



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
October 14, 2015

October Reflections:
The Praise of the Spider
—by Richard L. Floyd

*"Let every living creature praise the
lord!" - Psalm 150:6*



The great Puritan divine Jonathan Edwards was a close observer of the natural world, in which he everywhere saw glimpses of the goodness and glory of God. He was especially fascinated by spiders and wrote a learned essay about them when he was only 11 years old. He wrote, "Of all insects, no one is more wonderful than the spider."

Edwards is often only remembered for his infamous sermon, *Sinners in the Hands of An Angry God*, in which he likened the sinner to a spider dangling over a fire. But in a kinder, gentler, reflection on spiders, Edwards saw in

their various capacities something wonderful. He marveled at their industry, their ability to fly, and their skill in fabricating beautiful webs.

In their "admirable way of working" he wrote, we "see the exuberant goodness of the Creator."

Edwards was the second pastor of the church in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, where I am a member. Yesterday I was hiking in the woods not far from our church, and I came across an elaborate spider's web strung between two trees. Dappled sunshine was streaming through it.

I thought of Edwards and how, even though he lived three hundred years ago, his spider must have been much like this one, working and spinning and quietly praising God.

Prayer

You have made us to praise you, O God. May the thoughts of our hearts and the works of our hands daily praise you for your exuberant goodness.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Prayers of healing are requested for **Pastor Janet's father, Tom Parker**, who just had Mohs surgery to remove squamous cell skin cancer from his ear lobe...

Prayers for continued healing for **Marian Nettleton**, who is recovering at home from gall bladder surgery...

Condolences for **Gin Sawin's friend, Kaye Garver**, who lost her husband on Sept. 27th to an inoperable tumor. Kaye is the lay pastor assigned to the United Methodist Church in Wallowa, Oregon...

Prayers for comfort for **Phyllis Burr and family** as they mourn the loss of **Art Burr**, who passed away on October 1, at the age of 86. A celebration of life was held on October 9 at the Keizer Heritage Center. Art and Phyllis were longtime members of our church until they left the church about ten years ago...

Prayers of thanksgiving for the steady recovery of **Kathy Crummer** from knee replacement surgery, and for **Nancy Winner's** successful cataract surgery.

Prayers for continued healing for **Judith Taussig**, who recently fell and injured her knee and has been on the road to recovery...

Prayers for the full rehabilitation and return home of **Mary Perez**, mother of Joseph Perez, who was in the hospital for over three months after a botched

gall bladder surgery left her with an infection and on a ventilator. Prayers for patience, hope, and perseverance as she continues her recovery at a rehab center...

Prayers for Robyn Hartwig's aunt, **Joyce Hartwig**, who is critically ill with a blood infection and atrial fibrillation due to aggressive chemo treatments for brain cancer--prayers that her bone marrow will start working again and she will be able to fight off the infection and recover...

Condolences and prayers for comfort for **Joy Hayhurst** and her family. Her nephew **Bob's daughter, Sarena Moore**, was one of the students killed in the horrific shooting at **Umpqua Community College**. Let us hold all of the victims' loved ones, and the whole community of UCC and Roseburg, Oregon in our continued prayers. Let us pray with the Pastor Randy Scroggins, a local pastor and father of one of the survivors, that "violence will not have the last word."

BABY CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to Daniel and Janna Meyers, proud parents of Luke Steven Meyers! Luke



came into the world three weeks early on Monday Oct. 5 at 4:44 a.m. He is healthy, at home, and doing

fine, having the impressive preemie birth weight of 7 lbs. 1 oz. Oregon native Daniel Meyers came to our church

in 2004 as a Lilly Foundation intern and Willamette University student. He became a member in discernment in our church and was ordained here on August 11, 2013. He and Janna recently moved from New York City to Indianapolis, Indiana. Daniel is the Director of the Center for Faith and Vocation at Butler University.



