



All Peoples United Church of Christ SOJOURNER NEWS

A Central Oregon House Church

March, 2016

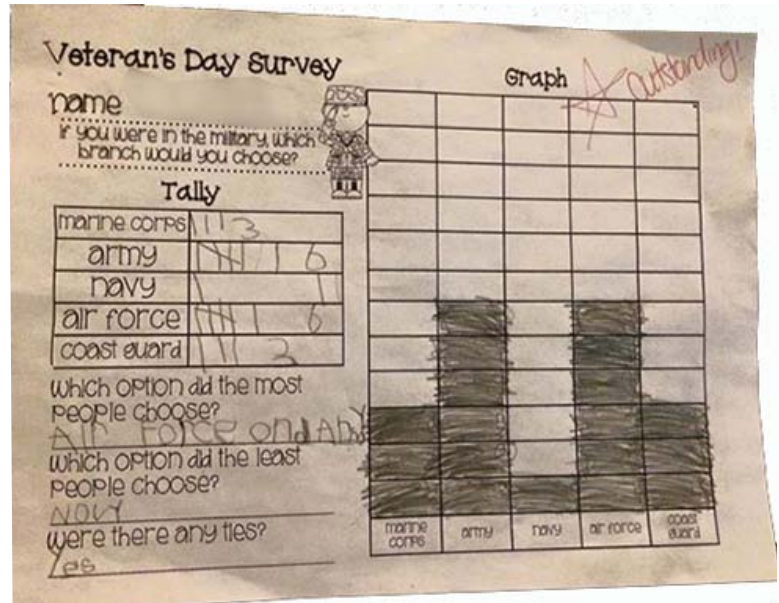
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WHERE DO UCCers IN A JUST PEACE CHURCH STAND ON THE SUBJECT OF WAR?

A recent article in Truthout on the web poses the question, “Why Is My Kindergartner Being Groomed for the Military at School?”

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/34693-why-is-my-kindergartner-being-groomed-for-the-military-at-school>

The topic prompted a lively conversation here at home and might be worth a serious discussion at All Peoples. Author Sarah Grey’s basic question is, “Should we be raising our children, from pre-school onward, to think of war as exciting and heroic?”



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Sarah presents the graphic at the on page 1 That her daughter brought home from kindergarten. It is a work sheet for teachers to use in lessons about graphs. It is available on the internet for classroom use. How many peaceful examples might teach the same concept?

Do we differentiate between advocating peace acceptance of our country's \$598.5 billion war machine? Grey goes on to recount a story of a veteran whose faith was strengthened during his service and who subsequently left the military as a conscientious objector. While searching through his childhood toys to give to his young nephew, he found GI Joe soldiers, old military uniforms for dress-up and other war toys. He trashed them in disgust.

This issue is deeply layered. The components reflect the size of the US military/industrial/economic complex as well as our cultural and international relations. One small UCC congregation is not likely to solve the question alone. But, might we each grow in our understanding and ability to take a stand if we discussed it among ourselves?

For instance, consider the benefits extended

to low-income and disadvantaged youth who access training and employment by joining the military? What are beneficial uses of military power—like building clinics in West Africa? Where do we draw the line on our every-day use of war-based vocabulary? Do our grandchildren play with toy guns? Where does the National Rifle Association's position fit into the question? How has our global military dominance affected relations and economies around the world? ...etc., etc., etc.? There are no simple answers... or are there? As a progressive Just/Peace people what can we do? ▲

MARCH IS JERICHO TABLE MONTH AGAIN

The March servers roster is:

Mar. 7—Fran Davis and Gerry Soto

Mar. 14—Liz Douville and Laurie Power

Mar. 21— Fran Davis and Gerry Soto

Mar. 28— David and Nancy Cook

Want to help? Contact Melanie Feilzer for information or to volunteer: 503-330-3164 or melaniefeilzer@yahoo.com And, special thanks to Fran and Gerry for volunteering to do double duty! ▲

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

Happy March everyone. If it is March, can spring and summer be far behind? The fifties and sixties temperatures we have experienced lately seem to herald the arrival of an early spring.

