



The Corvallis United Methodist

Nov. 30, 2017 Volume 63, Issue 12 www.corvallisfumc.org

Shining A Little Light

Advent Events

- 12/3 Worship 9:30 am
Shining a light of peace into the chaos.
Forum Guest — Ryan Hall of Pace Bene
- 12/8 Carol Sing & Potluck Dessert 7:00 pm
- 12/9 Messy Church 4:00 pm
- 12/10 Worship 9:30 am
Shining a light of hope for those without place.
Forum Guest — Francisco López
- 12/17 Worship 9:30 am
Shining a light of love on those needing voice.
Forum Guest — Mike Courtly of Casework

Christmas Eve Services

- 9:30 am Shining the light of joy that rises
from the Christmas story
- 4:00 pm Family Friendly/Children's Choirs
- 7:00 pm Traditional/Adult Choir/Handbells
- 10:00 pm Contemplative Candlelight & Carols

We are a congregation on a journey to Sustainability, recognizing that we are stewards of God's creation for all generations, and believing that all human needs must be met equitably. The Natural Step Framework is our guide to Sustainability.

We are a Reconciling Congregation that welcomes everyone into full participation in the life of this church! Your age, sexual orientation, gender identity, racial or ethnic background, economic situation, marital status, and physical or mental condition will enrich the fabric of our community. We accept all people as children of God.

Random Musings from Pastor Barbara

Advent begins! In our Christian tradition this is a season of expectancy and waiting with purpose – a time for preparation of sorts. What can it mean that Jesus was born centuries ago? In the secular world, and in many of our lives as well, this season is about getting ready in other ways. Buying gifts, sending cards, planning or attending parties, decorating, travel, baking and cooking. It can be overwhelming, exhausting and expensive in many households.

Over time, I have worked pretty hard at one overarching theme in the weeks before Christmas –

Make priorities.

I have found when trying to do EVERYTHING that seems important, I do not enjoy much of anything and the results of my efforts are often half-hearted or incomplete. I was often overwhelmed. Once I began consciously deciding what mattered most, many things actually fell off the “to do” list altogether or got done later. (For instance, Christmas cards, if I send them at all, have become Valentine greetings.) In making these kinds of choices, I find I have more time and energy for the things that matter most to ME and, consequently, there is more room for joy!

This year’s priorities?

- time for church related opportunities, especially leading up to Christmas Eve!
- time for my children and grandchildren
- time to do simple decorations for my house and little tree
- time to dye my hair pink ☺
- spontaneous possibilities that arise

I would venture that many of us approach this season with conscious choices of one kind or another, deciding how to spend our time, money and energy. This is really just common sense.

This year I’d like us to notice that this same common sense applies to our engagement of the many complicated challenges we face in our nation and in our global community. Every day we are bombarded with headlines about one potential crises or another. We want to stay informed, which can take a great deal of time. We want to be actively involved in what might be helpful, which can consume lots of our energy. We want to support organized efforts that address our concerns but we see far more need than our financial resources can possibly underwrite. Little efforts scattered here and there seem half-hearted and incomplete. And it is so easy to be confused and overwhelmed.

My hope for each of us is that we spend a little time establishing that over-arching theme:

Make priorities.

What are your greatest concerns? If you can name those, perhaps giving them more focused attention will actually be more effective and certainly more satisfying.

My justice and peace priorities in no particular order?

- Healthcare for all
- Fair treatment of refugees and immigrants
- Learning to make peace where there is violence, especially gun violence
- Addressing climate change

These are big topics – certainly more than I can handle. BUT – by naming them, I am less likely to be pulled off-track by some tweet or headline meant to distract or deflect. Furthermore, since we are a justice and peace seeking people, we can share important information and opportunities with each other through newsletter, Now Testaments, constant contact email, word of mouth, Facebook and, of course, our Faith in Action Teams. And with our varied interests and passions, we can know that someone among us is paying attention where we might not have our focus.

