

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
Reverend Shelley Wagener, Associate Pastor

Erik Anderson, Moderator
October 5, 2011

SUGAR FOR SHELLEY

If you haven't yet noted on your calendar, day planner or iPad, please do so now! Sunday, October 16 is our last Sunday to relish Shelley in contracted ministry. She will be welcomed back to the pews after and will enjoy the opportunity to sit with her family during services. To avoid role confusion in the immediate future, the church council has suggested that Shelley allow herself a break from service on any committee, although it has inveigled her to continue offering an occasional Children's Time.

We want to offer Shelley a warm, welcoming return to the life of lay participation in church. Let's start by dining with her and her family, after church on the 16th. A special luncheon is being planned by the Community and Deacons Committees. A joyful program, celebrating this last phase of her ministry with us, will follow. Please let the office know by October 13 if you are planning to attend. Numbers are important to both food and seating planning. Also, if you've not yet had the chance to

make a financial contribution to an All Church Family Gift for Shelley, please see Annemieke in the church office to do so as soon as possible. Surprise(s) are afoot!



SAVE THE DATE CONSECRATION SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20

Doesn't the word "consecration" give you the giggles? Okay, maybe not. It's a pretty serious term...hints at the sacred. And that's a word we're using this year to describe the pledges we'll soon make for our church's financial health. The national UCC calls this program "Consecrating Stewards" to reflect that we're all stewards of the financial assets provided to us and the allocations we make can indeed be considered sacred acts. With this program, some things will be different:

*You won't be asked to make a pledge that considers a specific budget goal. Rather, you'll be asked to consider your

gift in light of all the financial commitments you make and what you feel you need to give as a thoughtful and generous steward.

*You won't complete a pledge card until our extraordinary Thanksgiving worship on November 20.

*You'll hear a sermon on giving that day from a guest Steward who promises to be invigorating and inspiring. Some very special music and a celebratory luncheon in Talkington and Huntington Halls will complete this church family celebration.

*You will hear and read many more messages about this in the weeks ahead. These thoughts will have a serious point, but we hope to mix in some levity in the delivery!

So be open to a giggle and some new perspectives. After all, **God Is Still Speaking, so Stay Tuned...**

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Dick and Dorothy Stewart, as they grieve the untimely death of their son Kevin Stewart. Kevin passed away on Sunday, October 2, in Worcester, Massachusetts. Kevin was baptized and confirmed at our church. He graduated from South Salem High School and from Willamette University in 1984, with a degree in economics. Kevin was married in 1993 to Maria Baute and has three children, Isla (12) and twins Aiden and Carlin (9)...**Marion Nettle-**

ton, who is facing foot surgery on October 13...**Ken Walker**, Lyndsey Houser's cousin who is fighting cancer...**Lynda**

Clark, whose son is bringing her back to Salem this month. We pray for strength and rest and healing for...**Tom O'Connor** and **Ann Floto** as they continue to recover from surgery...**Phil Anderson**, Linda Lew's brother-in-law, who is in the ICU after bypass surgery. Phil is the husband of Linda's sister, Darolyn.



CONGRATULATIONS

To Reverend Chuck Curry who now is the Associate Director at the Westar Institute at Willamette University. The Westar Institute hosts the Jesus Seminar and the upcoming new Bible seminar. The director is Steve Patterson.

GRAND-BABY NEWS

Jim and Jill Hanson traveled with their son, Greg, daughter-in-law Hong, and their grandson, James, and members of Hong's family to China to gather a new granddaughter into their family. Her name is Emma Geyang (her middle name is a combination of her Chinese first and middle names and means beautiful song), and she was born on August 11, 2010. Emma has transitioned well to her family's Caucasian faces and a room of her own!



**WE ARE
PRODUCING
ELECTRICITY
FROM THE SUN!**

On Friday morning, September 30, PGE put in our new special-

ized meter, and before the end of the day we'd been given the go-ahead to 'throw the switch' and start collecting energy from the sun and converting it into electricity. It will be fun and exciting to follow our energy production, and some information on that will come in our next update. Even when the sun is behind rain-dropping clouds, we are still collecting a significant amount of energy. With the beginning of solar production we've accomplished our first goal: to contribute to the solution to global warming (being especially sensitive to the social justice issues which are embedded in this problem). Our small contribution will be greatly multiplied if we are able to inspire others, so tell everyone you know, so they may be inspired to go solar or make other contributions. To that end we will be planning a dedication ceremony and some publicity.