To follow up on last month's information about whether or not the elected moderator of the Central Pacific Conference did or did not resign, the conference newsletter, *On the Way*, for February 2016, finally summarizes the situation. Here is a link to that newsletter in case you do not subscribe:

<http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=c1fab9f89ecab71f0d3f77c3&id=fe18b45d78&e=e5f0782f7b>

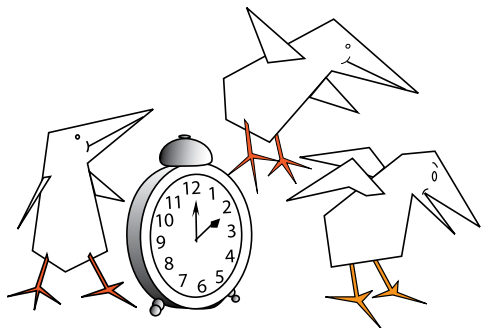
Just to summarize, both the moderator and moderator-elect of the Central Pacific Conference for 2015-2016 have resigned. The moderator (Chuck Currie) resigned due to a disagreement with the denomination's and conference's stated policies on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; the moderator-elect, who had agreed to serve as moderator (Bill Davis) resigned due to health issues.

To fill those vacancies, on February 13th, the conference board appointed Corliss Marsh from The Dalles as moderator, and Sara Rosenau as moderator-elect. You can read about our new moderator and moderator elect in the newsletter.

If you don't already subscribe to the conference newsletter (which is sent as an email) you can subscribe at the bottom of the page linked above. I urge all of you sign up. The newsletter is available on the web site, but like ours, it is not always there immediately. *On the Way*, the newsletter of the Central Pacific Conference, is full of information about people, congregations, actions, coming events, and even reading suggestions. I, personally, find email-provided newsletters an easy way to keep up. You can read as little or as much of the content as you please, and there is no paper to recycle. ▲



REMEMBER DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME... MARCH 13TH



Move your clocks forward one hour!

Don't be late for church.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING MARCH 6, 2016

What goes around comes around... again and again. For UCCers, the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering comes around during Lent every spring (right along with the switch to Daylight Saving Time.) See:

http://www.ucc.org/refugee_emergency_fund

Learn about the OGHS funds and choose the one(s) you most want to support. Be sure to view the clever origami animation about the work of the OGHS offering. ▲

THE END OF MARCH; THE END OF LENT

In the early church the 40 days before Easter was a time when those preparing for baptism would enter into a period of fasting and prayer. (Infant baptism was unheard of.)

Around the 9th or 10th century the custom of baptizing babies became more prevalent. Then, Lent focused on the prayer and sacrifice adult Christians needed to do to free themselves from the hold of sin on their lives. For Catholics this meant fasting and abstaining from meat on Fridays; giving up candy or other pleasures, and constantly thinking about confession of sins.

Lent was not a part of the Protestant tradition until modern times. It has become more common place to celebrate Lent with ashes on Ash Wednesday (February 10), and then to follow through the 40 days remembering the passion and death of Jesus in preparation for the Resurrection on Easter (March 27).

(From Sun Lakes UCC News, AZ.)

Between Bible Bookworms studies and other progressive reading, has your perspective of Easter changed? ▲

OUR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The Bible Bookworms Sunday study/discussion hour has launched into another ambitious book—*Did God Kill Jesus?* by Tony Jones.

Mission giving expanded in February. Donations from individuals totalled: St. Vincent de Paul in Bend (\$60), in Redmond (\$30), and Jericho Road (\$40).

From the church treasury, the usual donation of \$125 went to Bethlehem Inn. But, greater need and Jericho Road's increased efforts to house the homeless prompted APUCC to vote unanimously to boost monthly support from \$50 to \$150!