In these and other ways, may we make room for the joy that comes when we follow our deepest passions and work together until God’s kingdom comes in fullness...

email: revbabs2000@gmail.com ~ phone: 208.991.8464

SHARE THE JOY.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS

2017

Choose From:

Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center
UMCOR—Puerto Rico
Room At The Inn

\$5, \$10 & \$25 donations



MIXES IN A JAR
Proceeds support our
Youth Mission Trip

\$10

Friendship soup,	Quinoa Curry (gluten free)
Three Grain Pilaf	Layered Lentil Soup
Triple—Dips	Coffee Cake Supreme

WHAT IS MESSY CHURCH

- It is for adults and children to enjoy together - every element is designed to be relevant and accessible to all ages.
- It uses hands-on activities to explore Bible stories, to reflect a God of creativity and to give people a chance to play together.
- Messy Church is about hospitality. We conclude our time together by sharing a meal.



Theme:

Jesus the light for world
Luke 2:1-21; Matthew 2:1-12

Meal:

Turkey Pie

When:

Saturday, December 9, 2017

Where:

FUMC 1165 NW Monroe
Community Center

**J
O
I
N
U
S**



FALL FUN-RAISER

- We will sing and play games
- Wonder about who would follow the star
- Learn about special Three Kings Day traditions
- Eat dessert and choose some people to become Magi

Saturday, January 6
2:00-4:00pm

\$5.00 per person
\$12.50 maximum per family

Tickets on-sale
throughout December

Three Kings Day
Party

Faith In Action Teams

Environmental Care

Most of us recycle and many of us “reuse”. Here’s another small way we can “reuse”. When those shampoo and conditioner bottles are empty rather than recycling them, take them to First Alternative and refill them with their bulk products. You win with a quality, less expensive products. And there are two bottles aren’t in the recycle stream.

Here’s a nice idea for an Earth Friendly gift. “Simply is Season” is a cookbook published by the Mennonite Community. These are recipes that celebrate fresh, local and seasonal food. You can find it at your local bookstore.

This cold wet weather just calls for a big pot of soup for supper. Think about what’s in season now. Winter squash, potatoes and roots of all sorts are plentiful now. Winter greens are available as well. Use your imagination and season the pot with Indian curry spices. Coconut milk tames the spice and adds richness.

Make Peace

Make Peace is one of our congregation’s faith in action teams. We offer opportunities for individuals in our church and the community to make peace for and within themselves, in their relationships with others, and in our community and the world. It is by making peace that we address the root causes of violence and bring forth a less violent world.

Our offerings include workshops, short-term studies and classes, and activities within the Corvallis community.

Watch for announcements of future events and opportunities in this monthly newsletter, the church-wide weekly e-mail news, and the Sunday worship bulletin insert. You are also invited to join the Make Peace Google group e-mail list to receive regular updates and announcements. Contact Elizabeth Nielsen at nielsenrek@comcast.net to join us and learn how you can participate in making peace.



In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Mary Ann Sward & family, following the death of her mother in late October.

Family of Emery Castle, who died on October 31.

Lee Van Nice & family, after the death of his brother.

Tudy Seistrup, recovering from a broken arm.

Rick Garvin, recovering nicely from a repair to a cervical disc.

Vera Purtzer, in and out of the hospital with health issues.

Jerry Borden, dealing with some broken ribs.

Bob Yeats, after surgery.

Craig Hanson & family and Chris Hanson, after the death of their mother and member June Hanson on November 9.

Remember: *Jorge Rodriguez Flores*, National Plan for Hispanic Ministries, United Methodist Ministries of Salem-Keizer.

Third Grade Bible Presentation

Bibles will be presented on **Sunday, December 3** to the following children: Elijah Adler, Elaina Ponder, Charlotte Storch, Levi Storch, Lucy Thomas, MacKenzie Tollstrup. If we missed your child, let us know.



One of the nice things about Christmas is you can make people forget the past with a present.

Pick Your Passion



Game Night

Friday, December 1 and 15 game night from **6:30-9:30 pm** in the Martha Room (B19). Bring a favorite board or card game to play. Drop in anytime; bring a snack to share, if you wish. Everyone welcome. Children and youth need to be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Questions? Contact Elizabeth Nielsen at 541.757.0057 or nielsenrek@comcast.net.

