



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
July 29, 2015



Sandra Bland
February 7, 1987—
July 13, 2015

Beloved of God, if you're anywhere near the news lately you're processing a whole lot of pain that takes more than an Oregon sunset or a beautiful worship service to dissolve. You're thinking about race, mental health, and the terrible things that sometimes happen

behind closed doors, off camera, and in jail cells. Before you read this Shalom today – before you make notes on your calendar and dream with us together about the future of our church – I beg you to take a moment to consider what it means to Be The Church in a time when a woman is stopped for a traffic violation, and we have no answers about her subsequent death, only questions and fear about what might have taken place in those three tender days. How are we called to respond? How might you honor Sandra Bland's life? Will you grieve, and light a candle every day until racism is un-done? Will you pray, and turn that prayer in to action? Will you talk to your children and your friends about racism? Will you talk to them about mental health? Will you come to one of our Sacred Conversations on Race? Will you write a poem, attend a protest, forge relationships across lines of race, ethnicity, and what's comfortable for you, write a check to organization working to dismantle racism, will you listen for God's voice and go where God sends you? May Sandra's death be one we remember and listen to – may hers be the story we tell in years to come that changed everything. As her mom said at Sandra's funeral this past Saturday, "Sandy knew what her purpose was...Some call it a tragedy. Some call it a travesty. But I've got to call it testimony." Beloved of God, how do we receive this testimony, and what is the testimony we want to share with the world?

Pastor Emily Goodnow

SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE CONTINUES!

Our Sacred Conversation on Race, which launched on July 19 is underway and already having a positive impact on our congregation. Powerful stories and perspectives are being shared, truth-telling is happening, and deep listening is taking place. We have shared our hopes, fears and questions for this Conversation with one another, listened to the voices of people of color, watched a film about one family's courageous foray into their family history with the slave trade, and Pastor Janet has shared insights from her work with the Earth-Honoring Faith series at Ghost Ranch. The Conversation continues with the following events, with more to be scheduled, so stay tuned!

August 2, 9 a.m.: Second session of two-part adult education forum with Pastor Janet

She will share key aspects of her work at Ghost Ranch over the last two years, which focused on multiracial women's wisdom and Native wisdom in dialogue with Christianity on the project of becoming an "earth-honoring faith." Adult Education Room.

August 9, noon to 2:00 p.m.: Talkington Hall. Please bring your lunch or food to share. All are invited to a very special session in which all people of color in our congregation are invited to share stories, perspectives and testimonies relating to their lived experience of race and racism in our society, our community, our church, their families or whatever they wish to

share. Several of our members who are people of color have already agreed to participate and all FCUCC people of color are welcome to come and be heard as those of us who are white listen and bear witness. Come and learn more also with Richard Torres about the difference between "prejudice" or "bias" and "institutional racism," how "whiteness" was invented, and other concepts that will help us with our Conversation. We have extended the time to 2:00 p.m. to make sure we have enough time for this very important conversation, including time to hear the stories and ask questions and engage in some discussion.

The UCC has called upon all churches to strive towards becoming "Multiracial and Multicultural" congregations. Listening to our own members and friends of color is an important first step.

Traces of the Trade

As part of our Sacred Conversation on Race, on July 24th we gathered to watch the film *Traces of the Trade: Stories From the Deep North*. This film explores an affluent, white, Northern family's significant role in the slave trade. It follows about a dozen descendants of the DeWolf family as they grapple with what they did not know about their family history, the evils their ancestors were involved in, and the sources and manifestations of their 21st century privilege. The film has led to important continued discussion about the culture(s) we come from, white privilege and what we can/

should do about it, and the fundamental basis for white-black relations in the United States: slavery. For more information on this film and family, including excerpts and interviews, visit www.tracesofthetrade.org

IN OUR PRAYERS...

We invite prayers for comfort and peace for Lyda Rice and Linda Brown's older sister, Cecille who is declining rapidly and seems to have lost the will to live. Prayers also for Lyda and Linda as they accompany their sister during this time...Prayers for Marian Nettleton for general health issues...and for Joy Hayhurst who has an ongoing struggle with health issues...Prayers of comfort for the family of Joseph Formick (ex-husband of Marcia Formick and father of Pam, Paul, and Jay Formick) who died June 28, 2015...