Marcia's 25th

HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY, MARCIA HAUFF!

This **Sunday, October 18**, at 3 p.m. our amazing organist is celebrating 25 years at First Congregational Church. She will present an organ recital for our congregation, the public, and invited guests.

Marcia will delight us with music from composers starting with Bach, then bring us into the 20th Century!

A reception honoring Marcia will follow the recital in Talkington Hall. Please join us as we pull out all the stops to celebrate her 25 years as our church organist with our tributes and gifts. To donate to Marcia's Appreciation Fund, please send your gifts to the church office, with "Marcia's 25th" in the memo line. An RSVP for the reception is greatly appreciated by the planners: office@uccsalem.org

SALEM INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK UPDATE

We had a great week with the SIHN families. One of the dads had this comment: "This has been my favorite

church-great food and really nice people". Thank you to everyone who helped make our week of great hospitality possible. As I said in the last article, we have a quick turn around with our last week of 2015 beginning November 8th. Signups for volunteering options will begin Sunday **October 18th**.

Also, please plan to join our UCC table at the Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network fundraiser on Friday, **October 30th** at the Opera House. See Chris Sproul or me, so we have an idea how many will join us. *Susan Bearden*

YOUTH & CONFIRMATION UPDATE

Youth groups are going strong! This last month youth: heard from Bethany Loberg and Toby Rhine about service abroad; talked about stress and play as a spiritual practice...and played capture the flag; and made it to several parks to spend time in this lovely fall weather together. This next month will bring more games, spiritual conversation and fun, and a conversation about addiction and recovery with a local drug counselor and church member in recovery. Youth group meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday from 12-2 p.m.

Confirmation began on October 4 with our 12 confirmands and their 12 mentors, and a powerful conversation about the nature of God - how do we know God, and what do we believe (or not believe) about God? Our confirmation class is largely online this time around, with twice-a-month in-person meetings at the Ike Box. Confirmands

are reading articles and discussing online, and then having coffee and fleshing out more in person. These first two weeks we read or watched brief articles/clips by Barbara Brown Taylor, Stephen Colbert, Anne Lamott, Kate Braestrup, and Martin Copenhaver. Big ideas and big questions coming out of our confirmation class this fall - stay tuned for updates here and in worship, and please keep us in your prayers!

34 DAYS OF PEACE

Nonviolence researcher Erica Chenoweth will deliver the 26th annual **Salem Peace Lecture** in Willamette University's Hudson Hall, located in the Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center on the Willamette University campus, at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, **October 21, 2015**. Her topic will be "Nonviolent Resistance: Does It Really Work?" and will draw on her ground-breaking research into that question.

Dr. Chenoweth's investigation reveals that nonviolent regime change is twice as likely to be successful as regime change attempted by violent means and furthermore that when successful, it is twice as likely to be long-lasting.

For additional information, please contact Karen Wood of the Willamette University Office of the Chaplains, (503) 370-6213.

Friday, **October 23** at 7 p.m. in our Sanctuary: **concert** by Jan Michael Looking Wolf. Jan Michael Looking Wolf is a renowned Native American Flute recording artist, performer, Edu-

cator, and published author. He is a Kalapuya Tribal Member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and resides within his indigenous homelands in Oregon. He has risen to a world class Native American Flutist with 19 CDs and 3 DVDs recorded on various Indie Record Labels – earning 52 National Award Recognitions that include *Music Video of the Year*, *Record of the Year*, and *Artist of the Year* at the Native American Music Awards. He also won the highly sought after Native American Music Award for *Flutist of the Year* and for Best Flutist at the Indian Summer Music Awards. Jan Michael's lifeway and musical expressions are based on the tradition of **One Heart**. In short, it is a truth that we are equal regardless of the color of our skin, tribal affiliation, language we speak, income, gender, faith, nationality or personal beliefs. **One Heart** is the recognition of Unity through Diversity. His music carries a message of hope for oneness of humanity.

