

Shalom

First Congregational
United Church of Christ

700 Marion Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301

Also available on-line at www.uccsalem.org

Reverend Gabrielle Chavez, Interim Pastor
Reverend Shelley Wagener, Associate Pastor

Erik Anderson, Moderator
July 13, 2011

**SPREAD
THE
LOVE
BY
STRENGTHENING
THE
CHURCH**

Strengthen the
Church is the

UCC's annual offering to help build our denominational future. Directed to our conference, local church ministries and the Stillspeaking Ministry, our gifts help invigorate congregations and foster new lay and pastoral leaders—especially among women and people of color. The Stillspeaking Ministry is especially important to those who have felt there is no room for them within Christianity and the church—the excluded, the alienated, and the spiritually homeless. Please be generous when we collect the offering on July 17.

Don Lundberg

Mission and Outreach Committee

SUMMER DAY CAMP AUGUST 15-21

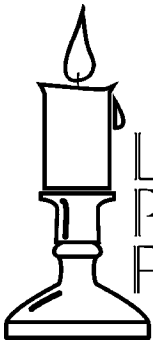
This year's Summer Day Camp for children ages newborn to entering 6th graders is called *A Spark of Creation*. Each day, children will be able to explore how we are sparks of God's Creation and have each been given our own sparks of creation through Art, Music, Drama, and Dance. Camp begins everyday at 9 a.m. and ends at 12 noon; however, early bird drop off (8:20 a.m.) and late bird pick-up (12:30 p.m.) is available upon request. The cost per child is \$10 for the entire week, which helps cover daily snacks, and supplies for each station and activity. Registration forms are available on our website: www.uccsalem.org and in the office. Registration forms and money are due by Sunday, August 14th. The first day of camp is Monday, August 15th. The children will also be sharing their mini musical in church on Sunday, August 21 at 10:30 a.m., so please be sure to put that on the calendar too.



Spread the
Love



Strengthen the Church Offering



IN OUR PRAYERS...The family of Helen Larson.

Helen died June 25, 2011 at age 99...

Lyndsey Houser's

cousin **Ken Walker,**

who is in treatment for

brain cancer...**Bob Strayer,** who is at home and receiving care from Priscilla and their two daughters...

Lynda Clark,

who is undergoing chemotherapy in Santa Fe...

Joy Hayhurst, who is at home recuperating from a year filled with severe health issues and hospitalizations...

Chris Sproul, who will undergo surgery on Wednesday, July 13 to remove lymph nodes under her left arm. She likely will face radiation therapy as well...

Melvin Stewart, who is undergoing physical therapy following a successful knee replacement surgery...

Marian Nettleton, who is struggling with health issues and had another fall.

MANY CONGRATULATIONS to Tom and Amy Vandegrift on the birth of their granddaughter Vesna Aileen. Vesna was born on July 2 to Elly Vandegrift and her husband Deven Holmgren. She weighed 8 pounds 7 ounces and was 20 inches tall at birth. They are active members of the Congregational Church in Eugene. Mother and daughter are doing well.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR GABRIELLE

July turns out to be a wonderful time to begin the year as your interim pastor.

There's a sense of relaxation in the on-

going business and a pleasant round of summer events, which provide enjoyable opportunities to deepen community and connection with one another.

I'm pleased with how much church activity there is during the week even in the summer, and how many of you stop by to visit and volunteer. The changes in the last 13 years are impressive!

Though I am here to serve in every way as your pastor this year, my ministry will be shaped by the unique needs and opportunities of the interim. I love this work because it is a special kind of time that the Bible calls *kairos*, an opportune moment. An interim *kairos* is a gift the church gives itself in order to appreciate, reflect and build upon its history, especially your most recent chapter with Pastor Gail.

There is also an opening for things to be different, for new ideas and directions to pop out of the fertile soil of the past. I can safely predict it won't be a boring year of just spinning our ecclesiastical wheels! One of the duties of a trained interim minister is to be a "non-anxious presence" with you wherever the Spirit takes us.

