



# Shalom

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
700 Marion Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301  
Also available on-line at [www.uccsalem.org](http://www.uccsalem.org)

Reverend Gabrielle Chavez, Interim Minister  
Dr. Joanne Swenson, Interim Associate Pastor

Erik Anderson, Moderator  
January 25, 2012



**Saturday, February 11th  
6 to 9 p.m.**

Want to add some wholesome, healthy fun and laughter to your life? If so, mark Saturday, February 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! Don't forget to bring canned goods and your checkbook to help out our Missions fundraiser. If you haven't enjoyed one of these evenings yet, please come this year! After all, it is the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Show. You'll be glad you did.

*Rebecca Ralston*  
and the Mission and Outreach Board

## SHARING THE LOVE...

### OUR ANNUAL LOVE OFFERING



100% of the proceeds of this offering will go to Congregations Helping People which assists people from our city who are in need. And that need is great. Thank you for your generosity.

**HEAR YE! HEAR YE!**

**Annual Meeting**

**This Sunday, January 29, 2012**

**HEAR YE! HEAR YE!**

The congregation is hereby called to Annual Meeting this **Sunday, January 29**, immediately following 10:30 a.m. worship and lunch, to be served by our youth groups. Tickets are \$6 per adult; \$3 per child up to age 12 (this is a fundraiser for the youth trip). If you picked up an Annual Report last week, please remember to bring it.

## NOTES ABOUT OUR MEMBERS FROM PASTOR JOANNE

Many thanks to **Joyce Schuberg** and **Susie Francois**, who set in motion a chain of calls and conversations that culminated in a lovely 80<sup>th</sup> birthday gathering for **Ed Henderlite**, at Capital Manor, where he lives with his wife Nancy. Over twenty people attended, sharing fond and funny reminiscences about Ed's 26 years as First Congregational's Senior Minister.

Please keep in your prayers the family of **Rick Bingham**, as his mother continues in hospice care in northern Vermont; **Tommy Funk**, for renewed vigor as he recovers from illness; **Pat Ayers**, as she recovers from joint replacement surgery. **Lynda Clark, Don Oakley and Case Veldhuisen** continue to see points of progress in their health challenges, for which we praise God!

Jeff Standy has accompanied me on several pastoral calls recently, making himself available to our older parishioners who could use practical assistance, such as packing boxes, cooking, minor repairs, etc. If you could use Jeff's know-how and zest, please reach him through the church office.

**Sally and Jim Baber**, who live right behind The Enchanted Forest in Turner, weathered the Turner flood in fine shape, perched high on their hillside. Jim has ALS, which impairs his ability to speak. But he made me howl with laughter, when he complained to

me that he can't get Sally to understand that he wants his "cap," but he can get me to understand "the aseity of God."

I've recently visited with several members who lift the spirits of their neighbors in their assisted living homes: **Anna Mae Houser, Hazel Clark, and Dorothy Merritt**. What is most striking about these women is their great sense of humor. Dorothy showed me her "invention to dry pantyhose," a whirling fan with – you guessed it – wet panty hose flying in front of it. Hazel related how, whenever she tries to sew, her sewing machine needle repeatedly comes unthreaded and she has to call for help to rethread it. (Pantomiming her frustrating stabs to rethread her needle, she had me in "stitches.") Anna Mae was deliciously ironic, explaining how talking about religion is explicitly forbidden at her assisted living home, yet they are inundated with religious programs! Is this the secret to a long life – keeping the people around you laughing?

### NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

The service on January 29 is being planned by a creative group of church leaders and musicians who are excited about the possibility of using the worship time on 5th Sundays to deepen our connections to one another as well as to God. Expect a lively experience (the Congo Combo is providing the music, along with flutist Gary Vocana) that

will prepare us for an enjoyable annual meeting immediately following worship.



### SEARCH IS SURGING

The Search Committee is pleased to announce that we have finished the profile, written a

small "sizzle" piece (grabber for advertising purposes), and sent both items to our Conference Minister, Walter John Boris. We have scheduled to meet again on January 31 and February 14 in the hope that we will have some applications to review on both of those dates.

Again, we thank all of you who have been so supportive and constructive in helping us gather the wide wealth of information necessary to complete our church's profile. Any of you wishing to read and/or have a copy of the profile we have sent for publication may either contact Annemieke in the church office to see the paper copy or may contact Susie François, [rkfrancois@aol.com](mailto:rkfrancois@aol.com) to receive an electronic copy. As soon as we have learned that the profile is in publication from our Conference Minister, we will post it on our church's website for all to access.