FALL CLEAN-UP DAY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 24



Please join the Trustees and others for our fall clean-up day on Saturday, **October 24** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Put on your gardening gloves, bring your pruners or other tools and spend a few hours sprucing up our grounds. Traditionally, the Trustees serve coffee and treats.

LGBTQ BRUNCH

Saturday, **October 24** at 11 a.m., at Sybil's Omelettes, 2373 State Street. Please contact Pat at 503-302-3044 or Nancy at 503 302-3043 if you plan to attend.

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Planning for the Annual Giving Campaign for the 2016 budget is underway! This year's theme is "Faith-filled Living, Extravagant Giving." Our Annual Giving Campaign will launch in worship on Sunday, **October 25** and conclude a week earlier this year on Sunday, November 15. More details will be forthcoming soon about our innovative approach this year and how *you* can participate. One opportunity will be a **special 2-session adult education series with Pastor Janet** following worship on November 1 and 8, on the theme of *Giving as a Spiritual Practice*. The sessions will be based on the book, *Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life* by Mark Allan Powell. Excerpts from the book will be available for advance reading in the office beginning on Oct. 20.

BIG QUESTIONS OVER BREWS IN OCTOBER

"Could *right failure* be more important to Jesus than *right belief*?" Join us to discuss this thought-provoking question from Eric Elnes' book, *Gifts of the Dark Wood*, on **October 27** at 5:30 pm. We have been meeting at Gilgamesh but conditions are not ideal so stay tuned for a possible change in location. You may pick up the reading in the office or request it by email from Pastor Janet.

DINNER AND "STATE OF THE GROUNDS" MEETING



On Wednesday, **October 28**, join us for a soup dinner at 6 p.m. as a community and a meeting to discuss our current policy of allowing our homeless brothers and sisters to sleep on our property. Noah Garrison and Annemieke Laport will provide lentil soup and bread. Please come as we hear about all the experiences we have been having, the facts we have learned, the people we have encountered, the impacts on our neighbors and building users, and the successes and challenges we have faced. We will talk and pray together and discern our way forward as a congregation. We need your voice, your ideas, and your wisdom. Join us around the table on October 28 at 6 p.m.

KAIROS LUNCH PROGRAM Volunteers needed! Teens, Families and individuals!

Please join members of the Mission and Outreach committee to prepare and serve a meal at the Kairos lunch program on **Sunday, November 1**. Arrive at our neighbor's place - St. Mark Lutheran church - at 12:30 p.m., to help prepare and serve a meal to often over 100 individuals at 2 p.m., clean up and

be done by just after 3 p.m. Initially, our church plans to participate in this rewarding experience two times per year. To sign up or for more information, please contact Laurie Hoefer at 503-989-3801 or hoefer-laurie@yahoo.com. Thank you.

COMMUNITY FORUM ON ACHIEVING RACIAL EQUITY IN SALEM

Please mark your calendars for a panel discussion and forum on "Achieving Racial Equity in Salem," to be held at our church on Friday, **November 13**, at 7:00 PM. We are hoping that this event will be an opportunity for our panelists to share what they see as both the obstacles and opportunities for achieving racial equity in Salem. Panelists include:

- Benny Williams, NAACP Salem-Keizer chapter president
- Andrea Miller, CAUSA Executive Director
- Navneet Kaur, member of Salem Human Rights Commission and a leader within the Sikh community
- Levi Harris, Pastor of Pauline Memorial AME Zion
- Ronnie Brooks, Pastor of To God Be the Glory Ministries
- Fran Loberg (invited), FCUCC member and Member of the Racial Justice Organizing Committee in Salem

We are hoping to have Chief Jerry Moore of the Salem Police Department join us. He has been invited and we are awaiting his response.

We are grateful to all who have participated in our Sacred Conversations on Race and we hope you will take time to

participate in this important conversation as well as help welcome members of the Salem community to our church. Please contact Pastor Janet or Stephen Jenkins (stephenpjenkins@gmail.com) with questions.

