



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

David Watson, Moderator
March 16, 2016



Holy Week

JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK AT FCUCC

March 20, Palm/Passion Sunday

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

March 24, Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Holy Communion and
Tenebrae Service

Good Friday

Meditation-Recital by organist Marcia
Hauff, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 26

Come to help the Deacons decorate the
Sanctuary for Easter at 10 a.m.
Refreshments will be served!

Holy Saturday Easter Program, with
the "Walk for the Climate" delegation
7:30 p.m. in Huntington Hall

March 27, Easter Sunday

9 a.m. Worship Service

10:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

11 a.m. Worship Service Nursery open
at both services, but no Children's
Learning Hour

Drink Water for Life, Collection on Palm Sunday!

On this Palm Sunday as we follow Jesus to Jerusalem and remember how his love changed the world, we will have the opportunity once again to allow our love and commitment to a better way of living change our world! We've continued our Lenten Tradition of setting aside money for clean water projects in Haiti this season, and the offering opportunity will be on Palm Sunday. The goal this year was to set aside money every time we used water: when we drink it, when we bathe in it, when we clean with it, and certainly when we purchase expensive beverages that are made with it. Consider donating the equivalent of your water bill or your daily lattes during Lent, for instance.

An anonymous donor is matching every dollar contributed with another dollar, so we can bring clean water to people around the world twice as fast. The Wagouman water project in Haiti will be the direct beneficiary of our campaign. The spring in Wagouma serves 14 communities with an estimated 700 families (about 4000-

4500 people) and their livestock. Women and children walk as much as four hours to the spring. The water at Wagouma is clear, but not clean, because it is contaminated both by animal waste and by the shared means of filling water buckets. As of one year ago, 400 people had died in Wagouma from cholera. Susan Smith has also estimated that round 80 children die each year from other contaminants in this water.

Our work, then, is to fund a spring cap and reservoir for Wagouma, which could save at least 2000 lives over the life of the system by Susan's math. We've sent half of what we need to our Haitian partners for the system, we need \$6,500 more to complete it. The challenge is on! Please join us this Palm Sunday in our belief that together passionate people following love can change the world. Your tax deductible checks will be received in a special offering this coming Sunday in worship. You can also write a check with "Drink Water for Life" in the memo line and bring it to church any time. Thanks for your generosity, and for believing in this vision with us!

TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE

You are invited to celebrate Palm Sunday on March 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Benedictine Sisters' Monastery Chapel. It is located at 840 S. Main Street, Mt. Angel, OR. If you have any questions, call Sister Maureen at 503-845-6141. Thank you



THE HOMELESS TASK FORCE

made the tough decision to end the porch ministry that we have been doing on a daily basis since early June of last year. We no longer had the volunteer base to keep both Rise and Shine and Night Watch viable.

We have posted signs around the church and have begun to let our guests know that we need to end the ministry. The guests have been very gracious and understanding. They all express how grateful they have been to have our porch to sleep on. The last night will be March 31st.

We will continue to do Rise and Shine and Night Watch through the month of March. Beginning April 1st the letter of No Trespass will once again be active. The first 3 nights of April we will have 2 volunteers at the church from 8 p.m. until 10:30 to remind any guests that this is now a No Trespass area.

During the church service on April 3rd there will be presentations done by several of the volunteers as well as time to grieve and celebrate.

As the UCC is known to say, "God is still Speaking," and the Homeless Task Force remains ready to listen.

Pamella Watson
Homeless Task Force Chair

GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION-RECITAL

As part of Holy Week, on Good Friday come to hear Marcel Dupre's dramatic composition for organ, "The Stations of the Cross." Our organist, Dr. Marcia Hauff, performed this piece at Mt. Angel Abbey at the beginning of Lent, and now is repeating it for us. The series of 14 short pieces portrays the Crucifixion through music, allowing each listener to experience the scenes and emotions in their imagination as the events unfold.

The program will be Friday, March 25, at 7:00 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

CLIMATE CAMINATA UPDATE

Who: A faith-based coalition of around 20 people will be walking/biking from Southern Oregon to Salem during Holy Week (March 20-27, 2016), and then holding a vigil on the steps of the Capitol and (we hope) meeting with Governor Brown on Monday morning, 3/28.

What: This caminata is a symbolic pilgrimage to support meaningful government action on climate change. It was conceived as a way to protest the climate-changing carbon pollution that would be created by the proposed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) pipeline and Jordan Cove export terminal. But, amazingly, the FERC just denied the permits needed to construct this pipeline and terminal in Oregon! Now, the climate walkers will walk in celebration of this climate victory and to keep the pressure up on our State Govern-

ment to take other meaningful steps to combat climate change (such as putting a price on carbon—stay tuned for the exact “ask”).

