

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 Minister
Dr. Joanne Swenson, Interim Associate Pastor

Erik Anderson, Moderator
January 4, 2012



HEAR YE! HEAR YE!
ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 29
HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

The congregation is hereby called to Annual Meeting on **Sunday, January 29**, immediately following 10:30 a.m. worship and lunch (to be served by our youth groups). The Annual Reports will be distributed on Sunday, January 22. Please remember to bring your report to the meeting! Thanks.

THE ANNUAL REPORTS will be assembled on Wednesday, January 11. The office needs to have your reports no

later than Monday, January 9 to make it happen! Please e-mail your report today! [Thanks.\(office@uccsalem.org\)](mailto:office@uccsalem.org)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is still looking to fill the following openings:

Mission and Outreach—3

Board of Trustees—1

Peace and Justice—1

Pastoral Relations—1

Nominating Committee—1

If you are willing to serve, please call Betty Helm at 503-364-2955.

DONORS CAN'T BE DENIED!

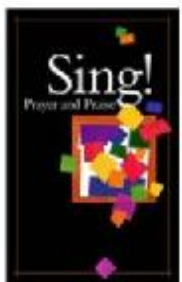
As you have heard and read, there will be a campaign in February and March to enlist multi-year commitments for the monies still owed on the many improvements and expansion efforts from a few years ago. Until then, several folks have indicated an interest in continuing their current monthly gifts for this effort and they are certainly welcome!

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Case Veldhuisen, who is at home recovering from a mild stroke. He was released from The Salem Hospital Rehab Unit on Dec. 29 and is doing "essentially well." Case hopes to be back in Choir Rehearsal this week...

Lynda Clark, who is continuing her every other week chemo treatments; the good news is that the cancer is holding steady at the moment. She appreciates all of the love, prayers and support of the congregation. Ongoing issues with degenerative osteoarthritis may result in a new hip soon, and she may be able to actually do a little dancing at Dine, Dance and Bid this year!

Wes Darby, who lives at Sunnyside Care Center and is attended to lovingly by Joyce and the family...**Joy Hayhurst**, who continues to battle health issues...Continued prayers for families that have recently experienced death, including **the family of Jan Giesbrecht, Don Smith, and Marguerite Lowery**. Those seeking employment or increased work hours...Members caring for their grandchildren...Members struggling with mobility challenges...Members with memory decline.



NEW SONGBOOKS NOW IN PEWS!

Since arriving here as your interim, I've heard a lot of requests for some newer church music that can be sung enthusiastically

by all ages. Thanks to many generous donors, we were able to purchase enough copies of the UCC's *Sing! Prayer and Praise* to use in worship as a supplement to our hymnals. These mostly new songs were selected for their theological and musical quality as well as ability to be sung with the heart. We've introduced a few of them through the choir and had some fun with others in the January 1 worship service. Remember, every beloved hymn was new once! Be open to discovering some new songs that you may come to love. Look through the songbook when you're in church, and if you see any that you'd like us to learn, let me or Michelle know. If you go to the www.ucc.org website and type in Sing! Prayer and Praise, there is a place where you can click on any of the songs in the book and listen to a simple piano melody line to get an idea of the tune. --Gabrielle

SOMETHING DIFFERENT ON 5TH SUNDAYS...

Last fall during Family Camp at Camp Adams, a number of folk got excited about the possibilities for deepening friendships and spirituality in a less formal worship setting. We can't bring the old growth trees and bright meadows of Camp Adams into our sanctuary, but we can try to bring the sense of connection and communion that was so wonderful about that experience to our worship services. After consulting with

the Deacons, they suggested we plan something special for worship in the months that have five Sundays. So this month, on January 29 — which is, appropriately, the day of our annual meeting and potluck — we'll bring the best of that camp experience to church. I'm looking for people who would like to work with me to brainstorm and plan these extra special worship services now. Do you have ideas or suggestions? What would be most meaningful for us to share? If you find this intriguing, please call, email, or talk to me soon -- Gabrielle

THEOLOGICAL TABLE TALK—

A NEW GROUP

Would you like to join First Congregational's "Theological Table Talk" — a new gathering to explore theological ideas and readings with others? The group will definitely meet during weekdays (no evening meetings), and possibly at Capital Manor. If you are curious about trends in contemporary theology, and would like to be part of a group that explores these issues, please drop a note to or email the church office, indicating your interest (office@uccsalem.org). Bernie Turner, a First Congregational member and retired clergy will organize and lead this group, but he needs to know of your interest, so he can organize meeting logistics. The first gathering will be during the third week of January, so please contact the office today!

