



The Corvallis United Methodist

Dec. 31, 2017 Volume 64, Issue 1 www.corvallisfumc.org

PROVOCATIVE—THOUGHTFUL—POWERFUL*

FAITH IN ACTION POTLUCK BRUNCH

*Sunday, January 21
Community Center*

10:45 Brunch

11:15 Tim DeChristopher, video speaker

11:30 Breakout work sessions

Childcare available

FAITH IN ACTION BRUNCH & WORKSHOP

***PANTONE'S Color of the Year—Ultra Violet. Ultra Violet communicates originality, ingenuity and visionary thinking that points us toward the future.**

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.

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.

Random Musings from Pastor Barbara

A new year has begun. It is admittedly a bit of an artificial marker of time but, like mornings or Mondays, it does invite us to think of new beginnings. I have been asking myself – what are ways we can create new strategies for ourselves, that we might individually and collectively have a bigger, loving impact on our world? What comes to mind initially is that we have much work to do in developing our understanding of others, especially those with whom we might disagree, or those about whom we really don't know much.

The theme for reflection I am lifting up for the first six weeks of 2018 is “Bridging Gaps.” Each week, we'll take a look at a gap – or a perceived gap – and consider what might create a bridge. I am thinking about gaps in our knowledge and deep understanding of other religions and of generations other than our own. I am wondering how carefully we bridge the gap between the Old Testament (the Hebrew Bible) and the New Testament. I am struggling mightily with the gap between who we are as followers of Jesus and how we are perceived by the secular world. These and other gaps are on the table as a new year begins. You can let me know if there is a gap you'd especially like to explore. I have plans for each week but they are indeed flexible to allow for what rises as we reflect together.

Pastor's Forum will resume its normal pattern of providing time to discuss the theme each week. (See elsewhere in this newsletter for information about a new series beginning in the Adult Learning Community as well.)

If you are making new year's resolutions, please seriously consider a commitment to adding any of these into your life in 2018:

- Make Sunday morning worship a truly regular part of the week (including staying for opportunities after worship for ALL ages).
- Join in the fellowship of Tuesday Supper and any of the opportunities connected to it. (kids/ youth choirs, “Explorations in Faith” with Pastor Barbara, Make Peace, Building Better Moms, Bible Olympics for children and youth, special studies)
- Join “Explorations in Faith” with Pastor Barbara on Wednesday mornings at 11 – great discussions of themes for Sundays with Bible study infused. (Also on Tues. nights.)
- Join a book group already in place or start a small interest group of your own – Bev Park and I would be happy to help with this.
- Join choir or handbells or ukuleles (check with Music director Jim Davidson for a precise schedule).
- Volunteer with Room at the Inn Shelter, Stone Soup, Corvallis Family Table or Jammin' for the Hungry – all opportunities for service through our church.
- Talk to Pastor Barbara or Bev Park about how to connect with the nuts and bolts of church life – anything from personnel to finance or property management, from office volunteers to help maintaining our grounds to creating worship space.
- Come to the Faith in Action Brunch – new this year in how brunch is organized AND how we do the work we are committed to out in the world.

Deepening your connection to our community of faith may be one of the best ways to embrace the invitation that a new year brings. But this is really about embracing what Jesus has commanded of those who follow him – that we love. I believe we offer something that can help you do this. I believe you offer something that can help us all do this. Together, we can enlarge and enliven our loving impact on the world. Picturing this as 2018 begins!

email: revbabs2000@gmail.com ~ phone: 208.991.8464

Church Tour
Sunday, January 14, 10:45 am
Meet in the Sanctuary
Our History ~ Our Rooms



January Sermon Series

Bridging the Gaps



We welcome guest speaker, Sandy Bean, on January 7. Sandy is a contributor for the Gazette Times/Albany Democrat Herald Interfaith Voice column. She is a former instructor at OSU and represents the Baha'i faith.

