

All Peoples
United Church of Christ
SOJOURNER NEWS

A Central Oregon House Church

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April, 2017

BANJO SUNDAY! APRIL 2ND, 2017

Music, Live and Vibrant, Coming to Worship.

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**Music, Live and Vibrant, Coming
to Worship.**



When Milly Whately first invited LeRoy and Judy Newport to lead a banjo sing-along to APUCC, they added a vibrant, toe-tapping

element to worship that our services had been missing. That was years ago. We continue to be hungry for more.

Their visit this year expands to include more musicians, some as guests and some from within our midst. Special thanks to Milly Whately for making the arrangements and leading worship.

Visiting musicians this Sunday, April 2nd, include old friends, LeRoy Newport on banjo and guitar with wife Judy lending vocal and percussion support. In addition, Elaine Berry brings her banjo and Ellen Jakob adds both fiddle and guitar. We extend an extravagant welcome to them all.

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Enriching the experience will be our own folks—Ruth Locke and Kathi Bumblis on keyboard while Suzi Sutton and Thom Larson will add their considerable vocal support. The St. Charles Juniper room will overflow with joyful noises... in the happiest sense of the word. Bring your own voice to the day; remembering that this is more than a performance; it is worship if you make it so.

Hallelujah! ▲

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

OGHS is one of the 5 annual nation-wide UCC mission offerings. It supports partners in countries with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development,

emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster response. The funds are administered by

Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources.

Please make checks out to APUCC and put OGHS in the memo line ▲.



EASTER POTLUCK AT COOKS

Once more, David and Nancy Cook are opening their home to a celebratory potluck following All Peoples' Easter Sunday worship services. The

hosts will provide meat dishes and the rest of the meal is up to the guests—bring one of your favorite

dishes: salads, sides, casseroles, breads or desserts. Look for details as the day grows nearer. RSVP is not required, but tell Nancy or David if you plan to be there. That will help them plan. ▲

ON BEING GAY IN AFRICA

Pamela Adie, Senior Campaigner for All Out in Nigeria, reports that it's a crime to be gay in 34 countries in Africa. In 4, being gay can cost you your life. The struggle for equality here in Africa is huge. And it's changing fast as internet access expands across the continent. ▲



MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

Much is happening with Jericho Road and Jericho Table. All Peoples UCC (APUCC) has done much work with Jericho Road and Table. All that Jericho Road does is accomplished with volunteer help, and the support of several area congregations, individuals, and corporate sponsors.

Here is a list of APUCC involvement with Jericho Road:

- APUCC has members on the Jericho Road board.
- Many from APUCC regularly serve food every other month on Monday afternoons.
- Some from APUCC work with the group that puts together weekend backpacks for children whose homes have scarce food resources over weekends.

Below is a list of more that Jericho Road does for our needy folks:

- On Thursdays, Jericho Road provides portable shower facilities for area residents who have no access to bathing facilities.
- The Mobile Community Clinic comes

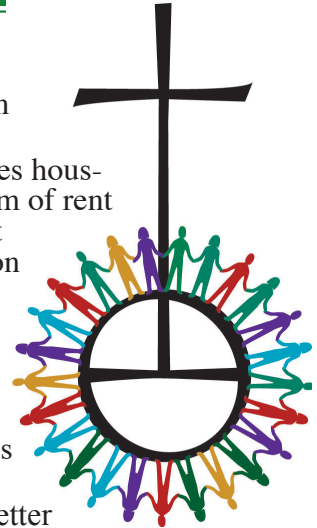
to Jericho Table on Thursdays.

- Jericho Road provides housing help in the form of rent assistance, deposit support, application fees, and utility bill support in the Redmond area.
- The housing program also offers mentors to families seeking help.

I recently received a letter from the Jericho Road board about a couple of upcoming events:

- April 25: Jericho Road Volunteer Reception – many of you should receive an invitation.
- April 30: Jericho Road Sunday – congregations are asked to celebrate volunteers and their donations of time and money.

The following is a quote from the letter: “It is not only the contributions of individuals but the collective work and contributions of



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all the affiliated congregations of Jericho Road coming together collectively in this endeavor that allows Jericho Road to use the resources it receives from many sources to provide food, shelter, and hope for those in our community who need it most.”

Nancy Cook,
Moderator

BLATANT DISCRIMINATION UNMASKED!

UCC national officers are speaking out more vigorously than usual against injustice. When Brooks Berndt, Minister for Environmental Justice of the UCC, drew attention to increasing injustices being promoted by a faction of our nation. He said the victims often had been characterized as “whiney” and “obnoxiously persistent.”

“In an effort to combat dependency,” he wrote, “government officials are cracking down. No longer will the largesse of public funds be used to protect this group declared to be ‘vulnerable’ and ‘threatened.’”

Under the guise of eliminating waste and

cutting down on dependency, proposed budgets are targeting this group—a group that generally does not speak up to defend itself. Once readers have decided to stand with him in righteous indignation, he reveals that the “minority group” of whom he writes is our children!

Brooks posits that the headline, “EPA Hit Hardest as Trump Budget Targets Regulations.” should have told it like it is: “EPA Hit Hardest as Trump Budget Targets Children.” That would have been a PR disaster *par excellence!* But that, indeed, is what the effort would do. How clever to claim to lift the burden of “regulations” from the tax payer when, in reality, that burden would shift closer to home...closer to children of all ages and socio-economic status.

