

All Peoples
United Church of Christ
SOJOURNER NEWS

A Central Oregon House Church

Vol XIII, Number 8

August, 2014

ALL PEOPLES ON THE MOVE AGAIN... AUGUST 17TH!



The All Peoples' Arc of the Covenant, (upper left) does not look quite like the one carried by the Jews wandering in the wilderness. Nor did they tote an electronic keyboard.

But, we *are* nomadic. Since the founding of All Peoples in 2001, the congregation has met in no fewer than 6 public spaces, not to mention the many private homes that have welcomed us.

Our new digs at the Redmond St. Charles hospital look, for the moment, like the promised land. There will be ample room for our slowly growing group. Tables are available for study sessions and potlucks. And, there is room enough to simultaneously set up our worship center at the other end of the space. Media projection screens emerge from the ceiling as needed. There is a lectern,

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also. An attractive green space lies just outside the large windows. Furthermore, the chairs are upholstered and wheeled! The hospital cafeteria will deliver coffee and “goodies” to the room. And, the price is right... that leaves more of our “treasure” for community/mission service.

The last page of this newsletter has directions for finding the hospital. Once there, finding the Juniper Room is quite easy. Bypass the main entrance’s double doors and enter through the single door at the far left of the glassed in lobby and hallway—that would be the northern end. Go straight ahead (east) to the second room on the left. A sign announces that it is the Juniper Room. We will post an additional sign at the room with the All Peoples name and logo on it.

At the same time, we want to express our appreciation for the warm hospitality of the Green Plow Coffee Roasters over the past winter. Their coffee and goodies are excellent. They worked hard to accommodate the needs of the congregation. We have simply outgrown the space. Thank you, Green Plow!

CHILDREN IN CRISIS—OUR CONGREGATION COULD HELP

UCC affiliate, Church World Service (CWS) posted the following story.

Unaccompanied children and families need immediate assistance. With your support, Church World Service is reaching out to those children who have been taken into custody by U.S. law enforcement, ensuring they get the legal representation and spiritual care they need.

Matthew 19:14—*“Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”* (NRSV)

CWS will deploy Spanish-speaking legal staff and volunteers to the Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, to interview children and their families and help them understand how to apply for protection. They are currently assisting with religious services and providing support in a detention facility in Artesia, New Mexico. They also urgently need funds to meet immediate needs including food, water, clothing, diapers,

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

“I don’t watch the news; it’s too depressing.” Lately I hear this sentiment expressed more and more often. I have to agree that it is depressing. But, I don’t agree that withdrawal is the best strategy unless one has a clinical problem of depression.

We belong to a faith that relies on hope to get us through the tough times and keep us coming back for more of life—life lived abundantly. Jesus taught that if we would have faith, the abundant life would be ours to enjoy.

Unlike some, I do NOT assume that the abundance he promised meant that we should expect riches in the form of worldly goods... far from it.

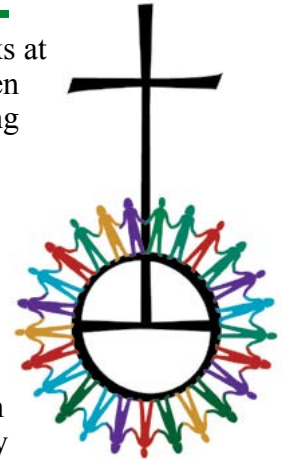
No, Jesus stressed the simpler life, led with intention! Monday night last, while serving at Jericho Table, one of the diners caught my attention early on by thanking us profusely and sincerely for serving up his meal. Was he “putting us on” or engaging in undue flattery?

Soon I noticed that the folks at the table where he had taken his tray seemed to be having a good time, laughing and sharing.

Did you read Charles Dickens’ *David Copperfield* in your callow youth? Remember Mr. Micawber, the eternal optimist who insisted, even as his long-suffering family huddled with him in debtor’s prison, that, “Surely, something will come up.”

Noam Chomsky declares, “Optimism is a strategy for making a better future. Because unless you believe that the future can be better, it’s unlikely you will step up and take responsibility for making it so.”

And, so, we faith-struck Christians find ourselves following The Way; living life with hope and faith as we have been called by Jesus while working to help make that “better world” a reality with our hearts, our souls and our spirits.



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Taking responsibility for our optimism is a lot easier when one believes that the power of faith will somehow push forward the effort. So, let us take heart as we “do unto others.” We are not alone.

Shalom, Priscilla Hardin, editor

GREAT GIVEAWAY COMING

On August 16th, from 9 a.m. to noon, the Central Oregon Great Giveaway will offer free housewares, bedding, clothing and household goods to the needy. Giveaway sites are at the churches of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in both Bend and La Pine.

Take clean, ready-to-use items in good condition, to either location on August 14–15 between noon and 8 p.m. Please allow time for your donations to be checked in to ensure they fit into the categories of acceptable items. Donations are tax deductible.

Visit www.cogga.net website for a list of items to be donated. Special thanks to the First Presbyterian Church of Bend.

Phone 541-207-6733 or,
email: COGGA.INFO@gmail.com.

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medical care, housing and bus tickets for vulnerable children and families, some of whom are left without support after their initial screening.

Would we make a special offering?

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Make checks to: Church World Service
attn: unaccompanied children crisis

Mail to: Church World Service
Marked: Unaccompanied Children Crisis
(#76-628-B)
P.O. Box 968
Elkhart, IN 46515

“I WANT MY CHRISTIANITY BACK”

“I don’t like telling people I’m a Christian,” laments Mark Sandlin, a Presbyterian (USA) minister. His article appears in *Patheos*, a publication “hosting” conversations about faith. Using a suitcase as a metaphor for the baggage big media associates with modern Christianity, Sandlin speaks to us at APUC.

