



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

A Central Oregon House Church

January, 2015

Vol XV, Number 1

## LOCAL DISASTER BRINGS OUT GOOD WILL

When Prineville's Woodgrain Millwork suffered failure of the old roof on their mill in November, executives announced that they had no plans to restart operations and that 200 mill workers would be laid off immediately! While the mill workers will pay the greatest price in their loss of employment, the closure of the mill is also a loss for Prineville as wood product industries have long been a major economic engine in the area.

For years, too, Prineville has led Central Oregon and sometimes the entire state in unemployment figures. With high numbers of mill workers joining so many

other Prineville residents in search of jobs, the situation looks especially bleak.

But, Central Oregonians take pride in stepping forward to help when need is great.

Officials at Bright Wood Quality Millwork in Madras have stated an intention to hire a few of the workers.

Grocery Outlet Stores are collecting both groceries and cash to assist the folks who find themselves short of provisions. APUCC has made one Grocery Outlet contribution to the cause and is poised to do more as the story unfolds.



# EDITOR'S NOTE:

Dateline: Palm Springs, CA.

Here in sunny SoCal, year-end media appraisals of 2014 tend to agree that last year was very bad year all around.

Indeed, last Sunday's message from the Rev. Kevin Johnson of Bloom in the Desert Ministries, UCC (with Methodist roots) began with a litany of events that the media have been citing to confirm the ugliness of the past year. There is no point in yielding to the temptation to be a "Pollyanna" Christian and say it isn't so.

From global warming to do-nothing government to violence and greed across our world, much of the news is downright depressing. And our abilities to ameliorate the situation seem feeble at best. Not only that, but our immediate lives seem safe protected and privileged when compared to those of the millions who are immediate victims of the evils stalking our globe.

Therefore, where does that leave people of faith who believe that God is good and that the light of the world is upon us?

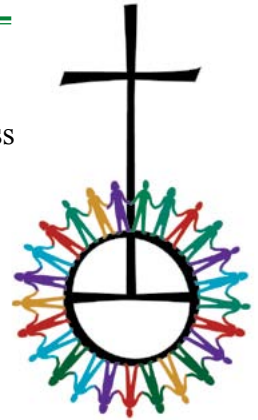
Hand wringing is as fruitless as bell ringing would be if faced by such malevolent forces.

The onset of "resolution season," (which life experience tell us is about as fruitless as hand wringing) means that action trumps wallowing in distress and hopelessness.

There is much to be said in favor of spreading hope... hope that is grounded in actual events around us. Perhaps sharing hope as an act of doing good is a first step toward making the world a better place.

How about watching for acts of kindness/signs of "justice done" and sharing those stories on a daily basis? It is uplifting to know that someone out there cares and has done something about it. Hope comes from restoring one's faith in people.

The word "gospel" means "good news." How about making it a practice to come



up with at least one *local* good news story and one *U.S.* or *world* good news story on a regular basis? On the way to doing service or work toward justice in one's daily life, have those daily good news stories ready to share with whomever you meet who might need to hear a bit of hope.

Call it your own "gospel work" to restore hope wherever you go.

Happy New Year and Amen! (...*So be it!*)

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**Last Monday at Dawg House II**—The last Monday of December found our usual spot at the Dawg House empty of APUCCers. Winter weather, holiday travel and miserable colds ganged up to force cancelation of our regular gathering. Plan to meet APUCC friends for fun and supper at Dawg House II in Redmond next on January 26, at 6 p.m..

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

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

## CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE REPORT ... A MIXED BAG

A credentialed observer to the talks held in Lima, Peru, recounted discouraging tales of endless speeches, of men in expensive suits and general inaction. Nnimmo Bassey, a leading Nigerian environmental justice activist and winner of the Right Livelihood Award, [blogged](#), "Negotiation arenas remain places for fiddling while Rome burns."

Looking for bright spots required going outside of the hallowed halls to visit venues led by women activists and those carrying the banners of indigenous peoples from around the world.

Representing more than 50% of the world's population, women are the most vulnerable and they have formed the greatest "ngo" forces for action. They demand that women not only are acknowledged but that their needs and ideas be integrated into mitigation strategies.

The final agreement did include some gender responsive language. Now, we must press for action and follow through.

## CONNECTICUT UCC CHURCH GIVES AWAY THEIR BUILDING

After occupying the same church building for over 100 years, a shrinking New London congregation made a hard decision!

“They’d been through two fires and built and rebuilt. It was wrenching ... they didn’t want to give it up but knew they couldn’t keep it up,” said the Rev. McCaffrey, pastor of the worshippers. They gifted their legacy building to Miracle Temple Church in the spring of 2013.

McCaffrey, who was hired as a part-time pastor in the fall of 2011, said economics forced the decision.

Today, they lease space in Crossroads Presbyterian Church in nearby Waterford. They are now Waterford Congregational UCC.

The courage to choose renewal of mission work over servicing the looming \$150,000 bill for maintaining a building full of memories is worthy of great respect.

Congratulations to another congregation that puts mission priorities up where they belong. Godspeed to them in their new life.

## ALL PEOPLES VOLUNTEERISM

January is APUCC’s first time to serve Jericho Table’s diners in the new location at the Redmond Grange Hall. Volunteers will have to hit the ground running at 4:30 p.m. since our long time partners in service, the St. Albans Episcopal church has had to request a furlough during January. Mustering 6 servers from APUCC every Monday night sounds like a big order but the roster of volunteers is filling up as follows:

**Jan. 5:** David & Nancy Cook, Melanie Feilzer, Dean & Sue Flory and Thom Larson

**Jan. 12:** David & Nancy Cook, Liz Douville. Melanie Feilzer, Thom Larson and Laurie Power

**Jan. 19:** David & Nancy Cook, Fran Davis, and Melanie Feilzer (**2 more needed**)

**Jan. 26:** Fran Davis, Liz Douville, Melanie Feilzer, Mike Lovely, and Judy Morgan (**1 more needed**)

See Melanie Feilzer, our Jericho Table volunteer wrangler, if you can sign up to help on either the 19th or the 26th. Let’s rise to the challenge!

## JANUARY 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

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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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town to Kingwood, right on Kingwood, go 1.75 blocks, and turn left into the hospital parking lot.

- **From west** on Hwy 126, left on 5th and follow south side directions to hospital.
- **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

- Jan. 4th**—11 a.m. Worship—Laurie Power  
10 a.m. Discussion of Chaps. 1–3  
of *Convictions—How I Learned What Matters Most* by Marcus Borg.  
Nancy Cook will lead.
- Jan. 18th**—11 a.m. Worship—David and Nancy Cook  
10 a.m. Laurie Power will lead study of Chapters 4–5 of the Borg book