

June, 2014

All Peoples United Church of Christ **SOJOURNER NEWS**

A Central Oregon House Church

Vol XIII, Number 6

OREGON EQUAL RIGHTS WINS

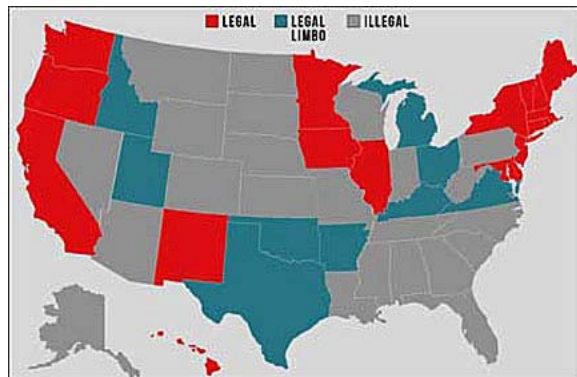
Oregon's LGBT community will long remember May 19th, 2014, the day that the right to marry the person whom you love became law in Oregon!

Nationally, Oregon became the 17th state (plus the District of Columbia,) to overturn laws prohibiting same-sex couples from marrying and enjoying all of the rights and privileges associated with such a union.

In Oregon, the Attorney General's refusal to defend the challenge to the voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage, opened the door to the end of that unconstitutional law.

For Oregon UCC churches, the ruling opened the flood gates to a rush of long

awaited ceremonies joining same-sex couples. Many of these couples, knowing the UCC policy of welcoming LGBT people, sought out local UCC churches in which to tie the knot. For instance, the Corvallis UCC church hosted weddings last week on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. They were



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secular or faith-based, depending upon the wishes of the couples. An interesting note was the fact that community members joined congregational folk to offer reception goodies in support of the effort.

The Rev. Tara Wilkins, director of the Community of Welcoming Congregations, said that as a local pastor, she is “thrilled that I can treat all of the couples in my congregation, gay and straight, the same. Now we can marry all couples in our sacred space instead of having to cross state lines.

“Ten years ago when we were working on Measure 36, it was difficult to get clergy and religious leaders to take a stand in support of the freedom to marry,” Wilkins added. “Today people of faith across the state and across tradition are ready to marry same gender couples.”

The Rev. Chuck Currie, a UCC minister in Oregon, also plans to perform marriage ceremonies, celebrating the decision as a positive step for religious freedom.

“I see this as a victory for religious freedom and a decision entirely consistent with Christian ethics. For too long, people have used faith as a tool to discriminate against

others,” Currie wrote in the Huffington Post. “The Christian faith is a faith of inclusion. I join with many Jews, Muslims, Buddhists and other people of faith that celebrate this court decision.”

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Jericho Table volunteers in May completed our obligations to that community service. Next commitment is to serve during July.

Following the Monday, May 19th, service at the Senior Center, the monthly fellowship gathering at Madeline’s restaurant was so noisy that we could hardly hear each other think! Gloria Olson has made arrangements with The Dawg House, located at 507 NW 8th St., Redmond, site of the former CrossCreek Café. Meet there at 6 p.m., June 30th.

Upcoming events: Sue Flory leads worship on July 6. All Peoples meets at Hardin’s for the annual Picnic on the Hill—worship and potluck on July 20th.

May giving included support for St. Vincent de Paul in both Bend (\$55) and Redmond (\$25), the monthly donation to The Bethlehem Inn (\$125) and Jericho Road (\$30).

EDITOR'S NOTE:

End of Life Planning seems to be the gracious term attached to plans for one's death or that of a loved one. Recent events have brought the subject to the fore for some at All Peoples. First the untimely death of Fran Davis's son and, just a week ago, the Hardins' Boise journey to attend services for Bill Hardin's brother.

It doesn't require a cultural anthropology course to recognize that cultural rituals are the very last to change as societies move on. Births, weddings and funerals resist modification, even in this high speed, rapidly changing culture.

The "grave-side" services for Bill's brother were a case in point. Military burial in the Veterans' cemetery was cloaked in procedures that must be a century old. The old vets conducting the process were clearly finding their own identity in going through unchanged rituals. When the man wearing the khaki vest covered with commemorative military pins assured my sister-in-law that he would show her where the urn would be buried so she could visit him, she gently

assured him that it didn't really matter as Barney is not be there, anyway.

