



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

Tamara Smith, Moderator
February 11, 2015



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE February 18 at 6 p.m.

This year's Ash Wednesday service will continue the practice begun last year of incorporating Taizé chants, prayerfully led by Gary Vocana on the flute. The service will include the Imposition of Ashes.



**THE SEASON OF LENT AT
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL, SALEM**
Believe it or not, the word, "Lent" derives from an Old English word that means, "Springtime" and is also related to the word "lengthen" referring to the increasing daylight as we move through this season toward Easter.

What if we were to see Lent as the "church's springtime," a time to emerge from the darkness of all that keeps us down into the light of God's intentions for us—for joy, wholeness and liberation? Lent is traditionally associated with fasting, and "giving things up" but what if that concept were reframed as subversive spiritual practices designed to liberate ourselves and our society from entrapments that keep us subjugated to dysfunctional status quos that crucify people and Earth. What if Lent is about "giving" not just "up" but "to" and "towards" the things that make for life and justice and peace?

This Lent, we begin as always with our Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 18 and continue with two exciting and interconnected initiatives to invite everyone into just this way of practicing Lent, and also *weekly* Taizé services to feed your soul.

ECUMENICAL CARBON FAST FOR LENT
Lent awakens us to hope in God's "steadfast love" and to struggle against everything that leads us away from the

love of God and neighbor. The Lenten disciplines of repentance, fasting, prayer, study and works of love are guides for returning to the steadfast love of God. During Lent we confess our mortality, our limits and our vulnerability so that we might be transformed and become the new life God calls us to be.

We invite you to join us as we commit to fasting from (reducing) carbon during Lent. The Ecumenical Carbon Fast for Lent was initiated by UCC churches on the East Coast and endorsed by other faith groups, and now it's coming to our UCC Central Pacific Conference! The Peace and Justice committee has decided to invite our congregation to participate this year along with other churches in our Conference.

Beginning Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent, participants will receive a daily email with the day's suggested carbon-reducing activity. Many will also suggest ways to engage others. Each daily email will also provide material that can be the basis for a weekly congregational conversation.

The activities range from the very simple: eliminate "vampire" electrical use; to the moderately challenging: take "military showers;" reduce your driving speed; to more long term: buy local produce and consider getting involved in a community garden.

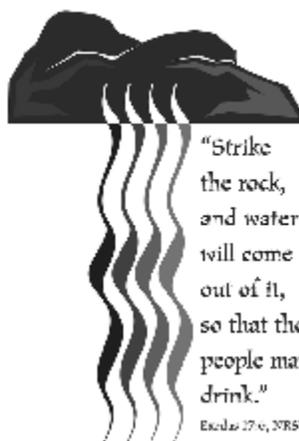
In addition to the activity for the day you will find information about the carbon impact of the activity, along with links to more information related to that activity. The intention is to provide do-able actions which can make a

difference; not to overwhelm people, or make them feel bad about themselves, or cause them to feel that the situation is hopeless. We want people to empower people so they can challenge themselves to do more.

To sign up for the daily emails during Lent, go to [http://](http://www.macucc.org/carbonfast)

www.macucc.org/carbonfast

If you are participating in the Carbon Fast, let us know! RSVP to office@uccsaalem.org. We may provide an opportunity or opportunities during Lent to gather and discuss our experience. Stay tuned!



"Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink."

Exodus 17:6, NRSV

DRINK WATER FOR LIFE

As in past years, we will participate in the "Drink Water for Life" Lenten initiative, in which congregation members are encouraged to save money you would otherwise

spend (or donate an amount equal to what you *do* spend) on those specialty coffees and teas from Starbucks, Ike Box, or your favorite coffee shop, or on bottled water, and donate that towards our Conference's mission to bring clean water to people in Haiti. Susan Smith will once again spearhead this important program so stay tuned for more details on how to participate. Drink Water for Life is another way to participate in our **Ecumenical Carbon Fast for Lent** because when you re-

frain from drinking bottled water and imported coffee/tea, you save on all the petroleum and energy and transportation costs that go into making those products, hence you reduce your carbon footprint!

