

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

A Central Oregon House Church

June, 2015

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## **HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR SPEAKS OUT AGAINST HATE “SPEECH”**

When two anti-gay protesters repeatedly took up positions on Tillamook, Oregon, street corners, a local high school girl finally had all she could take of their hateful signs. On May 19th, when they established themselves right outside her mother’s work place, Mikaila Ragan got busy.

After checking with her mom and her mom’s boss, Mikaila, showed up with her own big, bold sign proclaiming, “I ‘heart’ gays.” The venom coming from the anti-gay protesters didn’t phase Mikaila (*upper right*). It must have hurt when the vile invective included Mikaila’s mom, too. Mikaila had promised herself she would stay there that day until they left. And, stand her ground, she did... till well after dark.



The rest of the story gets even better. Soon, a crowd of fellow supporters joined Mikaila, (below) bearing signs and spilling over to the adjacent street corner. (*below*)



*High School Junior—Continued from page 1*

People also brought food, flowers and money for drinks! According to the *Tillamook County Pioneer*, Mikaila and the group cheering with every honk of support or wave they received from passing motorists until nearly 10:30 that night when the hate mongers left.

Someone started a Facebook page titled, “Tillamook for Love” which garnered 400 supporters within 48 hours.

The newspaper quoted Mikaila’s mother. “I am beyond proud of my daughter for having the courage to stand up for what she believes in. I had no idea that it would turn into such a huge event. It was heartwarming how many people came for support. Makaila feels so strongly that we are all equal, no matter who you love. Someone needed to step up against these two men who have insulted so many people. I was attacked verbally by them for allowing my daughter to ‘believe sinning is OK.’ Makaila stood up. Boy, did she ever! Look what she did—wow! I’m so, so proud of her.”

## **JERICHO ROAD VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER**

The Board of Jericho Road hosted an appreciation dinner for all volunteers to the various Jericho Road programs. All Peoples volunteers present included Board member Sue Flory, APUCC volunteer organizer Melanie Feilzer, David Cook and Bill and Pris Hardin. The dinner was delicious but the “stars of the show” were the various reports detailing the amazing work of Jericho Road. Another highlight of the evening was the news that Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) presented Jericho Road with their annual trophy for outstanding community service. The scope of caring that Jericho Road showers on the area’s needy is, indeed, impressive as is the fact that the organization devotes 85–90% of the budget to service work with administrative and overhead expenses kept to a minimum. Skillful grant applications, steady support from local organizations and individuals as well as generous contributions from local businesses help to keep Jericho Road strong and effective.

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

First off... apologies if this June's front page story is old news to some. How comforting it is to see caring, love and support surrounding our local ministry, community issues...even in rural Tillamook, Oregon.

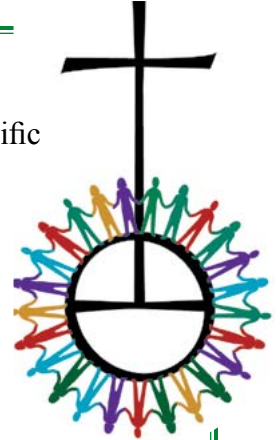
The point would be—issues that seem “decided, fait accompli, or old news” to folks at All Peoples UCC may be far from “the facts” in the rest of the world. The internet reminds us daily. In between the seemingly eternal email pleas for MORE \$\$\$ for one political group or another, lie story after story of bigotry, violence, disaster, hate and poverty befalling our “neighbors” around the globe. Complacency is not my issue; it is more like crisis fatigue.

How can a caring Christian accept the genuine needs of AIDS-orphaned children in Uganda, endangered populations in Nepal, unrepatriatable (excuse the new word) refugees from Somalia, drowning

island nations across the Pacific and on and on?

All Peoples' next worship falls on the third Sunday of Pentecost... a time when we celebrate the “catching fire” of the apostles. According to the Biblical account, they received the zeal and the linguistic tools necessary to go forth into the world with the Good News message of faith, love and hope.