To start, I hope to do a lot of listening. I'll be getting around to as many events, meetings, and visits as possible. Beyond that, please feel free to contact me and come by the office with any concerns, suggestions, or just to get acquainted. Don't be shy about putting forward your dreams and ideas, because if God is still speaking and we're listening, we're

bound to be inspired. With you in the *kairos* of God, Pastor *Gabrielle*

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH PROCESS

When the Vision Builders team was gathering input for the five-year plan in late 2009 and early 2010, you told them “diversity and inclusiveness” was the top draw that got you here and the second highest (next to peace and justice) attribute that keeps you coming to First Congregational UCC. I kept that constantly in front of me as I took on the task outlined in our church bylaws:

“When a pastoral vacancy occurs, it shall be the responsibility of a Search Committee, appointed by the Moderator with the approval of the Council, to seek out candidates for the office of Pastor. The counsel of the Central Pacific Conference Minister shall be sought.”

Since we pride ourselves on being “congregational,” it would be nice if ALL of us could serve on the Search Committee. But, can you imagine arranging meeting times for 285 people and gaining consensus on details, issues, and candidates from them all? Instead, our denomination has long used a process designed to represent the diversity of a congregation, capture and describe the mission and direction of the church, limit the distribution of private information from candidates, and yet be efficient and manageable.

Using knowledge gained from discussions with many of you, the results of my asking for volunteers and input at last month’s Congregational Meeting, advice from other Council members and

our UCC Conference Minister, and guidance provided by the national UCC on developing a representative Search Committee, I developed a list of folks whom I believe represent the diversity of our congregation in demographics (age, length of membership, gender/sexual orientation), participation in various church groups and activities, and various spiritual paths).

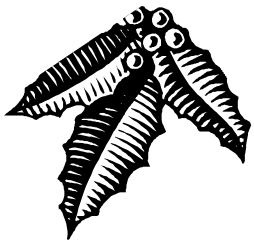
I’m nearly finished contacting people on the list to discuss the commitment and obtain responses. I expect to present a manageable sized group of nine individuals to the Council for confirmation this week.

You ALL will be hearing from the Search Committee as it takes on the challenging tasks required of this important process. They will review past information such as the May, 2010 Vision Builders report, annual committee and staff reports, and design and conduct various methods of gathering new information from all of you in order to build a description of who we are and where we are going. Only then will they advertise for, collect, and review profiles from candidates for our Senior Pastor.

You will shortly be hearing the names on the committee representing our diverse membership, more on the overall process, and the first steps to gather input from the congregation. I know you will give these dedicated folks your prayers and support. *Erik Anderson,*

Moderator





2011
17TH
ANNUAL
ALL-
CHURCH



BAZAAR & ART SALE

November 4th and 5th
Friday, 9 am—6 pm
Saturday, 9 am—4 pm

OUR *SOUP-AND-BREAD LUNCHEON* WITH FRESH-BAKED PIES FOR DESSERT, WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE, WITH PLENTY OF SEATING! COME AND SHOP FOR CRAFTS, BAKED GOODS, BOUTIQUE ITEMS AND MORE! *THE BOUTIQUE* WILL HAVE AN ABUNDANCE OF JEWELRY, GIFTS, SEASONAL DÉCOR AND LIGHTLY USED TABLE LINENS, INCLUDING HOLIDAY MOTIFS.

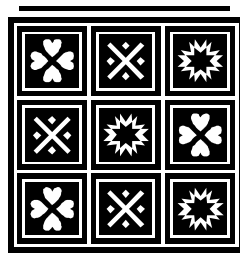
ART SALE

WE WILL FEATURE ORIGINAL ART PIECES CREATED BY OUR CHURCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS.

QUILT RAFFLE!

Priscilla Strayer has made and hand-quilted a beautiful queen-sized quilt in reds and blues. A Raffle drawing for the quilt will be at 4 p.m. on Saturday, November 5.

Raffle Tickets will go on sale September 18, at our church, and will sell for \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10.00, or 15 for \$20.00



MORNING WORKSHOPS

9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to participate in our workshops and craft days!!