WEEKLY TAIZÉ SERVICES FOR LENT!

This Lent, we are pleased to offer *weekly* as opposed to monthly Taizé worship services on Wednesdays (beginning Feb. 25, ending Mar. 25) during Lent, from 5:30-6:15 pm in the Mayflower chapel. Come and allow these meditative, musical and prayerful services to soothe your soul and uplift your spirit. If you haven't tried one yet, this is a great time to do so! What is a Taizé service? See http://articles.philly.com/1997-04-13/living/25531554_1_taize-prayer-service-worship

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Seeking prayers for **Katie**, granddaughter of **Erik and Diane Anderson**, as she receives inpatient mental health treatment at an adolescent mental health center near Portland...prayers for healing for 8-year-old **Luke Pickett**, grand nephew of **Steve and Cheryl Yant**, suffering from a very rare neuromuscular disease and on a ventilator in St. Louis due to a collapsed lung...prayers for smooth surgery and quick healing for **Rick Bingham**, who is having hip replacement surgery on Wednesday... healing prayers for **Scott Taber**, as well as prayers for strength for his whole family, as he recovers from a very serious bout of the flu which left him unable to sleep and briefly hospitalized...and also for **James Shugar**,

recovering from pneumonia, and his partner, **Eugene**, recovering from injuries sustained in a pedestrian-vehicle accident...condolences to **Chip Brown and Julie Camp**, on the loss of their very dear friend, **Sharon Carver**, to ovarian cancer, and prayers for Chip's mom, **Beverly Brown**, as she recovers from eye surgery...**Marian Nettleton** is also asking for thoughtful prayers...

In Memoriam

First Congregational UCC extends our deep condolences to the families and friends of **Cheron Mayhall** and **Ken Hewitt**.

Cheron Mayhall passed away on Feb. 12 after a long battle with cancer. She and her husband Bill, were long-term members of the church before they moved away, first to Port Townsend, WA and subsequently to Arizona. Her service will be held on Feb. 12 at Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church in Tuscon, AZ. A service for Cheron has also been scheduled in the Seattle area, tentatively for Mar. 1. If you wish to send condolence cards to Bill, his address is: 39645 South Horse Run Drive, Catalina, AZ 85739

Ken Hewitt passed away on Friday, Feb. 6, from congestive heart failure and kidney disease. Many will remember Ken and his late wife Edna, and their children who grew up in this church—Melody, Sue and Rick. A service in celebration of Ken's life will be held at First Congregational UCC at a date to be announced. If you wish to send cards to the surviving family mem-

ber, Melody, you may mail them to:
Melody Ruth, 3139 SE 50th Ave, Port-
land, OR 97206

HEARTFELT THANKS

Thank you for all the blessings brought to me from our church members, including many nice cards, cookies, poinsettia, and company. I also thoroughly enjoyed the carolers' visit and hearing their beautiful Christmas music. I am doing well here but am nursing a sore hip. Aging is not for the faint of heart. Your visits are especially appreciated as I cannot get out like I used to. Thank you so much!

Joyce Darby

AN AMAZED NOTE OF THANKS

To say I was surprised by the news that I was the latest recipient of the "Have We Told You Lately..." honors is an understatement. It was so much the furthest thing from my mind that I really thought it was a joke when I was told. I certainly never have considered myself anyone deserving of something like that – and I'm quite simply amazed by the fact that I was chosen for the honor. Thank you so much, you sweet people! The beautiful flowers have been gracing my family room all week – and they smell heavenly – and the cats refrained from eating them, thank goodness! And the generous gift certificate to Carl's Cuisine – somewhere I usually go to buy gifts for others – is very much appreciated. It will be a delight to go there and shop for myself! Thank you again; you really pulled off a total surprise!

Nancy Dilger

ADULT EDUCATION OFFERING Sunday, February 15 at 9 a.m.