And the memorial service followed fundamentalist tradition, focusing for comfort that all would be reunited in heaven in the afterlife for eternal togetherness.

But, for me, the most valuable part of that service was the reading, by Barney's adult children, of their recollections of their dad from earliest memories, (good and not-so-good) to recent family card games. *That* was a celebration of a very human life.

APUCC people are all old enough to have some ideas of how they would like to be "celebrated" after death. But, how will our little congregation deal with the loss when one of our close group dies?

Do we know the wishes of others in the group? Has there been any sharing of dreams or creative planning for the inevitable event? Are we missing an opportunity to render a loving service to "one of ours"?

We need to share.



BEND PRIDE COMING JUNE 28!

Join the Bend community in celebrating its 8th Annual Bend Pride Celebration. AND, the Rev. Tara Wilkins of the Community of Welcoming Congregations has once more invited All Peoples to bring our banner and brochures and share their booth with them.

This year's Bend Pride Festival will be at Drake Park from noon to 6 p.m. The usual events featuring local musicians and dancing, dozens of local non profits and businesses and delicious local food will include recognition of the many LGBT couples who were married out of state and those who have been together for years. For more info, visit: <http://www.humandignitycoalition.org/index.php?m=2&s=167&id=2083>

FYI—WEB SITES TO VISIT:

<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/>

This next URL made it all the way to broad readership through the Truth Out web site. The concepts are not new to APUCers but it is heartening to see such solid writing appear in a public forum.

<http://truth-out.org/opinion/item/23934-jesus-mandate-peace-and-stewardship>

A WEDDING...WE'RE INVITED!

SURPRISE!

*After 21 years of partnership,
Mike Lovely and Kelly McDonald
will be tying the knot...SOON.*

*Plans are fluid at the
moment but they
will keep us informed.*

UCC COALITION FOR LGBT CHANGING ITS NAME

While the coalition's core goal is unchanged, the idea is to lift up the LGBTQ mission as a



**UCC COALITION
FOR LGBT CONCERNS**

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broader justice issue extending it on beyond congregations and out into broader society.

Andy Lang invites the wider church to begin using “ONA Coalition” or “Open and Affirming Coalition” in its conversations. Lang says, “This means our work... is not limited to the full inclusion of LGBTQ people in our church. And we want to build on the progress we’ve made in the past three years in deepening our partnerships with communities of color, with the Widening the Welcome movement, and especially with the

CLIMATE ACTION NEWSLETTER COVERS CPC EFFORTS

The Climate Action Newsletter, created during the recent “Rise Up” climate conference at Camp Adams brings news of conference-wide action among our sister churches. If you are not on the emailing list, it might be a good idea to sign up. It’s simple. Just email Caren Caldwell at caren@medforducc.org, and ask to be put on the mailing list. If you have questions, call Caren at 541-621-0663.

Latest issue reports include: Several churches have added a “green” column to their newsletters.

The Vancouver church made a vocal showing at the hearing on the Longview coal terminal. In spite of their efforts, the Board of Commissioners for the Port of Vancouver unanimously approved a 10-year lease with Tesoro-Savage Joint Venture for an oil terminal after 14,000 local residents signed a petition against it.

The article adds: local unions have also opposed the oil terminal. While members of his union would benefit from terminal jobs, the President of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 4 has said, “The risk is not worth the reward, plain and simple.”

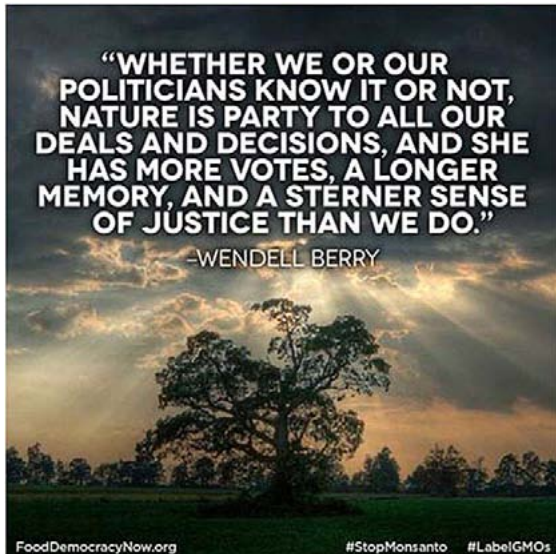
Local Vancouver residents who live near the area for the proposed terminal have additionally voiced opposition due to concern over the permit application’s estimate of 230,000 pounds of air pollutants released each year from the terminal.