AWESOME TEE-SHIRTS COMING SOON



Thank you to everyone who supported the Welcoming Committee in our tee-shirt fundraiser. The red and white tee-shirts have been ordered and will arrive in a few weeks.

Featuring the UCC tagline "God is still speaking," on the front and our church's website on the back, the eye-catching shirts will help spread the word about our great church. The Welcoming Committee designed the shirts in coordination with the Outreach and Stewardship Task Force. Proceeds from shirt sales will go toward welcoming activities and events, freeing up valuable space in the church budget for lawn care, mission work, mortgage payments or other worthy items that were cut from the budget this year.

Welcoming Committee members Margaret May, Hazel Niles, Sally Ridenour, Melvin Stewart, Pat White, Linda Brown and Lyda Rice came up with the idea after hearing about the Outreach and Stewardship Task Forces efforts to grow our membership and build a sustainable budget.

Shirts should be delivered in mid-October. We'll call and email everyone who ordered shirts to let them know

when they arrive. You can pick them up before or after church.

If you missed an opportunity to order a shirt, please contact a committee member; if we get enough requests, we may be able to place a second order. Thank you for your support and participation!

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD SHARE

Did you know that in addition to celebrating the sacrament of Holy Communion every first Sunday, we also collect non-perishable food items or monetary donations to the Marion Polk Food Share on first Sundays? Please use the big barrel in the Sanctuary to drop off your food donations; you may place your check in the collection plate. Please make it out to the church and write Food Share on the memo line. Thank you.

PASTOR ROBYN HARTWIG IS AWARDED CLERGY RENEWAL GRANT FROM THE LILLY FOUNDATION

Robyn, Pastor Janet's wife, and Associate Pastor at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Beaverton, is one of the recipients of the competitive Lilly Clergy Renewal Grants for 2016. Robyn will focus on "Returning to the Rhythms of God," during her three month sabbatical from February through the beginning of May. During her time away from St. Andrew, Robyn will participate in a broad spectrum of spiritual practices, explore indigenous communities that live close to the land (both here in the U.S. and also in Taiwan, where she will focus upon the indigenous Christians of the Taiwanese church), and will also

take part in a drum facilitation training in Myrtle Beach, SC. She will explore her rural roots in time spent with both of her parents, and travel to the heavily rural and tribal Yunnan province in China with her mother. Pastor Janet, who taught English as a Presbyterian missionary in Taiwan for a year between college and seminary plans to join her for the Taiwan leg of her sabbatical after Easter. To read more about the grant and Robyn's plans, see the article just published in the Beaverton Valley Times about it, online at <http://portlandtribune.com/bvt/15-news/276150-151410-st-andrews-pastor-robyn-hartwig-finds-gods-rhythms>

FAITH DIALOGUES AT ST. MARK

This year's Faith Dialogues at St. Mark Lutheran church (our neighbor) feature Dr. Susan Pitchford, speaking on the theme, "A Spirituality of Joy: Saint Francis for Today." These events are free and open to the public. Dr. Pitchford is a sociologist at the University of Washington and a professed member of the Third Order, Society of St. Francis. The schedule is as follows:

Friday, **October 16**, 7:30—8:30 p.m.
Francis and Clare of Assisi: A Spirituality of Joy.

Saturday, **October 17**, 9:00—10:15 a.m.: Faith Beyond Sunday: Having a Rule of Life.

Saturday, October 17, 10:30—11:45 a.m.: Faith Beyond Sunday: Creating Your Rule of Life. For more information, see the poster for this event on the bulletin board across from the church office.

Causa's 20th Anniversary Gala

Friday, Oct. 23, 2014 at 6 p.m
Oaks Pavilion
7805 SE Oaks Park Way
Portland, OR 97202

Tickets: \$75 per person

Tickets include dinner, a drink
and entrance.