Prayers for a healthy and pleasant week for Scott Taber and all at Camp Adams this week, including Faith Haining, Molly Balmer, and Kate Cruse as campers, and Karina Gonzalez and John Patterson as staff members...Prayers of gratitude that Betty James is returned home after a hospital stay, and is resting and recovering well...

Please pray for one of our most frequent homeless guests, Barbara, who appears to be having increasing difficulty navigating this rule-oriented world. We pray for peace and more health for Barbara, and for us all to negotiate our relationship with Barbara with peace and compassion...

Prayers for healing and help are invited for Loreen and Myron Wells who are struggling with multiple challenges...and we give thanks that the latest report from Loreen is that she is feeling a little better due to some new medication.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Alice Phalan
- 5 Ellie Haining
- 6 Jeanne Humphreys, Aiden Chau
- 9 Hazel Niles, Diane Corner
- 13 Sylvia Kline, Jenny Whitmire
- 14 Crystal Niles,
Benjamin Franco-Smith
- 15 Ellen Kachel-Bewley,
Robert Brown
- 16 Susan Bearden
- 17 Glenn Robinson
- 18 Ann Fujii
- 19 Chuck Taylor, Faith Haining
- 20 Priscilla Strayer, Margaret May,
Albert Brown
- 21 Roz Turner, Martha Wells
- 22 Joyce Schuberg
- 23 Anne Jenkins
- 25 Cynthia Byrnes
- 26 Russ Fowler
- 27 Julie Woodward
- 28 Pat Ayers
- 30 Lois Alexander

OUTREACH AND STEWARDSHIP TASK FORCE NEWS

Faith Filled Living: Extravagant Giving

We hope you were able to take some time to reflect on the questions from the last Shalom. We would like to encourage you to read the book "Giving

to God” by Mark Allan Powell as the questions originate from there. We are considering some Adult Education opportunities this fall and the book would also be good background information for the series.

This month’s questions we hope you will ponder are:

1: Think about the offering collected during the services at church. Do you experience this moment in the liturgy as an act of worship, or does it seem like an occasion for taking care of business? 2: Do you regard your place in this world as one of stewardship or ownership? What difference does the distinction make with regard to attitudes and actions in life?

Last call for input on church headlines

As mentioned at the semi-annual meeting, the Task Force on Stewardship and Communications was working hard on creating a few statements to be highlights of major church communications. This process started last fall when we all had the chance to write our church's best attributes on cards that were posted around the building. This spring we had open conversations after worship and an electronic survey. Now we're preparing to make a final recommendation to Council, but want to ask each of our members and friends to let us know if we are off the mark . . . or are right on! Here are the three "headlines":

WE OFFER AN EXTRAVAGANT

WELCOME TO ALL

WE SEEK SEEKERS, OFFERING LIBERATION FROM RIGID DOGMA AND HONORING QUESTIONS ABOUT FAITH

WE SHARE A HUNGER FOR JUSTICE IN OUR WORLD

Each of these will have sub-statements giving further explanation and examples. Have some thoughts? Please share them with Task Force co-chairs: Bev Pratt at bevnjen-ny@comcast.net or Dick Francois at rkfrancois@aol.com

A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words

As part of our work on updating the church’s website, we're deciding on some major statements about our church (see "Last Call" notice), but also need photos that tell the story of our church family. Please forward any photos you would like to share to the church office (office@uccsaalem.org), or if they are not in electronic form, drop them off at the office in the next two weeks. Yes, we would welcome some "historical" images, not just newer ones! Thanks for helping!

PORTA-POTTY UPDATE!

We are getting the *potty* started in a big way in our parking lot, and so far we have only good things to report! As you recall, we installed a porta-potty on Thursday, June 18 in our church parking lot, to be open to anyone in need of a restroom. The community

who frequents our lunch program and our porches in the evening has expressed extreme gratitude for this gift, and has stepped up to help care for it! People from this community check it regularly for any trash or other items left in it that need to be removed, and our Rise & Shine crew (the folks who come by at 8a.m. to wake sleepers and make sure the grounds are clean and ready for business) checks it regularly, too. The porta-potty company has reported that it is being used heavily, and we are contemplating a twice-a-week cleaning (we currently have it cleaned once a week) as it may not be enough to empty it only once a week. Our Council is pleased with the success of this pilot project so far.

