



All Peoples
United Church of Christ
SOJOURNER NEWS

A Central Oregon House Church

May, 2016

Vol. XVI, Number 5

CARING FOR CREATION GLOBALLY AND AT HOME

As stewards of God's amazing creation, we sometimes feel dwarfed by the enormity of the struggles ahead. And yet we try to do our part.

Here's a short behavioral inventory:

DO YOU: recycle, repurpose and reuse?

...conserve water? ...shop frugally?

... reuse or compost left-overs? ...eat more

locally grown foods and raise some of your

own? ...use less plastic ...burn fewer fossil

fuels?...drive less?...keep thermostats turned

down and AC dials turned up?

Your answer to most of these questions is probably "Yes" or "Usually." The reasons for our affirmative responses should be above and beyond simply because it costs

less. As Christian stewards, caring for the earth and its bounty becomes a matter of faith, compassion and global community awareness—and, it is not easy.

From time to time the Sojourner News may raise another issue that demands renewed attention. This month, we look at palm oil... feel free to suggest additional topics as they come to your attention.

For two years, seasonal smoke and haze hanging over the island nations of the south Pacific has risen to dangerous levels. In jeopardy are children and forest-dwelling peoples as well as critical habitat for orangutans and many endangered species—rhinos, elephants and tigers.

These catastrophic fires are the result of

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uncontrolled slash and burn clearing of tropical rainforests to make room for new palm oil plantations. The process destroys peat lands, thousands of acres of precious forest and releases large amounts of carbon dioxide. Malaysia and Indonesia currently produce 85 percent of the world's palm oil. Collateral damage includes forced labor, destroyed soil fertility and the smothering haze.

What can we do about it half a world away? Here's the connection. Palm oil is found in *nearly half* of the manufactured items found in super markets!

The World Wildlife Federation lists some of the names under which palm oil hides: sodium dodecyl sulfate, glyceryl stearate, sodium isostearoyl lactylate, and elaeis guineensis... and that is just a few of them. They lurk in cosmetics, detergents, prepared foods and plastics.

The demand is so great that our chances as consumers of shutting down the production are slim; BUT, we can participate in urging manufacturers to

buy only sustainably harvested palm oil; that is palm oil only from trees in long established orchards... NOT recently burned land

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) has just released its second Palm Oil Scorecard revealing how 30 companies that produce major brands of palm oil for American consumers measure up (or not) to their commitments to purchase oil ONLY from sustainably planted palm oil trees. This calls upon us to do more careful label reading at points of purchase AND in our kitchens, bathrooms and shelves in the garage.

Along with label reading goes the power of letter writing to companies that make or buy unsustainably produced palm oil!

The more consumers who demand sustainable harvest practices of companies the more likely the companies are to pay attention. For starters, tell the largest global fast-food chains—Burger King, Wendy's, Subway, CKE Restaurants (that includes Hardee's, Carl's Jr., Red Burrito, and Green Burrito), Starbucks, Dairy

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Queen, and Domino's— that for the sake of our atmosphere, tropical forests, and endangered species, the time to act is now.

To begin with, you can join the call to action by submitting a letter for distribution to the Union for Concerned Scientists [by](#):

Union of Concerned Scientists

2 Brattle Square,
Cambridge MA 02138-3780

Watch for more information about this crisis. Little old APUCC can help to move big corporations onto the right side of history ▲

JERICHO TABLE CALLS AGAIN

May is our month to serve the hungry on Monday nights. Willing APUCCers have stepped forward to volunteer once more:

May 2—Sue and Dean Flory

May 9—Liz Douville and Laurie Power

May 16—Suzi Sutton and Pris Hardin

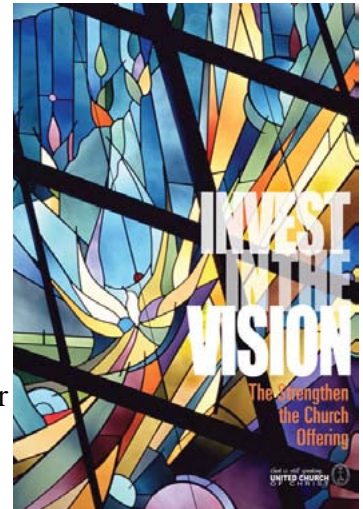
May 23—David & Nancy Cook

We look forward to serving behind the counter and chatting with the diners. ▲

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, Strengthen the Church (STC) funds largely support youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregation to be the “church” in new ways, our generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. STC funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the “God is still speaking,” message. (Does that spark some ideas?) ▲



EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome, to the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer.