Next Sunday, February 15, we will show a film entitled "Inside Islam: What a billion Muslims Really Think". The film presents results of the largest Gallup poll conducted to date. The interviews focused on issues of gender, prejudice, terrorism and democracy and addressed questions such as why there is so much anti-American sentiment in the Muslim world and what the majority of Muslims think about us. Interviews were conducted in 35 predominantly Muslim nations and in Europe and here in the US. I hope you will join us. The video is almost an hour long, so we will start at 9:00 a.m. to allow for a short discussion at the end. This class will be held in the Adult Education Room, at the end of the hallway upstairs.

Note: Adult Education on Sunday, February 22nd will be *after* church rather than before church. See the next article below.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY:

RACE MATTERS:

Working with Unconscious Bias through Mindfulness and Transformational Learning

Sunday, February 22, 11:45 a.m. to 1:30p.m.

Led by Richard Torres M.Div, ordained in the Zen Buddhist tradition, Instructor of Religion and Philosophy, Chemeketa Community College Richard Torres will help us understand the ways in which unconscious biases, which all people learn from an early

age, affect our behaviors later in life, and how we can begin to overcome those biases through practices involving mindfulness, empathy and transformational learning strategies. Come to begin a conversation about ways in which we are all impacted by biases involving race, as well as other aspects of human diversity, and to learn from innovative research about how we can move beyond biases to genuine human understanding and relationships of trust and vulnerability. Participants will also have an opportunity to consider whether they wish to take any further steps at FCUCC on issues relating to racial bias, equity and justice in our own lives and community.

If you are able, please bring snacks to share for this after-church forum or a brown bag lunch.



**ARE YOU
PRACTICING YOUR
TALENTS?**

**Talent /
No Talent Show
February 28 at
6:00 p.m.**

Music, dancing,
comedy, enjoying

others' company, laughing, and applauding. We are seeking these talents for our Annual Talent-No-Talent Show on Saturday, February 28, at 6:00 p.m. That's when you can show off your talents, have fun, and get to know another side of your fellow members. As a bonus, we have the opportunity to help Congregations Helping People and Marion-Polk Food Share by making donations. Signups have begun. Space

is limited. We will also have a list for you to volunteer to bring food to share, if that is your talent. So save the date of February 28, practice your talents, and sign up!

**GETTING ACQUAINTED LUNCH
SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 1ST**

The Welcoming Committee and the Pastors will host the next Getting Acquainted Lunch after worship on **Sunday, March 1st**. The luncheon provides an opportunity for anyone who has been attending our congregation and who may be interested in membership to get to know First Congregational United Church of Christ better.

Come and meet other newcomers to our church and enjoy the opportunity to get to know each other a little bit. Pastor Janet will offer an orientation to the United Church of Christ as a denomination, and to our congregation in particular. Pastor Emily will also be there to talk about our Christian Education program and ministries with children and youth.

For those who are interested in the possibility of membership in our congregation, a follow-up "new members" class will be offered on March 22nd to dig a little deeper into what it means to be a member here. New members will be received into the life of this faith community on Sunday, April 12.

Whether you are just beginning to explore participation in our congregation or already know you want to join, we would love to have the chance to share with you more about this wonderful church and our vibrant UCC on March 1st. Please RSVP to

office@uccsalem.org or call 503-363-3660 if you hope to attend.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ALL CHURCH BRUNCH POTLUCK AND OPERATION MARKET GARDEN PRESENTATION

Women's Fellowship is facilitating a spring event on **Saturday, March 14 at 10 a.m.** that features Dell Ford and her father-in-law who will share about their 2014 trip to the Netherlands to participate in the celebrations of the 70th Anniversary of Operation Market Garden. This was an Allied military operation that took place in September 1944 and is featured in the movie "A Bridge Too Far." Dell Ford's father-in-law is an Air Force veteran of Operation Market Garden. The presentation will include both history of the event and some travel. Talkington Hall will be decorated with Dutch accents. The date is Saturday, March 14th at 10:00 a.m. for an All Church Brunch Potluck. Put it on your calendar!

