go into more detail. *Please keep our church in your prayers and if you have the capacity to increase your pledge, we would invite you to prayerfully consider doing so.*

FCUCC Stewardship Team

ADULT LEARNING HOUR ON SUNDAYS
Adult Education resumes on January 11 with an exciting new offering "Lessons of the Spirit from Our Church Mothers" by our own Reverend Dana McBrien at our normal

start time of 9:15 a.m. You may have heard of the "Church Fathers," those church leaders, writers and theologians from the first four centuries like St. Augustine, Ambrose, Gregory of Nyssa, or Ignatius of Antioch. You may have heard of St. Jerome. But what do you know about the women of the early church, our "Church Mothers?" Come to Adult Education hour January 11, 18, 25, and Feb. 1 to find out. Rev. Dana McBrien will share their stories, then we will talk about our own lives in light of themes in theirs. Jan. 11: Helena; Jan. 18: Macrina and Nona; Jan. 25: Marcella and Paula; and Feb. 1: Monica.

ACOLYTES...LIGHT BEARERS... PARENTS!

As the year begins, the deacons want to extend a welcome to all our younger friends to join in the church service by serving as acolytes. The acolytes bring in the light at the beginning of the service by lighting the altar candles, and take the light out at the end of the service after extinguishing the altar candles. If you are interested, please let Pastor Emily know or you can contact the church office. "Everything changes with Light"!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

All women are invited to the **Women's Fellowship Joint Circle Meeting** on Wednesday, January 21, @ 1:30 p.m. in Talkington Hall. Come and join us for a fun guessing game, dessert, fruit, tea and coffee. The WF Circle groups are always open and welcoming to all women, young and old, mem-

bers, visitors or regular church attendees! You want to know how to join us? That's terrific! The good news is our Circles don't have a long, 5 page application; there's no closed-door interview process or a secret handshake initiation! Just come if you are available for mid-week daytime fellowship with other women who love to support each other, laugh, share and eat dessert! The church office has a WF booklet for you, upon request. Questions:
Kathy Crummer 503-990-6139
Priscilla Strayer 503-364-9829

Women's Fellowship Luncheon -
Wednesday, February 4 @ 12:15.
Please join us for fellowship and food at our February luncheon.
Gift/treat boxes for our college students will be the service project of the day. We'll be putting together "College Survival Kits" which include your donated items: toiletries, school supplies, snack bars, hot chocolate/oatmeal packets, etc.

We will also be acknowledging our birthdays for the year! If you wish to receive a gift, please bring a gift. It can be new or gently used.
Mark your calendar for a wonderful luncheon with a program filled with variety! Questions:
Lyndsey Houser 503-339-7763

MONDAY NOON BOOK

DISCUSSION GROUP CHOOSES "ZEALOT" AS ITS NEXT BOOK

Starting Monday, January 12, the group will discuss Reza Aslan's book "Zealot". Controversial and challenging, this book will push us to consider a new approach to Jesus' life. From an interview with the author. Preaching the sole sovereignty of God, zealous Jews wanted to throw off the yoke of Roman occupation and cleanse the Promised Land of all foreign elements. Although there is no evidence that Jesus of Nazareth was himself a violent revolutionary, Aslan asserts that Jesus' actions and his teachings about the Kingdom of God indicate that he was a follower of the zealot doctrine, which is why he, like so many zealots before and after him, was ultimately executed by Rome for the crime of sedition. Book is available at the Book Bin.

2015 TALENT / NO TALENT SHOW DID YOU SAVE THE DATE?

Saturday, February
28, at 6:00 p.m. is the
time for fun.

The Annual Talent/No Talent Show is a great way to have fun and get to know another side of your fellow members. For two amazing hours, we will enjoy music, dancing, comedy, and who knows what else. For two amazing hours, we will enjoy tasty treats. As a bonus, we have the oppor-



tunity to help Congregations Helping People and Marion-Polk Food Share by making donations.

If you have talents that you would like to share with our members, sign up will begin after the first of the year. However, it's not too early to start practicing. Space is limited. We will also have a list for you to volunteer to bring food to share, if that is your talent.

