



All Peoples
United Church of Christ
SOJOURNER NEWS

A Central Oregon House Church

January, 2016

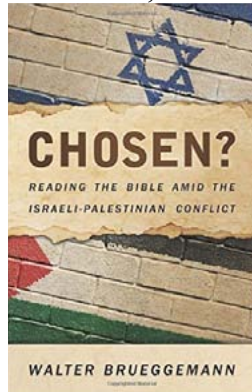
Vol. XVI, Number 1

“INTO THE WOODS?” ...NO! INTO THE BOOKS!

“Into the Woods” is a delightful musical but curling up with a good book may be the right choice for the heart of winter. Unlike “Into the Woods,” there are no fairy tales involved here. APUCC has before it two major tomes for consideration and LEARNING!.

Bible Bookworms steps up to Walter Brueggemann

Contemporary in age to several of us, the similarity probably stops there. Holder of at least 7 doctoral degrees and author of dozens of theological books, Brueggemann is a UCC-ordained pastor and scholar. He is William Marcellus McPheeters Professor of Old Testament Emeritus at



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Building Common Ground invites us into “Whistling Vivaldi.”

No, this book is not a musical, either. But, the work of renowned social psychologist Claude Steele may reveal the tragedies resulting from long-held biases about groups of “the Other,” biases that we have come to hold unwittingly or intentionally. The community-wide reading and discussion of Steele’s work hold hope for the cherished values of acceptance and tolerance that we at APUCC hold dear.

Organized by COCC and Building Common Ground, APUCC has volunteered to

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Columbia Theological Seminary.

In *Chosen?*, Dr. Brueggemann recounts his conversion from loyalty to the Israeli cause to a deeper understanding of the Palestinian conflict that persuaded him to switch positions! Various reviewers cite the study guide available to readers of *Chosen?* as a valuable aide to understanding. Bible Bookworms should find *Chosen?* to be a good read and our discussion to be a readable journey into a theological perspective of a long festering, contemporary world problem. ▲

IT'S JERICHO TABLE MONTH

The January servers roster is nearly full!:

Jan. 4—David & Nancy Cook

Jan. 11—Dean & Sue Flory

Jan. 18—Fran Davis & Gerry Soto

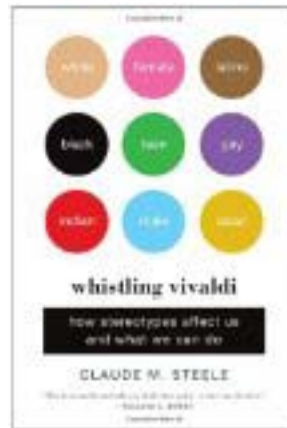
Jan. 25—Susi Sutton & ONE MORE

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Want to help? Contact Melanie Feilzer for information or to volunteer: 503-330-3164 or melaniefeilzer@yahoo.com ▲

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sponsor community book discussions at convenient times throughout Redmond. Our own volunteers will lead the dialogue at two times, one daytime and one evening. Please sign up to support the sessions meeting here at St. Charles. ▲



“FOOD” FOR THOUGHT

This is Epiphany week. Do you know the background on Epiphany? Whether you do or not, try looking up Epiphany in Wikipedia and marvel at the many Epiphany celebrations throughout different faith traditions around the world.

Are we UCCers too serious? ▲

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

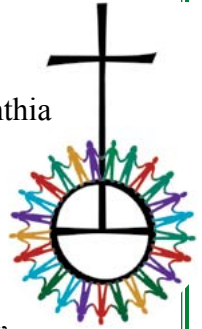
Our Advent preparation at All Peoples UCC was so beautiful thanks to Laurie. Advent is a special time each year, anticipating the birth of our wonderful Jesus, our teacher and mentor. Jesus, who taught us that first of all our God is a god of LOVE and peace, showed us how to see God and each other. Jesus, who saw that humans brought order to the world through war and oppression, taught us that God brings order through love, nonviolence, and peace. Jesus showed us that God needs US to spread that love and peace as God's hands, feet, and heart. Jesus showed us to love, support, and help our neighbor, all our neighbors. Hallelujah!! We remember and thank God for the gift of such a great teacher and mentor in our celebration of his birth at Christmas.

I hope that your Advent season and its Christmas celebration was as joyful as my family's. David and I celebrated first with our family, then with a very special old friend, Teri, who was visiting her family

in Minnesota as we were. And, finally, we celebrated with Cynthia Riffin, Celeste Douville, and Emerson, in Cynthia's church in Minneapolis the Sunday after Christmas. Although we had not previously met Cynthia, Celeste, and Emerson, we had heard much of them from Liz and others at APUCC. Lynnhurst United Church of Christ, where Cynthia is senior pastor, is a lovely older building in southwest Minneapolis with a friendly congregation, all of whom told us how much they appreciated Cynthia when they learned we were from All Peoples UCC.

My wish is that each of you had as memorable and joyful a Christmas as we did. That you are ready to begin 2016 looking forward to our worship and study together. That you are ready to serve as Jesus served, each other and those around us needing love, peace, food, and shelter.

Nancy Cook, APUCC Moderator ▲



FATHER OF “BEACHED” BABY SPEAKS OUT

The heart-felt plea of the grieving father who lost not only his baby boy but his wife and older child in the effort to flee Syria may not be news to APUCC readers. But in this Epiphany season of new beginnings and heightened awareness of our faith journeys, we must not overlook the words of Abdullah (Alan) Kurdi.

“At this time of year I would like to ask you all to think about the pain of fathers, mothers, and children who are seeking peace and security. We ask just for a little bit of sympathy from you,” begged Kurdi.

David Miliband, the former British foreign secretary who now heads the International Rescue Committee proposed that the United States should be accepting at least 100,000 refugees per year! Contrasted to the hateful proposals of some U.S. governors, one wonders whatever happened to Jesus’s admonition about being our neighbors’s keepers?

Miliband added, “I think we know what’s going on; there’s a lot of fear that is based

upon the old adage that the lie gets halfway round the world before the truth gets its boots on.”

A review of the U.S. refugee welcome following the Vietnam war makes one ponder what has happened to the U.S. since then.

The argument that the U.S. had been intimately involved with the Vietnam war and therefore was responsible holds no water when we contemplate our recent roles in Iraq and now in the Syrian/ISIS conflict. Think/pray about it. ▲



OUR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Another year in the story of All Peoples UCC begins with renewed vigor, more friends/ members and much more of Christ's work yet to do.

The Bible Bookworms Sunday study/ discussion hour launches into another ambitious and topical book.

(See front page story)

The Building Common Ground discussions of *Whistling Vivaldi* should help to raise APUCC visibility in the community. Of course, the main idea is that our part in making the discussions succeed will benefit Central Oregon in general. Keep a good thought that even portions of the ambitious program will succeed.

Mission giving in December held steady—from the church treasury for the month of December 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).

Remember, warm clothing is needed at numerous homeless shelters. The Shepherd's House, The Bethlehem Inn, and St. Vincent dePaul (both Bend and Redmond) all are in need. ▲

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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JANUARY 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

- Jan. 3rd**—11 a.m. Worship: Laurie Power
10 a.m. Discussing Chapter 1 of *Chosen?—Reading the Bible Amid the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict* by Walter Brueggemann—Nancy Cook leading.
- Jan. 17th**—11 a.m. Worship: Kathi Bumblis
10 a.m. Bible Bookworms; Chapter 2 of the Brueggemann book (see cover story)—Laurie Power leading discussion.