[Recipes will be available]

August 9 & 11 or August 16 & 18

—Apple Pie-making

Women's Fellowship

Saturday, August 13—Pickles or Dilly Beans

Jean O'Grady

Saturday, August 20—

Dilly Beans or Pickles *Phyllis Smith*

Saturday, September 17 or 24

Tomato-Vegetable Soup Base *Rex Lampert*

Sunday, October 16 or 23 from noon to 3 p.m.-

Jewelry making

Saturday, October 29—Bread-making Day

Jean O'Grady

Dates for workshops are subject to change, due to produce availability.



WEDNESDAY CRAFT
SCHEDULE

9:00 AM—2:00 PM

[BRING YOUR LUNCH, DRINKS WILL
BE PROVIDED!]

JULY 13, JULY 27,
AUGUST 10, AUGUST 24
SEPTEMBER 14, SEPTEMBER 28
OCTOBER 12, OCTOBER 26

NOVEMBER 1, 2 & 3 —
BAZAAR SET-UP DAYS

BAZAAR NOVEMBER 4 AND 5

WHAT DO WE HAVE FOR SALE?

Holiday Décor

Craft items

Fine Arts

Boutique—New or

Recycled Items

Plants & Produce

Quilt Raffle

Baked Goods and

Culinary Delights

Homemade Soup and Bread Lunch

Coffee Tea Cider

Pie Available for Purchase



How is the Money Used?

Support of Women's
Fellowship activities

Community Services

Women's Retreat

Kitchen Equipment and
Supplies

Durham scholarships for camps

Donations for Youth trips

Meditation Garden Fund

Donations to:

The Love Fund/ Congregations Helping
People

Talladega College,

SOS Shelter,

Marion/Polk Food Share,

Crisis Center,

UCC Scholarship fund,

and OCWM





ALL CHURCH CAMP
All-Church Camp is coming up, September 2nd -4th and needs some organizers to make it really great! We need

menus, children's and adult activities, campfire skits, stories and songs, Sunday morning worship, and a dynamite intergenerational activity for Saturday afternoon (something on par with last year's fabulous bottle rocket launching!). Please contact Pastor Gabrielle and get involved.



YOUTH RUMMAGE SALE
In mid-August, the youth are having a rummage sale. If

you have rummage that you would like to donate (pre-priced would be absolutely fabulous!), please bring it to the office.

YOUTH DISCUSSION GROUP

Caffeine & Commitment is off to a good start! This is a discussion group for mid and senior highs which breaks down theological questions in a fun and "creative" way. This group meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. at the IKE Box. Bring your Bible and \$\$ for a beverage or snack (if you choose), and your brain!

FOOD FOR THE STRAYERS

Susie Francois is coordinating food for Bob and Priscilla Strayer. Call her at 503-362-5608.

YOUTH GROUPS INVITED TO ATTEND A SERVICE AT HIGHLAND UCC

One of the benefits of attending Central Pacific Conference in May was having the opportunity to hear Dr. William G. Hardy, senior pastor of Highland UCC. Dr. Hardy's style exemplifies the African-American oratory tradition, and in terms of delivery and the message, I found his sermon passionate and relevant – and completely different than anything I'd experienced before.

Since then, I've felt I couldn't keep this experience to myself. This may be one of those things that make teenagers' eyes roll back in their heads, but I believe Dr. Hardy's style of preaching would be of interest to our mid and senior high youth. It would also provide a glimpse into a different oratory tradition as well as an opportunity to form connections with another UCC church.

With Bev Pratt and Michelle Pedersen's support, I contacted Highland UCC to arrange a time when we might attend a service. That date has been chosen, and it is Sunday, July 24.

Here's what we've arranged:

9:30 am: Leave Salem UCC

10:45 am: Arrive at Highland UCC

11 am: Service

Noon (ish): Lunch at Highland

Early afternoon: Possible youth group activity with Highland youth

3 – 4 pm: Depart for Salem

There is no cost for this field trip, and I believe it will fun and interesting. I hope many of the youth (including incoming youth groupies) can join us. Parents are welcome too! I will make arrangements for transportation once I know how many will attend. (Parents, you may receive a call from me to inquire whether you have a minivan or can drive.) Please contact Michelle Pedersen or Margaret Jester Haining (mjhaining@comcast.net or text / call 503-510-4941) to let us know you can attend! *Margaret Jester Haining*