When: Our church is hosting the group on Easter weekend (Sat. and Sun. nights, 3/26 - 3/27); they will celebrate the resurrection with us on Easter morning.

How you can help: We have promised to feed these weary travelers, including dinner on Saturday, 3 meals on Sunday, and breakfast on Monday. We need entrees (preferably vegetarian), salads, desserts, and snacks. If you will help, please contact Sue Koger, skoger@willamette.edu; or sign up in the lobby after church on 3/20. We also hope to offer overnight hosts for the weary travelers on Saturday night. If you would be willing to house one or two walkers (or a family of 3), please contact Cameron McCoy at cameronmc@riseup.net

Join us for: A program with the walkers that is open to the church and our community on Saturday night beginning at 7:30 PM. Stay tuned for details. An Easter vigil has been in the works, but we may also shift into a more celebratory mode to invite the whole community in to celebrate the victory over the proposed LNG pipeline. More details will be forthcoming. Plus, Vigil for the climate on the Capital steps from 10-11 AM on Monday morning.



UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP OPPORTUNITIES:

Both youth groups meet, usually separately (depending on numbers and adult volunteers) on the second and fourth Sundays of the month from 12-2 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

No youth group on Easter, March 27.
April Youth Groups: April 10 and 24, 12-2 p.m.

High School Retreat: Race and Privilege, April 1-3

Camp Lutherwood in Eugene Sara Rosenau (who was here in 2012 running our CED programs) is organizing a state-wide retreat for high school students April 1-3 at Camp Lutherwood in Eugene. The retreat will focus on storytelling, youth leadership empowerment, and how our Christian faith calls us to accompany those on the margins. High School students from the PCUSA, UMC, UCC, Episcopal and ELCA denominations will gather together to talk about race, church, privilege, and more. Cost is \$100, and as always we'll make it work if you want to go – scholarship available! Please contact Pastor Emily right away if you want to join.

High School Youth Group Opportunity with Planned Parenthood

On April 24 and May 8 our Senior High Youth Group will meet 12-3 p.m. (note extra hour) with Jessica Estrada from Planned Parenthood who will teach an All4You2 Sexual Health program – a comprehensive sexuality education program like Our Whole Lives. Jessica has taught at Planned Parenthood, Upward Bound, and the Boys & Girls Club and is now working with Planned Parenthood to teach healthy sexuality in our community. The program is engaging and active and uses scenarios, role-plays, journal questions and group activities. Meetings will also include food, games, and prizes. Questions? Email Pastor Emily or Jessica herself at Jessica.Estrada@ppcw.org.

Summer Mission Trip: Spokane, Washington!

Calling all youth (and adult chaperones!) who want to serve others, meet new people, go on an adventure, and have a life-changing week. We're going to Spokane, Washington with Sierra Service Project this summer (June 26-July 2) and if you're joining us, it's time to RSVP! We'll be just outside the borders of the city of Spokane, with the Spokane Indian Reservation in Wellpinit. Projects will include painting, some carpentry, and some home improvements. More information has gone out in emails to youth and families – please contact Pastor Emily with questions, or to RSVP!

IN OUR PRAYERS

Prayers of thanksgiving are in order for **Nancy Winner**, who got the wonderful news that the cardiac ablation combined with medication has reduced the extra heartbeats to an acceptable number and she has been released to activities as usual; and we give thanks that **Ed and Nancy Henderlite** have safely returned home from their trip to Texas, where Ed successfully officiated at his granddaughter's wedding! Finally, we are happy to report that **Betty Helm** is home, and we continue to pray for her full recovery from her hip surgery, and hope to see her at church very soon. Prayers for continued healing are invited for **Melvin Stewart**, as he continues to recover from his recent hospitalization for a flare-up of diverticulosis and now is healing at home; and for **Pat Ayers**, who is awaiting test results from an MRI to determine what is causing the pain in her bicep—we pray for a clear diagnosis and effective treatment to relieve her pain!

A TALE FROM OUR TREASURER

So the tax collectors come and ask “Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?” Then Jesus tells his disciples to go fishing, and they catch a fish with a big coin in its mouth which the disciples then use to pay the temple tax. This is a true story. Matt 17: 24-27

So here's where we are as disciples at First Congregational Church:

	February	Year-to-Date
Income	\$34,521	\$57,220
Expense	32,614	63,874
	\$ 1,906	(\$ 6,653)

As you can see, on a year-to-date basis (January & February) we are not doing very well. These figures do not include two loans from designated funds (\$6,000 in October 2015, and \$2,200 in January 2016) which will need to be paid back. We also need to keep up with payments to the Capital Fund, to reimburse those who have lent us money to finance our remodeling project. We are trying to do a better job with communicating our financial status with the congregation.

