



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
September 9, 2015

★ Special Edition ★

Sundae Sunday



**SEPTEMBER 13 IS
SUNDAE SUNDAY!
BRING A FRIEND!**
Our new church
program year
launches this Sun-
day. This kick-off is
known in our
church as Sundae

Sunday. During worship, we will re-
ceive new people into the membership
of our church. Following worship, we
will have an Opportunity Fair in which
small groups and committees will in-
troduce you to their new offerings.
The Community Committee will top it
all off by serving sundaes. Join us for
fellowship and the start of our new
church year together.

*Extra Credit: Thrill our Outreach and
Stewardship Task Force and our Wel-
coming Committee by bringing a friend*

*(or two!) to church next Sunday. Share
the good news about our church's
presence in Salem with those you love
(or just like).*



**NEW ADULT
EDUCATION CLASS ON
PROGRESSIVE
CHRISTIANITY**

Begins Sunday, September 13 at 9:15
a.m. All are invited to take part in the
exciting discussion series: "Living the
Questions, 2.0 - an introduction to pro-
gressive Christianity." Join us in the
adult education classroom on the sec-
ond floor beginning Sunday September
13, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Facilitator: Bud
Austin, with Susan Hall and Dana
McBrien.



CHILDREN'S LEARNING HOUR

Description: Bud describes himself as a former evangelical fundamentalist who is in the process of exploring broader ways of understanding and living the Christian faith. Living the Questions 2.0 (LtQ2) is a discussion series that encourages such spiritual exploration.

The series features short video segments by prominent progressive theologians, biblical scholars and pastors who provide the content for informed discussion by the group. Many of us agree that at its core, Christianity has something good to offer the human race. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a "thinking" Christian and that "salvaging" Christianity is a hopeless task. What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice. LtQ2 is a 21-week DVD and web-based small group study organized into 7 "flights." The first "flight" of 7 weeks is called, "Invitation to Journey."

You don't have to commit to all 21 sessions or even all first 7 sessions to participate in the class. LTQ2 will help us explore beyond the traditions and rote theologies in which so many people and local churches seem to be stuck. It may guide us in discovering the significance of Christianity in the 21st century and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world. You may find more about LtQ2 on their Facebook page or at www.livingthequestions.com.

Godly Play 1 (ages 4- Grade 3)

Godly Play is a curriculum that invites children to discover God, themselves, and one another through the stories in the Bible. Based on the Montessori method, Godly Play uses a careful telling of scripture stories, engaging story figures, and activities to encourage children to seek and find answers to their faith questions. Godly Play respects the innate spirituality of children and encourages curiosity and imagination in experiencing the mystery and joy of God. Teachers are Lyndsey Houser, Jennie Butsch, and Natasha Chau.

4TH & 5TH GRADE PROJECT (NEW THIS YEAR!)

This year, Jennifer Gutterman-Johns and the Christian Education Committee are piloting a fall project for our 4th and 5th graders. The goal of the project is to give these young disciples a chance to process the Godly Play Stories in a different way, and to give them a little more background on where Bible stories come from - who wrote them, and how did they end up in a book together? Jennifer will lead the class through some bible basics, followed by a review of some of the major stories of the bible placing them in context, highlighting key characters and teachings, and talking about how they've been used throughout history and what they might mean for us today.

This experiment goes through the fall, and is projected to end in November right before we begin preparations for the Christmas Pageant.

Jesus and His Kingdom of Equals (grades 4-5)

We are proud to be offering this educational and hands on curriculum for the 4th-5th grade children. Jesus and His Kingdom of Equals (a.k.a. Jesus and His Peeps), draws on the four gospels of the New Testament and is also supported by other ancient texts such as the Gospel of Thomas. The course is informed not only by the gospels themselves but by historical, cultural and linguistic knowledge of the historical period in which Jesus lived. This curriculum prepares our young people for their further exploration into the UCC faith and Confirmation as they enter into Mid-High. Teachers are Cheryl Beaver, Carrie Saucy-Bowersox, and Jennifer Gutterman-Johns.

Both age groups' classes start after Children's Time in worship. At that time, children will be escorted from the Sanctuary to to their class rooms. Please do not drop off your child before service begins. Class ends at 11:40 a.m. each Sunday. Parents may pick up their children from the classrooms on the 2nd floor.

Nursery (birth through age 3)

Our church nursery experience is provided to introduce our youngest members to Jesus' message, that we are called to "love one another" through our actions and interactions with our

"littlest ones." In the nursery, we provide a nurturing place based on caring, respectful relationships with children and their parents. It's a space where children and their parents can trust that they will be welcomed and safe. Our caring staff nurture children's creativity, imagination, expression and energy through drawing, painting, sculpting, stories, games, and play time. Our nursery is located on the main floor of the church, past the main office and is open for child drop--off beginning at 10 a.m. on Sundays. **Early drop-off for adults who are attending Adult Learning Hour (9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.) is available by request. Please email or call the office by Wednesday of the week before if you would like to take advantage of this offer.** Nursery remains open until worship ends. Nursery Coordinator is Delaney Heitman, and teen staffers are Faith Haining, Molly Balmer, and Tamrat Wagener.