Worship

Sunday, January 7 —9:30am

We welcome Willamette University's Chamber Choir, as they begin their tour season.

Directed by Dr. Wallace Long, Jr., the Chamber Choir is a 42-voice mixed ensemble that performs throughout the Northwest. In 2004, Archbishop Desmond Tutu invited the choir to perform in South Africa. Music from the choir's South African tour is featured on their fifth CD, "Thula Sizwe: A Celebration of Hope." "The New Moon", released in 2010 is a compilation of recordings from 2006-2010. Their most recent 3-disk CD, "Stars", was released in September, 2015, is comprised of recordings from 2010-2015. The Willamette Chamber Choir has performed at the Northwest Regional Convention of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) many times, most recently in Seattle in March of 2012.



THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

From Pat Smythe...

Thank you for all the good wishes and loving care that I have received during my recuperation from my foot injury. Cards, food, phone calls and visits – all are so appreciated. It is wonderful and humbling to be a part of such a gracious community. I am definitely on the mend and feel very blessed. Thank you all.

From Todd Bartlett, Exe. Camping Director...

Please extend my gratitude to the Corvallis UMC for their long-standing support of camp and retreat ministries

Notes from Church Council

With the start of the new year, church council would like to share with you a change starting this month.

In the past, our church has had a very long history of employing two pastors. However, Pastor Barbara has carried the load for all pastoral responsibilities since July 1, 2014. One of her goals this past fall, approved and encouraged by the church council, was to take a break from preaching once a month. We feel that having a fresh voice in the pulpit periodically can be interesting and stimulating. This break in the preaching schedule will provide both variety for the congregation, and some care for Pastor Barbara's time and energy.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jan Walker
Lay Leader at FUMC
jkwalk@comcast.net

*Church and Church Office closed
Monday, January 15 for Martin Luther
King, Jr. Day*

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Pat Smythe, healing with 2 plates, 9 screws, and 2 pins in her broken foot.
Barbara Potter, dealing with some heart issues.
Stan Rich & family, following the death of his mother.
Carolyn Miller, home after spending a few days in the hospital with pneumonia and blood clots.
Family of Robert E. Shirley, who died on November 13 at the age of 96.
Sharon Thompson & family, following the death of husband, Gordon "Gordy" on December 31.
Remember: *Gordon & Teca Greathouse, Missionaries in Residence, General Board of Global Ministries.*

A Wonderful Gift!

We have received word that as part of Emery Castle's estate, he is gifting the church with \$25,000 to be used as the Church Council determines. There are many appropriate projects waiting in the wings. We'll keep you posted!!

Spare Bedroom?

One of our college students, Amanda Petty, will be having her fiancé, Josiah, move to Corvallis March 1 and is looking for a spare bedroom to stay in until they get married in July. He is willing to help around the house and pay rent. He is 28, a Christian, and responsible. If you can help, contact Amanda at ampty@sbcglobal.net, or call or text 915.235.5551.

Pick Your Passion



Game Night

Friday, January 5 and 19 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, January 17, 12:15-12:45 pm** in the Sanctuary. Works by Mendelssohn, Schumann, and Brahms performed by Dr. Bob Thompson. Free but donations to support the series are appreciated.

4F

4F Fellowship Group will be going to the OSU Women's basketball game against the U of Oregon in Gill Coliseum on **Friday, January 19 at 8:00 pm**. We will be going out to dinner before the game: restaurant and time (5:00 or 5:30) to be determined. Attendees are to get their own tickets to the game – only reserved seats have backs and in general are lower down than non-reserved seats. Ticket prices for seniors are \$16 reserved and \$8 general admission. Getting the tickets early is recommended since this is a "big game." New attendees are always welcome. Please **RSVP by January 15** to: Lees (clee@exchangenet.net), 541.752.6559; or Reistads (kfreistad@outlook.com) 541.754.8033.

