



All Peoples
United Church of Christ
SOJOURNER NEWS

A Central Oregon House Church

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COMPASSION FATIGUE OVERWHELMS THE U.S.A

Floods in Louisiana, tornadoes in Indiana, earthquakes in Italy, immigrant needy across the world, emaciated children, drought stricken areas and (closer to home), wildfires and the struggles of the Standing Rock Sioux Nation against big oil. The list goes on and on interminably.

And now, we read that, nationally, donations of money and relief supplies are down. Images of disaster greet us every time we turn on the TV or access other forms of graphic media. Is it any wonder that donation levels have dropped?

Compassion fatigue is defined as: indifference to charitable appeals on behalf of those who are suffering, experienced as a result of the frequency or number of such appeals. A quick search of Wikipedia turns up an article that describes compassion fatigue as common among individuals that work directly with trauma victims such as therapists (paid and unpaid), nurses, teachers, psychologists, police officers, first responders, animal welfare workers, health unit coordinators and anyone who helps out others. The Wikipedia story hastens to add that the condition is not a diagnosis recognized by the American Psychiatric Association (DSM 5) or by the World Health Organization (WHO).

I am driven by two main philosophies: know more today about the world than I knew yesterday and lessen the suffering of others.

Neil deGrasse Tyson

Compassion is the keen awareness of the interdependence of all things.

Thomas Merton www.sojourners.com

No one has ever become poor by giving.

Anne Frank,
Anne Frank, the play

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It then points out that journalism analysts blame the media for causing widespread compassion fatigue in society by saturating newspapers and news shows with often decontextualized images and stories of tragedy and suffering. This has pushed the public to become cynical or resistant to helping people who are suffering.

Reports indicate that some people become frustrated by constantly being solicited for donations or they become skeptical that most of the money will ever reach the needy. So, where can we turn to restore hope and compassion? As Christians, we believe that Jesus personified compassion through his preaching and his loving good works. Think of the stories of the woman at the well, the prodigal son and the good Samaritan. We have been shown what to do. ▲

NATIVE PEOPLES SEEK TO PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS

Expanding the UCC's concern for the rights of all native peoples in no way detracts from the intensity of the effort to stand with the Lakota and Dakota Sioux in particular as they continue their fight against powerful big oil. Corporate giants intend to run a

potentially catastrophic pipeline carrying enormous quantities of Bakken oil right through the Standing Rock reservation in North Dakota and South Dakota. Not only would a rupture in such a pipeline severely threaten the tribal water supplies, the UCC national officers add that the plan "touches upon vital matters of racial justice, the honoring of sacred space, and the climate impact of fossil fuels."

Indeed, awareness of the struggles of other native peoples in the U.S. and Canada highlights troubling parallels.

Other industries encroaching on native peoples' rights include powerful fish farms moored in native waters off the British Columbia coast. Other threats come from big oil (again!) on Arizona's Navaho reservation and on lands of the Inuit people in Alaska.

These stories are not new. Such behavior is more of the "same song, umpteenth verse" that has played in our ears for many years. Continued trampling, disrespecting and abusing of the first inhabitants of this land builds upon the shame of our invading ancestors. That shame devolves upon us if we do not stand to rectify wrongs that

continue unabated. In the case of the Lakota and Dakota Sioux, our involvement is intensified because there are UCC congregations led by ordained tribal UCC clergy on site.



Photo by: Unicorn Riot

However, the abuse of **any** native peoples is a violation of our Christian concern for racial justice. Our bond with the protagonists in each of these violations is strengthened in another way. It is significant that we hold in common with the besieged tribes their concern for all of creation and the total environment. It is significant that in

every case tribal leaders express their wish to defend more than their own peoples' interests. They extend their efforts to include a serious concern for the needs of all people as they work to protect the environment. In the case of the Lakota and Dakota Sioux, they are standing up for the entire Missouri River watershed and the people living downstream from the reservation.

Non-tribal groups are supporting the tribes whose rights are being violated. The South Dakota Conference UCC is just one of several advocates. In British Columbia, Sea Shepherd, an environmental advocate for protecting the seas, stands with the tribes. Pray for these people; write letters and express your solidarity whenever possible. ▲

“One ought never to turn one’s back on a threatened danger and try to run away from it. If you do that, you will double the danger. But if you meet it promptly and without flinching you will reduce the danger by half. Never run away from anything. Never!”

Winston Churchill

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

Thank you for attending All Peoples United Church of Christ (APUCC) annual business/congregational meeting on 21 September. I know business meetings are often slow and boring. You all made it easy to make those decisions we needed to cover as a congregation. Mike, our clerk, will be sending the minutes to everyone soon.

Want to know what is happening in our region (the Central Pacific Conference or CPC)? Most of the communication about what is happening is done via email or the internet. Take a look at the conference's web site at <http://cpcucc.org/wp14/>. To save money and paper many organizations prefer to communicate electronically, including APUCC. If you want to know what is available for your spiritual growth from the conference, check the "Upcoming Events" area (<http://cpcucc.org/wp14/news-upcoming-events/>) of the conference web site.

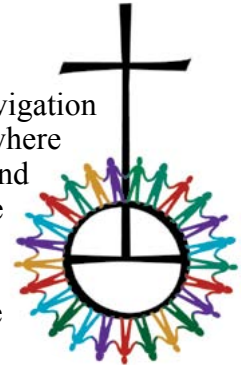
The conference's monthly newsletter, *On the Way*, is always linked from the News

and Events area on the navigation line at the top. Just click where it says News and Events and choose "On the Way." The most recent newsletter is described, and to access the document, click on the date (for instance, August 2016). You can also access past newsletters from that page.