Amore Music Series Production

The next noon-time Amore Music Series Organ Concert is **Wednesday, December 20, 12:15-12:45 pm** in the Sanctuary. Christmas music from France performed by Craig Hanson. Free but donations to support the series are appreciated.

4F

4-F will meet for their Christmas soup supper/white elephant gift exchange on **Sunday December 17 at 5:00 pm** at the Stoneybrook Clubhouse. Each person bring a white elephant for the gift exchange. In addition, non-perishable food and/or cash will be collected for the South Corvallis Food Bank. All are invited to attend. Parking is limited, so carpooling is encouraged. Questions? contact Mariol Wogaman, 541.754.8177, wogamantm@comcast.net; or Phyllis Pearson 541.753.4687, pjquilter@comcast.net.

Save These Dates

Saturday, January 13 – Conference-wide Reconciling Ministries event hosted by us, **10:00 am – 2:00 pm**. Watch for details.

Sunday, January 22 – Faith in Action Potluck Brunch, **10:45 am**.

Saturday, January 27 – Finding Voice, Part 1, **9:45 am – noon**. It's hard work to talk about what you believe without using church words but, with this safe and light-hearted approach, you can explore ideas. (Questions? Ask Pastor Barbara.)

ALL CHURCH CAROL SING & DESSERT POTLUCK

SAVE THE DATE
Friday, December 8
7:00 pm
Community Center



Financial Matters

October 2017 General Fund Income: \$43,559.10
 October 2017 General Fund Expenses: \$41,194.54
 YTD General Fund Income: \$453,844.75
 YTD General Fund Expenditure: \$437,092.37
 YTD **Surplus**: \$16,752.38

Last month I noted that a number of very generous members of this church have been contributing over and above their pledges in order to help reduce the deficit. At time of writing, it seems that we have reached a plateau, and the forecast deficit is NOT shrinking any further. I am still forecasting a deficit of about <\$10,000.00>. Of course we have yet to see the results from the various 'Fun Raisers.'

I also made note last month regarding the payment of Apportionments and have been asked to clarify my comments on this subject.

Corvallis FUMC was asked to pay a total of \$80,870.00 as its share of Apportionments for 2017. This is \$6,739.17 per month. As of September 30th, we have paid a total of \$60,652.52. Because of our budget situation, and my forecast of a deficit at year end, it has been determined that the last 3 months of Apportionments (October, November and December) would be withheld until early December when we would have a better understanding of our year-end financial position.

There is one other item with which we in the back office need assistance from church members. It has come to my attention that there are some persons making cash donations to the church who appear to be putting cash into a folded Attendance Sheet. Please don't. Please use one of the envelopes that can be found in the pews. We are never certain whether the money in the attendance sheets should be attributed to the person whose name is on the attendance sheet, or perhaps the money is from the loose cash donations.

John Reed, Business Manager

Memorial service and reception for
 June Hanson
 Saturday, December 23, 1:00 pm

Prepare for Pink

Be prepared for the Pretty in Pink weekend – **December 8-10**. You'll have several opportunities to see Barbara with her new pink hairdo. You can sing with pink hair at the Carol Sing on December 8. At messy church on Saturday you can share a meal with a lady with pink hair. Lastly on December 10 you can listen to the pastor with the pink hair.

**Church and Church Office
 Closed
 Monday, December 25 for
 Christmas
 and
 Monday, January 1 for
 New Years' Day**

Nonagenarians

One who is between the age of 90 and 99, inclusive.
 One who is in his or her tenth decade.

- *On the day before Christmas, December 24, Fern Hoagland reaching 94.*
- *On the day after Christmas, December 26, Steve Besse celebrating being 98.*

Contributions

All **2017 contributions** must be in the church office or postmarked by December 31. All contributions after this date will be applied to 2018.



Once upon a time...

There was a congregation who believed that the truest, fullest expression of what we believe about God is revealed in how we behave toward others and ourselves.

Because of that...