### DEACONS' REMINDERS

1. Deacons will be meeting this Wednesday, January 25, at 6:30 p.m., a

meeting re-scheduled from last Thursday due to the flooding. All members of the committee, as well as other members of the church family, are invited/encouraged to join us for Taizé in the chapel at 5:30, prior to the meeting.

2. Deacons have continued to provide flowers for worship on the altar table during the new year because there have been no sign-ups from the congregation. We want to remind everyone that all are welcome to provide flowers and/or other sorts of nature-inspired arrangements, as a memorial, to honor someone, or just because. The sign-up list is in the parking lot narthex/foyer on the back of the wooden screen. Members are encouraged to either create arrangements/displays or purchase them from a florist or favorite market provider, but please do not forget to sign up, so that we know whether or not to plan on providing something.

3. Part of Deacons' mission is care of the parish. Please do let one of the pastors, the office manager, or one of the Deacons know if there is something with which you need prayer and/or help. We can only minister to one another when we know what is happening.

4. Hope to see you all at Annual Meeting.



## FEBRUARY ADULT EDUCATION

“That’s Unthinkable: Hard Questions about God,” facilitated by

Stephen Patterson. What are your deepest questions about God? Have you ever pursued your questions beyond the traditional answers that lie ready to hand? For a few weeks this winter, we will let your questions run their course in an adult discussion about what we really believe about God. Here are my questions (and I hope you’ll bring yours):

Is God Really Almighty?

Is God Really a Person?

Are Human Beings Really the  
Crowning of God’s Creation?

Join us on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Huntington Hall (downstairs). Child-care is available in the nursery and coffee is served!

**MID-WINTER MID-HIGH RETREAT REGISTRATION IS OPEN!** The theme for this year’s Central Pacific Conference mid-high (grades 6-8) retreat is “Secrets of the Kingdom,” which is a prequel to some of the themes and events offered at the National Youth Event this summer. This should be a fun filled weekend at Camp Adams, with an opportunity to connect with other UCC teens within our conference. The dates are February 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. Friday – 10 a.m. Sunday,

and the cost per participant is \$63. Scholarships are available from our church. Registration forms will be sent out to Mid-High parents, but if you did not receive one, they are available on our website. **PLEASE fill out registration form, write a check to First Congregational of Salem in the amount of \$43, AND BRING INTO OUR CHURCH OFFICE.** Michelle will be sending all the forms together, with one check from our church. All registration forms need to be turned in no later than February 5<sup>th</sup>.



## YOUTH GROUP IN FEBRUARY

**January 29** All Youth needed for the Annual Luncheon: Senior Highs @ 10:00 and Mid-Highs after Offertory. *We will be staying until dishes are cleaned and put away.*

**February 5** Senior High planning during service 10:30-11:15 a.m.; Mid-High Youth Group 11:30a.m.-1 p.m. Senior High OWL 11:30-1 p.m.

**February 10-12** Mid-High Winter Retreat at Camp Adams

**February 12** Teen led Adult Forum after church 11:30 a.m., on bullying

**February 19** Shrove Breakfast Fundraiser: Teens are cooking pan-

cakes! 8:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m., with clean up during the service.

Senior Highs: OWL class 11:30-1p.m.

**February 26** Mid-Highs 11:30-1p.m.

Senior Highs: OWL 11:30-1p.m.

**March 4** Mid-High 11:30-1 p.m.

Senior High 11:30-1 p.m.

**SENIOR HIGHS WILL BE STARTING A NEW CURRICULUM DURING YOUTH GROUP TIME...** Michelle will be leading Senior Highs in the Our Whole Lives Curriculum, on most Sundays from 12-1:30 p.m., in the choir room. There will be a calendar sent out to parents and teens with specific dates of each lesson, but also including any group/community building event that may be scheduled. We urge parents of senior highs to read about the Our Whole Lives curriculum on our church website, so that they may encourage their teens to attend these youth group meetings.

### **BELL CHOIR**

#### **REHEARSAL**

is this Saturday: January 28th, at 9:30

a.m. If you haven't talked to Michelle about being interested in ringing, please do so, by Friday January 27th. A knowledge of music

reading in either treble clef or bass clef is great, no prior ringing experience needed. The next Saturday bell rehearsal will be February 18th.

**FEBRUARY MUSIC FROM THE CHOIR** will feature music in honor of Black

History Month. The choir will be singing introits and anthems inspired by traditional spirituals, the Apartheid and Civil Rights movements, and traditional African chant songs. Come join us this Thursday, to get a start on this fun and moving music. We rehearse at 7 p.m., in the Sanctuary and new voices are always welcome to join!