The day before the Trump budget appeared, a report authored by the nation’s leading medical organizations addressed climate-related impacts on health. The finding: children face the greatest risks and burdens as temperatures rise.

At the risk of appropriating the powerful writing of the great abolitionist, Frederick

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Douglass for a different issue, it is appropriate to revisit what he wrote many years ago.

“It is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, the earthquake. The feeling of the nation must be quickened; the conscience of the nation must be roused; the propriety of the nation must be startled; the hypocrisy of the nation must be exposed; and the crimes against God and man must be proclaimed and denounced....

If there is no struggle, there is no progress...
Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.” ▲

POCATELLO UCC DISASTER STRIKES HARD

At the easternmost edge of the Central Pacific Conference, the Pocatello UCC is reeling under multiple catastrophes. The congregation is currently without a pastor; and the group is stepping up to carry on. Ordinary tasks like building maintenance and keeping church programs going call for everyone to pitch in. Last week, Moderator Norm Wright and wife Kathy

were working to dismantle the building’s old boiler when suddenly the old gas line exploded, burning them both severely! The Wrights are recovering in the Salt Lake City hospital burn unit. The couple are expected to survive. Damage to the Pocatello church is extensive. Insurers say it will take at least two weeks just to repair the glass and water damage.

Some of us met Norm at the CPC annual meeting in Pendlton last year. Earnest in support of his congregation, Norm described the isolation of the Pocatello church during the small-group meetings. Keep the Wrights and the congregation in your prayers. ▲

ON PASSING

by Bill Hardin

Though small in number, our congregation is rich in its composition of “elder statesmen,” so it is not remarkable that death is no stranger in our midst. We have all been saddened by the death of friends or family. Whether recent or ancient, their passing impacts our lives.

Christianity fundamentally honors the passing of Christ in our history; Christ

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still guides us in ways to govern our lives. Remember the joys and celebration of His life among us as well as the sadness and outrage over His death.

In like manner we must appreciate the joys, the loving acts, shared adventures and trials that live in the memories we have shared with those who have gone before. Life after death is manifest in our keeping those memories alive until we join their ranks. ▲

UCC LEADERSHIP CALLS THE BODY OF CHRIST TO ACTION

When the preliminary budget proposal of Donald Trump hit the press, UCC national leaders challenged the churches as follows below:

Act now—Urge Congress to work towards a budget that reflects our commitment to the common good, uplifts all people and protects God’s Creation!

Reminding us that Jesus calls us to attend to the needs of the least of these, General Synod 25 challenged the United Church of Christ to support policies that serve the common good, saying:

**Remembering
Ed Soto**
friend, athlete, coach, educator
and raconteur.

January 1, 1933 – March 17, 2017

All Peoples UCC
extends sympathy and loving
support to
Ed’s wife, Gerry,
son Jon and Stephanie, grandsons,
Jordan and Ethan of Terrebonne
and son Doniel of Carmichael, CA.
Please keep this family in your
prayers as they face
life without Ed.

“Our Christian faith speaks directly to public morality and the ways a nation should bring justice and compassion into its civic life. In

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the story of the last judgment, Jesus tells us that nations will be judged by how they care for their most vulnerable citizens, those Jesus describes as, ‘the least of these who are members of my family.’ This story in Matthew (Matthew 25: 34-35) is not about personal salvation; rather it is presented as a story of the judgment of nations.”

(The Trump) budget doesn’t reflect the values or commitments which we as people of faith hold dear. Now is the time to speak out!

Editor’s NOTE: In 7 decades of conscious and active participation in the Congregational/UCC church, I cannot recall a time when the national leadership was so urgent and assertive. It is time to act! ▲

“EMPTY BOWLS” SUPPORTS JERICHO TABLE

Redmond’s Ridgeview High hosted the annual “Empty Bowls” fundraiser last Sunday. The event showcases the impressive ceramics work of student potters from both Redmond and Ridgeview high schools while helping to fund the Jericho Table program that offers meals to the hungry 4 nights a week in Redmond (See Moderator’s

Musings). A \$15 ticket fills one of the beautiful bowls with soup plus a roll and a good visit with members of the community and some of the sponsoring high school students. AND the bowl you choose to use goes home with you as a memento.

Some APUCCers attended. Glowing reports of a hearty repast and friendly community spirit encourage all of us to plan to attend next year! ▲



Left—The tall and short of it; Laurie Power and Suzi Sutton select their bowls.

Below—Rich Bumblis, most senior member, digs in.



Photos by Cooks

APRIL WORSHIP PLANS

All Peoples UCC meets to worship the first and third Sundays of each month at 11 a.m. Study and discussion group meet from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Refreshments begin at 9:45 a.m..

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.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Apr. 2nd**—11 a.m. BANJO SUNDAY sing-along; Milly Whatley leading worship. 10 a.m. Continuing Lenten focus on spiritual practices. Laurie Power leading.
- Apr. 19th**—11 a.m. EASTER Worship—Laurie Power worship leader 10 a.m. Laurie Power and Nancy Cook leading the final spirituality practices discussion.
- After church**, Potluck at Cooks; see p. 2.

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

For additional information and location/date
of the next worship service, email the above.

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