We work for a less violent world, a healthier planet, human rights, and economic justice. While we minister directly with many who struggle, we also aim to correct the root causes of these concerns.

With open doors...

Often we work in collaboration with other organizations and faith communities.

And because of open doors and open minds...We offer the following:

- **Voz Hispana Cambio Comunitario**—FUMC is a host satellite location for weekly pathway to citizenship classes.
- **Interfaith Voices**—Pastor Barbara coordinates the Saturday Interfaith Voices column in the Saturday Religion Section of the Gazette Times and Albany Democrat Herald. FUMC hosts Interfaith Voices Live, where column contributors speak about their faith community's perspective on politics and a theological perspective that is unique and fundamental to their beliefs.
- **Workshops for a Less Violent World, a Healthier Planet, Human Rights, and Economic Justice**—including: The Bible and Human Sexuality, a series based on John Dear's book *The Nonviolent Life*; Global Migration and Border Issues Related to Migration; Now is the Time-Healthcare for Everybody; and Conversations Across Apparent Divides.
- **Curbside Garden**—Our curbside garden provided 92 pounds of fresh vegetables for the South Corvallis Food Bank.
- **Native Western Oregon Prairie**—The prairie garden replaced our front lawn, which was comprised of non-native grass that required summer watering and mowing. Now it is populated by more than 25 native plant species, attractive to pollinators and other insects. Hummingbirds use this habitat. Other bird species are beginning to feed in the garden, as well. Our Bee House provides habitat and boosts your *garden's* productivity by providing a happy home for peaceful, non-stinging Mason *bees*. Slightly smaller than honeybees, mason *bees* are incredible pollinators. Each one visits as many as 1,000 blooms per day — 20 times as many as a honeybee!
- **Sustainability Guidelines**—Our Environmental Care Team has adopted guidelines and procedures for running this complex as stewards of God's creation for all generations, and believing that all human needs must be met equitably.

• • • And this is not a fairytale

Advent – Shining a Little Light

December 3 Forum Guest Ryan Hall - Shining a Light of Peace into the Chaos

Pace e Bene is bringing that world into being one person, one group, one organization at a time. Pace e Bene's vision is rooted in the spiritually grounded practice of active nonviolence. For Pace e Bene, nonviolence is an effective principle for social change – and a powerful way of life. For two decades Pace e Bene's unique approach has been transforming lives and reaching people around the globe. Since its founding in 1989, over 30,000 people have taken 700 Pace e Bene workshops to gain tools for more healthy relationships and to create a new society.

Pace e Bene has offices and associates in Oregon, California, Illinois, Iowa, New Mexico, Montreal, Canada, Australia and a growing number of partners and trainers in the US and around the world. Together we work with individuals, organizations, and movements to strengthen their efforts to abolish war, protect human rights, end poverty, challenge injustice, heal the planet, and to meet today's profound spiritual task: to build a more just, peaceful, and nonviolent world.

December 10 Forum Guest Francisco López - Shining a Light of Hope for Those without Place

Come to the Immigration presentation during Pastor's Forum. Francisco Lopez is a Salvadoran-American that came to the United States in 1985 as a refugee from the war in El Salvador. Francisco is a member of Queen of Peace Catholic Church in South Salem and Director of CAUSA, Oregon's Latino immigrant Rights Coalition, one of the largest Latino organizations in the Pacific Northwest. In 2008 he was the Field Director with Voz Hispana Vote Project, a Woodburn-based organization that seeks to empower Latinos by increasing their participation in the American democratic process.

December 17 Forum Guest Mike Coutley - Shining a Light of Love on Those Needing Voice

CareWorks is a support group for people who either provide or receive care. Around 70,000 Oregonians are either providing paid or unpaid care, many whom feel isolated in their own communities. CareWorks helps bring caregivers and consumers out of the shadows to share their personal stories and to support one another. CareWorks is working to find solutions to improving how care is delivered. Oregonians who rely on care is expected to double by 2040.

