

All Peoples  
United Church of Christ  
**SOJOURNER NEWS**

A Central Oregon House Church

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**NOT ALL BECOME ELDERS! ...** But, some do!

No, this does not refer to Judgement Day. It is a reference to the theme of a speech delivered by Episcopal Bishop of New York, Mariann Budde.

She began with a quote from Psalm 90.

*Lord you have been our refuge from one generation to another.*

*Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age, you are God.*

*You turn us back to dust and say, "Go back, O child of earth.*

*For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night.*

*The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength, even eighty.*

*Yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,*

*for they pass away quickly and we are gone.*

*So teach us to number our days, that we may set our hearts to wisdom.*

How do we go about setting our hearts to wisdom? The point of the story is that not everyone becomes an elder; some people just get old! She expands the idea that this progression, inevitable or not, is not necessarily chronological in development. Many younger folks have wisdom beyond their years.

Seniors over 70 are the fastest growing age group in the nation. While much is made of increasing health insurance needs, Bishop Budde points out that the spiritual terrain of

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the elderly is also deserving of attention.

So, just who is an elder? Elders with sound spiritual lives are often characterized as those who are ‘young at heart’ and those who find joy in helping others. Probing more deeply Budde cites those who have wrestled with the question “what is the purpose of life?” Put another way, “What are we really doing when we’re doing what we are doing?” By way of example, she quotes The Road to Character by David Brooks.

“About once a month I run across a person who radiates an inner light. These people can be in any walk of life. They seem deeply good. They listen well. They make you feel funny and valued. You often catch them looking after other people and as they do so their laugh is musical and their manner is infused with gratitude. They are not thinking about what wonderful work they are doing. They are not thinking about themselves at all.”

How would one arrive at such a rich characterization? Budde says it is partly by learning to let go! First, we accept that we are done with the attainment and acquisition phases of life.

Next, according to Franciscan priest Richard Rohr, we will have gone through the “necessary losses of life.” Having lived that much, we have learned to accept that suffering is an inevitable dimension of life. That is, to live through it and come out the other side without bitterness—to emerge the richer for the experience. It is part of letting go. So, when the time comes to “let it all go,” we will be better prepared.

That is a path to a generosity of spirit and depth of character that becomes elderhood.

Of course, elderhood can include celebrating youth and their accomplishments. It means taking delight in those things that we can no longer do ourselves. After all, some paths of life are no longer available to us. We do this by moving farther and farther behind the scenes, encouraging and lending support without obvious presence.

And through it all, we will cultivate the skill to contemplate what lies ahead. After all, aging is not for the faint hearted; we must grow into it. Mastering the spiritual part of aging is far more challenging than enduring the physical changes.

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Bishop Budde notes that there is no better challenge for the church to accept than to understand and respond to elders. Exploring and sharing with others the richness of our lives is something she says the church needs to do on greater depth and with more understanding. ▲

## **EPILOGUE TO BISHOP BUDDE'S ADDRESS**

Bishop Mariann's full length article is available at the following url:

<https://www.edow.org/about/bishop-mariann/writings/2017/04/26/not-all-become-elders-spiritual-terrain-aging>

As members of our group have begun turning in lists of their volunteer activities, the evident vigor of our "elders" is something to celebrate. As more of you send me your lists, I will compile the overall scope and breadth of the volunteering that All Peoples addresses. (Each individual's list will be kept confidential.)

## **HEALTHY CALIFORNIA ACT INCHING FORWARD**

The California State Senate Appropriations Committee recently passed single payer, health care legislation—5-2!

This was the last step before the entire Senate votes on the bill which will happen in the next eight days. California is the largest state in the union. If single-payer happens there, it will be a model for the whole country including Oregon.

There is more good news. The committee also released a report estimating that once the bill passes, the state would pay about 15% of its GDP for medical services. That is 3% less than what America currently spends on health care.

The bill has gotten this far because of the incredible work done by the California Nurses Association and many other allies. Watch for developments as this bears heavily on the Single-Payer Oregon effort. ▲

## MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

### *Vacation as Spiritual Experience:*

I would wish for all of you as refreshing and inspiring a “vacation” as David and I just experienced. After all, isn’t that what a vacation is all about? Our

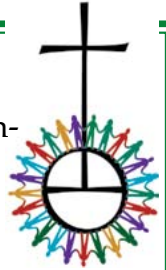


*Photo by Nancy Cook*

“vacation,” a week with Earth-watch as citizen scientists, included hard work from early morning until late night.

The work day often lasted ten to twelve hours. However, the point was not to rest, but to do something different and meaningful. Different and meaningful is what buoys our spirits. For us, working outside in an unfamiliar location allows us to experience creation in a new way. A significant part of the week was helping to capture, weigh, measure, and band tiny owls in wooded areas in the Chiricahua Mountains in Arizona. The owls—mostly Elf Owls and Whiskered Screech Owls—weigh a mere 39-120 grams (1.4-4.2 ounces) depending on the species. Handling and freeing such a creature affected each of the four volunteers on our team deeply.

*By Nancy Cook, Moderator ▲*



## **JOHNSON AMENDMENT GONE**

While claiming that “America is a nation of believers,” President Trump recently signed an executive order that tramples religious freedom. The goal of the executive order: undermine long-standing protections for houses of worship and allow religion to be used as an excuse to deny women coverage for contraception and other preventive care.

For 60 years, the Johnson Amendment has ensured that houses of worship, like other tax-exempt organizations, do not endorse or oppose political candidates. This protects religious institutions from being used as tools for political gain. But Trump’s executive order tries to limit enforcement of the law. At the same time, a House of Representatives committee held a hearing to build support to fully repeal those protections.