A second goal is to help our church be financially sustainable for the next generation. This is accomplished when the solar panels are given to the church 15 years from now when they will provide about 20% of our church's electricity needs for at least another ten years from that time.

This seems like an appropriate juncture to step back and remind ourselves of some of the financial aspects of our solar project. The solar panels & system on our church is actually owned by a nominally for profit company called Solar Congregations Equity Inc. (SCEI) which is connected with the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (an organization with which our church has had close ties). In five years our church will become the owner of the system. Remember that above I mentioned a 15 year timetable. Why 15 years? This is the duration of the state of Oregon solar incentive program in which we are participating ('Feed-in-Tariff'). Each month the electricity generated from the panels earns 58.5 cents per kilowatt-hour (the current retail rate is about 10 cents). This money is used to pay the Lender-Investors who loaned the money to SCEI for this specific project (they are all members & friends of our church). During these 15 years, any operational costs related to solar will be covered by the income, so there is \$0 net cost (and as mentioned \$0 direct financial benefit to the church). We thank both the short-term lenders who earned 0% on their loans and should be paid back when we receive the planned-for grant from the federal solar incentive program. We also appreciate the long-term lenders who will be gradually paid back over the 15 years. The long-term investors may earn up to 4% (annually) on their investment, but they also risk losing their money (a very

small risk, but it always takes some courage and commitment to put money into something new). ~ *your Solar Team*

ADULT LEARNING HOUR

Sept. 25-Oct. 30: Neither Male nor Female: Gender, Sex, and the Bible
With same-gender marriage on the public mind recently, have you ever wondered what the Bible actually says about same-gendered relationships? Come find out—the reality may surprise you. Your leader in this study will be Dr. Stephen J. Patterson, the Atkinson Professor of Religious and Ethical Studies at Willamette University and Director of the Jesus Seminar.
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Huntington Hall. Coffee and childcare provided.



YOUTH MISSION TRIP MEETING

Parents and teens who are eligible to participate in a mission trip this summer

(grades 8-12) are meeting this Sunday, October 9 at 11:40 in the Mayflower Room. Pastor Gabrielle and C. Ed. Chair, Bev Pratt will facilitate.

Check out the Youth Group Meeting Schedule on-line!! October is up and running, so if you have any questions

of whether it is a Mid-High, Senior High, or ALL meeting, or Sunday, you can always check it out on the youth group webpage, under "Children & Youth" on www.uccsaalem.org

Have you met our new Youth Program Coordinator? Mia Carlstrom is a native Oregonian with a great enthusiasm for working with teens and an impressive resume to boot! Ms. Carlstrom has worked with programs such as AFS Intercultural Programs, Outward Bound, Peace Corps, and just recently worked as Resident Intern with the Great Vow Zen Monastery in Clatskanie, OR. Make sure to come to your scheduled youth group meeting, and get to know her. Mia's church email is mia@uccsaalem.org.

1st LOCK-IN of the year! Join us for our first lock-in at the church, October 21, 9 p.m.- 9 a.m. Games, Movie, Mission Impossible, and FUN! This event is open to both Mid-High and Senior High youth groupies, and they are welcome to bring 1 friend each. All participants are asked to bring a snack according to their last name letter: A-I something sweet, J-Q something salty, and R-Z a 2-liter bottle of soda to share. More details to follow...

Youth Service Project Continued...

Teens, we need to finish our yard work at a member-in-need's home. The phrase "Many hands, make light work" comes to mind as we try to pull this together. Please check your calendars to

see if you are available on Saturday October 22nd from 9:30-11:30 a.m. We will tag this service project onto the end of our Lock-in, and plan to go to lunch afterwards. We will need parent drivers and perhaps a parent or two to help supervise the yard work. Please RSVP, so that Michelle can plan accordingly.

Youth Group Books

Youth Groupies can learn a little more about the UCC faith by ordering their own copy of The Unofficial Handbook to the United Church of Christ by Caldwell and Preston. This book will be the focus for discussion and learning in some of our youth group meetings. The book is a lighthearted, humorous look at the UCC, and is for all “UCCers”.

