



Congregational News

From FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corvallis, Oregon

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March 5, 2010

COMMUNITY SOUP TICKETS AVAILABLE SUNDAY

Tickets are on sale this Sunday in the church foyer for the second annual Community Soup. The soups are sponsored by local religious communities (including us), so the earnings from ticket sales (\$9/individual; \$23/family) all go to fund the work of Community Outreach for the Mid-Willamette Valley's homeless and uninsured. Local restaurants and chefs are coming together to provide soup, bread and dessert for the event. There will be live music provided by Dancing Moon Orchestra and a raffle highlighting each of Community Outreach's integrated programs.

In addition, the **Willamette Ceramic Guild** has donated soup bowls for purchase. All proceeds go to Community Outreach. Community Soup will be on *Sunday, March 14*, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

FAMILY MOVIE IN YOUR PJS!

You are once again  invited to put on your pajamas and bring your favorite blanket to the Meeting Hall for popcorn and a movie. Due to copyright laws we cannot print the name of

the movie we will be watching so between now and **March 12** look for clues about the title in each week's newsletter! The **movie will start at 7:00 p.m.** and popcorn and juice boxes will be available for snacking. The clue for this week is: We see this kind of weather in Corvallis a lot this time of year!

REMINDER:

Communion Sunday is also our day to donate to the food bank. Reminder your canned or packaged edible offering this Sunday.

THIS SUNDAY

March 7 - Communion

Adult Forum: Part 3 of the Lenten series on Christian worship focuses on "Worship Time and Space: The Church Year, Lectionary, and Liturgy."

Scriptures: Isaiah 55:1-13
Psalm 63: 1-8
Luke 13:1-9

Sermon: "We Who Thirst"
Elizabeth Oettinger

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*Elizabeth Oettinger*

Dear Friends,

It was a joy to be in worship last Sunday, to see so many of you, to hear Caroline preach, and to watch Myles' feet fly during his wonderful postlude. It made me realize how much I have missed this place in my three weeks off. I'm ready to come back, though not full-time yet. I'll be working about 20 hours a week for this week and next, and then increase my hours and activities as I am able. It is good to be back.

I'm trying to think of what to say to you all about your support for me over this middle period of my treatment. I am overwhelmed and so very grateful. Every card, every note, every new hat(!), my wonderful quilt, and the parade of meals that that you cooked and delivered: they have touched me deeply. I really needed your help, both emotionally and physically, and you have been there for me. "Thank you" seems too pale of an expression, but it's the only one I have.

In the early church--before there were ecclesiastical hierarchies or buildings or planned liturgies--church members cared for each other in ways that amazed, even shocked those outside of the community. They engaged in this kind of caring both as an end in itself and as a way of "equipping the saints" for ministry outside the church: to feed the hungry, to tend the sick and dying, to welcome the stranger. The rationale was simple: those who knew what it was to be loved, mended, and tended would want to do the same themselves. They would operate differently in the world. They would appreciate different things, and see their fellow human being with new eyes.

I hope and pray that your kindness to me will find that kind of extended meaning in my life. You have given me gifts beyond measure. Again, thank you. And I will see you soon.

Blessings.

Liz**EASTER SIGN-UPS BEGIN**

Although Easter is still a ways off (*April 4*), Spring Break is also coming and we want to give everyone an opportunity to choose their **Easter breakfast** activity: making casseroles, providing breads or sweet rolls, juice preparation, set-up, Easter morning kitchen duty, serving, clean-up, and dishwashing. Check out the sign-up sheet on Sunday in the foyer.

Also available this Sunday will be the **Easter Vigil** sign-up chart, and the sign-up for the **Maundy Thursday** dinner/service (*April 1*).



Our **Middle and High School** youth will be gathering this *Sunday, March 7,*

at 5:00 p.m. at the **Lucker** home (2985 NW Princess) for an Academy Award party. Youth are asked to bring a snack to share and are invited to dress up to compete for the "Best Dressed" award. We will also order pizza for dinner and have an award prediction contest! Dress up, or come as you are, but join us! Questions? Contact **Ryan** at the church or via e-mail.



CAMP HAVALOTAFUN IS COMING!

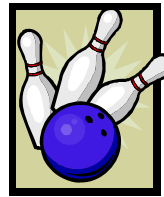
Our 2nd annual camping lock-in will be *April 3- May 1* this year. Children of camping age are invited to spend the night in the church playing games, singing songs, and sleeping in sleeping bags just like at summer camp. Children younger than camping age are welcome to attend with a parent. There will be more details in future newsletters so mark your calendars for havin'-a-lot-a-fun with us!

SIGN UP FOR SOUP 'N' BREAD

Our monthly Soup 'n' Bread lunch will be served next *Sunday, March 14,* after worship if we get some soup makers and bread bringers! Sign up this Sunday to be one.

GUYS NIGHT OUT!

The first gathering of a new "active men's group" will be on *Tuesday, March 16* at 7:00 pm at Block 15 (300 SW Washington) for an evening of darts, shuffleboard, and fellowship. This group will focus on combining fellowship with activity -- bike rides, basketball frisbee golf, etc. All adult men are invited! Contact **Ted McCann** via e-mail (elprofemac@comcast.net) or **Ryan** at the church for more details! See you there!



ALL COMERS BOWLING

All are invited to come bowling with us after Soup 'n' Bread on *April 11.* We will meet up at Highland Bowl at 1:00 and roll some big fun for everyone! Whether you've never bowled or have trophies on your mantel, this is a great opportunity cheer each other on (and perhaps laugh at ourselves) as we get a little exercise on Sunday afternoon.

THANKS FROM VINA MOSES

On behalf of those in Benton County who are needing assistance, I want to thank you for your [December 31, 2009] donation [\$3,193.00] to the Vina Moses Center. Through your generosity, Vina Moses can continue to help and serve these families in our community. We very much appreciate your thoughtfulness and support. Thank you.

Christine Duffney, Director



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Copy deadline for next issue of newsletter is Tuesday noon, March 9.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Friday, March 5

- 7:00 a.m. First Friday Forum
- 7:30 p.m. Badminton

Sunday, March 7

- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Academy Award party, Lucker [page 3]

Monday, March 8

- 7:00 p.m. Mission Board

Tuesday, March 9

- 8:45 a.m. Staff
- Noon Lectionary class
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees Board
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1

Wednesday, March 10

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast Group
- 5:30 p.m. Lenten supper
- 6:15 p.m. Lenten worship
- 6:45 p.m. Lenten classes
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, March 11

- 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 142

Friday, March 12

- 7:00 p.m. Movie Night** [page 1]
- 7:30 p.m. Badminton

LOOKING AHEAD: *Sunday, March 14:* Daylight Saving Time begins; *Sunday, March 22-26:* Spring Break; *March 28:* Palm Sunday; *April 4:* Easter

CHRISTIAN ONE-LINERS

Don't let your worries get the best of you. Remember, Moses started out as a basket case. Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

If God is your co-pilot - swap seats!