



All Peoples
United Church of Christ
SOJOURNER NEWS

A Central Oregon House Church

Vol XIII, Number 10

October, 2014

“TIME TO LEAD: CALL TO ACTION IN CLIMATE CRISIS.”

APUCC delegates to the annual Central Pacific Conference in Pendleton found much to share, greeted many old friends from other



congregations and made new acquaintances.

Keynote speaker The Rev. Dr. Larry Rasmussen (*left*) recently retired from Union Theological Seminary in New York.

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VISITING PASTOR TO FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION ISSUES

The Rev. Sally Goddard, graduate of the Pacific School of Religion, psychiatrist, and volunteer with CAUSA will lead APUCC worship on October 19th. Sally’s deep concerns focus on the festering immigration issues that plague our newer neighbors, their needs and the many road blocks that the long history of U.S. engagement with their nations have created.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SUNDAY

Number 4 of the United Church of Christ’s 5-for-5 annual offerings comes up on Sunday. This is one of the most important times that UCCer’s across the nation come together to make real and impressive

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Time to Lead—Continued from page 1

He now leads important environmental studies at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. Rasmussen delivered two stirring messages... one Saturday and one Sunday.

Dr. Rasmussen's messages will be available on line for readers to watch and hear. Please log on and benefit from his revealing view of our global picture. Gayle Dee plans to post the two talks on U-Tube by the time you receive this newsletter. Then, she will put a link to the U-Tube connection on the CPC web site. Don't miss this opportunity to see global warming through a Christian lens.

Neighbors—Continued from page 1

progress for the good of disadvantaged populations.



“As a special mission offering, Neighbors in Need continues to be relevant because it supports programs in areas of injustice such as race, economics, the environment and even literacy,” said Rev.

Bentley de Bardelaben, JWM executive for administration and communications.”
(See Mano en Mano NIN Bottom of page 5)



EDITOR'S NOTE:

It is autumn at last. All the usual signs are in the air. The Canada geese that fly past our butte are literally in the air. So is the crisp feel of chillier mornings. Some rain has graced our dry hills. Foliage is browning or coloring up. Garden produce adorns our garages and freezers.

Soon the irrigation ditches will be empty for the winter and burning of refuse will again be legal. (Putting more polluting particulate in the air?)

But, there are more disturbing signs of fall and, indeed, of closure.

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The greatest closure imaginable has to do with the climate crisis facing us.

The theme for this year's annual meeting of the Central Pacific Conference (CPC) was "Time to Lead: Call to Action in Climate Crisis." The view of climate change was infused with concern for Creation stewardship gone awry. Impending failure of many of nature's systems and cycles is infused with a sense of closure and even doomsday thinking. Yet, as people of faith and hope we have much to celebrate.

Laurie Power and Pris Hardin represented All Peoples at the annual meeting of the CPC in Pendleton from September 26 to 28. (Bill Hardin chauffeured Lady Laurie and Dame Pris safely there and back.)

Most details of conference planning revealed care and attention to conservation and avoidance of waste. Gone were paper plates, throw-away cups and disposable "anything." Conferees printed out their own copies of programs and handouts but most simply brought the information to the conference in digital formats. Tablets, lap tops and smart phones were everywhere.

Large projection screens delivered lyrics for sing-alongs. Clever table decorations were made of recycled materials. Call these accommodations busy-work or cosmetic but they modeled habits that all of us need to adopt.

On a far grander scale, keynote speaker and many workshops focused on global climate change and environmental justice. There the giddy fun of figuring out what actions we can take in working out our daily lives gave way to daunting and haunting information that appears too hard to tackle. And yet, Christians are people of hope and people of action. See stories and resources cited on pages 1 & 3 to which we can all turn. Shalom

WE DO JUSTICE IN THE UCC

In the 60's, we joined the Civil Rights movement. Since the 70's, the UCC advocated for gay rights. We took on environmental racism in the 80's. And in 2005, we were the first church in America to endorse marriage equality. We're doing justice.

"What does God require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?"
Micah 6:8

STAND UP TO BIG MONEY IN ELECTIONS

From the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries

As we near the November midterm congressional elections, we see the influence of big money campaign contributions growing. At a cost of more than \$6 billion, the 2012 presidential campaign was the most expensive in history; to date, still a



few months out from the November 2014 elections, there is three times more secret spending in the 2014 election cycle than in 2012.

In the aftermath of the 2010 Supreme Court ruling in the *Citizens United* case and, more recently, in the *McCutcheon* case, ultra-

wealthy individuals and corporate money has flooded elections on the local, state and national levels. This issue transcends partisanship. No matter what issue we care about or where we find ourselves on the political spectrum, campaign financing has a fundamental influence on the public policy process, impacting who is at the table when policy decisions are made and in whose interests those decisions are made.

In these challenging times, we cannot afford an election season dominated by the voices of special interests. We need elected officials who are accountable to all voters. Take action now.

MAJOR RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT PENDLETON MEETING

Several of the resolutions passed at the CPC annual meeting have implications for our local community. One does not and yet it is of concern to all humanity.

The resolution on Israel/Palestine will be the focus of our visiting pastor on the first worship in November. The Rev. John Hickox sent the following illustration from www.thepeoplesvoice.org.

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On July 18—only 216 Gazans had been killed at that point—our Senate voted 100 to 0 to support Israel’s attacks. All 100 of them! The day before, Benjamin Netanyahu had admitted that many of those killed were women and children.

