



All Peoples
United Church of Christ
SOJOURNER NEWS

A Central Oregon House Church

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August, 2017

IT'S ANNUAL DECISION-MAKING TIME... AUGUST 27TH

August brings the official annual meeting of the All Peoples UCC. This year, the momentous eclipse of the sun is disrupting our usual worship/meeting pattern by one week. Central Oregon is expected to go just a bit berserk. Thousands of people are coming to the area from long distances to observe. Traffic will be fierce; the 3rd Sunday of August will be a good time to stay home. The solar eclipse, being bigger than APUCC, has driven the decision to graciously reschedule the second worship of August and the annual meeting for the next Sunday, August 27th.

There will be no discussion period preceding worship on the 27th. Worship will be short but sweet; Nancy Cook has a visual sermon in the works ...looks like fun. Right after

worship, and another of our "sumptuous" pot lucks, the annual meeting of the APUCC is officially called. All of this happy activity will occur at the home of Bill and Pris Hardin in Terrebonne.

Please bring your favorite potluck dish, hot or cold. There will be room in refrigerators and ovens to hold it safely until the feast.

Count on Hardins to provide table service, beverages, condiments and other "fixin's." Phone:541-504-4723

Directions and maps to Hardin's will be available at worship on August 6th or through <prisbill@earthlink.net> Or, program your GPS to take you to 1824 NW Kesley Lane, in Terrebonne. ▲

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

David and I just returned from China less than two weeks ago. I still can't find the words to explain what I experienced. Our granddaughter, Ireland, who is fifteen, and chose the destination, was ready to stay. I felt the same way. I wanted to stay longer in this place that is so much like where I live and so different at the same time.

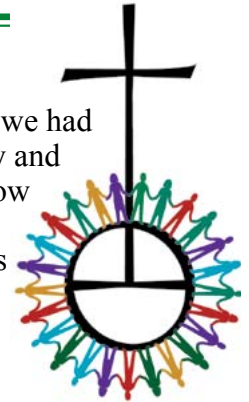
I keep thinking of Bill Holm's 1990 book of essays titled *Coming Home Crazy*. Holm had spent a few years teaching in China in the 1980's and found himself in love with the people and frustrated with China's bureaucracy. Luckily, we did not experience China's bureaucracy except in entering and leaving the country, which one experiences anywhere.

What we did experience is a country where people were kind and considerate and willing to share their culture openly. Many seemed pleased and surprised to hear us greet them and thank them in their own language: ni hao, xie xie (x is pronounced

sh, so "shi, shi"). Of course, we had guides tasked with our safety and to teach us what to do and how to do it. Our guides shared their stories and lives with us for eleven days.

We are trying to keep our eyes open about the government in China. We know our guide was surprised to learn about the 1989 "massacre" at Tiananmen Square in 2007 when she was asked about it by her first group of American tourists. We know there is censorship: my gmail did not always work; the Chinese cannot, even now, search the internet for information about Tiananmen. But still, I wonder, who is really crazy for tolerating their government: the Chinese or the Americans. Even with all their bureaucracy, China would be a charming and exciting place to live and explore further. Perhaps I also came home crazy. ▲

Nancy Cook, Moderator



IMMIGRANT RIGHTS CARDS ARE OFF THE PRESS

Next Sunday, wallet-sized cards will be ready for APUCCers to pick up. They are for distribution to anyone in the community who may be in a position to share vital immigrants' rights information. If ICE should show up at their door they would have their Constitutional rights at their fingertips. Rights appear in English on one side and Spanish on the other for quick reference. This project was sparked by Gloria Olson and Emilie Marlinghaus and partially funded by Evelyn Doherty. **Thanks!** ▲

ANNUAL CPC WOMEN'S RETREAT BECKONS

What, you've never been to Camp Adams? Central Pacific Conference (CPC) women will gather there from October 6–8 to worship, discuss, sing, play and study. Focus will be on how the women of the Palestine YWCA (our CPC mission partners) manage to survive and create beautiful cross-stitch art to sell as fun raisers. Retreat cost is \$65 now and \$40 more on site. See Pris for details and a look at the brochure. ▲

HOMOPHOBIA ON THE RISE

A recent e-mail from Equality PAC served as a powerful counterpoint to President Trump's recent tweet attempting to ban all transgender people from military service.