Within the newsletter is an index of items in the issue. Just click on the blue, underlined title or description to be taken to the article in the newsletter. For instance, there is an article on joining the CPC Racial Justice Network. I know some of you are interested in that topic.

To be advised when *On the Way* is published each month, you can subscribe. When you go to the online newsletter from the web site, there is a button in the upper left, labelled "Subscribe," where you can click and receive an email each month

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when the newsletter is published. That's all you need to do. You just receive an email and you choose whether to read the newsletter or not. No paper comes in your mailbox, no phone calls, or solicitations. And you will always be in the know when it comes to regional activities of the UCC.

Nancy Cook, Moderator

WIDER CHURCH EVENTS OPEN TO APUCCers

Meetings in the Bend area invite our members to two programs that stand to enrich our spiritual lives and social awareness.

Introduction to Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is a method of prayer that emphasizes one's personal relationship with God. Centering Prayer offers a way to detach from busy minds. By taking time to "rest in God," we prepare to receive the gift of God's presence. Come to this 2-day workshop to learn more about this powerful spiritual discipline. All are welcome.

The First Presbyterian church in Bend will be hosting sessions on Friday, Sept. 9th,

7–9:30pm and Saturday, Sept. 10th, 9am to noon. Registration fee is \$30. Partial scholarships are available. Childcare is available if requested in advance. To register, contact: Rita Weick at 2weicks@bendbroadband.com or 541-382-0086 OR Elizabaeth Stephan at estephan@bendfp.org or 541-382-4401

IN ADDITION, optional enrichment sessions are scheduled from 7–8:30pm each Monday evening from Sept. 19 to Oct. 10.

Introduction to Domestic Sex Trafficking

A Law Enforcement Perspective

Sponsored jointly by Trinity Episcopal Church and INCO (Interfaith Network of Central Oregon), on September 13th from noon to 1:30pm. The event is free and open to the public, however, the event will be frank and disturbing so they recommend only high school age and above attend.

Presenter Detective Brendan McGuire of the Portland Police Bureau is a 20-yr veteran of the force. For the past 5 years he has worked exclusively with Oregon's first and only investigative unit addressing human trafficking crimes. Detective McGuire is

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also a member of the FBI Child Exploitation Task force. His presentation will cover identification of those at risk; signs and symptoms of victims; early intervention; recruitment centers; the internet; and solutions to the ongoing needs of victims. For information, call or email Gail at 541-617-3991 or gmcguire@bendbroadband.com or Trinity Church at 541-382-5542. ▲

“NEIGHBORS IN NEED” OFFERING IN OCTOBER

The fourth of the 5-for-5 annual offerings our national UCC offices receives is scheduled for October 15th. However, All Peoples gladly collects and holds the donations of early participants during September. That way our congregations’ monies can be sent in on the appointed date without having to deal with late arriving donations.

What is Neighbors is Need (NIN)? This special offering of the UCC supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry(CAIM)*. Two-thirds of

the offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries(JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing/advocacy to addressing systemic injustice.

*What is CAIM? CAIM is the voice for American Indian people in the UCC. CAIM provides Christian ministry and witness to American Indians and to the wider church. Justice issues that affect American Indian life are communicated to the whole UCC by CAIM.

Historically, the forebearers of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in



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Minneapolis, Minnesota. CAIM supports these local churches and their pastors. In addition, CAIM strives to be a resource for more than 1,000 individuals from other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations and to strengthen their participation in the life of the church. ▲

CAMP ADAMS WOMEN'S RETREAT BECKONS!

Consider the **CPC women's retreat** at Camp Adams from October 7–9. Cost: \$105. It will follow the welcomed theme—“Women: Take a Breath!” The Rev. Jennifer Brownell published author and designated pastor at First Congregational UCC in Vancouver, WA, will lead the retreat.

Camp Adams is set in the lush foothills of the west Cascades near Colton, OR. The calming beauty of the old-growth forest, sparkling streams and rustic cabins make for a rich environmental experience. Make new friends from across the CPC, walk the trails, gather around the great fireplace in the main lodge and refresh your soul!

Registration is due by October 1, 2016. For registration form and more information, contact Nancy Cook or Pris Hardin. ▲

APUCC SERVES JERICHO TABLE IN SEPTEMBER

From 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Mondays, APUCC will serve meals to the hungry except on Sept. 5, Labor Day. Jericho Table meals will be served:

Sept. 12—David & Nancy Cook

Sept. 19—Evelyn Doherty & Pris Hardin

Sept. 26—Fran Davis & Gerry Soto

Coordinator Melanie Feilzer is “always” on duty to keep things running smoothly! ▲

ANNUAL PENDLETON CONFERENCE COMING UP!

From Sept. 23–25, the annual meeting of the Central Pacific conference (CPC) meets at the Pendleton Convention Center.

The conference's business meeting is on the agenda along with a new format for delegates to participate in small-group sharing among the churches of the CPC and their representatives and friends.

The coordinator of the “sharing” activity introduced the format to the Rocky Mountain Conference (UCC) four years ago; they have enthusiastically embraced it ever since. ▲

SEPTEMBER 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

Sept. 4th—11 a.m. Worship: David Cook 10 a.m. Discussing “Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha and Mohammed Cross the Road?” by Brian McLaren, Chaps. 14–16, Nancy Cook leading.

Sept. 18th—11 a.m.—Worship: Bill and Pris Hardin 10:a.m.—Discussing “Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha and Mohammed Cross the Road?” by Brian McLaren, Chaps. 17–18, Laurie Power 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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