### **SHROVE BREAKFAST**

Mark your calendars for the Shrove



#### Pancake Breakfast

Breakfast on February 19th. All you can eat pancakes, coffee, tea, and cocoa. Proceeds will go toward

sending our youth to the National Youth Event this summer. Begins at 9 a.m.-10:20 a.m...a great way to start your Sunday morning before church service. Cost is \$5 per person.

### **ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON**

**TICKETS** can still be purchased before church in the Narthex from 10-10:30 this Sunday. People can still purchase as they come down to the luncheon, but beware the line. Childcare will be provided during the meeting in both the nursery and the Parlor. Younger children can play in the Nursery, and older children can watch a movie, or choose to work on homework. Both rooms will be supervised. We ask that children be in one of these supervised spaces, and not running through the church. Thank You!



## **FEBRUARY CONVERSATION:**

### **BULLYING IN OUR SCHOOLS**

The next conversation sponsored by the Peace and Justice Committee happens on Sunday, February 12, during Fellowship Time after the service. The conversation will be led by our middle and senior high students. What is your experience as a student, parent, teacher or other member of the community?

All perspectives are welcome. Grab a cookie and join us in the annex, off the dining area.

### **INVITATION TO WOMEN'S**

#### **FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON**

You are invited to the Women's Fellowship February 1<sup>st</sup> luncheon followed by a Hootenanny!

What's a Hootenanny? Peter Bergel along with his guitar will be leading one and it promises to include music, singing, and fun.

The program is called "Music for Social Change" and many songs will be from the '60's or earlier and also later! For those of you who want to sing along there will be song sheets so we can all join in if we want. Otherwise, you may just sit back and enjoy.

The luncheon is open to all – women, men, spouses, and friends – and will be served at 12:15 p.m. The fun will start right after we finish eating. Please call the church office (503-363-3660) to let us know you are coming. An optional \$3 luncheon donation is gratefully appreciated. This is something you won't want to miss. See you February 1<sup>st</sup> for luncheon at 12:15 followed by the

Hootenanny!

### **CONGREGATIONS HELPING PEOPLE**

There is an opening on the board of Congregations Helping People for a person from our congregation. Our church is part of Congregations Helping People, a group of churches who join together to help people with various needs. We hire one staff person. She distributes funds and counsels the people who come asking for help. The board meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. Call the church office, if you are interested.

### **AWAKENING THE DREAMER,**

#### **CHANGING THE DREAM SYMPOSIUM**

on Saturday, February 4, 2012 from 12:30 – 5:30 p.m. at the UU Congregation of Salem, 5090 Center Street NE. The workshop aims to inspire and empower participants in efforts to build environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially just communities. Facilitators will lead participants through a dynamic multimedia presentation featuring scientists and social activists, personal reflection exercises and group activities. The event is open to the public (sliding scale donation of \$5–15). Co-sponsors are the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem, Oregon PeaceWorks, Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice, and Earth Wisdom Alliance of Portland. To register: contact Peter Bergel at Oregon PeaceWorks, 503-371-8002, or register online at [www.oregonpeaceworks.org](http://www.oregonpeaceworks.org).

## CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 25	5:30 p.m.	<b>Taizé Prayer Service</b>
	6:30 p.m.	<b>Deacons meeting</b>
Saturday, January 28	9:30 a.m.	<b>Bell Choir rehearsal until 12 noon</b>
	10:00 a.m.	<b>Combo rehearsal</b>
Sunday, January 29	11:30 a.m.	<b>Lunch and Annual Meeting</b>
Tuesday, January 31	7:00 p.m.	<b>Search Committee meeting</b>
Thursday, February 2	6:15 p.m.	<b>Mission and Outreach meeting</b>
Saturday, February 4	8:00 a.m.	<b>Men's Breakfast at the Francois'</b>
Tuesday, February 7	5:45 p.m.	<b>Community Committee</b>
Friday, February 10		<b>Mid High Mid Winter Retreat through 2/12</b>
Saturday, February 11	3:00 p.m.	<b>Leadership Team Building meeting</b>
	6:00 p.m.	<b>Talent / No Talent Show</b>
Sunday, February 12		<b><i>Shalom</i> deadline</b>
Wednesday, February 15	1:30 p.m.	<b>Women's Fellowship Day Circle meets at Ruth White's and the Former Evening Circle meets at Lyda Rice</b>
Thursday, February 16	6:30 p.m.	<b>Deacons meeting</b>
Sunday, February 19	9:00 a.m.	<b>Shrove Sunday pancake breakfast SIHN families arrive for a week's stay</b>

## 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. They are reading and discussing "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life" by Karen Armstrong. Join in!



**Let's save on postage stamps!  
Pick up your 2011 giving statement this Sunday  
before or after the Annual Meeting.**

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