

All Peoples
United Church of Christ
SOJOURNER NEWS

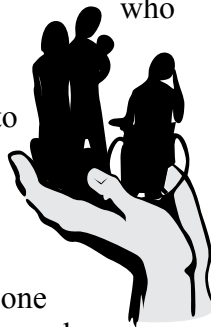
A Central Oregon House Church

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HOW TO HELP WITH DISASTER RELIEF

Many of you have, no doubt, wondered how you could respond personally or through All Peoples United Church of Christ to provide assistance to those who are suffering from recent disasters such as hurricane Maria's devastation of Puerto Rico or the life-shattering earthquakes in Mexico. Making a contribution to the UCC **International Emergency Relief Fund** is one avenue. This fund works through established agencies to accomplish its mission. For example, a \$3,000 solidarity grant has already been provided to the Global Ministries partner, Theological Community



of Mexico, to meet the needs of people affected by the recent quakes (i.e. medicines, first aid medical equipment and provisions, clothing, food, water, diapers, instruments to remove debris).

Disaster relief is also coordinated through these other United Church of Christ agencies.

OGHS: One Great Hour of Sharing ® is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development actions. The **Emergency USA Fund:** Each year in the United States hundreds of disasters occur. Some disasters are large enough to make the news but often dozens of smaller disasters escape media attention. The Emergency USA Fund allows UCC Disaster Ministries to respond to both

Continued next page

Continued from page 1

large and small natural and human caused disasters in all 50 U.S. States and territories.

You can make personal donations to these funds by check or online. You may specify a particular need or purpose. Find donation details at [http://www.ucc.org/donate to disaster relief](http://www.ucc.org/donate-to-disaster-relief).

One valuable asset lies in the fact that the UCC has responsibly vetted connections to charitable partners spotted around the world. In many cases, these connections are already planted in the region of the disaster, ready to swing into action at a moment's notice. You can give with confidence. ▲

REDMOND'S ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF CULTURES

The third weekend in September found APUCCer's drawn in two directions: To Pendleton to the annual meeting of the Central Pacific Conference (CPC) of the UCC and to Redmond's annual Festival of Cultures in the town's Centennial Park.



Kathi Bumblis greets visitors to the Festival of Cultures. APUCC volunteers staffed the site, offering friendly smiles and take-home items.

Continued next page

Continued from page 2

The Festival of Cultures brought lively action at the city park. Colorful dancing, speeches, and cultural events filled booths and stages with sound and good smells.

David Cook and Bill Hardin set up the All Peoples UCC booth where our multi-cultural “swag” included buttons, hand-woven book marks and small cards designed to inform immigrants-without-papers of their legal rights should immigration agents approach them.

The buttons read “Together We Thrive.”

Each was attached to a larger card containing an invitation to visit All Peoples.

The bookmarks were the work of Liz Douville, a skilled weaver.

The cards, business-card size, contained English on one side and Spanish on the other. They offered scripts for how to respond in case of an encounter with ICE agents. Note: Oregon is a sanctuary state where public facilities, personnel and resources are NOT available to ICE agents to aid in the arrest of immigrants lacking legal entry papers (unless they have committed a crime).



Special Thanks to the volunteers who staffed the booth: Liz Douville was on duty much of the day. Volunteers serving one-hour sessions were: Evelyn Doherty & Judy McCoy, Terry Heinen, Gloria Olson, Gerry Soto, Emilie Marlinghaus, and Susi Sutton.

Gloria Olson and Evelyn Doherty served as on-site reporters.

Gloria wrote, “I looked outside and noted the cloud cover, the thermometer revealed a chilly morning so I “layered up” for the cool, put my creaky joints in the Ford and pointed it in the direction of Centennial Park in downtown Redmond. I was early so I strolled around the park, visiting with exhibit hosts. Once more I realized the 11th Annual CELEBRATION OF CULTURES was a HUGE HAPPENING. At the APUCC booth, people were stopping for conversation. There they found amazing signs, gifts and members of our APUCC group. I engaged with the participants, offering one of our buttons and, when appropriate, some of the “goldenrod”

Continued on page 4

Continued from p.3

cards inspired by the ACLU with the very important message for a time an ICE agent targets a person or a family. I spoke with many, suggesting something like this; 'this card has a statement of your civil rights, please ask each person in the family to learn it. It's important to be able to make this statement to an agent if it's needed.' In total I found it to be a rewarding experience and I am really pleased that Nancy made arrangements for our group

to be a part of the CELEBRATION OF CULTURES. After my time at the exhibit area I drove home to find cooler outer wear for the afternoon. I saw many participants wearing our colorful buttons that afternoon. 'Made me proud. "

Reporter Evelyn wrote: "A joy filled day ! The festival was full of color, music, and scents of exotic foods. It was a true pleasure to work with members of the church. Giving away the buttons and Liz's beautiful bookmarks was lots of fun ." ▲

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

Annual Meeting of the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ (CPC/UCC). This past weekend (September 22-24) three members of All Peoples United Church of Christ attended the meeting: Laurie, Pris, and Nancy. You will hear from all three of us in this newsletter as we try to bring all of you a sense of what happens at the annual meeting.

