

All Peoples
United Church of Christ
SOJOURNER NEWS

A Central Oregon House Church

July, 2016

Vol. XVI, Number 7

PRIDE FESTIVAL AND “APUCC CARES” UNFOLDING

JUNE 25TH WAS A BIG DAY FOR APUCC ON TWO FRONTS.

Bend Pride Festival—For the first time in recent years, APUCC had it’s own booth at the Bend Pride Festival. APUCC has previously been represented in the booth sponsored by the Community of Welcoming Congregations (CWC). This year, it was the other way around. APUCC welcomed CWC info into the APUCC booth. Under our new canopy and 8’ wide banner, APUCC identity represented the only open and affirming church in Central Oregon.(See photos p 4)

APUCC Cares— The dedicated efforts of Milly Whatley are drawing to a successful conclusion as complex pieces

of information began to fall into place on Saturday. Church clerk Mike Lovely needs support on multiple fronts from health care to food, transportation, legal information and ultimately, a new living arrangement. Under Milly’s leadership a small group of our members has worked through social, medical and legal road blocks to turn Mike’s problems in a positive direction. Soon, the entire congregation may be able to volunteer with moving Mike to new digs. See p 6 for late-breaking details on this priority project. ▲

ORLANDO MASS SHOOTINGS REVERBERATE ACROSS THE NATION AND AROUND THE WORLD.

The murder of 49 and grievous wounding of over 50 mostly LGBTQ people in a “gay bar” in Florida has stunned the nation and the world. From national political campaigns to the biggest-ever Pride celebrations in Portland and Bend the hatred behind the largest mass shooting the U.S. is daunting.

As with so many tragic issues, the multiple facets of the event have lent themselves to many emphases from calls for stiffer gun control, to anti-terrorist, to anti-Muslim-immigrant prejudice. Oddly, the venom against immigrants has been rather general

rather than focused solely upon Hispanic emigrants.

As a “just peace” congregation All Peoples should feel the urgency to take whatever action seem appropriate. Above all, we must not stand passively by and wring our hands with dismay. Prayers for all parties caught up in the event are a solid place to begin. Participation in media opportunities to advance the call to enforce existing gun laws and write better legislation against the prolific spread of gun ownership among those with nefarious impulses. ▲ [More on p.6](#)

SUPREME COURT RULINGS

Rulings against mandating that Texas women’s health clinics have fully functional surgery centers and their doctors have admitting privileges with local hospitals have set the stage for ending similar/identical laws in over two dozen states. Translated into every day reality, that means that for women seeking an abortion, women’s clinics providing those services will be more numerous and closer to home. Due to the law that the court

struck down, many clinics had either closed or were in the process of closing due to the unreasonable cost and ultra high standard set by requiring that doctors affiliated with such clinics also have admitting privileges in nearby hospitals. The remarkable 5-3 decision was greeted by women’s rights groups across the nation. While “right to life” organizations glossed over the court’s action, the Supreme Court has affirmed the validity of Roe vs. Wade and a woman’s right to choose. ▲

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

Pride in Bend 2016 was a wonderful day of celebration and remembrance. Those in attendance had much fun. Pride also included remembering and grieving the horror of the recent Orlando targeting of LGBTQQ people.

Pris Hardin's photos will give you some sense of what we looked like on Saturday, June 25th, at Bend's 12th Annual Pride Festival. Many people stopped by our booth. Twenty-eight took one of our trivia quizzes and entered their names in our drawing for two prizes, two lovely planter bowls created by Susi Sutton. I appreciated Pris's hard work and skills in designing the new banner for use at events such as Pride. Bill and Pris Hardin, David Cook, Susi, and a man named Sam set up the canopy and banner for the booth. Liz Douville, Evelyn Doherty, Fran Davis, Pris, David, and I staffed the booth, talking to those who stopped by and administering the quizzes.

Most of all, we appreciated that several

people stopped to tell us how happy they were that a church was represented at Pride. We were not the only church; Nativity Lutheran also set up a booth, and had help staffing it from the United Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Bend.

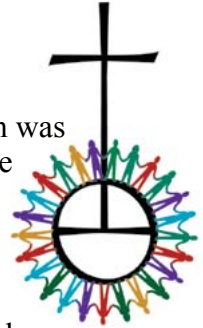
Several people who stopped to tell us they were glad we were there, said something like:

"I don't personally attend religious services, but I appreciate that as a church, you are here and accepting of the LGBTQQ and Pride folks of the community."

In addition, a few people told us they were surprised to see All Peoples United Church of Christ as they did not know we existed. One woman told us she had been a signer of our original charter and she is glad we are still alive and active. ▲

Shalom

Nancy Cook Moderator



A PHOTO VISIT TO APUCC'S UCC PRIDE BOOTH



The weather was perfect, the crowds enthusiastic and attendance broke records! PFLAG volunteers ferrying our gear from the curb to the booth site. The same willing hands reappeared at the end of the day to move us out. Nancy Cook wrote wonderful quiz questions for participants to answer and Sue Sutton made two planters for the prize drawing at the end of the day—What a success!