CHANGES TO

MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The M&O Committee largely oversees ongoing mission projects at FCUCC and in the community. In the past, it has been responsible for the Talent/No Talent Show and the Dine, Dance (Drama) & Bid fundraisers, and the congregation's participation in Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network (SIHN), the Emergency Lunch Program, Drink Water for Life fundraiser, Habitat for Humanity, Congregations Helping People, Marion Polk Food Share, Helping Hands and the five Denominational Offerings.

At the February 4 meeting, the M&O Committee evaluated the past projects of the Committee and decided to make some structural changes. It is hoped that these changes will better focus the group's efforts and best utilize the skills of Committee members and the congregation at large.

The Committee will now meet quarterly. The meetings are currently scheduled for March, June, September and December. This will give members more time to engage in mission and less time in meetings.

The Committee's work will be broken down into project teams. These groups will be responsible for meeting and communicating as needed, and reporting back to the entire Committee. Project teams and their leaders (if already assigned) are listed below.

Project / Project Team Leader

SIHN / Susan Bearden

Kairos (soup kitchen at St. Mark Lutheran Church) / Laurie Hoefer

Drink Water for Life / Susan Smith (not currently on M&O)

Emergency Lunches / Janet Kirch (not currently on M&O)

Habitat for Humanity and

Hopebuilders Breakfast / Steve Yant

Congregations Helping People /

Not yet filled

Denominational Offerings /

Not yet filled

Talent/No Talent Show / Rebecca

Ralston (not currently on M&O)

The Committee will no longer collect donations for Helping Hands. The Committee encourages anyone inter-

ested to continue donating to Helping Hands directly.

The Committee will start featuring its work in recurring articles in the Shalom.

Anyone interested in joining the Committee's work, or seeking support for a mission project, is invited to contact the Committee's Chairperson, Judith Taussig.

SOCKS APPEAL!

Rainy season is upon us! Our homeless neighbors are in continuing need of dry socks. Without access to dry shelter or laundry facilities, socks quickly become soaked and stay soaked until wearer can replace them. This of course leads to chronic foot problems. We can help by providing warm, dry socks. Needed are white cotton socks in a range of adult sizes. These can be purchased in packs of 2-4 pairs at many stores, including discount stores. Heavier weight cotton socks are preferable; light weight socks do not provide much absorbency or warmth this time of year. Of course, if you already have extra socks to donate, those are welcome too! Look for the SOCKS APPEAL container in the McDougale Narthex.

WARMING CENTER FINAL REPORT

Mid Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA) has shared the following information from the four nights our church provided the location for the warming shelter, opening the evening of December 29, 2014, closing the morning of Jan. 2, 2015.

Nightly Temperature (temperatures don't include wind chill factor):

Monday 12/29 – low of 24

Tuesday 12/30 – low of 22

Wednesday 12/31 – low of 23

Thursday 1/1 – low of 25

The client demographic information indicated 101 unique individuals and 1 pet received shelter for a total of 220 shelter nights. Most of the clients were single women and men, plus several couples and a few youth, aged 19. Fifteen guests stayed four nights, 20 stayed three nights, 29 stayed two nights, and 37 stayed one night.

A total of 70 volunteers, logging in a total of 398.25 hours of services, made the warming shelter possible. For purposes of the federal grant report these service hours were valued at \$8,980. In addition, a total of 137 sack lunches were given to guests as they checked out each morning.

Many thanks to church members who assumed responsibility as Church Host or as a MWVCAA volunteer. A special word of thanks to Pamella Watson who was lead coordinator for the church, putting in many hours and daily trips, facilitating our church's role as the location for the shelter, as well as working with MWVCAA staff and volunteers to provide a warm place to shelter for the guests.

CLIMATE, JUSTICE AND FAITH: MORE OPPORTUNITIES!

Thanks to those of you who participated in our special worship service on Jan. 18th! In honor of Dr. King's birthday, we explored the social justice im-

pacts of climate change, and discussed how we might respond to such planetary challenges as individuals and as a congregation. If you haven't yet turned in your "Climate Conversation Commitment Card," feel free to bring it in; the Peace & Justice Committee would love your input!