YOUTH GROUP 2015-2016

Starting Sunday, **September 20**, both youth groups (grades 6-8, and 9-12) will meet separately and at the same time each Sunday from 12:30-2:30 p.m., with snack provided at 12 p.m. Pastor Emily and Michelle Laseter will share leadership of the groups, swap-

ping back and forth each week. Each leader will have a second adult present for safe church purposes – and volunteers are needed to fill these roles! Be in touch with Emily if you'd like to help out. One-time leaders will also be needed for the weeks when Emily is with the confirmation class. If you've got an idea – want to teach youth to meditate? Lead a forum on faith and science? Have a mission project you'd like to do with them? Be in touch with Emily.

RAFTING, SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE, & LOCK-IN

Youth Group Kicks Off on Saturday, **September 12** with a rafting trip (registration closed) followed by a Sacred Conversation on Race co-facilitated by Richard Torres and Pastor Emily, and ending in a lock-in.

YOUTH GROUP AND YOUTH GROUP PARENT ORIENTATION

is Sunday, **September 20**, 12:30-2:30 p.m. – fill out forms and learn the plan for this year, and then have a conversation together about the joys and challenges of parenting teens in 2015 – how's it going for you so far? Youth group meeting takes place at the same time.

MEET UP WITH PASTOR EMILY @ THE IKE BOX

Do you like coffee, tea, theological conversation, fellowship, and time connecting with other church members? Do you have a burning idea for church or theological problem you

want to discuss? Do you just want to hang out with Emily and some awesome church people with no agenda and see where the conversation goes? Come to the Ike Box every Wednesday, 3:30-5pm. Sometimes it's just a couple of us, sometimes a whole table, always a fun time! All ages welcome.

CONFIRMATION 2015-2016

We have 12 youth, in grades 8-12, signed up for a confirmation experience unlike any other we've done at FCUCC. This class will meet in person at the Ike Box on the first and third Sunday of each month, and will "meet" several additional times each week in an online forum to discuss weekly readings. Each confirmand has a mentor who participates in the above, and who meets with their confirmand once per month. A confirmand will report to the congregation during worship each month to share some piece of our conversation. Pastor Emily takes the lead on this confirmation class, with Pastor Janet and other Christian Education Committee members participating regularly online and in person.

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME

Chancel choir rehearsals resume on Thursday,

September 10 at 7:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. New voices are always welcome. If you have questions, please contact Ray Elliott, our Choir Director at ray@uccsalem.org. Ray



has an exciting choir year planned!

ALL CHURCH BRUNCH

Saturday, **September 19**--10 a.m. to noon. This brunch is hosted by Women's Fellowship and features a presentation by Tom Madison (Vern and Connie's son). Tom is an artist and owns Madison Design in Eugene, Oregon. He is an instructor at Lane Community College and has also taught at WOU and OSU. He received the 2012 Shafer & League Innovation of the Year Award for the Lane Cultural Mural he and his students made. He has traveled abroad with his art and will have a fascinating story to tell. Please bring a potluck brunch dish to share with everyone. Call Kathy Crummer if you have any questions, 503-990-6139.

LGBTQ Dinner

September's LGBTQ dinner will be on Saturday, **September 19** at Venti's, 2840 Commercial Street SE at 6 p.m. Please RSVP to Rex Lampert, 503-510-7448 or rexlampert@yahoo.com

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 membership to get to know First Congregational United Church of Christ better. Please let us know if you're planning to attend: office@uccsalem.org or 503-363-3660.

SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON RACE BOOK DISCUSSION

Our Sacred Conversations on Race will continue this fall with a book discussion of *White Like Me: Reflections on Race From a Privileged Son* by Tim Wise. This book describes some of Wise's personal experience grappling with whiteness and white privilege, which is an important step for us as a predominantly white congregation. The group will meet on Sundays from 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginning on **September 20** and running for six weeks. We encourage you to attend whichever sessions you can -- we will discuss one chapter per session. The discussion will be hosted by Stephen Jenkins. If you have any questions, contact Stephen at stephenjenkins@gmail.com

Please sign up in the Church Office and indicate if you want us to order you a book. We will place the order on Wednesday, September 16. Books cost \$12.42 each.

MONDAY NOON BOOK GROUP

Learn to see as the mystics see with the Monday Noon Book Study Group. Beginning **September 21**, we will discuss Richard Rohr's book *The Naked Now*. A Franciscan priest and spiritual author, Rohr uses scripture to introduce us to the "non-dualistic views" of mystics--We are One and can live in the present. Please sign up in the Church Office and indicate if you want us to order you a book.

