



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

A Central Oregon House Church

February, 2016

Vol. XVI, Number 2

## **NEW CPC NETWORK — AGING AND SPIRITUALITY**

Last fall, the Local Church Ministries team of the Central Pacific conference (CPC) received a proposal for an Aging and Spirituality network. The idea is that because most of our congregations are aging, a special ministry that recognized both the resources and needs of the aging would be valuable.

The new planning group met last week to brainstorm ideas, needs and services that such a network might address.

New technologies, webinars, newsletters and a website are now in the works. Individuals and groups within congregations are urged to share ideas and services for both elder benefit and inter generational activities within and

## **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING — MARCH 6, 2016**

Plan now for this 5-for-5 offering; (or go ahead, donate early if you like!) This is the third of the 5 offerings received annually by the national UCC. All Peoples has a fine record of contributing to all 5 every year since our founding!

among congregations; by sharing “what works” in one congregation, others may adapt and benefit, also. From ceremonies and elder award ideas to workshops on emerging technologies and spiritual nurture for elder maladies, spiritual growth practices geared to “saging” church members, the spectrum of possible services and benefits is broad. Story-

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telling documentation and sharing holds great potential, especially intergenerationally.

As a congregation composed almost entirely of elders, All Peoples UCC stands to benefit and to share in unique ways.

Two members of the “aging” committee, Tim Graves of the Condon church and Pris Hardin of APUCC asked about a technology application. At times when bad weather and/or elder immobility keep people from church, could our congregations use the Central Pacific Conference license to the ZOOM meeting software? The Rev. Gayle Dee, conference communications director, assured us that was the plan, With low cost video cameras in place, “shut-ins,” both short- and long-term, could actively participate in church services and meetings from their internet-connected home computers. The same technology can serve to link participants with remote meetings just as Tim in Condon and I in southern California had joined the Aging and Spirituality meeting at the Cedar Hills UCC in Beaverton. ZOOM might offer possibilities for APUCC. ▲

## **OUR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

February in the life of All Peoples UCC brings new challenges, opportunities and much more of Christ’s work yet to do.

On February 21st, the Bible Bookworms Sunday study/discussion hour launches into another ambitious and topical book— *Did God Kill Jesus?* by Tony Jones.

Mission giving in January held steady—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). Special Note: Clerk Mike Lovely reports that APUCC giving to the UCC Christmas Fund for needy retired clergy was the largest ever for APUCC at \$213; nice work.

Special Thanks to all who served meals at Jericho Table in January. Our next commitment to Jericho Table service is in March.

Monday Social moves to a new venue—The last Monday of February All Peoples will gather at Izzy’s restaurant, Redmond, at 6 p.m for no-host dinner and fellowship. Gloria Olson has arranged for use of their group dining room for most “last Mondays” in the coming year.

Thanks Gloria. ▲

## MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

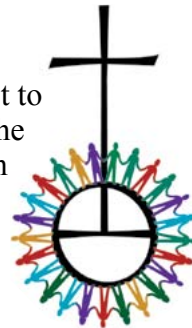
All Peoples United Church of Christ has excellent discussions at our “Bible Bookworms” Sunday morning sessions (10:00 am) that precede our worship services at 11:00 am. Our discussions of the book *Chosen? Reading the Bible Amid the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* by Walter Brueggemann have taught me so much the last two sessions. I hope these discussions are helping you to clarify your position and I am looking forward to concluding our discussions of this issue on 2/7/16.

Our denomination has had some major discussions and votes concerning the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The results of the latest vote taken last summer at General Synod can be viewed here:

[http://www.ucc.org/news\\_what\\_the\\_ucc\\_general\\_synod\\_adopted\\_on\\_just\\_peace\\_in\\_israel\\_palestine\\_07092015](http://www.ucc.org/news_what_the_ucc_general_synod_adopted_on_just_peace_in_israel_palestine_07092015)

I'll bring some copies to our discussion on 2/7/16. There are links within the page to further information about the General Synod resolution.

It is important that we attempt to gain some understanding of the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and how it might be solved. Our world can only benefit from peaceful resolution of world conflict whenever possible.



The resignation of the Central Pacific Conference's elected moderator is one example of the division happening close to home that this issue brings. Here is the text of Chuck Currie's resignation letter that appeared on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/RevChuck-Currie/posts/922278094475192>

Rev. Currie's resignation letter, tends to parallel much of what Dr. Brueggemann is saying in the resource we are studying. Further investigation reveals that Rev. Currie, who often writes for The Huffington Post, has made his views clear in a November article found at:

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[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rev-chuck-curry/interfaith-peace-building\\_b\\_8439088.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rev-chuck-curry/interfaith-peace-building_b_8439088.html)

We can't solve the problem of peace between Israel and Palestine, but we can educate ourselves and use the conclusions we draw from what we learn to influence how our government officials and Congress view the issue, as well as how our denomination responds. ▲

*Nancy Cook, Moderator*

## **COMMUNITY-WIDE PROGRAMS OFFER NURTURE**

### • *Whistling Vivaldi* Book Discussions—

See update on next page.

• **Islam In Depth** classes—taught by Rev. Thom Larson at the United Methodist Church in Bend— 6 to 9 p.m.