Not only is President Trump tramping on the rights of transgender service people but the report points out that homophobia, bullying, and violence against the LGBT community are increasing across the country. Along with that, anti-LGBT legislation is spiking in state legislatures nationwide.

Equality PAC has identified more than 130 anti-LGBT bills introduced in various states since January. From proposed legislation masquerading as religious-freedom bills to bills attacking Planned Parenthood, homophobes have been spreading their venom and using it to justify "hate" legislation. The lives of real families are at risk. Who will defend our fellow Americans?

Visit < <http://go.fightforequality.org/Stop-Anti-LGBT-Legislation> > for more details.

Oregon law is not entirely safe from such bigotry but our state is in less jeopardy

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than many. Now may be the time to apply the following strategy: Contact fellow progressives in other states—like-minded friends and relatives—to persuade them to act on behalf of LGBTQ brothers and sisters.

Perhaps APUCC should consider a letter-writing project that would provide our contacts in other states with sample letters to friends, newspaper editors and web-users. These letters could be offered for modification within their states to jump-start efforts to speak out. Think about it. ▲

NOTES FROM THE UCC'S NATIONAL SYNOD—2017

Delegates to “Synod” report having a powerful, inspiring experience. The biennial gathering of the UCC faithful from across the U.S., and observers from around the world, brings together delegates to worship, formulate policy and vote on resolutions to guide the workings of our diverse denomination for the coming years.

The social concerns of our church always bring decisions to the floor for heated discussion and ultimate setting of direction for congregations across the nation. Due

to the cherished independence of each congregation, however, synod resolutions are guideposts, we do not have dogma! Two actions of note will be of particular interest.

Beginning with the second General Synod in 1959, the UCC has steadfastly taken the position that God calls for stewardship of creation rather than dominion. Down through the years, 18 succeeding resolutions



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have included robust language following along that path. This year, the resolution was titled: “The Earth is the Lord’s—Not Ours to Wreck.” This was clearly a response to vociferous, politically inspired climate deniers and it passed by 97%. The position was first adopted by the denomination’s Southern California Nevada Conference at its June meeting in response to the United States’ withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord. Since then, more than 16 additional regional conferences have endorsed the resolution at their annual meetings.

A second resolution of interest to our congregation concerned whether to endorse legislation following along the lines of Oregon’s “death with dignity” laws. Unlike the creation-stewardship issue, this vote was no “shoo-in.” Passionate defenses arose from all sides. Testimony based upon personal family experiences often emotionally overwhelmed witnesses. Chaplains and hospice workers brought their own vivid experiences to bear. Many points were familiar from the long path to passage of the death-with-dignity laws here in Oregon... points that Oregon experience might be termed as “settled law.”

In keeping with UCC polity, all sides were treated with respect but, when the vote was cast, the necessary 2/3 majority failed by only 12 of the 737 votes! This issue will likely return at the next synod in 2019.

Even though General Synod of the United Church of Christ, 2017, took place nearly a month ago, the impact of the business and social negotiations will be with us throughout the next two years.

For an in-depth overview of synod or to cherry-pick actions of particular interest, log on to the following URL for the news:

<http://www.ucc.org/general_synod_news> ▲

Y’ALL COME TO PENDLETON!

The annual meeting of the CPC will be at the Pendleton conference center, Sept. 22 (afternoon) to 24 (noon). APUCC is entitled to 4 voting delegates. More participants are welcomed. **THINK SERIOUSLY** about representing APUCC. Registration on line costs \$115 including lunches and dinners plus a box lunch for the trip home! (Great food!) What an opportunity to meet more CPCers and learn how our denomination works. ▲

THREE GREAT LOVES” INITIATIVE LAUNCHED AT SYNOD...

...to embody love and incarnate justice,’ to build a just world. At the start of the synod conference, United Church of Christ General Minister and President John C. Dorhauer’s call to all UCC congregations to pull together under a new, shared mission—the Three Great Loves initiative. Crediting the denomination with already addressing the three issues, Dorhauer urged an intensification of the sacred work UCC churches are already doing to:

- care for children,
- reach out to welcome their neighbors, and
- act as good stewards of the earth and all of creation.

He urged all congregations to explore new ways to pursue these missions over the next two years.