If you are able to help us out by submitting any pledge payments you haven't gotten around to yet, or would be willing to make a special one-time donation to help us catch up, it would be greatly appreciated!

Remember that God does not need your money, but your church really does.

~ *Evan White, Treasurer*

CALLING GARDENERS AND LAWN JUNKIES: SPRING CLEANING AT OUR CHURCH!

Come on Saturday, March 19th, from 9 a.m. to noon to continue the spring cleaning of our grounds! We need your help to beautify our campus before Easter. Donuts and coffee will be thoughtfully provided by the Trustees. Grab your gardening tools and gloves and join us.



SAVE THE DATE: DANCE, DINE AND BID RETURNS!

Saturday, June 4 will be the date for our next Dine, Dance and Bid! The theme this year will be a masquerade ball, and we will have a lot more information for you in the coming weeks. If you would like to help with any part of this, email me at kabalmer@gmail.com.

If you are new to FCUCC, you may not have heard about "DD & B," so ask an "old-timer" — it will be a great conversation starter! Be sure to save the date on your calendar: you won't want to miss it!

~ *Kerry Balmer*

ADOPT A REFUGEE FAMILY?

There will be a meeting after worship on April 3rd to learn what would be involved if we decide to adopt a refugee family. Several Salem area churches, including First Presbyterian and Prince of Peace Episcopal, have already made a commitment to do this. All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend. Staff from Catholic Charities and a local refugee family will be present to answer questions and help us make an informed decision.

For further information, contact Bill Hayden, 503-364-1193.

A CIVIL DISOBEEDIENTS THANK-YOU

About 45 people attended the benefit concert performed by The Civil Disobedients, a musical group that includes Steve Yant, on Saturday, March 12. The music was wonderful, and people in the audience enjoyed it. Thank you those who assisted: Susan Bearden, Steve Bearden, Chris Sproul & Madison Hull. We took in \$320 to use for the church's mission projects.

~ *Nancy Stempek*



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

What do Miss Soybean, Aunt Mary Evelyn, Kitty Box, and Francine Sinkpot have in common? They are all characters who live inside Lyndsey Houser's head! You'll meet them all on April 6 at the Women's Fellowship Luncheon. Don't miss the scrumptious salad buffet with a side of laughter!

Lyndsey is originally from Louisiana, but left after college for a Hollywood adventure. Her California resume includes theatre, stand-up, theme parks, film, TV and commercials. Happily retired in Salem, Pentacle Theatre has been her sandbox since 2009, and she's been playing nicely with others, performing in three musical productions and five plays.

Make your plans to attend, meet new friends, and enjoy the fun!

UPDATE: PASTOR JANET'S AND ROBYN'S TAIWAN ADVENTURE

Departure Update: Due to her recent car accident and unexpected additional church needs that have arisen since the trip was planned, Pastor Janet is working to reschedule her trip to depart a week later. If all goes as planned (fingers crossed), she will leave on April 5 and only be gone for 2 weeks instead of 3.

Pastor Janet's partner Robyn is now in China with her mom, and the day is approaching for Pastor Janet to leave to join her for their odyssey in Taiwan. This is all part of Robyn's three month sabbatical, which is funded by a Lilly clergy renewal grant. Janet is excited to visit the land where she lived and taught English for a year as a Presbyterian missionary in the 80s, and we are both thrilled to be hosted by the Pastor and lay leaders of the Taiwanese congregation that worships in Robyn's church's building. Janet is eager to share with you all what she sees and learns on her journey, which will focus on the churches of Taiwan and the amazing work that the Presbyterian Church (the closest equivalent to the UCC in Taiwan) does to support human rights, aboriginal peoples and other marginalized groups in Taiwan. She will also share with you the exciting story of how Christianity has been "contextualized" in Taiwan to become a meaningful and culturally appropriate faith for a Taiwanese/Chinese culture. Stay tuned for the opportunity to learn all about this after she returns. You may recall that some members of our church hosted a choral group of aboriginal Taiwanese singers last June, and so we began to build ties then to this beautiful island and its people.

While Janet is away, you will enjoy not only Emily's fabulous preaching on April 3, but two excellent guest preachers: our own Stephen Bearden on April 10, and Tara Wilkins, pastor of Bridgeport UCC and Executive Director of the Community of Welcoming Congregations on April 17, who will also lead an exciting program following worship on **Making a Connection to #Black Lives Matter** which will address intersections between the LGBT Marriage Equality, Immigration Reform and Black Lives Matter movements.