In case your talent is enjoying others' company, laughing, and applauding, we also are recruiting an audience. For the low, low price of a can or box of food, you can display those talents. No sign up required.

So, save the date of February 28 and start practicing any of your talents listed above!

SALEM INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY HOST WEEK UPDATE

Christmas week with the Interfaith Hospitality Network families was a great week. Besides our 70+ (wowzer) volunteers for our usual weekly needs, we had several elves working overtime to make it extra special for the kids and their parents. If I named them all it would make this article too long! But we had elves helping us with the tree trimming party and stuffing the stockings, helping the kids decorate Christmas cookies, painting Christmas ornaments to put on their live Christmas tree (tree donated by vacationing elves), helping the kids make bead gifts, making two gingerbread houses, hand made warm and fun fleece throws for kids, hot breakfast of pancakes and

bacon on Christmas Eve morning and yummy cinnamon rolls on Christmas morn, church families that came in and made the meal, served and ate with the SIHN families as well as played with the kids. Many UCC elves donated Christmas goodies, ornaments, decorations, gifts and smiles for the families and their time.

Plus we had about 75 (church and SIHN families) with us on Christmas Day for a big potluck feast. To all of this the families said a BIG "thank you". One mom said that they felt very comfortable and loved while with us. I myself feel very grateful and proud to be a part of this our UCC church family who came out in a big way to make this week a success in every way.

Thank you.

Susan Bearden

M&O committee



CAMP ADAMS

Have you been to Camp Adams? Have you walked the labyrinth, sang around the campfire, gone on a night hike, or slept in a bunk bed and whispered with friends into the night? Do you want to? There are lots of opportunities to connect with God, nature, and friends old and new at Camp Adams in the months ahead:

Midwinter Middle School Retreat February 6-8, 2015

Mid-high youth group is going with Pastor Emily to Camp Adams for the weekend! A fun trip to hang out as a youth group, and to connect with other mid-high youth from around the conference. Watch your email for more info, and email emily@uccsaalem.org to sign up!

April Music Program (AMP) April 24-26, 2015

Bring your instrument and your voice and make music all weekend long with UCC people from all over! All ages and abilities welcome.

Summer Camps

Summer is just around the corner! A week at Camp Adams can be truly life changing. Come catch crawfish, build campfires, do challenge group activities, go on hikes, sleep in cabins with friends, and have a blast at a week of camp! Mark your calendars for your week, and let's get FCUCC to Camp Adams this year! Questions? Contact Pastor Emily, or one of our youth who went last year: Emma Brewer-Wallin, Karina Gonzalez, Faith Haining, Molly Balmer, and Scott Taber.

Family Camp (families of all kinds and all ages)

June 28-July 4 OR July 1-July 4

Genesis Seekers (For youth who have completed 2nd or 3rd grade)

July 5-July 11

Taller and Smaller Camp (for ages 5, 6, and 7 with an adult)

July 8-July 11

Discoverers (for youth who have completed 4th or 5th grade)

July 12-July 18

Sojourners (for youth who have completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade)

July 19-July 25

Exodus (for youth who have completed 9th-12th grade)

July 26-August 1

A PAGEANT THANK YOU!



Insta-Pageant

Many, many thanks to all who helped out with the pageant this year, and to all who were in worship on December 21 to enjoy the story

retold by our children! We had 25 children and youth starring in the story, *The Friendly Beasts Tell All*, and another 15 who helped with costumes and rehearsals. We also had 10 adult volunteers who helped organize, rehearse, costume, and pull the whole thing off! Many thanks to all who played and all who helped out. And special thanks to the Christian Education Committee, the Chancel Choir, the Bell Choir, Ray Elliot and Marcia Hauff for their support, skill, music, and lovely additions to the pageant and service. What a joy to have a church full of so much talent and good spirit to pull off such a project quickly and with so much fun. Thank you.

YOUTH GROUP WHITE ELEPHANT!