Anyone who wants to learn more about the denomination will find the book particularly appealing. Learn about, appreciate, and be proud of the UCC—while not taking it too seriously. The book costs \$16. Payment is due when the books are delivered. The order sign-up list will be available this Sunday (10/9) in the Narthex, and in the church office until Tuesday (10/11). Please order in person, phone it in, or email the office.

INTERFAITH WORSHIP EVENT

Sunday, October 16th, 6:30 p.m., hosted by First Congregational UCC. The Oneness Coalition is a group of people from a variety of faith communities in the Salem area. This annual service is an opportunity to experience

the diversity of our community, and to learn an appreciation for our neighbors of differing religious traditions. In a world where conflicts are often intensified by religious and cultural differences, services like these promote mutual understanding and respect. Join us, and help create a warm welcome!

HABITAT BUILD, OCTOBER 22

Here's your last chance to participate in our church's Habitat Build in 2011. There are three houses going up on Samaritan Lane; lots of help is needed. We need 8 people to have a full crew for our 1-5 p.m. shift. Sign up in the narthex on October 9th and 16th. Let's give Habitat an early Christmas present of a full crew!

SPECIAL MUSIC COMING UP

On October 23, First UCC welcomes singer-songwriter Jack Brown to our worship service. An active member of Boise First UCC and choir director for 11 years before hitting the road as a touring musician, Brown's original songs and jazz-classical guitar stylings have become popular with both secular and church audiences. You can hear samples of his work @ jackbrownmusic.com. CDs will be available for sale after the service with proceeds benefiting our music program.



HARVEST FEST

We will hold our annual Harvest Fest on Sunday afternoon, October 30th at 3 p.m. This is a fun, intergenera-

tional event with games and activities, and a sandwich supper. Watch for sign-up sheets for food, supplies, and “booth” helpers beginning October 16th. ~*The Community Committee*

2011 COLLINS LECTURE--

"RESTORING SACRED BALANCE"

How does one sustain one's soul while working faithfully for peace and justice? This year's Collins lecture, presented by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) will address the convergence of contemplative traditions and social action with a workshop and lecture presented by Fr. Richard Rohr on Oct. 26-27.

A Franciscan and founding director of the Center of Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Rohr has written many well known books, including *Everything Belongs: A Gift of Contemplative Prayer*, *From Wild Men to Wise Men: Reflections on Male Spirituality*; and his latest work, *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*. You can register online for the \$10 Wednesday evening lecture and \$40 Thursday workshop at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland at www.emoregon.com or by calling the EMO office at 503-221-1054.

ANNUAL PEACE LECTURE

The annual Peace Lecture, at Willamette University's Hudson Music Hall, is at 7:30 p.m. on 10/19. The speaker this year is Rami Hhour, an internationally known expert on the Middle East. He will be speaking on “The Arab Spring: Revolution or Evolution”. The lecture is free. Our church is one of the sponsors of the event.

LET'S MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

Central Pacific's 2011 Fall Gathering is all about music in worship. It's held at the First Congregational Church of Portland on Friday, Oct. 14 and Saturday, Oct. 15. The information package and registration form are available in the office and on our website under “Newsletter & Forms.”

SEARCH COMMITTEE

IN LISTENING MODE

Thanks and kudos to all of you who have attended a parish meeting! There are still 5 meetings on the calendar. The Search Committee (SC) depends on the input from these meetings to help inform its preparation of the church's profile which will be submitted to our conference office and subsequently distributed from there to prospective candidates. To date, the SC has held two meetings. We have begun the review of the six-section, UCC Manual on Search and Call that we will employ to guide our way. At our Oct. 4 meeting we will be guided in further team building by retired UCC minister Cy Eberhart. From this last meeting, we will be moving into the good work of creating our church profile. In all of this, we continue to ask each of you for your ongoing support, input and prayers. *Susie Francois*

Search Committee Chair

SISTER HELEN PREJEAN

will speak at the Salem Library on Oct. 20 at 6:30 p.m. Free tickets can be reserved with Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty's Ron Steiner 503-375-9218. Our P&J Committee strongly supports this organization and the need for Oregon to repeal the death penalty.

