

All Peoples
United Church of Christ
SOJOURNER NEWS

A Central Oregon House Church

July, 2015

Vol. XV, Number 7

TWIN WINS FOR DEMOCRACY AT SCOTUS—JUNE 24 & 25, 2015

OBAMA CARE SURVIVES

After so many nearly desperate tries on the part of the Republican legislature, it comes as disquieting at the least that the United States Supreme Court made the most definitive move yet to save the program for the thousands of Americans unable to qualify for insurance.

While the political overtones of the case have dominated press coverage, for progressive Christians the win was one of caring support for the unfortunate, the ill and the needy. The price that the rest of American tax payers (along with the healthy insured) will pay so that the sick, the injured

Obama Care—continued page 2

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IS THE LAW OF THE LAND

When the federal Supreme Court issued a ruling making same-sex marriage the law of the land, celebrations were tumultuous. The crowd on the steps of the court in Washington, DC, lingered for hours, hugging and kissing.

Reaction and predictions of subsequent action began almost immediately. The far right... both religious and political, argued that their religious freedom has been trampled. They anticipate that preachers, bakers, photographers, and other business people will be forced to deliver services offensive to their beliefs.

Same-Sex Marriage—continued page 2

Obama Care—continued from page 1

and the handicapped do not fall into an abyss of helplessness is worth it.

The political faction seeking to dismantle or modify-into-oblivion the Affordable Care Act (ACA) have vowed to continue their efforts. For those who value the successes of the ACA these challenges will require continued vigilance. In addition, there is much work needed to improve flawed elements of the law. So, those who care about the well-being of our fellow Americans must become politically active on their behalf. ▲

APUCC SERVES AT JERICHO TABLE IN JULY

Volunteer servers will work along side Melanie Fielzer, APUCC's Jericho Table coordinator on the following dates:

July 6—Gerry Soto & Fran Davis
July 13—Bill & Pris Hardin
July 20—Rich & Kathi Bumblis
July 27—Gloria Olson & VOLUNTEER
NEEDED

AND, following Jericho Table service on the 27th, APUCCers will gather at 6 p.m. for Dutch-treat supper and fellowship at an eatery... to be decided soon. ▲

Same-Sex Marriage—continued from page 1

Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon summed up the work that is yet to be done in defense of LGBT people:

- It's still legal in many states to kick someone out of a diner or other public accommodation because of who they love.
- It's still legal in many states to deny important services—like a home loan—to someone because of who they love.
- It's still legal in some states to deny someone housing because of who they love.

Other legal issues will emerge as the nation works through the new direction toward equality for LGB citizens. The most long lasting issues will likely be in found in situations where the country's culture needs to change. As a matter of fact, states that have "enshrined" discrimination against LGBT's into their laws have "just signed a full-employment act for civil liberties lawyers," said the Rev. Barry W, Lynn, executive director of Americans United. "Unfortunately, the state's taxpayers will be stuck with the tab."

The issue of equal treatment to transgender people follows closely on the heels of the

Same-Sex Marriage—continued page 3

Same-Sex Marriage—continued from page 2

new legal changes. Appropriately, many of the human rights groups who have worked so hard on fair treatment of LGB people have indicated that their next big target will be the unfair practices in place against transgender people.

All of the above issues are of deep concern to the United Church of Christ nationally. We at All Peoples UCC share the concern and will work, both individually and as a congregation to support the work. ▲



UCC NATIONAL NEWS

The 2015 General Synod of the UCC, just finished meeting in Cleveland, OH, this week. If you logged on to the proceedings that were streamed live, you would have seen the full-blown processes of lively discussion, voting and resolution of differences that characterize our denomination.

Important business included resolutions supporting transgender people as they work through the process of transition and an

intensely debated resolution dealing with boycotting corporations that support Israel's suppression of Palestine.