MONDAY ADULT STUDY GROUP STARTS JANUARY 9

The book for this session is "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life" by Karen Armstrong. Drawing from Western and Eastern religions, the former nun turned author on the historical development of world religions (*A History of God, The Great Transformation*) has written a thought-provoking and practical book. This slightly self-help-y book is deeply grounded in the core teachings of all religions that can make us better, more compassionate human beings (not a bad New Year's resolution!). Everyone is welcome. Books may be ordered in the Church office for \$11.00.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST



The "kickoff" for the monthly men's fellowship breakfast will be at 8 a.m., Saturday, January 7, at downtown

McGrath's. All are welcome! Come with a hearty appetite and good sense of humor! For more information, call Evan White at 503-585-4814.

CONVERSATIONS OF CONSCIENCE

Once a month, beginning in January, the Peace and Justice Committee will convene a conversation during the gathering time after the service on an issue of conscience. We will post the topic each month in the *Shalom* and in the

worship program on the week before our conversation. A member of the P&J Committee will initiate the discussion. The first topic will be on January 8th on the conflict between Israel and Palestine, led by Bill Hayden who will be just returning from the Holy Land. So grab a cookie and find our table! All perspectives are welcome.

SEARCH PROFILE SURVEY RESULTS



PASTORAL
SEARCH COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Search Committee, I would like to extend a warm word of thanks to ALL of you who took time to fill out our recent survey. Your responses are very helpful to us and will be diligently used to complete the profile we will complete, publish, and issue to prospective candidates.

For those of you who would like to know and/or see more of the survey results in depth, a paper copy of the complete analysis is available in the church office. If you would like to receive it online, you can email me at rkfrancois@aol.com and I will forward it to you.

The following is a quick synopsis of what we received from the lists asking respondents to prioritize:

Top 12 Adult Responses (126 Responses)

Our church needs a person who...

1. is an effective preacher/speaker
2. is a compassionate and caring person
3. helps people develop their spiritual life
4. builds a sense of fellowship among the people with whom he/she works
5. is accepting of people with divergent views
6. helps people understand and act upon issues of social justice
7. is effective in planning and leading worship
8. ministers effectively to people in crisis situations
9. is mature and emotionally secure
10. has a strong commitment to the educational ministry of the church
11. encourages people to relate their faith to their daily lives
12. maintains confidentiality

Top 5 Children Responses (17 Responses)

Our church needs a person who...

1. Works well with kids and youth.
2. Is a compassionate and caring person.
3. Helps people work together to solve their problems.
4. Is a good leader.
5. Is a person of faith.

Yours faithfully,
Susie François

ADULT LEARNING HOUR



First Congregational's Rev. Dr. Deborah Patterson will lead a timely and important series of Adult Education classes, each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in

January. "Womb-to-Tomb" topics in health and wellness will engage participants to explore important personal health care decisions in the context of Christian values, before health crises occur. All sessions meet in at the church, and are free and open to all.

January 8 - A look at Hospice, death and dying, led by Rev. Lori Ensign

January 15 - A look at end-of-life planning, including Advance Directives and POLST, led by Rev. David Watson

January 22 - Wellness for senior adults

January 29 - Living well with chronic illness

Rev. Dr. Patterson is Executive Director of Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries (NPNM) in Portland. She was invited to the White House on December 9 to speak with faith leaders and others from the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the USDA.

Congregations, through programs such as those fostered through NPNM, are offering health education and wellness programs to support the health and

well-being of people of all ages, along with other health-related services.

The congregations affiliated with Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries walked over 460,000 miles in the last year. The "Let's Move" blog issued by the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships featured the work of Faith Community Nurses in September: <http://www.letsmove.gov/blog/2011/09/26/walking-health-parish-nurses>.

More information about Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries at www.npnm.org.

LET THE FUNDRAISING BEGIN!



Both the mid-high and senior high youth group members will be perfecting their fundraising skills over the next few months, working together to

raise money for the 2012 UCC National Youth Event. We have a great line-up of fundraisers scheduled between now and April, beginning with this Sunday January 8th. The teens will be taking orders for those tasty Butter Braids, among other wonderful baked goods! Parents and Teens can pick up Order Forms to take to school, work, and around their neighborhood, starting this Sunday. ALL orders and money are due back to the church on Sunday January 15th. This due date is

IMPERATIVE, so that we can get the products delivered to the church by the following Friday. Church members will be able to order and purchase at church before and after services, and during the week in the office.