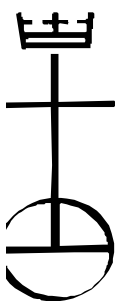
Calendar

Wednesday, Oct. 5	10:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m. 5:45 p.m.	Women's Fellowship Board meeting Women's Fellowship Luncheon Mission and Outreach meeting
Sunday, Oct. 9	11:30 a.m.	Youth Group Mission meeting
Monday, Oct. 10	6:30 p.m.	Trustees meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 11	7:00 p.m.	Parish mtg. @ Erik & Diane Anderson's
Wednesday, Oct. 12	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Bazaar Crafts until 2 p.m. Council meeting
Friday, Oct. 14		CPC Fall Gathering
Saturday, Oct. 15		CPC Fall Gathering
	7:30 p.m.	Confluence Concert
Sunday, Oct. 16	10:45 p.m. 11:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Mid Hi Youth Group Pastor Shelley's farewell reception Bazaar jewelry making Oneness Coalition service
Tuesday, Oct. 18	7:00 p.m.	Parish mtg. @ Dell Ford's
Wednesday, Oct. 19	1:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Day Circle meets at Betty Helm's Parish meeting & potluck @ church
Thursday, Oct. 20	6:15 p.m.	Deacons meeting
Friday, Oct. 21	9:00 p.m.	Youth Lock-In
Saturday, Oct. 22	9:00 a.m.	End of Lock-In — youth will go finish a Youth Service Project and have lunch.
	1:00 p.m.	Habitat Build at Samaritan Lane
Sunday, Oct. 23	10:45 a.m. 12 noon	Senior High Youth Group Final Parish meeting @ church <i>Shalom</i> deadline
Wednesday, Oct. 26	9:00 a.m.	Bazaar Craft Day until 2 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 29	9:00 a.m.	Bazaar bread making until 1 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 30	11:30 a.m.	Mid & Sr. Youth prepare for Youth Group Olympics
Wednesday, Nov. 2	5:45 p.m.	Mission and Outreach meeting
Friday, Nov. 4	9:00 a.m.	All Church Bazaar
Saturday, Nov. 5	9:00 a.m.	All Church Bazaar
Sunday, Nov. 6		<i>Shalom</i> deadline

Adult Study Mondays at 12 noon in Choir Room

Choir Rehearsal Thursdays in Sanctuary @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning Hour; 10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour



Phone: 503-363-3660
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BZR BULLETIN

It is October 5th and the 17th Annual All Church Holiday Bazaar and Art Sale is only 4 weeks away! We've made apples pies, dilly beans, bread and butter pickles, dill pickles and Rex's vegetable soup base, and are finishing our craft projects. Others are making jams and jellies, and preparing baked goods for the bazaar. If you are a baker of pies, cakes, yeast breads, quick breads, brownies, candy and cookies, the bazaar would be glad to sell them.

Mark your Calendars:

Sundays, October 9, 16, 23 and 30 -

In the narthex before and after church there will be sign-ups for apple pies (\$9.00 each), bazaar helpers (baggers, lunch servers, cashiers, etc.) and a chance to buy raffle tickets for Priscilla Strayer's spectacular blue queen-sized quilt. Ticket prices are: 1 ticket for \$2.00, 3 tickets for \$5.00, 7 tickets for \$10.00, and 15 tickets for \$20.00.

Wednesdays, October 12 and 26

Final **Craft Workshop Days** are in the nursery, 9:30 to 2:00 p.m. Bring your lunch and join us.

Sunday, October 16

Jewelry Making Day will be from noon to 3p.m. at the church, including lunch (Salad By Committee). Please contact Jean O'Grady to find out what to bring. Jewelry supplies will be provided, but you might want to bring your own tools.

Saturday, October 29

Bread Making Workshop will be from 9 to noon. Come join the fun! We "knead" you!

REMEMBER!

November 4 and 5, 2011

The 17th Annual All Church Holiday Bazaar and Art Sale,

Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Quilt Raffle Drawing – Sat., 4 p.m.

Questions? Call Jean O'Grady, 503-585-4769, or Nancy Dilger, 503-378-1812.

BZR Lady