



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

A Central Oregon House Church

December, 2015

Vol. XV, Number 12

IT'S THE MESSAGE, DEARLY BELOVED

Amid the incessant pounding of mass media, immersing our world in stories of killing, terror, fear and violence, it is easy to overlook the many events that are quiet gestures toward peace, reconciliation and love. The Message, this holiday season calls for all of humanity to focus our hearts on deeds of love. The stories *are* there.

Take the recent follow-up gathering in Phoenix, AZ, where numerous denominations sought ways to teach and encourage those who search for acceptance when multiple faiths are involved within an individual or within families.

In North Carolina, where the terrible mass shooting took place, part of the healing process has spawned pastor/pulpit swaps between churches to build bridges. More

examples of interdenominational pastoral leadership are making the news.

On the local congregational level, the UCC website reports that the Menomonee, WI, UCC extended their extravagant welcome to construction workers building a UW campus

facility a few blocks away. Church served a hot meal to crew whocommune long distances to the work site and work in frigid temps all day with only lunch box meals at



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noon. “I hope the crew feels a little bit more at home in our neighborhood,” volunteer Michelle Meinen said. “We appreciate the work they’re doing and can’t wait to see the renovated Harvey Hall.”

In Roseburg, Umpqua Community College just received 1000 peace cranes, crafted by a caring UCC congregation in solidarity following their campus shooting.

In his first weekly pastoral message, the Rev John Dorhauer, UCC national minister, calls for repeated acts of kindness. He characterizes these small messages of love to neighbors around us as our “little toils of love.” Read the words from our national leader at:

http://www.ucc.org/my_little_toil_of_love ▲

MULTI-FAITH GROUP ALIVE

The Interfaith Network of Central Oregon (INCO) met on 11/19 at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon. Nancy Cook, Kathi Bumblis and Laurie Power attended. Next meeting, Mark January 12 at the Trinity Episcopal church, Bend for the next meeting. ▲

CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

December is the last of our Five-4-Five annual offerings received by UCC National. The funds go mainly to help retired UCC personnel—ministers (and their spouses) as well as career church staff who are getting by on very small pensions. ▲



OUR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

APUCC greets the Advent season with thoughtful anticipation and steadfast hope.

Due to APUCC's bimonthly worship schedule, truncated Advent services began early, beginning on the first Sunday in November. The congregation gathered around a lovely Advent wreath to light Advent candles. Laurie Power led a short service of dedication.

Discussion of the UCC advent study booklet "Wonder" continues as the Bible Bookworm's reading. The process began with the first November worship and will continue right on up to Christmas.

Mission giving from the church treasury for the month of October totaled: The Bethlehem Inn—\$125 and Jericho Road—\$50. Donations from individuals: St. Vincent de Paul in Bend (\$60) and in Redmond (\$30), Jericho Road (\$35). ▲



MORE WARM CLOTHING

Sub-zero nights prompted calls from both The Bethlehem Inn and The Shepherd's

House for winter clothing donations.

The Bethlehem Inn offers temporary housing for people in distress in a repurposed motel. Their clients need winter clothing as some arrive with very few belongings. Take donations to the Bethlehem Inn office at 3705 N. Hwy 97, Bend, OR 97701, 541-389-2820 • info@bethleheminn.org.

The Shepherd's House needs warm socks, coats, gloves hats, hooded sweatshirts and blankets. Clients are always in need of toiletries—shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, razors and shaving cream. Camping gear is prized by those who sleep out in icy weather—tents and sleeping bags. Drop off donations at: 20350 Empire Blvd., Ste. A5 in Bend. Can you help? ▲

MODERATOR'S musings

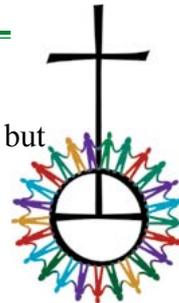
That pre-Thanksgiving snow was beautiful to watch, but brings memories of driving in so many storms. If the forecast holds, we and, hopefully most you, did not have to drive in the snow and could just enjoy the beauty of the lovely, **highly-individual**, snowflakes for a brief time.

One of the things I enjoy and admire most about All Peoples United Church of Christ is the high individual-ness of the group that gathers. Each of you exhibits special gifts that you share with the APUCC community and the communities in which we live. In spite of being involved for nearly fifty years with various congregations, I have never in the past been associated with a community in which everyone is actively being part of the body of Christ. At APUCC everyone participates.