During our first year CareWorks focused on the legislative session. As a result of meeting with elected officials, SEIU CareWorks helped pass HB 2684 which increases the level of transparency within Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) group homes by adding a required annual staffing survey to show how and where Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) group homes are spending money on workers and various job classifications. CareWorks also helped pass legislation exempting Agency Homecare Workers from non-compete clauses. What this means is home care workers will no longer be trapped in low wage home care jobs and consumers will be able to exercise their right to choose from whom and where they receive their supports and services.

CareWorks is now primarily focused on helping caregivers and consumers navigate the care system. As you may know, CareWorks is working to shine some light on the practices at Memory Care facilities. Benicia is a statewide operator that owns five (5) Memory Care facilities in Oregon. They now own the Conifer House in Corvallis. Over the past three years there have been over 60 substantiated cases of patient abuse at Benicia owned facilities, which can be found on the DHS website. Benicia has plans on expanding their Memory Care operation in Oregon. Which is why they need to improve how care is received in their facilities.

CareWorks is currently working on YES on Measure 101. Measure 101 is a special election on 1/23/18. The outcome affects the healthcare of 350,000 Oregonians, 66,000 of which are children.

Youth Activities

Middle School and High School

Sunday mornings Building Leaders
Today, 10:30-11:30, room 218.
Tuesday nights, 5:00 pm homework club, room 119.
Tuesday nights, 6:30 pm Joyful Path, room 218. Bring a friend!



Date	Time	Event
Sundays, Nov.-Dec.		Mixes in a Jar sales
Sunday, December 3	6:30 pm	High School First Sunday at the Ponders
Sundays, Jan. 21, 28, & Feb. 4		Valentine's brunch sales
Saturday, February 10		Valentine's brunch prep
Sunday, February 11	10:30 am	Valentine's brunch
July 10-15, 2018		Mission trip, Special Olympics state games



Officers for 2018

Church Council

Lay Leader: Jan Walker (chair)

Lay Leader Elect: Jason Foltz

Lay Leader past: Bob Lewis

Secretary: Charlotte Lee

Class of 2018: Darcy Miller, Jim Swinyard, Troy Garrett

Class of 2019: George Brown, Jan Walker,
Courtney Nelson

Class of 2020: Jason Foltz, Andy Adler, Janine Salwasser
Barbara Nixon, pastor

Nominations and Leadership Development Team:

Chair: Barbara Nixon, pastor

Lay Leader: Jan Walker

2018: Brooke Collison, Alicia Straub

2019: Bill Ford, Becki Goslow

2020: Marcie Gregory, Virginia Brittsan

Lay Members to Annual Conference

Courtney Nelson, Andy Belcher (Alternate): _____

Foundation Board:

2017: Norma Taylor

2018: Gordon Reistad, Phyllis Pearson, Bill Mercer

2019: Janet Swinyard, Ann Bateman, Paul Miller

2020: Norma Taylor, Ron Marek, Paul Hammond

Member from Church Council: Troy Garrett

Ex-officio: Pastor Barbara Nixon

Chairs of Other Teams

(You may join these teams any time without a congregational vote. Contact a chair to find out more.)

Personnel: Joe Rich, Jill Mackey-Feist

Congregational Care: Linda Jewett

Facilities: Jim Swinyard, Terry Bolin

Environmental Care: Karen Bloom

Finance: Cindy Dahl, Mary Ann Sward

Make Peace: Elizabeth Nielsen

Kitchen Stewards: Sara Power, Mary Ann Sward

Human Rights: Marilyn Belcher (RMN)

Memorials: Virginia Brittsan

Economic Justice: no chair at this time



First United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

1165 NW Monroe Avenue

Corvallis, OR 97330

Phone: 541.752.2491

Fax: 541.752.3636

E-mail: fumc@corvallisfumc.org

Web site: www.corvallisfumc.org

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday:

9:00-4:00; closed noon-1:00

Barbara Nixon, Pastor

Rob Kirby, Campus Minister

Bob Lewis, Lay Leader

Nursery Care is available.

Church building is accessible.

address label

Our Mission

Our mission is to bring people into a living relationship with God, through Jesus Christ, that we might love the world as God loves the world.



Newsletter Deadline:
December 18, 2017
for the January 2018 Newsletter.