The new President and General Minister to the national United Church of Christ expressed his vision of service by holding a three-day installation service that swept across the country. It began in New York city (April 15) continued in Chicago (April 16) and finished in Seattle (April 17). Central Pacific Conference minister Walter John Boris attended the Seattle service, reporting that it was a colorful and inspiring service.

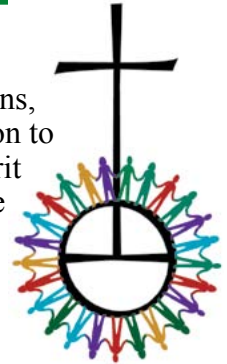
Formerly serving as Conference Minister for the SW Pacific Conference Rev. Dorhauer outlined the first 90 days in his new role serving the UCC national. His wish is to serve the entire UCC in the U.S. as well as to participate actively in our recently affirmed full communion with the United Church of Canada. Dorhauer will focus on rebuilding relationships between the local churches and the national setting, finding ways to strengthen partnerships with other

faith groups and organizations, and deepening the connection to the sacred and the Holy Spirit – all aimed at supporting the ongoing mission of the UCC.

In so doing, he invites us to focus on rebuilding relationships between the local churches and the national setting, finding ways to strengthen partnerships with other faith groups and organizations, and deepening the connection to the sacred and the Holy Spirit.

Putting his plans into action right away, Dorhauer has committed to posting a weekly blog for us to read. The idea is to lift up the presence of the mediation and mystic in our lives. Sign on to read the blog by logging on to:

http://www.ucc.org/into_the_mystic?utm_campaign=kyp_apr5_16&utm_medium=email&utm_source=unitedchurchofchrist



RURAL ORGANIZING PROJECT ON ALERT

Excerpted from an introduction by Mike Eldera for an article by Spencer Sunshine.)

Fascism is an over-used word. We tend to think of fascists as “mean people we don’t like,” but actually Fascism is a political movement with a specific function. It began in Italy following WWI. After a pointless bloody involvement in the World War, the country was wracked by economic recession. Millions of people took to the streets to protest, strike, and demand social and economic justice.

As the power of these demands grew, something else appeared. Former socialist Mussolini, who understood the movement for justice, created a counter-movement of unemployed veterans and the stressed middle-class to demand the exact opposite and called it Fascism. Fascists diverted attention to conspiracy theories against foreigners, against unions, against “the government”. They created militias, enjoyed dressing up in uniforms, and engaged in violent attacks against socialists, communists, liberals, and just plain believers

in democracy. They got secret support from Italy’s industrialists and bankers, and a blind eye from the police and military. Later, when they managed to take political power, they chomped down hard on the hands that fed them. Their success was adopted by one Adolf Hitler, who used the same tactics in Germany.

Think about this history when reading Spencer Sunshine’s article (URL below) on the Patriot Movement in the Oregon primary. The Malheur Refuge takeover was the coming-out party for a western style movement that looks a lot like Fascism. While Ammon Bundy and his fellow debutantes are in jail, the militia movement is spreading and getting political. Spencer has identified the “patriot” candidates running in the primary, the offices they are running for, and the counties where these candidates are operating.

As people organizing for a better life in rural Oregon, ROP members will be dealing with the “patriot movement” for years to come as it advocates the exact opposite of what we need to make our lives and communities better. Instead of auctioning

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off our public lands to speculators, we need real cooperation between local people and government agencies. Instead of stripping local governments of a tax base, we need more funding for schools, libraries, public safety, roads, communication – all the things that are necessary for balanced economic activity. Instead of less environmental protection, we need better conservation efforts, and green projects putting more people to work. And instead of racism and hate directed against Muslims, immigrants, Native people and LGBT people, we need stronger communities that include all people. A rural Oregon that depends on its skilled agricultural work force especially needs to show respect and justice for the farmworker.