Paul's rather long treatise about the body in 1 Corinthians 12 is one of my favorite reads from his letters. That's the one that

talks about the body being one but consisting of many members, each of which functions in a different capacity that creates a whole. In addition, it has a line (or verse) that says "For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." I easily expand that far beyond our small body "...drinking of the one Spirit..." into a state, nation, and world, who drink of one Spirit, whether Christian, Unitarian, Jew, Baha'i, Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, Taize, Shinto, Taoist, Agnostic, Atheist, etc... The Spirit, God, Love, is there for all of us.

That passage is so cool and describes APUCC to me. As I write this the day after Thanksgiving, I am reminded that I am truly grateful for the wonderful community that I found in Central Oregon. May each of you be safe, be healthy, and be grateful for All Peoples United Church of Christ, our wonderful, shared fellowship. ▲



BUILDING COMMON GROUND PROGRAM TAKING SHAPE

Building Common Ground (BCG) is a coalition of organizations and individuals whose mission is to overcome oppression in Central Oregon, with special emphasis on racial justice. Last month APUCC voted to sponsor discussions and study as part of the Building Common Ground (BCG) organization. Other sponsors include religious organizations, social-justice partners and civic and educational institutions.

The next program offers study opportunities in Bend and Redmond. Study will focus on the book, *Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do* by Claude M. Steele.

APUCC's first sponsorship task at is to sponsor two Redmond discussion groups—one daytime group and one evening. The idea is to enable people with day jobs to attend in the evening. The meetings will start on January 21st and run through February. Our role is to provide the meeting place and lead discussions. Gloria has already arranged for meeting space at the Redmond hospital.

Volunteer leaders are Kathi Bumblis, Kurt Lakin, and Gloria Olson.

The wider BCG organization will take charge of publicity and registration. Be sure to mention the event to friends and neighbors and plan to attend yourself if possible.

Our More information will be available in the January newsletter and on the website. ▲

WELCOME OF IMMIGRANTS AT LEGAL ODDS WITH STATE

UCC ministers in North Carolina were dismayed when the state passed a bill designed to prevent jurisdictions from creating “sanctuary cities” for immigrants and to dismantle those already in place.

Rev. Julie Peoples, pastor of Congregational UCC, and the Rev. David Fraccaro of FaithAction International House, say the bill tears down three years of work by community groups, faith groups, and city and law enforcement officials to improve safety and reduce racial tension in Greensboro. The result—safety and welfare of poor and immigrant families were at risk of losing medical and educational services... deportation could run rampant.

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Three years ago, the leaders introduced FaithAction House a community ID card that became widely accepted in Greensboro by local government, businesses, law enforcement officials, schools, health centers, and faith groups. Senior citizens, police officers and people dealing with homelessness carried the cards as part of a larger “strangers to neighbors” program. Due to the new state law, the cards are now invalid in the eyes of local judges, clerks, magistrates and government officials.

Rev. David Fraccaro said, “The ID provision will have a significant impact on North Carolina’s immigrant residents, many of whom do not have access to state issued identification, as well as on other individuals obtaining identification, including senior citizens and people dealing with homelessness. Without a valid ID, simple tasks such as getting the water turned on, obtaining a marriage license, or getting hospital care can become impossible.” ▲

APUCC’S THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

David and Nancy Cook and Don Arkell and Laurie Power invited all who would be in town to Laurie and Don’s Bend home for an APUCC Thanksgiving Dinner. Icy roads, snow and frigid temperatures prevented many from attending the dinner but 7 intrepid members and 2 dogs joined Laurie and



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Don to share in sincere thankfulness, good fellowship and the sumptuous banquet; well, the polite, happy dogs didn't actually dine with us. Others in the congregation marked the day in gatherings both local and afar. If they escaped Central Oregon before the wintery weather closed in, some travelled as far as Minnesota to celebrate the holiday with family. ▲



Don Arkell interrupted his turkey carving and general hosting duties long enough to capture some happy photos of the day—above and page 6. Left to right are Bill Hardin, David Cook, Pris Hardin, Dean Flory and Milly Whatley.

DECEMBER WORSHIP PLANS

All Peoples UCC meets to worship the first and third Sundays of the 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

- Dec. 6th**—11 a.m. Worship: Laurie Power
10 a.m. Bible Bookworms; Discussing *Wonder*; readings for Advent. Nancy Cook will lead.
- Dec. 20th**—11 a.m. Worship: Fran Davis
10—Bible Bookworms; Discussing *Wonder*; readings for Advent. Led by Laurie Power

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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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