SUMMER FOOD BANK

NEWS All the large food drives are over for awhile; state workers, mail carriers, Rotary, school clubs, etc. Yet folks needing to eat still struggle right here

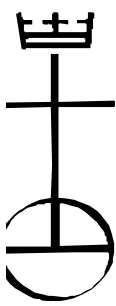
in our town. Summer is a time of high needs and low contributions for the local food bank. With children out of school, families have more meals to provide. Thank you for remembering to buy extra and bring food to church to give the Marion Polk Food Share. The barrel is always by the door, making it easy to contribute any time you come to the church. You may also write a check to the church and mark the memo line “Food Bank,” and we will send the money there. Last Sunday people filled the barrel! A big thank you to all who contributed! Lets see if we can do it again a few more times this summer.

CROP WALK HELPS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Without hesitation, several members of our church knew they wanted to help Church World Service's international program to help hungry people where ever the need is greatest. On that one day, Sunday June 12th, Salem First Congregational members contributed \$325 to the local CROP walk. This well respected hunger program of CWS helps people not only by providing food, but teaches them how to grow food and even chickens, for more sustainable relief. It changes lives daily. Plus 25% of the monies raised locally go to our own Marion Polk Food Share.

Thank you to each person who was able to give this year for your spontaneous generosity. It was a beautiful day for a walk across the Willamette River on the recently restored Rails to Trails bridge. Next year promises to be even better and a mission team will be forming, so plan on walking or pledging for hunger next June. Also thanks to our neighbors, Salem's First Christian Church for organizing this year's walk, it is nice to share with friendly folks across the street. *Ann Fujii,*
Mission and Outreach Committee



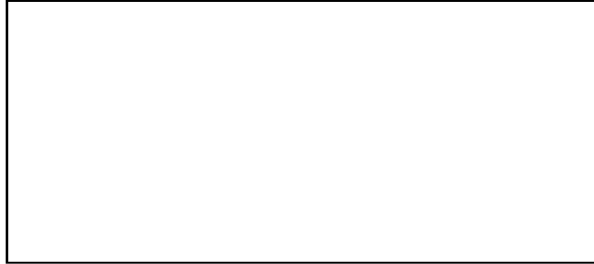


Phone: 503-363-3660
 Email: office@uccsaalem.org

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First Congregational Church
 700 Marion Street NE
 Salem, OR 97301-3829

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Calendar

Wednesday, July 13 9:00 a.m.
 7:00 p.m.
 Monday, July 18 6:30 p.m.
 6:30 p.m.
 Tuesday, July 19 6:00 p.m.
 7:00 p.m.
 Wednesday, July 20 5:45 p.m.
 Tuesday, July 26 7:00 p.m.
 Wednesday, July 27 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, July 31
 Tuesday, August 2 7:00 p.m.
 Thursday, August 4 5:45 p.m.
 Monday, August 8 6:30 p.m.
 Tuesday, August 9 7:00 p.m.
 Wednesday, August 10 9:00 a.m.
 Thursday, August 11 5:30 p.m.
 Monday, August 15 9:00 a.m.
 Tuesday, August 16 9:00 a.m.
 7:00 p.m.
 Wednesday, August 17 9:00 a.m.
 Thursday, August 18 9:00 a.m.
 6:15 p.m.
 Friday, August 19 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday, August 21

Bazaar Crafts until 2 p.m.
Council meeting
Trustees meeting
Woman Spirit meeting at Bev and Jenny's
Book Club meets to discuss *Wuthering Heights*
Youth Group meets at the IKE box
Christian Education Committee meeting
Youth Group meets at the IKE box
Bazaar Crafts until 2 p.m.
No Taizé service in July
***Shalom* deadline**
Youth Group meets at the IKE box
Community Committee meeting
Trustees meeting
Youth Group meets at the IKE box
Bazaar Crafts until 2 p.m.
Peace and Justice Committee meeting
Summer Day Camp until 12 noon
Summer Day Camp until 12 noon
Youth Group meets at the IKE box
Summer Day Camp until 12 noon
Summer Day Camp until 12 noon
Deacons meeting
Summer Day Camp until 12 noon
***Shalom* deadline**

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

Pastor Gabrielle's cell phone number:
 503-957-3694