A second porta-potty has been installed in the alley behind the Reed Opera House, and this potty is having similar success. The City Council has a working group thinking through various public restroom possibilities going forward, and we've been told there is real potential for some more permanent solutions – stay tuned! In the meantime business owners, churches, and the community are supportive of our work and grateful for our taking the initiative to put the potty in. There may be another porta-potty or two being installed downtown in the interim before the City Council finalizes and implements their plan, so keep your eyes peeled for beautiful blue sister potties in downtown Salem.

And, as always, thank you FCUCC for being creative and compassionate with solutions like this one – through that

small blue structure in our parking lot, we are being church and living the gospel in a practical and important way.

Pastor Emily Goodnow

MUSICAL NOTE

Calling All Men!!! Guys, there is an opportunity for you to sing in the Summer Men's Choir. We will be singing in worship on August 30th. Rehearsals will be Thursdays August 20th and 27th. Please contact Ray Elliott at ray@uccsalem.org or 503-970-6021 if you have questions and to let him know you are interested. The Chancel Choir is participating in a mass choir for Rev. Janet/Rev. Robyn's wedding. Rehearsals are Sunday August 9th at 4:00 and Thursday August 13th at 7:00. If anyone is interested in participating in this glorious event or interested in the Chancel Choir or Bell Choir in general, please feel free to contact Ray for details.

A NORTHWEST TRADITION

We are coffee and tea lovers, no matter what the weather. Lattes, espressos, herbal teas – bring them on! However, we've noticed that a few people have been bringing their drinks and/or snacks into the sanctuary, and it's taking a toll on our pews and carpets. Some also report that sitting near someone in the pews who is eating/drinking during worship is distracting. With this in mind, please limit your eating and drinking to before or after the service (with the exception of water bottles). Thanks for your help in keeping our worship space clean.



**ALL CHURCH
CAMP –
LABOR DAY
WEEKEND**

**Save the Dates
9/4 thru 9/6
All Church Camp**

Registration forms for All Church Camp are now available, in

the office or after church in the narthex! Labor Day Weekend, Friday evening, September 4, through Sunday lunch, September 6. Plan on coming Friday evening through Sunday lunch, or for one night or just for Saturday; whatever works best for you. Planned activities include swimming with our own Scott Svadlenak on lifeguard duty on Saturday, worship in the woods on Sunday. And there are the options of hiking, visiting, maybe a little singing, or just doing your own thing most any time!

Never been to Camp Adams before? Imagine a wooded campground an hour away (5 miles from Molalla), in the foothills of the Cascades, rustic cabins or you can tent or RV. Rustic Morris Lodge is our camp base, surrounded by shared cabins (with indoor plumbing). Meals are planned in advance and campers volunteer or are assigned dishes or ingredients to bring. Very low key but thoroughly enjoyed by all!! Questions? Michelle Laseter or Maya Close will be happy to share information. Fees this year are \$19.75 per night (12 years and older); \$14.75 per night (under 12 years); \$11.25 per person per night RV or tent; \$7.50 per person "one day tripper". Scholarships available and confidential; please con-

tact either Pastor Emily or Pastor Janet to request scholarship(s).

BAZAAR UPDATE

The Dilly Beans were washed, trimmed, put in containers and canned, on Saturday, under the leadership of Jean O'Grady, with a crew consisting of Maya Close, Priscilla Strayer, Betty Helm, Kathy Crummer, Louise Putman, Olga Carlstrom, Janet Kirch, and Nancy Dilger. Fifty pounds of beans were processed, resulting in nearly 50 jars of delicious dilly beans. We finished in record time, too!

Dill pickles, Ryntha's Bread & Butter Pickles, and apple pies come next, and all will likely happen in the first two weeks of August – but there aren't any solid dates yet for those projects. Stay ready to leap into action on a moment's notice, as there won't be a great deal of lead time.

Bazaar Craft days continue to be held on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesday mornings of each month, in the Nursery. Coffee always, and occasionally goodies too!

If you're making jellies or jams, why not make a few extra for the bazaar? They always sell out very rapidly, so we can use as many as we can get.

Quilt raffle tickets will go on sale the end of September, so keep in mind that we have another exquisite Priscilla Strayer creation in shades of blue, aqua, green and purple to vie for. Take my word for it – it's absolutely gorgeous!