How many of us believe that they just strapped on their sandals, seized their walking sticks (and maybe a couple of energy bars) and went forth with never a doubt in their minds from that day forth that their paths would be easy? That vision is a tough one to swallow. Daunting, intimidating, life-threatening are more likely adjectives to describe their future roads. Some died, some failed in their missionary efforts, many were jailed. And yet, they persevered. *Continued on page 4*



Beyond the story of Jesus life and death, the Bible provides us with a manual of metaphoric AND historical proportions to encourage our mission efforts world wide. If spirits flag and crisis fatigue abounds, I believe I must keep up strength and hope to do what I can... and beyond.

Remember the Strengthen the Church offering as a simple starting place and then, keep going!  
Shalom, salaam, ping on, paz.

## **BANJO SUNDAY CELEBRATION!**

A warm “thank you” goes to LeRoy and Judy Newport for bringing our May 17th worship alive. Milly Whatley led the service and contributed her own banjo notes along with Ruth Locke and Kathi Bumblis on keyboards. Old timey hymns and rhythms brought folks to their feet. Whenever enthusiasm seemed to wane slightly, Judy



Newport pumped up the participation level in her own inimitable fashion. This is becoming a valued tradition at APUCC.

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

Mission giving in May came from church budget: The Bethlehem Inn—\$125 and Jericho Road—\$50. Donations from individuals: St. Vincent de Paul in Bend (\$60) and in Redmond (\$30), Jericho Road (\$35).

Keep 5-for-5 alive\*— Strengthen the Church offering was officially collected in May but, if you failed to contribute, there is still time.

\* What's 5-for-5? ...the United Church of Christ, nationally, holds five annual offerings for the benefit of five different causes. Like many other regional conferences of the UCC, our Central Pacific Conference (CPC) works to boost participation in these offerings by keeping track of which congregations participate in all five collections. Every year since All Peoples UCC's achieved standing in 2001, the church has received a Five-for-Five certificate honoring full participation in the program.

## **UGANDA NIGHT IN SISTERS!**

In Sisters, on May 18th, a sizeable crowd of supporters of The Good Samaritan Ministries in Uganda, gathered at The Belfry for an evening of fundraising that included sharing of photos, videos, and stories about the recent trip to visit a Good Samaritan school in Uganda. Osborn Muyanja, Director of The Good Samaritan School was in Sisters; people we know are a part of this caring ministry. Nila and Peggy Lukens went on the trip, learning to help where they could. Peggy brought her skills and medical training to spend hours with the school nurse sharing expertise and learning about needs. The visitors donated to the school 50 computers, shoes, clothing and 451 menstrual kits.

## **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA OPENS DOORS TO LGBT**

Citing “the social, political and judicial changes taking place in our country” regarding sexual orientation, Robert Gates, the president of the Boy Scouts of America, called for the organization to end its ban on gay adults at the organization’s national business meeting Thursday, May 21. Gates did not set a timeline for the policy change,

but stressed an urgency to act. So, opens a report on significant change in BSA policy.

A number of UCC congregations across the U.S. have sponsored Boy Scout troops for generations. In Oregon, the Corvallis UCC church has proudly claimed Troop 1 as part of it’s program... the very first troop organized in the region. When the BSA firmly prohibited LGBT members or leaders from participation, discussions were deep and heated as to whether to drop the troop or try to work from within the organization. The new policy prompts a sigh of relief to the Corvallis congregation.

## **WOULD YOU KNOW A MICROBEAD IF YOU SAW ONE?**

Recent discoveries of the presence of microbeads in aquatic life represent a growing environmental problem. They are found in cosmetics and toothpaste to mention a few offending products. Look for: polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate or polymethyl methacrylate among ingredients.



## PEACE DISCUSSIONS WITH BALTIMORE CLERGY

by *Emily Schappacher—UCC national staff*

As the city of Baltimore begins to recover from the recent race-related unrest that took place there following the death of Freddie Gray at the hands of police, local clergy are working toward long-term solutions for peace. The Rev. Geoffrey Black, general minister and president of the United Church of Christ, and the Rev. Sharon Watkins, general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), traveled to Baltimore on Wednesday, May 6, for conversation and prayer with nearly four dozen UCC and DOC clergy and lay leaders.