**FEBRUARY 10-12TH: MID-WINTER
6TH-8TH GRADE RETREAT AT CAMP
ADAMS!**



Youth Winter Retreat

These events give youth in our Conference the opportunity to connect and network with

fellow students, re-connect with friends from summer camp and gives pastors and Christian Ed staff the opportunity to network and share ideas. More details to come from the Central Pacific Conference.

YOUTH SPONSORED ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON IS SCHEDULED! Parents and teens please mark your calendars for Sunday, January 29th. We will need ALL mid and senior high youth to help prepare, serve, and clean up this Congregational luncheon. Mia will be signing up teens for various jobs, and we will also need 2-3 parents for food prep help. Please let both Michelle and Mia know if you are able to help, and whether your youth will also be available.

**7TH-9TH GRADE OUR WHOLE LIVES
CLASSES WILL BE OFFERED SOON!**

The resources are written by professional sexuality educators and provide accurate information for parents, teachers and pastors to be used in the affirming and supportive setting of our churches. The resources are based on the Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education produced by the National Guidelines Task Force, a group of leading health, education and sexuality professionals assembled by the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States. *Our Whole Lives*, together with *Sexuality and Our Faith*, helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their relationships, health and behavior in the context of their faith. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. It provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills and understand the social, emotional and spiritual aspects of sexuality. This will be a separate class apart from Sunday Youth Events, and will be offered to youth in grades 7-9. If you are interested in your teen participating in this curriculum, please look at the following days and times for convenience and let Michelle know via email. This

will help with determining the best possible class time. Friday 3:30-5:30 p.m., Saturday mornings, or Sunday evenings 5-7 p.m. These times are not set in stone, but are just a few ideas. Thanks!

ANYONE FOR A ONCE -a- MONTH BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL?



There are a few dedicated ringers who would like to see our Bell Choir continue, especially with the Easter season in the upcoming months. If you

are interested in joining us, please let Michelle know, by email. We would like to rehearse on Saturday mornings, so January 28th would be our next rehearsal. More details in the next *Shalom* and Sunday bulletin.

SALEM INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

It was a very busy December! I assisted with the entries and was a judge for the Festival of Lights Holiday Parade in Keizer, I also started serving on the Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network's (IHN) Board of Directors. At the first meeting, I agreed to the role of Secretary and learned that ISNH executive director, Andrew Lane is moving on. The SIHN Board started recruitment efforts in early December, As a new board member, I was asked to serve on the interview committee. We received 14 applications which

were screened down to five. The committee spent three long evenings interviewing applicants, checking references right up until Christmas Eve day. We rallied a quorum of board members at the Ike Box on 12/29 and offered the position. Theodore "TJ" Putman has an infectious personality which is evident by his focus to live his life to make a difference in the world. He has a BS in Business Administration, Accounting from Portland State, and has spent the last seven years working for AMOR Ministries in San Diego. Join me in prayer for the success of this transition as we welcome TJ to our community and send wishes to Andrew Lane as he moves on to other passions.

So far this year, 43 families with children experiencing homelessness have been helped by SIHN, staying an average of 29 days, and 90% of them have moved into stable rental housing. IHN works with four families at a time, and the program's small staff is able to provide the intensive care and counsel that families need to become self-sufficient. This important ministry engages the Salem faith community to provide the families we serve with a network of support that is unique to Salem IHN.

The faith community is serving families not by preaching our faith, but by showing our care and compassion. Congregations open up their buildings to provide space for meals and a safe

and warm place to sleep. Volunteers from the congregation and partnering congregations gather around the families each morning and evening to serve them. Through meeting practical needs and sharing in conversation, volunteers bring hope, compassion and friendship every day of the year to the families we serve together.

There are many ways to contribute toward our work together with Salem SIHN. The families will be arriving again on February 19th, so please mark your calendar and plan to sign up for one of the many volunteer opportunities. Your friendly Mission and Outreach Committee members will have sign up opportunities in the narthex in mid-January.

SIHN - Helping Communities Help Homeless Families.

Blessings, *Jennifer Hartung*

TALENT/NO TALENT SHOW — SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH



or adding wholesome, healthy fun and laughter to your life? If so, mark Saturday, Feb. 11 on your calendar, from 6:00-9:00 p.m.!!! “Talent” acts

accepted from people of ALL ages — the more variety of acts and actors the better! Sign-ups for acts and providing food will start Sunday, Jan. 8. If you haven’t enjoyed one of these evenings yet, please come this year! After all, it is the 5th Annual Show. You’ll be glad you did.