In addition to the resolutions and special events, the various branches of the national UCC presented exhibits. Justice and Witness Ministries brought a full-sized replica of a 6-foot by 9-foot prison "special housing unit," or solitary confinement cell, to the General Synod Exhibit Hall.

The exhibit aimed to raise awareness around practices of mass incarceration and torture, and to mobilize faith communities to advocate for an end to solitary confinements. For many years, these draconian practices were seldom questioned. The time has come to become informed and to ask questions. ▲



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Pope Francis's encyclical titled *Laudato Si* calls out to the entire world a faith-based alarm about global warming. What welcome news to all people of faith who have been stunned by the looming evidence of damage to all of earthly creation.

The Pope's message is hardly news to us but the impact of *Laudato Si*, a skillful integration of theology and science, warms the hearts of those of us who have felt utterly helpless to call attention to the dire messages coming from the scientific community.

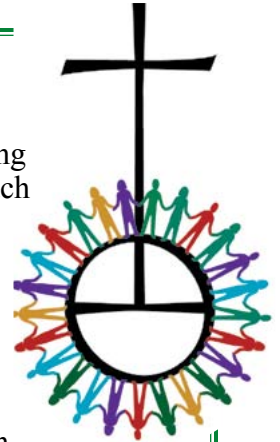
Responding to Pope Francis's call to action is still difficult to integrate into our daily lives. Already, we recycle; we try to carpool (whenever possible?); we reduce our consumption of precious resources—water, fossil fuels; and we raise our voices in protest of obvious waste. We call upon our government to implement conservation measures and we boycott corporations who operate outside of earth-friendly bounds.

But impacting global warming requires changes that are much more significant than simply doing the things that we currently do or try to do more efficiently.

Something has to give. That “something” would appear more major than leaders with the power to effect change are acknowledging.

The UK government's “Global Calculator” is a good example. The climate secretary, Ed Davey, claims the calculator shows “everyone in the world can prosper while limiting global temperature rises to two degrees, preventing the most serious impacts of climate change.” Recent studies show that that is not a reasonable claim. What can we do, as individuals, to face down this appalling problem?

More vivid awareness is a great place to begin. Our cultural environment sucks



us into an over-consumption spree that becomes invisible if one is not alert. What have we bought lately? More meat than we need? Convenience food? Appliances? How many unnecessary errands have we run? 'Planning a vacation that involves air flight, long road trips, etc.? How much electrical or fossil fuel use is necessary? Are there workarounds?

Changing these behaviors **to the extent needed** will require ingenuity and will!

The marketplace constantly entices spending on "stuff." One of the most insidious venues for climate-damaging offerings is the internet. Start reading the headlines; notice how tempting they are... currently, ads for travel are everywhere!

Figure out ways to be more self sufficiently "green."... 'Got a vegetable garden? Do some sewing. (*But beware the enormous prices on fabric and notions.*) Eat at home. Patronize the farmer's markets. Shop the periphery of the supermarket, thus avoiding more carbon-intensive prepared foods and beverages in the middle of the store. While at the store, avoid all that fancy

packaging... simpler living is an answer. Study the behavior of corporations and boycott those for whom you have found news of corporate bad conduct. Share your findings!

These suggestions are very humble and not as creative as we need to be.

So, share... share ideas for frugality and simplicity. Especially those of us who are retired have the time that many of the best climate-friendly moves require.

Along with the Pope, we must practice even better stewardship of our world. ▲

UCC RESPONSE TO DECISION ON AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Barbara Baylor, UCC policy advocate for domestic issues, praised the court for recognizing the intent of the ACA law as extending insurance subsidies in all states. "Thank you, U. S. Supreme Court Justices, for looking beyond the political debates and making the right decision for our country," Baylor said. "Thank you for not putting the health and lives of many at risk. Thank for upholding the health care subsidies." ▲

SYNOD APPROVES GREATER UNITY WITH UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Two years ago, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to strengthen the denomination's relationship with a neighboring church to the north. Now, the UCC and the United Church of Canada have prepared for full communion between the two North American churches—a partnership in mission intended to enhance the ministry of each denomination—fulfilling the promise the churches made in 2013.