The event took place at the offices of the Central Atlantic Conference of the UCC in Catonsville, Md.

“The recent events in Baltimore exposed long-festering wounds and islands of hopelessness within our city,” said the Rev. John Deckenback, conference minister of the Central Atlantic Conference. “Tragically, once-vibrant neighborhoods are now wastelands, just a couple of miles from our offices.”

The Rev. Julius Jefferson, senior minister of Heritage UCC, shared a brief overview of the turmoil in Baltimore over the past weeks. Heritage UCC is located just a few blocks from where much of the violent unrest took place following the death of Gray, the 25-year-old African American who died April 19 after sustaining a spinal cord injury while in Baltimore police custody. Jefferson said that



more than a dozen pharmacies were damaged or destroyed, limiting the availability of prescriptions. Food banks at Heritage UCC and other local churches have seen a surge in requests and supplies are dwindling.

A special committee is being established to look at reform of the justice system, including a review of the police officers’ bill of rights. He added that racism has been a long-term issue in Baltimore neighborhoods, and that the killing of Black people by police must stop.

“What we saw last week is just the tip of the iceberg,” Jefferson said. “We are now sitting on a powder keg.”

## *Peace Discussions—continued from page 6*

Black urged Baltimore faith leaders to network with clergy from Ferguson, MO., who experienced similar unrest and uncertainty following the death of Michael Brown last summer. He suggested engagement in long-term conversations modeled after the UCC's Sacred Conversations on Race.

Suggestions for action included contributions to the Central Atlantic Conference's "Restoring Baltimore Fund," which will be used to replenish local food banks, provide trauma counseling, and other activities. Other suggested actions include advocating for reform in the Maryland legislature, such as revamping the police officers' bill of rights, ending discrimination in employment applications (known as the "remove the box" campaign), community policing, the demilitarization of police and their use-of-force policies, and initiating new police training standards.

"Huge fissures exist and the failure of the war on drugs and the militarization of the police can no longer be ignored," Deckenback said. "The response from the faith community to seek long-term solutions has been fabulous."

## **JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH**

This year Central Oregon Pride festival is June 20th at Drake Park from noon to 6 p.m... There will be more vending, nonprofit and food booths than ever before! All Peoples has always supported this event. If you can schedule time to be present in the Welcoming Congregations booth, you will find the experience fun and rewarding.

This year, look for a Pride program insert in The Source issue that comes out on June 4th. It has the whole calendar for Pride, the entertainment schedule, a map, and handy information about the event, the silent auction and more.

In the program is a Pride Passport. Collect stamps at each event for prizes at Pride on June 20th.



## JUNE WORSHIP PLANS

All Peoples UCC meets to worship the first and third Sundays of the month at 11 a.m. Bible study meets from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Worship will be in Redmond at St. Charles Hospital's Juniper Room.

### FINDING ST. CHARLES HOSPITAL IN REDMOND

- **From the north**—From Hwy 97 reroute in Redmond, right on Larch; first left on Canal, right on Kingwood, 3rd right into parking lot.
- **From the south**—coming north on Redmond Hwy 97 reroute, exit left at Glacier, right on 5th all the way north through town to Kingwood, right on Kingwood, go 1.75 blocks, and turn left into the hospital parking lot.
- **From east or west** on Hwy 126, go north on 5th and follow south-side directions.
- **Finding the Juniper Room**—Enter at the main entrance or the next door on the left. Go left to the end of the hall and then right to the first room on left, opposite the rest rooms.



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**June 7th**— 11 a.m. Worship Leaders:  
Dean and Sue Flory

10 a.m. Discussing Chapter 4 of *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor, Nancy Cook leading.

**June 21st**—11 a.m. FATHERS' DAY!

Worship leaders—Bill & Pris Hardin  
10 a.m. Chap. 5 of *An Altar in the World*. Fran Davis leading.

### SOJOURNER NEWS

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Please join us every first and third Sunday.  
Worship is at 11 a.m.; discussion group at 10 a.m.  
For additional information and location/date  
of the next worship service,  
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