There are a number of exciting opportunities coming up that relate to our church's priority on addressing climate change; we hope that you will turn out to help us with the following initiatives:

March 3, 2015, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.:

Interfaith Climate Advocacy

Day Gather at the First United Methodist Church, 600 State St, Salem, for a briefing on policies relevant to clean energy, and visits with legislators.

Register online at <http://emoregon.org/>. Sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and the Central Pacific UCC Conference Climate Action Network.

March 3, 2015, 4:30 - 8:30 p.m.,

FCUCC Talkington Hall: Following the Advocacy Day events, join with other UCC-ers from our Conference for inspiring and fun reflection and fellowship over a dinner catered by Wild Pear. \$10 (\$5 for students) includes dinner. Register with Caren Caldwell at 541-621-0663 or caren97520@yahoo.com. If you would be willing to provide a home-stay for one or more of our visiting delegates, please email Sue Koger: skoger@willamette.edu

April 18, 2015, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.,

FCUCC Talkington Hall:

Active Hope: How to face the mess we're in without going crazy. *Take time out for a day of respite, healing, creativity and fun.* With our planet and economies in crisis, our political process in chaos, and our cultural story in transition, many of us at times feel hopeless, cynical, or despairing. **Active Hope is an empowering, creative stance for meeting these challenges.**

This workshop, based largely on the work of eco-philosopher Joanna Macy, explores new ways in which we can face these issues, find inspiration, and embody our gifts for the healing of our world. Through the use of deep dialogue, group ritual, music, and our own wild imaginings, we will explore together the ground of gratitude, honor our pain for the world, and grow our deepened sense of interconnectedness and empowerment as we face, together, the peril and beauty of our changing world. Facilitated by Barbara Ford, <http://www.barbaraford.net/>. More details and registration information coming soon!

SIMPLY IN SEASON GROUP 2

We had a successful initial Simply in Season group last year with 12 active group members. We are planning to start another group beginning March 3, 2014. This initiative supports our priorities for Extravagant Welcome and Care for the Earth.

Simply in Season offers people the opportunity to participate in monthly, small group meetings in the homes of

participants to share food and explore the value of eating local seasonal foods. Our textbook is the *Simply in Season* cookbook produced by the Mennonite Central Committee. We will explore best places to buy locally and will cook seasonally from recipes in the *Simply in Season* cookbook. Participants will be accepted on a first come/first serve basis with a limit of 12. Others will be placed on a waiting list.



UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 15, 10:30 a.m.
Youth Group cooks a **pancake brunch** on Mardi Gras Sunday every year for our church family. Plan to report to the kitchen at 10:30 a.m. to start cooking! Donations for breakfast go to youth fund to support our adventures.

Sunday, February 22, 12-2 p.m.
Attend the congregational conversation on race led by Richard Torres. See article on pages 4 and 5. Richard knows youth will be present, so he'll be sure to include us in the conversation. Please come!

Saturday, February 28, 6 p.m. – Sunday worship **LOCK-IN!** Our Spring

Lock-In begins with the Talent-No-Talent Show at 6 p.m. on Saturday, February 28, and continues after the event is over. Come for Lock-In standards like Sardines and Mimi, and a new thing or two, too! Please RSVP.

Sunday, March 8, 2-5 p.m. **Mid-High Our Whole Lives.** Grades 6-8 meet with Pastor Emily and Stephen Bearden to talk about gender identity, sexual orientation, and healthy relationships. This session will not be a repeat of previous sessions – it will be entirely new material. Permission slips need to be on file for youth to attend OWL. Contact Pastor Emily with questions.

Sunday, March 8, 2-4 p.m. Senior High Youth Group meets with Michelle and Cameron. Topic is Global Service. Learn from church members who have served in the Peace Corps or in other volunteer organizations abroad, and discuss what global missions looks like. What are the gifts of service, and what are the dangers of so-called international development? How has living abroad changed the faith of those presenting? How did it affect those of you who went to El Salvador? Come see pictures, hear about life in Nicaragua, Lesotho, El Salvador and more, and talk together about what it means to serve our neighbors locally and abroad.