Remember, warm clothing is still needed at the Shepherd's House, The Bethlehem Inn, and St. Vincent dePaul (both Bend and Redmond) and others you may know of. ▲

“LIFT EVERY VOICE! RACISM, CLASS AND POWER.”

Alas, APUCC is too far away to participate in some of the gatherings our national offices support. The next graphic represents one such meeting.



In Washington, D.C., on April 15-18, 2016, people of faith will speak truth to power concerning the suppression of political and economic rights, and the corporate undermining of the local voice of ordinary people in the U.S. and around the world. Through prayer, worship, advocacy training, networking and mobilization with other Christians, we will face the reality of racism, class and power impacting politics and policies and advocate for the liberty of “Every Voice!” – all culminating with EAD’s Congressional Lobby Day. Be alert for reports of the event and any impact the gathering may have on communities of faith and national legislatures. ▲

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

Martin Luther King Jr.

VISUALIZED MUSIC OF THE SPHERES?

So much news these days is cause for dismay—like the St. Louis Archdiocese's attack on the Girl Scouts of America and the twisted presidential campaign charges being slung about this year.

But other news, often of a scientific nature, is cause for wonder. Example: the graphic (*below*) is a computer-generated image that reflects the gravitational perturbations generated when two black holes collide... enjoy. ▲



ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER— RACISM AGAIN?

“The mantra of every right-wing politico is that government should be run like a business, always focused on cutting costs. Welcome to Flint, Michigan....”

So begins an article by Jim Hightower:
[www.truth-out.org/buzzflash/
commentary/what-really-poisoned-the-
water-in-flint-michigan](http://www.truth-out.org/buzzflash/commentary/what-really-poisoned-the-water-in-flint-michigan)

The blame process has opened up reams of political wrangling which will be followed by lawsuits and court actions.

The urgent point is that the people of Flint have been grievously poisoned and the problem has been neglected far too long. The corrosives dissolved in Flint River water have degraded the city’s delivery system, resulting in lead levels well in excess of EPA standards, plus contamination by E. coli bacteria and the suspected carcinogen total trihalomethanes. Flint residents have been poisoned by water from their own taps, and public officials at the local, state, and federal levels have all failed to protect the public.

The remedy calls for financial aid, medical diagnosis and treatment as well as physical replacement of the damaged waterlines from water treatment facility to every faucet cannot happen fast enough. The story reeks of environmental racial discrimination.

AND, subsequent evidence is emerging that other water systems across the land may be suffering similar contamination. How many of these instances also have racial overtones? Our sister conferences from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut are mobilizing to send aid to Flint through the UCC’s Emergency USA Fund.

You can make a gift online at:
[unitedchurchofchrist.nationbuilder.com/
emergency_usa_fund](http://unitedchurchofchrist.nationbuilder.com/emergency_usa_fund)

Make your gift on line or, better yet, put a check in the APUCC offering basket. The donation is recorded then as having come from All Peoples UCC. You can direct your gift toward this emergency by putting “Flint, Michigan” in the designation field. And while you are on the website shown above, don’t miss the clever, animated origami graphic. ▲

MARCH 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

Mar. 6th—11 a.m. Worship: Milly Whatley
10 a.m. Discussing Part 2 of *Did God Kill Jesus?* by Tony Jones—Nancy Cook leading the discussion.

Mar. 20th—11 a.m. Worship:
Nancy Cook
10 a.m. Bible Bookworms;
Part 3 of Tony Jones' *Did God Kill Jesus?*
Laurie Power leading the discussion.

SOJOURNER NEWS

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PO Box 1287, Bend, OR 97709

allpeoplesucc@gmail.com

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.

Moderator: Nancy Cook: ncook963@gmail.com

Newsletter editor: Pris Hardin, prisbill@earthlink.net

Facebook: Sue Flory: facebook.com/allpeoples.ucc

Webmaster: Nancy Cook: www.allpeoples-ucc.org