2015 WOMEN'S RETREAT

Calling all women of our church!
Please join us for our annual Women's

Retreat on **September 26**, 2015 at the West Salem 4-H Center. The retreat will be centered on the topic of prayer. In the morning, Sister Jeanine from the Shalom Center in Mt. Angel will speak about various types of prayer and its use in cultivating a relationship with God. In the afternoon, Joan Wiens will be teaching us about women and prayer throughout the centuries. In addition, Joan will be helping us reflect on our own prayer life and create our own prayer journals. The retreat begins at 9 a.m. and will wrap up around 6 p.m. Our meals will include a continental style breakfast and salad/sandwich lunch. As always, there will be time for fun and fellowship throughout the day. Registration fees are \$45, and sign-ups will begin August 30, 2015 in the McDougle Narthex. If you plan to attend, please sign up ahead of time. At the sign-up table, you will also get a list of items to bring to the retreat. If you have any questions, please email or call me.

Susan Hall

susan1hall@hotmail.com

971-218-7695.

BIG QUESTIONS OVER BREWS

Join us for your favorite beverage and exciting theological discussion in a relaxed setting on Tuesday, **September 29** at 5:30 pm at Gilgamesh Brewery
Topic: **Is it time for Protestants to listen to the Pope?**

Progressive Protestants were, to say the least, unimpressed with the previous Pope, and often found ourselves at odds with his teaching and the teaching of the Vatican. Now, Pope Francis is

speaking out on many issues that progressive Christians care deeply about, including economic justice, inequality and climate change. In particular, his recent Encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, has generated condemnation from conservatives and rejoicing from progressives in its call for an "Ecological Spirituality" that addresses the threats of climate change, injustice, AND the need for cultivation of Christian virtues and the life of the spirit. Come and discuss a section of Pope Francis' encyclical that explores this connection, and in particular the call for the renewal of a vibrant Christian spirituality as a dimension of the "ecological conversion" our world needs to create a culture of life. You may find the reading posted on our website, or request it from the office. Led by Pastor Janet Parker.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Our Steve Yant is hosting a table for FCUCC people at this event on **October 6** at 8 a.m. at the Salem Convention Center. Please register online (www.salemhabitat.org) or call 503-364-6642 and indicate that Steve Yant is your table host. We need ten of us to fill one table, so if we register early, we might host a second table as well. Please contact Steve if you have questions: gozo41@comcast.net

CALENDAR

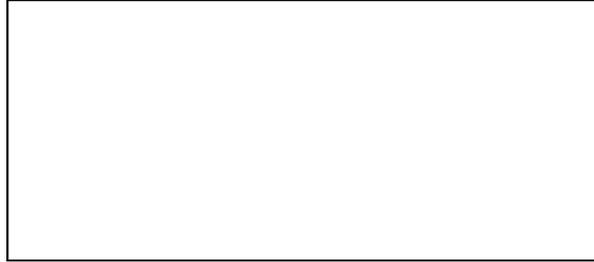
- Thursday, September 10 7:00 p.m. Learning Hour Teachers mtg., Nursery
7:15 p.m. Weekly Chancel Choir rehearsals resume in the Sanctuary: every Thursday at 7:15 p.m.
- Saturday, September 12 Youth raft trip, Sacred Conversation about Race and Youth Lock In
- Sunday, September 13 10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Sundaes Sunday
Reception of new members during worship.
11:45 a.m. Lock in ends
11:45 a.m. Opportunity Fair, Huntington Hall
Fellowship Time & Sundaes
- Tuesday, September 15 5:30 p.m. Deacons meeting, Nursery
- Wednesday, September 16 1:30 p.m. Women's Fellowship Circles meet
Day Circle at Lyndsey Houser's
Former Evening Circle at Lois Alexander's
6:30 p.m. Community Committee meeting, Conf. Rm.
7:00 p.m. Christian Education Board mtg., Nursery
- Saturday, September 19 10:00 a.m. All Church Potluck Brunch— Program presented by Tom Madison. See article.
6:00 p.m. LGBTQ dinner at Venti's. See article.
- Sunday, September 20 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time, Talkington Hall
12 noon Getting Acquainted Lunch
12:30 p.m. Youth groups meet
12:30 p.m. Youth groups parent orientation meeting
6:30 p.m. Sacred Conversation Book Discussion
12 midnight Shalom deadline
- Monday, September 21 12 noon Monday Noon Book Study Group starts
6:30 p.m. Opening Ceremony of "34 Days for Peace" organized by Oregonians for Peace
- Wednesday, September 23 9:30 a.m. Bazaar Crafts, Nursery
5:30 p.m. Taizé Prayer Service, Mayflower Chapel
- Friday, September 24 9:00 a.m. Women's Retreat at West Salem 4-H Center see article.

Annual Meeting of the Central Pacific UCC Conference
in Pendleton, through Sunday September 27.

- Sunday, September 27 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
12:30 p.m. Youth Groups
5:00 p.m. SIHN Families arrive for a week's stay
6:30 p.m. Sacred Conversation Book Discussion
- Tuesday, September 29 5:30 p.m. Big Questions over Brews

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Harvest F est

Sunday, October 25

immediately following worship
Potluck Lunch—Games-Crafts-Costumes