SHOUT OUT TO OUR OFFICE ANGELS!

Here's a shout out to our office angels who have been doing a fantastic job of keeping the office going in the absence of our beloved Annemieke. I especially thank them for all the work they have done to support the Personnel Committee in the hiring process for the Office Manager position. They have been responding to both walk-in and email requests for information on top of the regular duties they are responsible for in the office. Thanks for stepping up to the plate and helping!!

Tuesday/Friday Office Angel: Nancy Dilger

Wednesday Office Angels: Vern & Connie Madison & Janet Kirch

Thursday Office Angel: Maya Close

A special shout out to Janet Kirch who not only regularly appears in the office to help but also angelically appears whenever there are needs related to computer generated presentations at all hours of the day and night!!

Sincerely,

Dell Ford, Chair, Personnel Committee

Easter Flowers



Every Easter Sunday, our sanctuary is a glorious shout of color, as we celebrate the resurrection with a display of seasonal flowers.

We use a few traditional Easter lilies as well as other flowering plants. Please use the form below to place your order.

It's a wonderful way to take Easter home with you when our celebrations are over (after the 11 a.m. service) and to honor those you love. Or if you would like, your plants can be shared with others not able to attend Easter services.

Make check out to First Congregational Church and please mark memo line: Easter flowers

Please put this order form in the offering plate along with your payment OR drop it off at the office or send it in, by Wednesday, March 23, 2016.

Thank you! Deacons

I would like to place

____ Easter lily/lilies

____ Flowering plant/s

In honor of:

and/or in memory of:

Cost per item \$10

Your name:

____ I will take home my plant(s) after the 11 a.m. worship service

____ I will donate my plant(s) to

Here's a **TEN COMMANDMENTS TO
HELP KEEP THE OFFICE SANE IN
THE INTERIM**

1. You shall fill in the memo line on your check. The bookkeeper is not a clairvoyant.
2. You shall submit your *Shalom* articles by the deadline.
3. You shall write and submit complete *Shalom* articles.
4. You shall write and submit complete bulletin announcements.
5. You shall use the online church directory.
6. You shall write your church meetings/events on the church calendar.
7. You shall send an email to the office to inform the office of your next meeting date and time.
8. You shall **only** include office@uccsalem.org on group emails **when relevant**.
9. You shall be patient with all office volunteers...or offer to volunteer a few hours yourself!
10. You shall not park in a numbered spot. Thank you!

~ *Annemieke Laport*

RECURRING EVENTS

Mondays

12 p.m. Adult Book Study. They are reading “The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic” by John Shelby Spong. Facilitator is Don Lundberg.

Wednesdays

3:30 p.m. Ike Box with Pastor Emily

7:00 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal

Thursdays

12 noon Chat & Chew with Pastor Janet

7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Contemplative Prayer Group

9:15 a.m. Adult Education

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time

First Sundays of the month are

Communion Sunday

and Marion Polk Food Share Sunday—

you may bring non-perishable food for the barrel or a check made out to the church with Food Share in the memo line.

Youth Groups meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 12 noon to 2 p.m. in the Teen Room

Confirmation Class meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.
@ the Ike Box

Men’s Breakfast

1st Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.

At Urban Alley Restaurant,

formerly known

as the downtown McGrath’s.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 16	1:30 p.m. Women's Fellowship Circle Meetings Former Evening Circle @ Ruth Monette's Afternoon Circle @ Connie Madison's
	5:15 p.m. Final Lenten Series
	7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 17	7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir
Saturday, March 19	9:00 a.m. Spring Cleaning of the Grounds
Sunday, March 20, Palm Sunday	8:30 a.m. Contemplative Prayer Group 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum: Living the Questions, Chapter 18
	10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Monday, March 21	6:30 p.m. Woman Spirit
Wednesday, March 23	9:30 a.m. Bazaar Crafts, nursery 5:30 p.m. Taizé service, Mayflower Chapel
	7:00 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal
Thursday, March 24	7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service, with Communion and Tenebrae
Friday, March 25	7:00 p.m. Good Friday Meditation-Concert with Dr. Marcia Hauff, organist
Saturday, March 26	10:00 a.m. Flowering the sanctuary with the Deacons
	7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil with the Caminata walkers
Sunday, March 27	9:00 a.m. Easter Service 10:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 a.m. Easter Service Noon Emergency bag lunch assembly, Huntington Stage
Tuesday, March 29	7:00 p.m. Community Committee meeting
Wednesday, March 30	9:30 a.m. Bazaar Crafts, nursery NO Bell Choir rehearsal
Thursday, March 31	NO Chancel Choir rehearsal

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