**CAMP ADAMS THIS SUMMER –
IT'S TIME TO REGISTER!**

Camp Adams registration is open – will you make it this summer? See below for dates, and talk to Pastor Emily if you have questions. More info available at www.campadams.org – let Emily know if you 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.

Family Camp

June 28-July 4 or July 1-July 4 families of all kinds and all ages

Genesis Seekers

July 5-July 11
completed 2nd or 3rd grade

Taller and Smaller Camp

July 8-July 11
for ages 5, 6, and 7 with an adult

Discoverers

July 12-July 18
completed 4th or 5th grade

Sojourners

July 19-July 25
completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade

Exodus

July 26-August 1
completed 9th-12th grade

Weekly Recurring Events at church

Sundays

8:30 a.m. **Contemplative Prayer Group**,
Conference Room

9:15 a.m. **Adult Learning Hour**,
Adult Education Classroom
See article. Feb. 15 begins at 9 a.m.

10:30 a.m. **Worship Service &
Children's Learning Hour**

11:45 a.m. **Fellowship Time**,
Talkington Hall

Mondays 12 noon Adult Book Study
Meets in the Parlor. Group is reading
Reza Aslan's "Zealot." Don Lundberg
is the group's facilitator.

Mondays 7 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal
On Huntington Hall Stage

**Tuesdays 3:30 p.m. Meet up with
Pastor Emily at the Ike Box until 5
p.m.**

Thursdays

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

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|------------------------|--|
| Wednesday, February 11 | 8:00 a.m. Healthcare for All Oregon, Advocacy Day
Talkington and Huntington Hall
9:30 a.m. Bazaar Crafts in Nursery
7:00 p.m. Council Meeting |
| Sunday, February 15 | 9:00 a.m. Adult Learning Hour: Movie on Islam
11:45 a.m. Youth Groups serve pancake breakfast
11:45 a.m. Bag lunch assembly line Huntington Stage |
| Monday, February 16 | Presidents' Day — Office Closed
Stand for Children Lobby Day — All day
12 noon Adult Book Group meeting, Parlor
6:30 p.m. Woman Spirit meets at Bev and Jenny's
bevnjenny@comcast.net for more info |
| Tuesday, February 17 | 5:30 p.m. Deacons meeting, Nursery |
| Wednesday, February 18 | 1:30 p.m. Women's Fellowship Circles meet:
Day Circle at Connie Madison's and
Former Evening Circle at Ruth Monette's
6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
7:00 p.m. Christian Education Board meeting, Nursery |
| Wednesday, February 25 | 9:30 a.m. Bazaar Crafts in Nursery
5:30 p.m. Taizé Prayer Service
6:30 p.m. Community Committee meeting, Conf. Room |
| Saturday, February 28 | 6:00 p.m. Talent / No Talent Show
6:00 p.m. Youth Lock In —through worship on 3/1 |
| Sunday, March 1 | 12 noon Getting Acquainted Lunch, Huntington Hall
12 midnight <i>Shalom</i> deadline
12:15 p.m. Mission & Outreach mtg @ the Ike Box |
| Tuesday, March 3 | 8:30 a.m. Interfaith Climate Advocacy Day @
First United Methodist Church, Salem,
4:30 p.m. Climate Advocacy Day Reflection &
Fellowship over dinner, Talkington Hall
registration required. See article.
6:30 p.m. Welcoming Committee meeting |
| Wednesday, March 4 | 10:30 a.m. Women's Fellowship Board meeting
7:00 p.m. Peace and Justice meeting
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal (no rehearsal 3/5)) |
| Sunday, March 8 | Preacher: Tony Robinson |
| Friday, March 13 | 7:30 p.m. Confluence Concert, Sanctuary |
| Saturday, March 14 | 10:00 a.m. All Church Potluck Brunch hosted by the
Women's Fellowship |

**Taizé Prayer Services during Lent at 5:30 p.m.
on Wednesdays Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25.**

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