If you have questions regarding the bazaar, ask Louise Putman, Kathy Crummer, Marjorie Covey, Phyllis Smith, or Nancy Dilger. If none of us have the answer, we'll find someone who does.

Nancy Dilger
Bazaar Coordinator

PASTORS' SCHEDULES FOR AUGUST

With gratitude, always, that we serve a church who supports vacation time for things like family and honeymoons (!!)

the pastors will have the following schedule for August:

Pastor Emily will spend a week in Sisters, OR with her family August 3-9 and return to the office on August 10. Pastor Janet will spend 3 weeks in wedding mode - preparing, marrying, and honeymooning! - this August. She will be away from the office August 12 -September 2.

Each pastor will cover for the other during her time away. We will enjoy a guest preacher, Brother Elijah (formerly known as Brother Richard) on August 30. Thanks in advance to those lay leaders who help out in pastors absences, and to Brother Elijah for preaching, and to all of you for your grace and generosity with us in our time away.

GETTING ACQUAINTED LUNCH

The Welcoming Committee and the Pastors will host the next Getting Acquainted Lunch after worship on **Sunday, September 20**. The lunch provides an opportunity for anyone who has been attending our congregation and who may be interested in member-

ship to get to know First Congregational United Church of Christ better.

Come to meet other newcomers and to 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 be there to talk about our Christian Education program and ministries with children and youth.

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 Sept. 20. Please RSVP to 503-363-3660 or office@uccsalem.org

SUMMER EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION

We will finish "Pastrix" by Nadia Bolz-Weber and start "Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church" by Rachel Held Evans. This New York Times bestselling author embarks on a quest to find out what it really means to be part of the church, like millions of her millennial peers. All are welcome. **Date: Tuesday, August 11 at 7 p.m.** at Laura Perez's house: 4089 Oakman St S. Drinks and light snacks will be served. Bring a favorite snack or beverage to share, if you like. Even if you haven't read the book, but you would like to join the discussion in a lovely setting, please join us! Wear comfortable clothes, as we will be in the back yard, and Carter the Boxer will be eager to find a lap to hop in!

Calendar

Saturday, August 1	8:05 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sunday, August 2	9:00 a.m.	Adult Education led by Pastor Janet
Wednesday, August 5	7:00 p.m.	Peace and Justice Committee meeting
Sunday, August 9	4:00 p.m.	Wedding Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary
Tuesday, August 11	6:30 p.m.	Trustees meeting, Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Summer Evening Book Group @ Laura Perez's
Wednesday, August 12	9:30 a.m.	Bazaar Crafts, Nursery
	7:00 p.m.	Council meeting, Parlor
Thursday, August 13	7:00 p.m.	Wedding Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary
Saturday, August 15	1:00 p.m.	Wedding of Pastor Janet Parker and Reverend Robyn Hartwig at St. Mark Lutheran, Salem, Oregon
Monday, August 17	6:30 p.m.	Woman Spirit meets at Bev and Jenny's <u>bevnjenny@comcast.net</u> for info
Tuesday, August 18	5:30 p.m.	Deacons meeting
Wednesday, August 19	6:30 p.m.	Community Comm. mtg. Conf. Room
	7:00 p.m.	Christian Education Board mtg., in the Nursery
Sunday, August 23	12 midnight	Shalom deadline
Wednesday, August 26	9:30 a.m.	Bazaar Crafts, Nursery
	5:30 p.m.	Taizé Prayer Service
Friday September 4		All Church Camp @ Camp Adams through Sunday, September 6
Sunday, September 20	12 noon	Getting Acquainted Luncheon
Friday, September 25		Central Pacific Conference Annual Meeting through Sunday, September 27

Preaching Schedule

(subject to change)

August 9: Pastor Janet Parker

August 16: Emma Brewer-Wallin, Summer Intern

August 23: Pastor Emily Goodnow

August 30: Brother Elijah LeFevre

September 6: Pastor Janet Parker —Hymn Sing @ FCUCC

Pastor Emily Goodnow @ Camp Adams All Church Camp

September 13 Sundaes Sunday & Reception of new members: Pastor Janet Parker

September 20: Pastor Janet Parker

September 27: Guest Preacher TBA (Pastors at CPC Annual Meeting)