Rebecca Ralston

and the Mission and Outreach Board

A NOTE FROM DANIEL MEYERS

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to you! I hope your Advent season has been filled with much peace in addition to the excitement and hope that comes with anticipation. Wrapping up the semester felt like a mad dash to the finish line. In the end, all my papers and exams were completed and my classes in New Testament, theology, and preaching were all done by the 13th. My internship at Terryville Congregational Church finished up for the year yesterday evening with what is called the Christmas Walk. This is a town-wide event where seven different churches participate, each constructing a 15 minute service representative of that tradition. It was a wonderful event and exciting to meet different people from town. I will start up again after the holidays once the semester begins.

Next semester will be an amazing string of months. I am hoping to take some exciting classes in theology,

ethics, and pastoral counseling. I will also get to go to Uganda for two weeks in May to study faith as a tool of resiliency in the life of refugees. It will be a very formational trip, I'm sure! But that is all in the distant future.

As for right now, Janna and I are excited to be spending the holidays together in Oregon. She has been working hard at her Congregational church in Bethany, CT. She just put together a very cute and successful Christmas pageant which was performed for its simultaneous debut and final curtain!

It was critically acclaimed!

I am now half way through my M.Div. program, which sounds both exciting and surprising. This semester has turned out to be a time of engagement with the school community, with my internship community, and with my own vocation as I continue to figure out where God is inviting me. Finding new ideas for old topics like theodicy, free will, atonement, predestination, and salvation, while seizing opportunities to preach has been a

great way of finding the nook of joy into which God leads. God calls me by curiosity to broaden my horizons and then seems to give me passion to focus my attentions as well.

Thank you for all your continued support and prayers on my journey and I wish you a hopeful New Year. May the season be a balance of reflection and joy, a time for whatever you need most.

Blessings,

Daniel

M.Div. 2nd Year



Job Quest Workshop

hosted by

Salem First Presbyterian Church

770 Chemeketa st NE - (503)-363-9234

Tools and Strategies for those...

- unemployed
- under employed
- unhappily employed

Open to all - regardless of faith connection.

“Most” Saturdays

9-11 am

(except holiday weekends)



**JOB
WANTED!**

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find out more



CALENDAR

Thursday, January 5	6:15 p.m.	Mission and Outreach meeting
Saturday, January 7	8:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship Breakfast @ Downtown McGrath's Restaurant
Sunday, January 8	11:30 to 1 p.m.	Both youth groups
Monday, January 9		Deadline for Annual Reports
	6:30 p.m.	Woman Spirit meets @ Bev and Jenny's home. Email bevnjenny@comcast.net
Tuesday, January 10	5:45 p.m.	Community Committee meeting
Wednesday, January 11	5:30 p.m.	Welcoming Committee meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Council meeting
Thursday, January 12	5:30 p.m.	Peace and Justice meeting
Sunday, January 15	11:30 to 1 p.m.	Both Youth Groups
Monday, January 16		Martin Luther King Day Office Closed
Wednesday, January 18	1:30 p.m.	Women's Fellowship Day Circle meets at Betty Helm's
Sunday, January 22		Distribution of Annual Reports Shalom deadline
	T.B.A.	Both Youth Groups service project
Monday, January 23	6:30 p.m.	Woman Spirit meets @ Bev and Jenny's home. Email bevnjenny@comcast.net
Sunday, January 29	11:30 a.m.	Annual Meeting with lunch served by the teens.
	10:15 a.m.	Both Youth Groups needed in the kitchen for lunch prep.

RECURRING EVENTS

Chancel Choir Rehearsals

Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary
New voices are always welcome!

Monday Adult Study

Mondays at 12 noon in the Choir Room

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

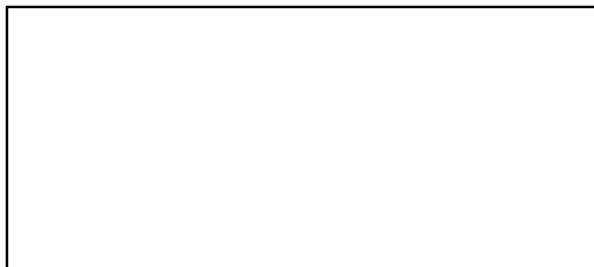
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Non-Profit Or-
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Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 29, 2011
following worship and lunch
served by our Youth Groups.



January