The question for us as congregation, adds Rev. Brooks Berndt, Pastor, Vancouver

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UCC, <brooks@vanucc.org> is how we can contribute to the public debate from a faith perspective that is uniquely grounded in moral values and religious convictions. Six new members joined the congregations following their stand.

Another Climate Action story invites you to take the Planet Earth Pledge by visiting its website: www.planetearthpledge.org.



“We may have different proposed solutions —carbon taxes! tidal power!— but we know that none of them will happen unless we open up some space. That’s our job: opening up space for change on the scale that physics requires. No more fine words, no more nifty websites. Hard deeds. Now.”

—Bill McKibbin

OC, INC. FIGHTING FOR NET NEUTRALITY

Who are the OC, Inc.? They are the Office of Communications for the national UCC!

Recent actions at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) offices in Washington D.C. were spearheaded by our own denomination’s team and joined by many other groups. Hundreds of orange-clad supporters beating drums rallied en force on May 15, outside the FCC calling for a free and open internet. The historic groundwork laid by the United Church of Christ’s media justice ministry, the Office of Communications, Inc., during the Civil Rights Movement.

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“Because of the famous cases that started 50 years ago this year, the public has a right to speak out to the Federal Communications Commission,” said Cheryl Leanza, policy advisor for OC, Inc. “Without those cases, private citizens could not even get in the door at the FCC. We at the UCC stand as an example of why the stereotype of Christians as narrow-minded is wrong.”

Now, in spite of the action, the Federal Communications Commission voted 3-2 to “invite public comment on a set of proposed rules aimed at guaranteeing an open Internet.”

However, the proposal includes a caveat that allows corporations to pay Internet providers so their content would download or stream faster for users.

With the FCC ready to gauge the feedback on the issue, the public has until July 15 to submit initial comments on the proposal to the FCC, and until Sept. 10 to submit any responses to the initial comments.

Take action now!

2014 CPC JUSTICE AND WITNESS GRANT CYCLE OPEN.

The Justice and Witness Ministry Team can provide modest funding to local churches, groups and individuals in support of activities that advance the local church or Conference involvement in justice and witness issues. The 2014 grant cycle is now open. Deadline for receiving grant applications is July 30, 2014. All Applications will be reviewed in August and awardees notified.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Gun violence continues to shatter lives in our gun-crazy nation. What could you do?

- Call your member of Congress tomorrow.
- Write a letter to the editor.
- Hold an organizing/media event in your community.
- Lead a local council to fight back.
- Ask your 401K or your state to divest from gun manufacturers.
- Pledge to support candidates who will fight to reduce gun violence.

The above checklist might serve well in any of the causes about which our social-action-oriented faith calls us to participate.

JUNE WORSHIP PLANS

All Peoples UCC worships the first and third Sundays of the month at 11 a.m.

Bible study meets from 10 to 10:45 a.m.

APUCC's WORSHIP SITE—

Meeting room of The Green Plow Coffee,
436 SW 6th St., Redmond.

FINDING GREEN PLOW COFFEE

- **Traveling through Redmond** on Hwy 97, turn west on Evergreen Ave. Parking directions follow.
- **Traveling east** from Sisters on Hwy 126 turn left on 5th St. and go north one block to Evergreen. Parking directions follow.
- **Park** in the lot on the NW corner of 5th and Evergreen Ave. Enter the back of Green Plow Coffee through the parking-lot entrance,
OR park on 6th Street in front of the coffee shop and enter the front door.



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Please join us for worship every first and third Sunday.

Sunday worship is at 11 a.m.

For additional information and location/date
of the next worship service,
email the above.

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 1st—

11 a.m. Worship—Laurie Power

10 a.m. Open Forum! Special guest

Alan Laurie, recent emigrant to
Uruguay, will answer questions
about his new home and adopted
culture. Bring on your questions!

June 15th—

11 a.m. Worship—Bill & Pris Hardin

10 a.m. Bible Bookworms—

read Chapter 1 in *Zealot: The Life
and Times of Jesus of Nazareth* by
Reza Aslan— We again count on
Milly Whatley to lead discussion.