Join us as we eat and enjoy live music!



QUOTABLE CORNER

Compliments of David Belcher

“Love recognizes no barriers. it jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.”

Maya Angelou

“The need for change bulldozed a road down the center of my mind.”

Maya Angelou

Annual Holiday Bazaar and Art Sale sponsored and organized by our Women's Fellowship



**Friday, November 6
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

**Saturday, November 7
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Raffle tickets for a chance to win a Priscilla Strayer handmade quilt
are on sale now.**

CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 14	7:00 p.m.	Council meeting
Friday, October 16	7:00 p.m.	Confluence Gala-a-Go-Go Fundraising Evening
Sunday, October 18	11:45 a.m.	Fellowship Time and 90 th Birthday Celebration of Betty Helm, Parlor
	3:00 p.m.	25 th Anniversary Organ Recital by Marcia Hauff
	4:30 p.m.	Marcia's 25th Anniversary Reception
Tuesday, October 20	5:30 p.m.	Deacons meeting, Conference Room
Wednesday, October 21	1:30 p.m.	Women's Fellowship Circles meet: Day Circle @ Betty Helm's Former Evening Circle @ Lyda Rice's
	6:30 p.m.	Community Committee mtg. Conf. Room
	7:00 p.m.	Christian Education mtg. Nursery
	7:30 p.m.	Annual Peace Lecture, Hudson Hall, Willamette University
Friday, October 23	7:00 p.m.	34 Days for Peace Concert, Sanctuary
Saturday, October 24	9:30 a.m.	Bazaar bread baking, kitchen
	11:00 a.m.	LGBTQ brunch @ Sybil's, 2373 State Street
Sunday, October 25	11:45 a.m.	Potluck Lunch and Harvest Fest
Tuesday, October 27	5:30 p.m.	Big Questions over Brews @ Gilgamesh
Wednesday, October 28	5:30 p.m.	Taizé Prayer Service
	6:00 p.m.	Dinner and "State of the Grounds" mtg.
Sunday, November 1	12 midnight	Shalom deadline
Wednesday, November 4	7:00 p.m.	Peace and Justice meeting
Friday, November 6	9:00 a.m.	Bazaar until 6 p.m.
Saturday, November 7	9:00 a.m.	Bazaar until 4 p.m.
	9:05 a.m.	Men's Breakfast at downtown McGrath's Restaurant
Sunday, November 8	5:00 p.m.	Families in the Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network arrive for a week's stay.
Tuesday, November 10	6:30 p.m.	Trustees meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Reiki Share Circle
Monday, November 16	6:30 p.m.	Woman Spirit meets at Bev & Jenny's bevjenny@comcast.net for more info



RECURRING EVENTS

Mondays

12 p.m. Adult Book Study

Wednesdays

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

7:00 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal

Thursdays

7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Contemplative Prayer Group

9:15 a.m. Living the Questions 2.0, Adult Learning Hour

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time

6:30 p.m. Book discussion: *White Like Me*. Last meeting Oct. 25.

Youth Groups meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Confirmation Journey meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

12 noon to 2 p.m. for both groups.

Men's Breakfast

1st Saturdays at 8:05 a.m.

@ downtown McGrath's Restaurant

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD SHARE

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HARVEST FEST — OCTOBER 25

Following worship on **Sunday, October 25**, we'll gather in Talkington Hall for a soup and sandwich lunch and our annual Harvest Fest for All Ages.

There will be fun activities, games, pumpkin carving, and music for children and adults, including a cupcake walk. Prizes will be given for the "best costume," and "best decorated cupcake."

Come join the fun!

Sign ups to bring a lunch item are available on Sundays.
We are looking for a free or inexpensive source of pumpkins for carving.
Children and teens are encouraged to wear their (non-gory) Halloween costumes to worship that day.

*Maya Close
Community Committee*

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