Hickox writes: “How often does our US Senate vote as one? This time it was because each and every one of them will benefit financially from their vote. Every Senator, including our two left leaning Oregon Senators, along with Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren rushed to support the attacks, as if to say “see, I deserve my check again this year.” Not one of them abstained. Not one of them called in sick. Ask me some time about AIPAC, second only to the military lobby’s influence in Washington.”

Palestinian Loss of Land 1946 to 2014



MANO EN MANO/HAND IN HAND... A NIN PROGRAM

Formally incorporated in 2005, *Mano en Mano/Hand in Hand* is the “go-to” agency in Downeast Maine for Latino/Latina, immigrant, and farmworker issues. As a 2010 **Neighbors in Need** grant recipient,

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Mano en Mano provides a wide variety of direct services in English and Spanish. The three general programmatic areas are:

- Educational Services & Scholarships comprise the bulk of our programming and the heart of our mission. From free English classes, to college scholarships, to one-on-one tutoring and after school support, Mano en Mano believes that education is a tool that can make dreams possible and realize social justice.
- Outreach & Community Events ensure that Mano en Mano can effectively reach and serve their constituency while building bridges between various and diverse communities.
- Affordable Housing provides farmworkers who want to settle in Milbridge, ME with an opportunity to live somewhere that is safe, decent, and designed with their needs in mind.

Program Director, Bethany Woods shares “when we first started adult English classes several years ago, the goals were based on language acquisition. But the project has evolved into much more, providing social resources that are not often readily available

to new immigrants.” Ms. Woods further states, “Our adult students attend every week after long days working, exhibiting a high level of dedication to their own progress. The social activity and community development that has grown from these English classes is just as significant. Even more importantly, our students have become resources for each other, offering a supportive environment to encourage each other’s learning and look out for their fellow peers.”

In service to their clientele, *Mano en Mano/Hand in Hand* believes in removing barriers within their community. To learn more visit <http://www.manomaine.org/>.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

See You at Dawg House II—The last Monday of the month, October 27, APUCC friends gather for fun and supper at Redmond's Dawg House II restaurant, 507 SW 8th St, in Redmond. September's gathering was smaller than usual due to several of our number traveling out of town.



Mission giving in September came from two sources. Church budget: The Bethlehem Inn—\$125 and Jericho Road—\$50.

Congregant donations: St. Vincent de Paul in Bend (\$55) and in Redmond (\$25), Jericho Road (\$30).

Another Opportunity for sharing:

Don't forget the possibility of donating condiments to Jericho Table's supplies. These items will be available for JT use any night that the meals are served. Take donations, labelled for JT, to the kitchen during JT service hours, M– F, 4:30–6 p.m.

ALL PEOPLES VOLUNTEERISM

Special Thanks to Jericho Table's

September servers. They were: Nancy and David Cook (twice each) and Melanie Feilzer who signed up to help all four Mondays! Stepping forward also were Dean and Sue Flory, Mike Lovely, and Judy Morgan. Emerging stresses between Jericho Table and the Redmond Senior Center administration make it doubly important to do our work there well and thoroughly.

APUCC GOES HIGH TECH!

First—At last, APUCC's new Web Site!

Be sure to check out the new church web site. The site is a labor of love by Nancy Cook, emerging IT wizard. Graphics and some copy contributed by newsletter editor, Pris Hardin.

Second—CPR to the Rescue

Yes, CPR *is* a lifesaving procedure. But, in this case, CPR means the Center for Progressive Renewal, a UCC group in Georgia that conducts training in church planting, renewal and vitality. The Central Pacific Conference is using Local Church Ministries team funds to sponsor our webinar team— Laurie Power, Nancy Cook and Cathy Bumblis. Their work begins in mid-October.

INCREASED DEMANDS HIT JERICHO ROAD

Sue Flory reports that the contents of each weekend's food backpack has been increased this fall but there is an unprecedented increase in the number of students qualifying for the backpacks.

Traditionally, the September demand for the backpacks (10–20) gradually increased throughout the school year. However, the very first week this fall saw 44 back packs delivered to schools in the Redmond district.

Recent September totals were:

2012—72; 2013—83 & 2014—149!

Volunteer time totaled 61 hours last month.

Jericho Road also put in 5 volunteer hours at Project Connect; they tallied 2 more at the Ridgeview High Open House. These statistics are not just for the satisfaction of Jericho Road's "bean counters." They are essential in procuring grants to help keep the community program alive.

OCTOBER WORSHIP PLANS

All Peoples UCC meets to worship the first and third Sundays of the month at 11 a.m. Study group meets from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Worship in October will be in the Juniper

Room, St. Charles Hospital, 1253 N Canal Blvd., Redmond. Use the Kingwood entrance. Check the church web site for a map:

www.allpeoples-ucc.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Oct. 5th—11 a.m. Worship—Milly Whatley
10 a.m. Laurie Power leading.
Discuss Chaps. 11 & 12 of Zealot,
by Reza Aslan.

Oct. 19th—

11 a.m. Worship—Welcoming guest
pastor The Rev Sally Goddard
10 a.m. Nancy Cook leading discussion of
Zealot, Part III through Chapt 14

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PO Box 1287, Bend, OR 97709

allpeoplesucc@gmail.com

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.

Moderator: Gloria Olson: gloryo@peak.org

Newsletter editor: Pris Hardin, prisbill@earthlink.net

Facebook: [facebook.com/allpeoples.ucc](https://www.facebook.com/allpeoples.ucc)

Web Site: www.allpeoples-ucc.org