Far left— Moderator Nancy Cook and husband David put in a full day from setup through striking the booth.

Left—Susi Sutton and Fran Davis did, too.

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Above—A colorful volunteer drew prize winners’ names from a “hat.”



Above—Booths across the way from APUCC’s were typical of the color and variety of offerings.

Not pictured—Liz Douville and Evelyn Doherty put in cheerful hours at APUCC’s booth. Bill and Pris Hardin helped with setting-up and striking the booth.

IT’S “OUR TURN” AGAIN AT JERICHO TABLE

Since July 4th is a holiday, that leaves only three Mondays when our food service will be needed. Volunteers are:

July 11—David and Nancy Cook

July 18—Hardins & Susi Sutton

July 25—Liz Douville & Laurie Power

Contact coordinator Melanie Feilzer if you have questions.

SAME SEX MARRIAGE HAS WON IN ITALY!

In May, the Italian House of Deputies gave the final vote making **civil unions a reality for gay and lesbian couples in Italy**.

The human rights organization All Out delivered a petition signed by more than 42,000 All Out members to Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and Italian senators. But, there is more work to be done; Italian law still allows discrimination against children with gay or lesbian parents. ▲

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The first “Last Monday of the Month” fellowship gathering held at the Redmond Round Table pizza parlor brought 13 hungry APUCer’s to the excellent meeting room for supper and discussion. Topics included a report on the Bend PRIDE festival booth, catching up on the various recent events of those attending (mostly health issues and travel reports) and a serious discussion of the most urgent project of the group. Clearly, all parties seem eager and ready to pitch in to furnish the small apartment and complete Mike’s move. (*See front page story.*) We are all indebted to Milly Whatley for enlisting numerous community services to aid in preparing Mike’s move to assisted living.

With summer here, the whirlwind of vacation trips, visiting family and guests, reunions and camping trips means that All Peoples volunteers may be spread thin at times. Nevertheless, this congregation has a history of getting things done. As volunteers are called upon to help with facilitating Mike’s move, know that responding to calls for assistance, will be greatly appreciated.

Identified needs: an electric wheelchair, a

large-capacity “lift” recliner chair, a double bed (26”high) with an extra firm mattress, a computer table and a goose-neck floor lamp. Other items include a clock, linens and simple kitchen setup to supplement the assisted-living meals. A refrigerator and small microwave oven are already in the place. ▲

WHO SPEAKS FOR QUEER MUSLIMS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE PULSE MASSACRE?

Since the attack at the Orlando nightclub, many queer Muslims have spoken out. One particularly articulate Muslim woman, Samra Habib, speaks for peace-loving Muslim homosexuals saying she is “just as angered by homophobic attacks as everyone else”

Habib curates a photo project on the web called “Just Me and Allah.” In an article for The Guardian, she writes:

“We are now used to the fact that, every time a criminally misguided Muslim commits an act of violence, the entire religion and all its followers are questioned and placed under suspicion in a way that isn’t replicated with other faiths. ... Muslim

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organizations and activist groups are tasked with the responsibility of releasing public statements, apologizing for the actions of terrorists and reminding the world that Islam promotes peace so innocent Muslims who are just trying to go about their daily lives don't suffer repercussions."

The Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity (MASGD) noted this year's convergence of Pride month and Ramadan

as a particularly special time of peace, community, and self-reflection:

"It is also not lost on us that this horrific tragedy occurred during LGBTQ Pride month, which this year coincides with the Muslim holy month of Ramadan."

"It pains us to see that these periods of joy, celebration, and peace have been marred so violently with such horror." ▲

MORE ABOUT THE VANCOUVER UCC FIRE

Rev. Jennifer Brownell, interim pastor of the Vancouver, WA, UCC defiantly affirmed, "We may have been burned down but we are not burned out! For more photos and information see the URL below:

http://www.ucc.org/news_arson_damages_three_churches_one_ucc_in_washington_06022016?utm_campaign=kyp060716&utm_campaign=kyp_jun7_16&utm_medium=email&utm_medium=email&utm_source=kyp&utm_source=unitedchurchofchrist

NOTE FROM NATIONAL

The successful "Extavagant Welcome" campaign has run its course and is being phased out. Thank you to all who have found it useful. Watch for a successor identity program.



JULY WORSHIP PLANS

All Peoples UCC meets to worship the first and third Sundays of each 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 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 and then right to the first room on left, opposite the rest rooms.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 3rd—11 a.m. Worship: Sue Flory
10 a.m. Discussing “Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha and Mohammed Cross the Road?” by Brian McLaren*, Chaps. 6–11
Nancy Cook leading.

July 17th—11 a.m. Worship:
Laurie Power
10 a.m. Bible Bookworms;
discussing * Chaps. ?–11—
Nancy Cook leading



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

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of the next worship service, email the above.

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