(a.k.a. Yankee swap!) Sunday, Jan 11, 3 p.m. Bring a gift you didn't want, or something funny, weird, or lovely (not expensive, please!) to share. We'll

catch up after Christmas, share gifts of all kinds, and have a late Christmas party together! Friends are welcome to join.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTRAL PACIFIC CONFERENCE

(Adapted by an article from Conference Minister Rev. Walter John Boris, with thanks)

-- By Margaret May, your representative on CPC's Committee on Ministry and the Board of Directors

The Central Pacific Conference (CPC) of the United Church of Christ consists of 47 churches (2 in southern Washington, 9 in southern Idaho, and 36 in Oregon), with a total membership of approximately 7,000.

The prevailing view in the UCC names the local church as the primary focus for ministry (frequently emphasizing local autonomy). Therefore, sometimes we wonder, "What is the purpose of the Conference?" The answer is this: We gather together as the Central Pacific Conference to do things that are difficult or impossible for us to do as local churches. What are the things we do together? Listed below are the essential functions of the Central Pacific Conference – United Church of Christ:

1) Authorization for Ministry – Guiding students through seminary/study to ordination, helping clergy switch from other denominations to the UCC, maintaining standards of excel-

lence in ministry, and dealing with issues of clergy misconduct are difficult or impossible for local churches to do alone.

2) Search and Call – Searching for a new pastor after a resignation or retirement is a transition time that can include anxiety, anger, fear, or grief. At this time, the local church often benefit from the assistance of the Conference. The Conference Minister offers guidance to the Search Committee, providing instruction on creating a church profile, accessing pastor profiles, and advising on the mechanics of the process.

3) Covenant Connection – In the UCC, we pride ourselves on our covenant relationship. When we come together for Annual Gathering, we experience what it's like to be part of the "Body of Christ." In our local settings, we aren't able to be "Christian" by ourselves. By definition, the term is community oriented. In the same way, we can't be "Church" by ourselves. We need other congregations to support our church, challenge us, and join us in ministry. The CPC works to maintain a covenant connection on multiple levels - between clergy, between churches of the Conference, and between the churches and the national setting of the UCC. Together, we celebrate ordinations, installations, and anniversaries.

4) Conference Outdoor Ministries and Youth Program – Maintaining a camp and offering youth retreats is something that is difficult or impossible to do singly for all but the largest

of our churches.

5) Prophetic Ministry – The Central Pacific Conference is a prophetic presence in public settings, speaking in support of positions that have been affirmed by delegates to our Annual Gathering, or generally voiced by our local churches. The CPC can also speak prophetically to our churches, urging them to demonstrate the extravagant welcome of Jesus and to give evidence that they “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.” (Micah 6:8)

6) Mission and Service – Through our partnership with the UCC in the Philippines and CPC mission trips, the Conference offers all church members the opportunity to join in global mission and service, widening our experience of loving our neighbor as ourselves.

7) Congregational Vitality – Congregations turn to the CPC for resources and inspiration for worship, education, stewardship, and mission. The ability of Conferences to provide this kind of resource has diminished over the years as funding and staffing have declined, but it is still part of the relationship between the CPC and churches.

8) Pastoral Care – The CPC, often in figure of the Conference Minister, provides pastoral care for both ministers and churches. Pastoral care can include support, encouragement, and challenge. Clergy often lead a lonely life. Schedules are busy, friendships with church members are complicated, and contact with colleagues is often in-

frequent. The Conference Minister is often able to provide care for clergy and their families. When there is an accident, illness, or death, the CM can be a pastoral presence.



ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES OF OREGON ADVOCACY DAY

Wednesday, February 11

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

@ St. Mark Lutheran Church and the Oregon State Capitol.

The 2015 theme is “Raising Diverse Voices of Faith to Strengthen Oregon Communities.” Interfaith Advocacy Day brings together people from many faiths to answer the call to be a voice for the voiceless, as they speak out for compassion, human dignity and an end to poverty. Activities include presentations from faith leaders on the religious roots of concern for people living in poverty, training in advocacy skills, issue briefings, and visits to legislators. Individuals and groups from congregations and community organizations are encouraged to participate. Registration forms are available at the church office. More info can be obtained at www.emoregon.org



***BEST WISHES FOR A
HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2015!***

***PASTOR JANET PARKER — PASTOR EMILY GOODNOW
MARCIA HAUFF — RAY ELLIOTT
ANNEMIEKE LAPORT — JEFF STANDY — STEVE PRUETT***

Weekly Recurring Events

Sundays

8:30 a.m.