Trump’s order also permits bosses to use religion as an excuse to deny their employees insurance coverage for contraception. That is discrimination, plain and simple.

This executive action also lays the groundwork for sweeping rule changes leading to discrimination against LGBTQ

people, women, religious minorities, non-theists, and many others—all in the name of religion. ▲

## **BATTLE OVER MUSLIM IMMIGRATION BAN GOES TO THE SUPREME COURT**

Following the Fourth Circuit Court ruling overturning Trump’s immigration ban against 6 predominantly Muslim countries, the Trump administration has now turned the issue directly over to the Supreme Court.

In the past, Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AU) has filed friend-of-the-court briefs arguing that it betrays America values and violates the Constitution. It is a threat to the religious freedom that protects us all, believers and non-believers alike. They also have filed briefs on behalf of the Muslim community showing the many harms they have faced because of the ban.

AU vows to stand with this issue throughout the administration’s appeals. The Supreme Court is deliberating on how and how fast to take up the issue. They may agree to expedite in order to lay the issue to rest as fast as possible. ▲

## WELCOME, REV. MOLLY CARLSON

**The Search Committee of the CPC Board is pleased to announce our new Designated Term Conference Minister, Rev. Molly Carlson.**

Molly brings great energy and passion to her ministerial work. We are excited about her vision to build connections across the conference and to help us discern how to be a conference together in these next few years.

Molly brings over 15 years of ministerial experience



Rev. Molly Carlson

including leading two new church starts, pastoring in both interim and settled settings, and work at the regional and national level of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) supporting new emerging congregations and congregations discerning the end of their ministry. Molly is ordained in the Disciples and has full ministerial partnership standing in the UCC. Her most recent leadership is as senior minister of United Church of Christ (Congregational) in Yankton, SD.

Molly is married to Rev. Michael Carlson, a minister and musician. They 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.

Molly will begin her Designated Term in mid-August but she will be able to go to Synod on our behalf and lead our delegates, as well as meet with the council of conference ministers.

The Board thanks our search committee (Jean Avison, Corliss Marsh, Chi Morgan, and Sara Rosenau) for their hard work and discernment. ▲

## **SOCIAL ACTION MEETS IMMIGRANT CRISES**

As the congregation continues to express concern for our brothers and sisters with immigrant standing, the following guidelines come from the American Civil Liberties Union on activities that we can do that are within the law.

- Adopt a policy of nondiscrimination at your place of worship and of welcoming and helping persons in need, regardless of immigration or citizenship status, race, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexual orientation, etc.
- Adopt a policy that respects privacy by not asking people who interact with the congregation, about their immigration status, and adhering to a policy of not recording any information about any individual's immigration status.
- Provide shelter, food, or other services to a broad set of people, including citizens and noncitizens, regardless of immigration status.
- Speak out on behalf of immigrants' rights, and express support for keeping families together and reforming the immigration laws to make it possible for undocumented

immigrants to adjust to a lawful status. Support or work with local and state governmental authorities to adopt legislation and regulations that protect immigrants and refugees.

- Make a public statement that all are welcome at your place of worship, regardless of immigration status, and that your faith group will lend assistance to all those in need. Speak out against injustice.
- Refer undocumented immigrants (or all persons your congregation is serving) to legal assistance resources, including pro bono immigration legal help. ▲

## **BE AN ECUMENICAL AMBASSADOR**

During the month of June, Rev. Thom Larson will be preaching for our friends in the Madras First Methodist church, 49 NE 12th Street, Madras, OR. Worship is at 9:30 a.m. It would be supportive if some of our group worshiped with them on APUCC's "off Sundays (June 11 and 25.)

APUCC has a history of working and worshiping with the Madras church. They are a warm and welcoming group. ▲

## **MAY'S LAST-MONDAY POTLUCK FILLED US UP!**

Around 1 p.m. last Monday, 15 APUCCers gathered at Hardins' home for good food, laughs and warm fellowship in spite of the Memorial Day traffic clogging Highway 97. Many of the group sneaked up to The Barn via alternative roads to avoid the throng crawling back toward the Portland metropolitan area and points west.

## **APUCC Annual Business Meeting Scheduled**

August 27th another gathering is planned at Hardins' for worship, the annual business meeting and another potluck. It is a busy time of summer so please mark the date on your calendars. ▲

Piglet noticed that even  
though he had a  
Very Small Heart,  
it could hold a large amount  
of Gratitude.

*A.A. Milne, 20th Century*

## **HAVE YOU CONSIDERED LEADING APUCC WORSHIP?**

This congregation has always been happy to note that, in spite of our volunteer standing (no ordained clergy on deck), worship leadership has stepped forward willingly and with love.

But, summer is a “thin” time for volunteers with so many vacationers, visitors and general social activity. (Toss in an eclipse for good measure this year.)

Check with Nancy Cook about which dates are open. We always welcome a fresh face leading worship.

If the prospect is intimidating, know that there is a bevy of others who will help you with resources, ideas, and samples of previous worship programs as models. The informal environment and embrace of a wide variety of worship experiences should remove most of the anxiety that novice worship leaders sometimes feel. There is a high risk that planning worship will be a gratifying experience! ▲



## JUNE WORSHIP PLANS

All Peoples UCC meets to worship the first and third Sundays of each month at 11 a.m. 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 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

- June 4th—11 a.m. Worship—Liz Douville  
10 a.m. Discussing “The Glass Castle”  
by Jeanette Walls, pp 145–217.  
Laurie Power & Nancy Cook leading.
- June 18th—11 a.m. Worship—John Eggum  
10 a.m. Discussing “The Glass Castle”  
by Jeanette Walls, pp 218–288.  
Nancy Cook & Laurie Power leading.

### SOJOURNER NEWS

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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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