Forum: Impacts of Measure 101

January 3, 2017, 7–8:30 p.m.

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Learn how Measure 101 will affect healthcare access in Oregon.

Panelists will represent the Oregon Center for Public Policy, our state legislature, and the medical and public health professions.



Sponsors: Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates, Linn-Benton Health Equity Alliance, Corvallis League of Women Voters, and the Interfaith Health Care Network



*Valentine's Brunch & Dessert Auction
Sunday, February 11 10:45 am
Adult/\$10 Child/\$5*

*Proceeds go to fund our Youth Mission trip to
the Oregon Special Olympics State Games.*

Financial Matters

November 2017 General Fund Income: \$39,778.03
November 2017 General Fund Expenses: \$50,797.12

The above numbers represent the end of **November**. However, as the line in the movies goes, ‘that was then, this is now.’

I have been watching the receipt of contributions over the course of this month, and estimating our expenditures for December. One of my concerns was the submission of the last of the ‘Shared Ministries’ (Apportionments) payments for 2017. I noted in the last Newsletter that we would review the situation in early December. Simple arithmetic showed that holding only the December payment would result in the church basically breaking even for the year. Therefore, in early December I sent the October and November payments to the Conference. This left us with December payment still outstanding.

Over the course of December, contributions over and above the expected pledges continued to be received and I determined that we should be able to make the final ‘Shared Ministries’ payment. This check has now gone to the Conference.

Based on further information received as of writing, I am now confident that we will break even. I would like to thank those very generous supporters of this church for their outstanding generosity.

John Reed, Business Manager

Nonagenarians

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

- *You’ll have to wait till February to find out who we’re celebrating next.*

Special Offering

Human Relations

January 14

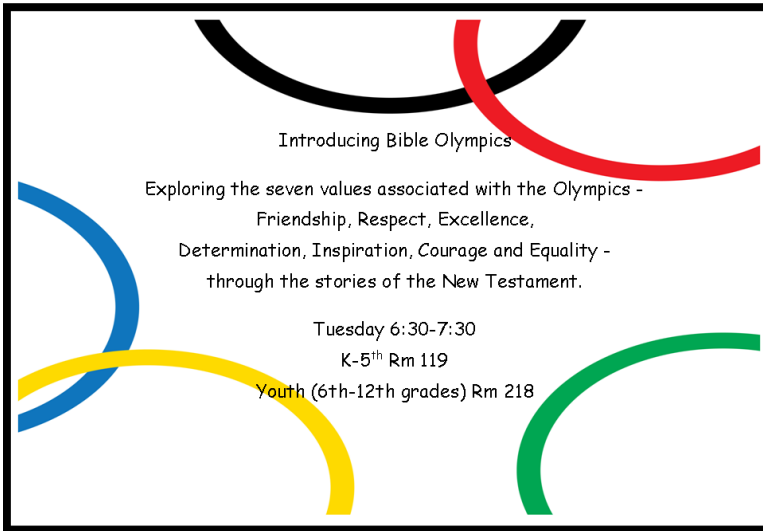
Turn on the news or drive around the outskirts of your town and you will find what Jesus called “the least of these.” Those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive.

Over and over Jesus served people like this, embracing them. And that’s what we want to model as the people of The United Methodist Church. You can help nurture at-risk youth, strengthen communities’ self-improvement efforts, and advocate for the oppressed. Together, we extend a helping hand to those in crisis so they can overcome formidable obstacles.

All monies collected during the special Human Relations Day offering will be funneled to our United Methodist Community Development Program (57%), the United Methodist Voluntary Services Program (33%) and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program (10%).

New Folks Lunch at Panera

Saturday, January 28, noon. If you are new to First United Methodist church and would welcome the chance to meet a few other new people, visit with Pastor Barbara and ask questions about this congregation, please be her guest for lunch at Panera. You can send her an email (revbabs2000@gmail.com) or call the church office to sign up.