The so-called “patriot movement” stands against all of the above. This May primary, check it out via their candidate statements and propaganda that rail against Federal conspiracies, immigrants, foreign takeovers, and taxes for necessary social programs. ▲

For more information, see Spencer Sunshine’s article at:

<http://www.rop.org/7814-2/>

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

It’s spring and our snowbird members have found their way north to swell our group by four. Dean and Sue Flory arrived just about the same time Bill and Pris Hardin motored into Central Oregon. APUCC’S Bible Bookworms will complete the study of Tony Jones’ “Did God Kill Jesus?” by the end of the May. The book is prompting many questions regarding the wide variety of Christian faith perspectives laid out by Jones. Some have serious questions about the author’s views, too. THAT Is why we read, study and discuss. One visiting clergyperson, attending a Bible Bookworms session, commented, “Wow, you people get right into it, don’t you?”

Clerk Mike Lovely reports April donations: regular monthly donations from the church treasury go to The Bethlehem Inn—\$125 and Jericho Road—\$150. Total gifts from individuals added up to: \$60 for St. Vincent de Paul in Bend, \$30 for St. Vincent de Paul in Redmond, and \$40 for Jericho Road.

Gloria Oslon, past moderator, has continued to scout and arrange for our “last Monday of the month” fellowship gatherings. To

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Gloria's dismay, Izzy's restaurant closed abruptly without contacting us. On a tip from Dean and Sue Flory, she investigated Yi's Wok and found an enthusiastic host for our meeting. The food was delicious and the space a bit "cozy" but we crowded together with no problems and enjoyed the evening. After all, it was fellowship time. ▲

A WISE MAN FROM THE WEST

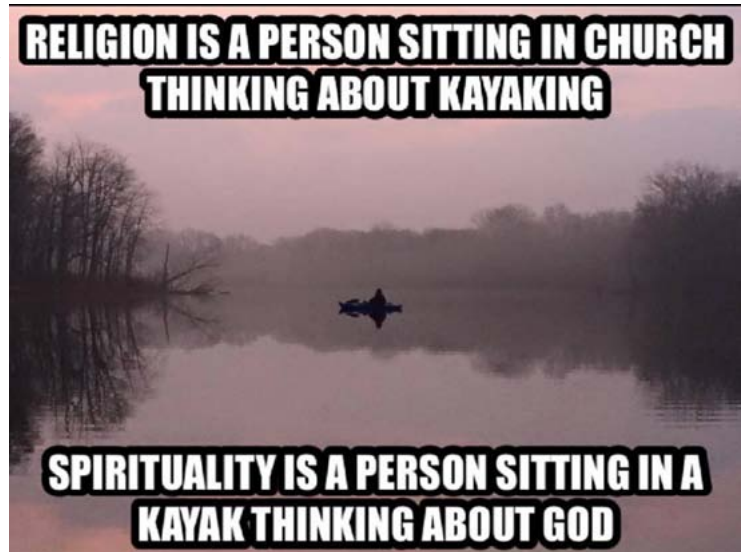
Stan Paine from the Eugene UCC church brought news of the emerging Aging and Spirituality Network to our "Last Monday of the Month" gathering at Yi's Wok.

Introducing the concept of the Aging and Spirituality Network (ASN), a new resource of the Central Pacific Conference, Stan described how he and cofounder of the network, David Rozell (Ainsworth UCC in Portland), are seeking ideas for shaping the network. They are meeting with CPC congregations to glean ideas for priorities for the new group. (Stan had accompanied his wife Cathy to her conference at Eagle Crest.) He

pounced on the opportunity to meet with APUCC in our informal Monday night setting. Eighteen of our group joined in a delicious Chinese meal after Stan laid out the purpose and formation of the ASN.

Open discussion and brainstorming of possible activities followed.

During the discussion the differences between religion and spirituality came up. Stan subsequently sent the poster below. ▲



MAY 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

May 1st—11 a.m. Worship: Gerry Soto
10 a.m. Discussing of Part VI, Chaps 18–20 of “Did God Kill Jesus?”
by Tony Jones. David Cook leading.

May 15th—11 a.m. Worship:
David and Nancy Cook. Wear Pentecost red if you have it.
10 a.m. Bible Bookworms;
discussing Part VII,
Chaps 21–23 of *Did God Kill Jesus?* by Tony Jones—
Nancy Cook leading

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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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