The two denominations look forward to a dynamic and growing relationship. The resolution submitted to the General Synod in Cleveland read in part: “It is a mutual commitment to grow together toward a vision of the church that enriches our theological traditions, enhances service and mission, and deepens worship. The United Church of Canada and the United Church of Christ will find diverse expressions of what it means to live in full communion in Christ as we experience life together.” We *are* a uniting denomination and will continue to seek unions with like-minded Christians. ▲

RIGHT WING POLITICS AND RELIGIOUS HARD AT WORK

Americans for Separation of Church and State is joined by progressive organizations in combating legislative and extra-legislative moves that fly in the face of current law and Christian values.

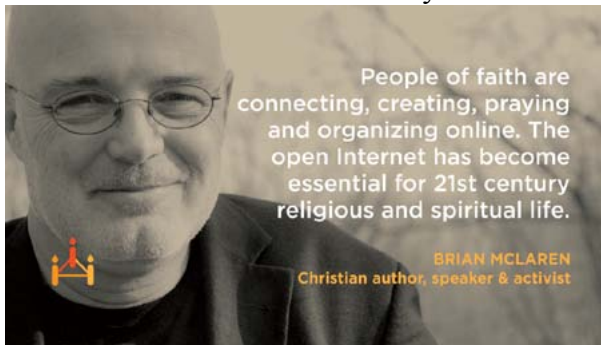
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder(R) recently signed bills that collectively permit publicly funded adoption agencies to discriminate on the basis of religion in placing babies. Most faith-based adoption agencies are sponsored by the Catholic church; they will surely choose not to place adoptive children with same-sex couples.

In another faith-based conflict, ACLU research revealed that Governor Bobby Jindal of Louisiana looks the other way when some public school teachers teach creationism! When Americans United for Separation of Church and State, pointed to the illegality of such instruction, officials hastened to explain that they don't provide the teaching materials. They said that it IS legal to teach from the Bible and to introduce creationism literature (while holding up evolution as just another theory). ▲

CPC AT PENDLETON—9/25–27/15

Once more the Central Pacific Conference (CPC) annual gathering will convene at the Pendleton Conference Center. This year, the meeting will focus on **ways churches can benefit from using online media**. Keynote speaker will be Cameron Trimble of the Center for Progressive Christianity. Of course, workshops will cover a wide array of other topics of interest to churches and individuals. The gathering allows for meeting old friends and making new ones from UCC congregations all over Oregon, southern Washington and southern Idaho.

Our congregation is permitted four voting delegates. As in past years, Pris Hardin plans to go and Laurie Power is checking her schedule in hopes of going. Anyone else interested should let Pris or Laurie know as lodging at the Oxford Suites will fill up fast. We can carpool and share lodging. The registration materials will be available soon. ▲



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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

Last-Monday Experiment

In search of a quieter venue, APUCC met for fellowship and supper at The Jersey Boys pizza house. Eighteen APUCCers exceeded the capacity of the tables arranged for us, the food was good but the place was noisy.

APUCC Annual Picnic—August 2nd

Following worship at the home of Bill and Pris Hardin in Terrebonne, plan ahead for the APUCC annual picnic-potluck—map to follow in late July.

Worship on Picnic Sunday will be enriched by guest preacher Kimberly Brown who has led worship at APUCC before.

•Welcome back, Kimberly!• ▲



JULY 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** on Hwy 126 **or west**, 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

July 5th—11 a.m. Worship Leader—
Laurie Power

10 a.m. Discussing Chapter 6 of *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Laurie Power leading.

July 19th—11 a.m.

Worship leader—Kathi Bumblis
10 a.m. Chap. 7 of *An Altar in the World*. Nancy Cook leading.

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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,
email the above.

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