Faith In Action Teams

Make Peace

CONVERSATIONS WORKSHOP – 2nd OFFERING

A second offering of the Conversations Across Apparent Divides workshop will be presented on **Saturday, February 17 (9:00 am to 3:00 pm)**. This is an opportunity to learn (and practice) how to have compassionate, respectful, and productive conversations with those folks you disagree with. These skills are useful within families, for interactions with neighbors or co-workers, or even discussions at church! The workshop will be facilitated by Tim Stover and Elizabeth Nielsen and is sponsored by the Make Peace Faith in Action Team. Watch for sign-ups in January!

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.

You are 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!.

Finding Voice

Saturday, January 27, 9:00 am – noon: Finding Voice, Part 1. If you are someone who is ready to spend a few hours really clarifying your understanding of God, please sign up for Finding Voice. Part 1 (which is happening this month) is an exercise in taking away all kinds of church words that we use to describe God and Jesus and all our beliefs. We don’t use them again until we each have worked on unpacking their meanings for ourselves. This is a personal journey but you make it in conversation with others. Questions? Talk to Pastor Barbara.

Already taken Part 1? You are free to take it again if you wish. Part 2 will come around again later this year.

The Challenge of Paul

Join us in the FUMC Adult Learning Community as we share a new DVD resource from the good folks at *FaithandReason*. ***The Challenge of Paul*** features leading New Testament Scholar John Dominic Crossan helping to us to see the Apostle Paul in a new light – a light that helps us see Paul in his own context of time and place such that we might catch his vision of the good news (gospel) of Jesus for our own time and place. We will get started **January 7** and this series will run for 8-9 weeks. Meet in the chapel following worship at **10:45 am**.



Many people look forward to the New Year for a new start on old habits.



Once upon a time...

That experienced the love of God.

Because of that....

We share in worship, music, service, study, intergenerational friendships, common meals, play, and opening our space to others.

With open doors...

All are invited.

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

- **Inclusive Worship**—All are welcome in worship and communion at FUMC. The sanctuary provides ample wheelchair and handicapped seating. We have large print bulletins for those with eyesight issues. Hearing devices are available for those needing additional amplification. Children and youth are active participants in worship as liturgists and music leaders.
- **Service Opportunities**—Through our kitchen outreach, Room at the Inn, facilities projects, landscape maintenance crew and worship teams there are many ways to serve within and through FUMC
- **Common Meals**—Our Kitchen Stewards prepare a healthy, balanced meal every Tuesday. All are welcome. Informal seating provides time for fellowship and opportunities to interact with others. We also enjoy quarterly events like our Faith In Action Brunch, the Youth Valentine's Brunch, All-Church Picnic throughout the year.
- **Play**—Well yes, we play! Game Night meets the first and third Fridays of the month. We have our Marmot's Parks and Rec softball team. And, we've been known to play in worship...like the time Pastor Barbara dyed her hair PINK.
- **Opening Our Space to Others**—Al-Anon, AA, NA, The ARC Of Benton County, Jubilate, Voz Hispana, Caregiver Support Group, International Yoga, Out N About Youth, We Care, just to name a few.

• • • And this is not a fairytale

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 21 – Faith in Action Potluck Brunch, **10:45 am**. We will have time to gather as a team for planning and envisioning our work together in 2018. Watch for details.

Sunday, February 25 – Welcoming new members.

Sunday, March 11 – West Side Story, **2:00 pm** Corvallis High School Theater.

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
Saturday, January 6	2:00-4:00 pm	Garvin's
Sunday, January 7	2:00-4:00 pm	LIVE! Clue with CYC
Sunday, January 7	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



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

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.



J
O
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N
S

Theme:

God is a messy creator
 Genesis 1:1-2:4

Meal:

Create your own pizza

When:

Saturday, January 13, 2018; 4-6pm

Where:

FUMC 1165 NW Monroe
 Community Center



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.*

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.**