Remaining sessions:

2/4—Islam Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow  
The 5 Pillars of Islam

2/11 — Muhammed—Prophet & Statesman  
God's Word—The Quranic World View

2/18—The Muslim Community-Faith & Politics

Paths to God-Islamic Law & Mysticism  
2/25—Islamic Revivalism- Renewal & Reform

Contemporary Resurgence of Islam  
3/3—Islam at the Crossroads  
Women & Change in Islam

3/10—Islam in the West; The Future of Islam

3/17—ISIS and the Caliphate

Guest Presenter-Prof. Bob Harrison  
History & Middle East Studies  
Southern Oregon University

3/24—Living in Islamic Culture; Conclusion  
Panel of Guests

### • **Jericho Road's Mentor-training** classes

2/11—6 p.m.,515 SW Cascade Ave, #1;  
Community of Christ. Call

Eleanor Bessonette at 541-633-0383 ▲

## **CLOSE GITMO**

In the 14 years since the GW Bush administration opened the Guantānamo detention center, the US has suffered the disdain of the world for the torture and indefinite detention of the inmates. The conduct of the center has earned the condemnation of nations and has violated universal ethical and religious moral standards. One of President Obama's election promises was that he would

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close the facility. That pledge has been exceedingly difficult to fulfill. Nevertheless, as the end of his term in office nears, pressure is rising for him to find a way to end the detention and lighten the blot on the US record. Consider that future presidents could fill the facility with more detainees in the name of guarding national security.



The Justice and Peace network of the UCC is teaming up with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture in calling on people of faith to sign the [Whitehouse.gov](http://p2a.co/gMfvmmE) Petition asking President Obama to fulfill his campaign promise and close the prison at Guantánamo now. You can add your voice at: <http://p2a.co/gMfvmmE> ▲

## **A CALL FOR ATTENTION TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

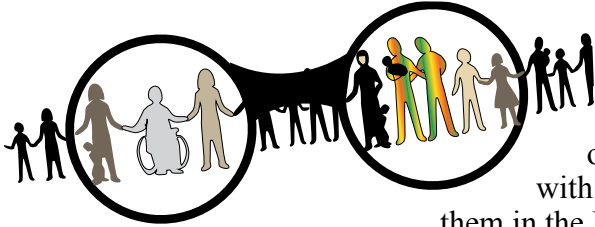
We believe that human trafficking is a violation of all that God wants us to be and do.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (RHYTPA) looks to improve programs by expanding funding for research, data collection and collaboration, creating a National Runaway Youth Hotline. It also adds nondiscrimination protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender

youth. Estimates indicate that nearly 40% of the runaway and homeless youth population identify as LGBT. The enhancements in this bill would help providers give more appropriate services to this population. Speak Out!

“The only normalcy that we will settle for is the normalcy that recognizes the dignity and worth of all God’s children.” MLK, Jr. ▲

## SEASON OF NON-VIOLENCE by COCC, Building Common Ground and others.



Claude M. Steele's *Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do*. APUCC as convener has merged the session originally scheduled to meet in the evening

with the one that meets from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Join them in the Ponderosa Room, Floor 1, St. Charles Hospital,

Redmond Tower, 1253 NW Canal Blvd, (use the Kingwood Avenue entrance). It's not too late to join; contact Gloria Olson for more information at: 541-292-5345 or <gloryo@peak.org>. ▲

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEIGHBORS TO THE EAST

For nearly a month, a drama has played out to the east of Central Oregon in Harney county. With lawless militia occupying and damaging the federal Malheur Wildlife Refuge drawing toward a close, the region must now assess what is left. Without the government officials, the press and the renegade militia flooding Burns what is left of the "old" and what is now different?

From its very beginning, All Peoples UCC has declared itself to be a "just/peace" congregation. What can our small congregation do to support our eastern communities? Turning to the Rural Organizing Project (ROP) for direction is

a good idea; ROP has addressed the social, economic and political needs of the proudly independent people of eastern Oregon for decades.

Taking the long view, ROP cites the protracted economic downturn gripping the area. That may be even worse following the occupation of the wildlife refuge. Now, the hotels-motels are back in their winter doldrums. Restaurants, coffee shops and other businesses are nearly empty.

The more the region is isolated from the rest of the state, the easier militia groups like the recent occupiers will be able to recruit others

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to their nefarious causes. Their trip to John Day was alledgedly for just that. For many in the rural “outback” the new isolation is welcome.

But, the shifting eastern Oregon economy depends more and more on the growth of tourism for stability. For a long time, the Malheur Wildlife Refuge has been a major economic attraction. But now, it will be closed, likely for a long time, as criminal investigation, restoration and reconstruction go on.

ROP points out that an immediate way to support the region is to contribute to the local hospital’s current fund drive which takes the form of a benefit tea party for

Communities Assisting Neighbors with Cancer—<https://www.facebook.com/events/943643379047295/>

Tickets: \$8.00. Write checks to: CAN Cancer. Mail to: Harney District Hospital, Attn: Savanna Boll, 557 W Washington, Burns OR 97720

Longer term, how about adding summer adventures to the east on your calendar? There is much to enjoy and learn while poking around south eastern Oregon. Ask those who have been there about Steens Mountain, Alvord Desert, Frenchglen, Pete French’s Round Barn, Leslie Gulch, Delintment Lake, Crystal Crane Hot Springs, Pillars of Rome, Diamond Craters and Malheur Cave, just to name a few. ▲



## **Rural Organizing Project**

Advancing Democracy in Rural Oregon since 1991

## FEBRUARY 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

- Feb. 7th—11 a.m. Worship: Liz Douville  
10 a.m. Completing discussion of  
*Chosen?-Reading the Bible Amid the  
Israeli/Palestinian Conflict*  
by Walter Brueggemann—  
Nancy Cook leading.
- Feb. 21st—11 a.m. Worship: Laurie Power  
10 a.m. Bible Bookworms; *Did God Kill  
Jesus?* by Tony Jones—  
Laurie Power leading

### SOJOURNER NEWS

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Please join us every first and third Sunday for  
worship at 11 a.m.

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