Contemplative Prayer Group, Conference Room

9:15 a.m.

Adult Learning Hour, Adult Education Classroom

Resumes January 11. See article.

10:30 a.m.

Worship Service & Children's Learning Hour

11:45 a.m.

Fellowship Time, Talkington Hall

Mondays

12 noon

Adult Book Study

Resumes January 12. Meets in the Parlor. Their new book selection is Reza Aslan's "Zealot." Don Lundberg is the group's facilitator. Books are available at the Book Bin. Join!

7 p.m.

Bell Choir rehearsal

Resumes January 26. On Huntington Hall Stage— until 8:30 p.m.

Tuesdays

3:30 p.m.

Meet up with Pastor Emily at the Ike Box until 5 p.m. Resumes January 13.

Thursdays (Note exception: There is rehearsal on 1/14 and not on 1/15)

7:15 p.m. **Chancel Choir rehearsal with Ray Elliott, director.** New voices are always welcome. Join!

Monthly Recurring Events

3rd Mondays at 6:30 p.m. **Woman Spirit** bevnjenny@comcast.net for more info.

2nd Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. **Reiki Share Circle** until 8:30 p.m. Talkington Hall.

4th Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. **Taizé Prayer Service** in the Mayflower Chapel

1st Saturdays at 8:05 a.m. **Men's Breakfast** at McGrath's Restaurant (downtown location)

Calendar

Wednesday, January 7	6:15 p.m.	Mission and Outreach Meeting, Nursery
	7:00 p.m.	Peace and Justice Meeting, Conf. Rm.
Saturday, January 10	10:00 a.m.	Deacons put away Christmas décor
Sunday, January 11		Pastor Emily Goodnow is back
Monday, January 12	12 noon	Adult Book Study resumes, Parlor see article
Tuesday, January 13	3:30 p.m.	Weekly Meet Up with Pastor Emily @ Ike Box resumes today. Ends at 5 p.m.
	6:30 p.m.	Trustees meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Reiki Share Circle
Wednesday, January 14	7:00 p.m.	Council meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal (in lieu of 1/15)
Monday, January 19	6:30 p.m.	Woman Spirit meets at Bev and Jenny's bevnjenny@comcast.net for info
Tuesday, January 20	5:30 p.m.	Deacons meeting
Wednesday, January 21	1:30 p.m.	Women's Fellowship Joint Circles meeting Talkington Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Christian Education Board mtg. Nursery Annual Meeting immediately following worship and lunch
Wednesday, January 28	5:30 p.m.	Taizé Prayer Service, Mayflower Chapel
Sunday, January 31	3:00 p.m.	Healthcare for All Oregon shows "The Healthcare Movie" Talkington Hall Open to the public. No admission fee.
Wednesday, February 4	10:30 a.m.	Women's Fellowship Board meeting
	12:15 p.m.	Women's Fellowship Luncheon
	6:15 p.m.	Mission and Outreach Meeting, Nursery
	7:00 p.m.	Peace and Justice Meeting, Conf. Rm.
	7:15 p.m.	Chancel Choir rehearsal
Saturday, February 7	8:05 a.m.	Men's Breakfast at downtown McGrath's
Wednesday, February 11	9:00 a.m.	Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Interfaith Advocacy Day @ St. Mark Lutheran Church, Salem, OR
Monday, February 16	6:30 p.m.	Woman Spirit meets at Bev and Jenny's bevnjenny@comcast.net for info
Wednesday, February 18	1:30 p.m.	Women's Fellowship Day Circle meets at Betty Helm's home
Wednesday, February 25	5:30 p.m.	Taizé Prayer Service, Mayflower Chapel
Saturday, February 28		Talent / No Talent Show
Tuesday, March 3	6:30 p.m.	Welcoming Committee meeting

First Congregational Church
700 Marion Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-3829

Non-Profit Or-
ganization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Salem, OR
Permit No. 28