The annual meeting is a requirement as CPC is an organization representing forty-seven congregations, spread over Oregon, southern Washington, and southern Idaho, who have similar goals and beliefs. The conference (CPC) supports those congregations with leaders, gatekeepers, and facilities like



Continued on page 5

Continued from p.4

Camp Adams and Pilgrim Cove. It provides programs and organizational structure so we can accomplish more. Like our most recent button says: Together We Thrive. That takes people and funding and necessitates a way to be accountable for the money taken in and spent.

On Friday evening several teams in the CPC/UCC reported on their past year in the form of stories. Camp Adams' story, for example, included stories of important connections that have been made with environmental groups. Camp Adams, located in Molalla, one of two conference camping facilities, is working "to live more fully the ministry of the nature sanctuary that is Camp Adams." We also heard the stories of the past year from the CPC treasurer, the Committee on Ministry, Justice & Witness Ministry Team, Local Church Ministry Team (David and Pris are members), and Wider Church Ministries.

On Saturday the annual meeting delegates elected the slate of nominees and approved the budget, both as presented. Also approved was the budget of Camp Adams, which is now separate from the conference budget. In addition, the bylaw change from the United Church of Christ (UCC) General Synod meeting of the past summer, which corrects and updates some language such as recognizing ordination from The United Church of Canada, was reviewed. Read the text of the UCC bylaws at <http://synod.uccpages.org/revised.html>.

Nancy Cook, Moderator ▲

OCTOBER WORSHIP CALENDAR

- Oct. 1st—11 a.m. Worship—John Eggum
10 a.m. Viewing rest of "Inequality for All" video by Robert Reich
- Oct. 15th—11 a.m. Worship—Laurie Power
10 a.m. First discussion of "Inequality for All": Laurie Power leading.

All Peoples UCC meets to worship the first and third Sundays of each month. Refreshments begin at 9:45 a.m.. Study/discussion group ends by 10:45.

CPC ANNUAL MEETING MOVES “TO THE WELL; TO THE EDGE”

The Setting—For the 5th year in a row, the great hall of the Pendleton Conference Center hosted the annual CPC gathering. The room was bisected by a curtain divider. The larger portion held a great circle of chairs, three deep with an impromptu “altar” in the center. A variety of “vessels” and candles represented “the well”; that resource to which we turn for the living water of spiritual renewal and strength. Two large projection screens, faced each other across the room. They carried the lyrics to the songs we sang.

The Activities—Tennyson Wolff, the leader of our exploration of “to the Well; to the Edge,” guided us through numerous encounters with each other in groups of varying sizes from pairs to as many as 5 or 6. Each activity was designed to build fellowship and to guide us toward a richer understanding of each other, our faith and our spiritual journeys. In short, we explored our relationships to “the edge”— our life experiences of risk, courage and redemption. We moved back and forth from the great room to the adjacent room where tables and chairs enabled small group visits. At those



Photo by N. Cook

tables we also enjoyed tasty meals, served buffet style.

Tennyson is also a specialist in system structures and systems management. At one point, we worked from the diagram seen on the screen above. Blue masking tape replicated a huge copy of the diagram in the center of the large circle. After explaining the diagram, Tennyson called for a volunteer

Continued from p. 6

from each participating congregation to stand on the part of the diagram that best represented the current state of their home church in the diagrammed process. In typical UCC fashion, people took up positions all over the floor diagram. Hallelujah! ▲

MEET MOLLY!

by Laurie Power

Molly Carlson is our new “Designated Term” Minister of the Central Pacific Conference (translation: she’ll serve for 2 years before a new permanent conference minister is called). She has been on the job for little over a month; so she is doing a lot of listening before setting her priorities.

Currently, she plans to visit each CPC church during her term (she’ll likely visit All Peoples next spring), she’s interested in building connections across the conference among small and large congregations, helping church starts (and closures), supporting searches for new pastors, and focusing on why the conference matters! I found Molly to be accessible, energetic, humorous, and spirit led.

A few more tidbits: Her most recent leadership was as senior minister of the

United Church of Christ (Congregational) in Yankton, SD. She has served at both regional and national levels of Disciples of Christ, is ordained in the Disciples and has full ministerial partnership standing in the UCC. Molly is married to Rev. Michael Carlson, a minister and musician. Michael and Molly have two sons, Simon (16) and Adam (13). Molly is an avid knitter and enjoys camping with her family, spending time at the beach, and reading good books. ▲



Above—Molly (left) and Nancy load their plates at dinner time.

MAKING REDMOND A WELCOMING CITY

Four All Peoples United Church of Christ members attended the September 26 Redmond City Council meeting during which the Latino Community Association of Central Oregon presented their petition for Redmond to join the Welcoming America initiative and declare Redmond a welcoming community.

The petition presented by Brad Porterfield of the Latino Community Association of Central Oregon is available for viewing and signing at this url:<<http://chn.ge/2x2dgw1>>.