Dorhauer went on to explain that “Each of the Three Great Loves will have a dedicated call to action with three components: an invitation to give, an invitation to act, an invitation to connect.”

Next winter, expect an extra push to provide for people in shelters housing refugees and the homeless. The fall of 2018 will bring a denomination-wide drive to collect school supplies and to address inequalities in our education systems. Then, at Synod 2019, they will hold a sponsored 5K walk to raise money and awareness for the earth.

Concurrently, they will collect stories from across the UCC of how we are building a Just World for All through love of children, love of neighbor, and love of creation. ▲

CREATING THE AGENDA FOR APUCC’S ANNUAL MEETING

As the annual meeting draws closer, Moderator Nancy Cook is pulling together an agenda. As you think of topics that should come to the attention of the body, please contact Nancy at: <ncook963@gmail.com> or call her at: 321-960-7728.

As informal as this church is, we need to continue to follow the spirit of our by-laws in order to remain open and democratic in the strong tradition of the UCC. ▲



Above—Rev. John Dorhauer introduces the “Three Great Loves” initiative. He stands at a lectern adorned with the latest UCC logo

design. The classic UCC comma reappears in the logo as a wave form. The green hand is added to exemplify the theme of this year’s synod—“A just world for all.” ▲

PRAYER MINISTRY EXPANDING

The Local Church Ministries team of the Central Pacific Conference (CPC) is reinstating the tradition of offering an annual prayer calendar that runs from Pentecost to Pentecost. Over the course of the year, each congregation will be featured for one week of special focus. The Local Ministries team urges you to message the church’s website or social media page letting them know that you have them in your thoughts and prayers for that special week.

August’s congregations/individuals for August are:

August 6—New Conference Minister
Rev. Molly Carlson and family

August 13—Hillsdale UCC, Portland

August 20—Medford Congregational UCC

August 27—Bethel/White Salmon, WA

Note—APUCC’s turn to receive prayers will come on November 5th, 2017. ▲

“NOW IS THE TIME” VIEWED AT LAST-MONDAY-NIGHT GATHERING

The 70-minute video documented decades of numerous efforts at organizing and passing a single-payer health plan for the nation. Now, following the failed effort at “repeal and replace” health care in Washington D.C., a movement is gathering momentum to promote the idea one state at a time. “Health Care for ALL-Oregon” aims to build a health care system where every child and every adult receives the health care they need, when they need it.

The “Now is the Time” film and a companion “Fix It” film are part of the public information campaign in circulation.

The United States is the last of the “big economy” nations that lack government sponsored comprehensive health care for all. “Now Is the Time” emphasized potential benefits including the fact that in Canada, health care costs have increased at the same rate as the general economy while U.S. health care costs have increased at one and a half times the rate of other consumer prices.

Also, large groups of national organizations of nurses and medical doctors stand behind

the single-payer idea. Senator Bernie Sanders will be proposing a single-payer-for-all health-care bill in congress. However, such a bill is unlikely to succeed in the current congressional climate. Hence, there is enthusiasm in numerous states to establish state-level systems. The process of detailing the elements of such programs and getting them implemented is sure to be slow and tumultuous. Nevertheless, as the will continues to build, the title of the film seems more and more appropriate.

Central Oregon groups are gathering momentum slowly. The Unitarian Universalist congregation in Bend has already shown the film and others may follow.

Those interested may join Health Care for All Oregon at 619 SW 11th #121, Portland, OR 97205; 503-206-6709. For more information, check out <www.hcao.org>

A Health Care for ALL Oregon Education Fund web site is at: www.hcaoef.org. Donations are tax-deductible.

There is an active Facebook site at: www.facebook.com/HealthCareForAllOregon ▲

AUGUST WORSHIP PLANS

THIS MONTH, All Peoples UCC meets to worship the first and fourth Sundays of the month at 11 a.m. (See story on p. 1.) Study and discussion group meets 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 NE Kingwood, Ave. 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

- August 6th—11 a.m. Worship—Nancy Cook
10 a.m. Discussion period—Continuing the topic “Coping with Terrorism.”
Laurie Power & Nancy Cook leading.
- August 27th—(See page 1)
11 a.m. Worship—Nancy Cook
12 p.m. Potluck
1:30 p.m. Annual Business Meeting

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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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