The baggage he complains about assumes that “if you’re Christian you’re anti-LGBT, anti-abortion, anti-real equality, anti-other

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religions and pretty much anti-anything else that one small but loud subset of Christians finds offensive or threatening.”

He cites Michelle Bachmann’s claim that the LGBT community threatens the sanctity of marriage and then goes on to characterize them as pedophiles and sexual predators. He wants no part of that.

Recent studies, says Sandlin, believe that people think the church to be hypocritical and judgmental. How to explain why “Christians” can be so cruelly critical when their leader preached love and acceptance of all? These people sound, says Sandlin, more like Pharisees than Jesus.

The antidote to this unreal situation is to do just as Jesus did with the Pharisees— “He confronted the Pharisees every time they tried to unload it onto him or others.

“And when they accuse us of being un-Christian (and they will), we must ... tell them, ‘You no longer get to own that word. You have used it and abused it and crucified it on crosses of hate, greed, power and control. We are taking our religion back – way back—back to the teachings of Jesus.’”

APUCC’S NOT-SO-STILL SMALL VOICES!

What can a small congregation do to express it’s concern for social justice and community well-being? Let’s show our deep appreciation to members who recently used local newspapers to raise their voices on the side of “good.” Gloria Olson and Bill Hardin had pieces published in the Bend Bulletin’s “In My View” section. Gloria spoke for respectful immigration reform and Bill addressed the nation’s exercise of bellicose power on the world stage.

Staff writer Liz Douville’s bi-weekly gardening article promotes the prosperity of readers’ gardens... a practical contribution to the sustainability of our community. Most recently Liz’s gardening article became a multi-page feature devoted to solving sickly plant problems. That should help lots of folks with their gardening puzzles. We were treated to a rare photo of Liz herself in the story. Usually, we see only her hand as she holds up some plant-based sample.

Keep up the great work all. Let’s hear from more voices for “good.”

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ON TRIAL

Across the political spectrum, from national leaders to local voters, indignation is high over recent attacks on women's rights.

The highest profile action involved the U.S. Supreme Court's Hobby Lobby decision. Conservative Justice Antonin Scalia declared, "Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't." That conviction flies in the face of the 14th amendment, known as the equal protection amendment. U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen protests, "A woman's employer should never be the one to make health care decisions for her."

At State and local levels, legislation prohibiting or limiting reproductive and other women's health decisions have become widespread. Such decisions should be the province of private discussions between a woman and her health care provider. The UCC's commitment to equal rights makes such restrictions a huge violation of our faith's concern for fair treatment of all— in this case, the injustice covers more than half of the nation's population!!!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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

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

New Opportunities for sharing: Jericho Table often runs out of condiments.

Contributions from volunteers would be most welcomed. Senior Center kitchen has a separate cupboard and refrigerator for Jericho Table storage. Salad dressings, mayo, catsup, mustard, packets of sugar, salt, pepper, and dry creamer are needed items. These items will be used any night that the meals are served. Take gifts, labelled for JT, to the kitchen during JT service hours, M– F, 4:30–6 p.m.

Monday Night Out Thrives—The last Monday of the month, APUCC friends gather in Redmond's Dawg House II restaurant for fun and supper. The staff reserve a special area and give great service. Last time 12 folks attended. Join us on August 25th at 6 p.m. Alternate months, when we serve at Jericho Table, we gather at 6:15 to allow our volunteers time to complete their JT service.

TRAINS CONTINUE TO ROLL CARRYING HAZARDOUS CARGO AT RISK



The fireball above followed the derailment and explosion of two trains, one carrying Bakken crude oil, on December 30, 2013, outside Casselton, ND.

Sierra Club and ForestEthics, represented by Earthjustice, have filed a formal legal petition to compel the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation to issue an emergency order forbidding the use of hazardous rail cars—known as DOT-111s—

for shipping flammable Bakken crude oil. In an accident, these tank cars are vulnerable to puncturing on impact, spilling oil and triggering horrendous fires and explosions. While the Safety Board have recommended a ban on shipping crude oil in these dangerous cars, their pleas have gone unheeded by federal regulators.

Officials estimate that between 13 and 16 oil trains a week roll west through Spokane, WA., numbers that would skyrocket if planned oil terminals on the West Coast are built. Take note; take action to protect our local environment and people.

WHY REJECT AN ANTI-GAY DISCRIMINATION BILL?

Civil rights groups rejected the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) on the grounds that it contains a loop-hole big enough to drive that proverbial truck through.

The wording provided “religiously affiliated organizations—including hospitals, nursing homes and universities—with a blank check to engage in workplace discrimination against LGBT people.” Such text would appear to be the first fruits of the Hobby Lobby decision.

AUGUST 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.

August WORSHIP SITES—

Aug. 3—Green Plow Coffee Roasters

Aug. 17—Juniper Room, Redmond Hospital

FINDING ST. CHARLES HOSPITAL IN REDMOND

- **From the north**—From Hwy 97 reroute, right on Larch; first left on Canal, right on Kingwood, 2nd 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 hospital parking lot.
- **From west** on Hwy 126, left (north) on 5th and follow *above directions to hospital.



SOJOURNER NEWS

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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

August 3rd—Green Plow Coffee Roasters

11 a.m. Worship—Laurie Power

10 a.m. Bible Bookworms

Review Chaps. 1-3 of Zealot,
by Reza Aslan. Laurie Power wants
you to consider how you would
define “zealot.”

August 17th—Our New Worship Site!

Meeting in the Juniper Room at
St. Charles Hospital, Redmond

11 a.m. Worship—David and Nancy Cook

10 a.m. Bible Bookworms

Continuing with Zealot,
in preparation, read Chapters 4–7