Gloria Olson reports the following about the September 26th meeting.

We of APUCC are proud to be discussing the shared vision for Redmond becoming a welcoming city under the banner of Welcoming America. This nationwide organization is at the core of a shared vision of inclusivity and support for all people. <<https://www.welcomingamerica.org/>>

Local organizing is under the leadership of Brad Porterfield, Executive Director of the Latino Association for Central Oregon. Gloria Olson and Emilie Marlinghaus

have been participating in the process to understand and communicate the message surrounding this work. That work involves gathering signatures on a petition to submit to the city, understanding and speaking to the essence of the resolution asking Redmond to become another inclusive city. Recently a significant number of our group attended a City Council meeting where Porterfield and organizers presented the request to adopt the resolution naming Redmond a Welcoming City. Watch for more information as this work moves forward.

The Redmond City Council next meets on October 10 at 6:00 pm at the Redmond City Hall, 411 SW 9th Street, Redmond, OR.

Gloria also suggests:

To offer your encouragement and support to members of city council for the Welcoming City packet, send an email to Keith Witcosky, City Manager at <keith.witcosky@ci.redmond.or.us> I asked him how we might make comments to city council members and he offered this suggestion.

Thanks a heap. ▲

CNN INTERVIEWS NEIL DE GRASS TYSON ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Following the tremendous floods hitting Texas and Florida, Neil deGrasse Tyson spoke out against climate change deniers with righteous indignation.

“Fifty inches of rain in Houston! This is a shot across our bow,” he railed.

“What will it take for people to recognize that a community of scientists are learning objective truths about the natural world and that you can benefit from knowing about it?”

He asserted that rather than launch into a political debate based upon mere opinion, they would do better to listen to the scientists as they lay out their findings and then have the debate about what to do about them.

By failing to accept the knowledge of what we are doing to our planet, Tyson worries that the delay may be too great for us to overcome with corrective action the damage we have caused.

Many of the greatest cities in the world are on coast lines.

“And as storms kick in, as water levels rise, they are the first to go,” Tyson said. “And we don’t have a system—we don’t

have a civilization with the capacity to pick up a city and move it inland 20 miles. This is happening faster than our ability to respond. That could have huge economic consequences.”

As Christians with a belief that our role is to do more than worry about economic consequences, stewardship of this planet is a God-given responsibility. We are called to love, nurture and defend the planet against those who wish to heedlessly exploit the riches of the earth with no concern for the poor, the endangered and the innocent victims of greed. Although many scientists identify as either atheist or agnostic, perhaps “God is still speaking” through them. Are we listening? If so, are small changes made in our personal lives enough? ▲

TEXAS UCC CONGREGATION SURVIVING SECOND FLOOD

Christ United UCC in Cypress, Texas, found flood waters halfway up the church doors during Hurricane Harvey. The small congregation, just 25 miles north of Houston, had recently moved back into their church

Continued on p. 10

Continued from p. 9

following flooding in 2016!

Christ United Pastor the Rev. Jeffrey Willey told his congregation on Sept. 10. “Let’s celebrate that which we do have.

“God is working on our behalf, moving hearts of pastors and congregations across the country,” as he shared with them stories and phone calls from small congregations around the country who told him that “God has sent us to you.”

One phone call came from Nancy Cook, our APUCC moderator, informing him that we were sending a check their way to help with recovery from their second flood. ▲

HEAD OF AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE RETIRES

Since 1992, the Rev. Barry Lynn has led the organization that works to maintain the wall of separation established in the U.S. constitution.

Next month, Lynn will retire. An ordained UCC minister and lawyer, Barry Lynn has worked diligently to keep religious leaders at bay who wish to make their church function as an arm of the government.

The task has not always been easy. Known colloquially as Americans United, the organization has defended the separation of church in state and federal courts and through the Internal Revenue Service.

For instance, when a Houston church announced that they intended to elect so many candidates to office through church action that they could take over the Republican party in Texas. AU reported the plan to the Internal Revenue Service and held a press conference on protecting the Johnson Amendment, the church was stopped.

Thanks to the Rev. Barry Lynn as he approaches retirement. ▲

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Please join us every first and third Sunday for
worship at 11 a.m.

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INDEX TO APUCC’S OCTOBER SOJOURNER NEWS

| | |
|---|----|
| How to Help with Disaster Relief..... | 1 |
| Redmond’s annual Festival of cultures | 2 |
| Moderator’s Musings | 4 |
| October Worship Calendar..... | 5 |
| CPC Annual Meeting Moves “To the Well; to the Edge” | 6 |
| MEET MOLLY! by Laurie Power..... | 7 |
| Making Redmond a Welcoming City..... | 8 |
| CNN Interviews Neil de Grass Tyson on Climate Change..... | 9 |
| Texas UCC Congregation Surviving Second Flood | 9 |
| Head of AmericanS United for Separation of Church and State Retires | 10 |

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; turn right and enter the first room on the left

