

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

A Central Oregon House Church

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RACIAL VIOLENCE IN A SHRINKING WORLD

By Mike Lovely

The increase in police/racial violence has been a main topic of discussion and concern for All Peoples United Church Of Christ (APUCC). The “straw that broke the camel’s back” was the Michael Brown incident in Ferguson, Missouri. APUCC began a discussion on how to bring more public attention to this situation and try to cool public tension on this unfortunate killing. We decided on a “button campaign.” We discussed several slogans; “ALL LIVES MATTER” won. This project is a passion of Gloria Olson; she went to Via Delia in Bend and personally paid for a bundle/variety of “ALL LIVES MATTER.” Thank you, Gloria!! We passed around the buttons and took some extras to hand out.



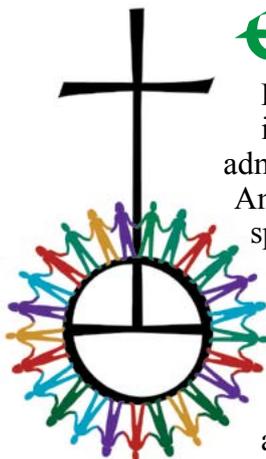
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Racial Violence—Continued from page 1

As I read The Bend Bulletin on Sunday, December 28, 2014, the political cartoon (*right*) caught my eye. It centered on ALL LIVES MATTER!! I CONTACTED cartoonist Jack Ohrman, who works for the Sacramento Bee, a northern California newspaper. I told him of our button project and asked permission to use his cartoon

on our church website as part of our button campaign because of the phrase, subject matter, and timing of the public violence situation. He said yes and thanked me for asking. He also asked me to send him a button; Jack's button is in the mail. An ironic side point, Jack worked for The Oregonian, for twenty-eight years. So, of course we had a short "Oregon" discussion.

EDITOR'S NOTE:



During a recent radio interview with a retired administrator of African American descent she spoke of her high school graduation many years ago. She was the first in her family to graduate from high school. Supportive and proud, her family attended the ceremony

in full force. While she was happy, at the same time, teen embarrassment took over. When processing into the ceremony, her elderly grandmother reached out and

slipped a little scrap of lined, notebook paper into her hand.

During the opening speeches, she surreptitiously unfolded the note and read, "Be who you is, not who you ain't." Comprehending that loving advice, she found a new sense of pride and relief by the time she stepped up to receive that prized diploma. Her grandmother's wisdom guided her through her successful career.

Given our advancing years, people in our congregation should know "who they are."

But, who we are is subject to change!
Life hands us experiences that we might

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have thought we were prepared for — yet, uncertainty and fear may be only a step away. While core values and attitudes are likely to remain pretty stable, life crises may erode parts of who we are. At such times, faith and community either come to the rescue or drag a person deeper into confusion.

Marcus Borg's, *Convictions*, is our current study book. Sue Flory reports the study is “generating considerable conversation about each of our own memories, conversions, and convictions. Each member of the discussion group is listing personal experiences and in

many cases questioning some convictions of their own, those of other group members, or of Dr. Borg. We seem to be seeking what makes us Christians.”

That we are Christians is crucial to understanding “Who we is.” Knowing that our identity does shift and grow requires that we continually re-evaluate “Who we is.” As we support each other on life's journeys, let us be aware of who the members of our fellowship are— this week, this day and this moment as we share spiritual paths together.

Shalom, Pris

CPC-SPONSORS SOCIAL-MEDIA CONFERENCE—MARCH 7TH

At Cedar Hills UCC west of Portland, The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, church social media expert will lead a 3 hour morning presentation followed by “break-out” sessions after lunch.

If you have ever pondered the whys, whats and hows of using social media in the church, this might be the event for you. Beginning with a high-altitude look at some of the reasons why social media is so integrated into today's culture we will then explore a variety

of social platforms, name some best practices and walk through applications for various users and purposes. Look Reyes-Chow up on Wikipedia to be impressed!

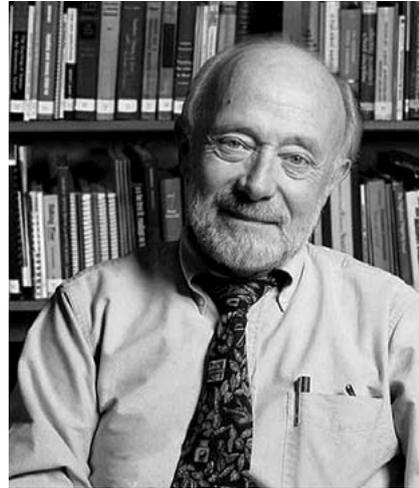
GOOD NEWS—The Local Church Ministries Team intends to stream the conference live. APUCC folk could join the live feed from right here in Central Oregon. Cooks have invited all interested parties to come to their place to participate if desired.

In Memoriam The Rev. Dr. Marcus Borg

What a pleasure to have known Marcus Borg.
What a kind and beautiful human being.
What a loss to us all.

In a recent email, understanding the severity of his illness, Marcus wrote, “I have always known that we are all on death row. Never would have gotten that wrong on a true-false test. But it’s different to know it.” Still, he said, “in the midst of all this ... I am unreasonably happy. Not all the time. But more than I might have expected.”

Marcus Borg did justice, loved kindness, and walked humbly with God. I miss him deeply, honor him warmly, and will always remember him with great respect and gratitude.



The above excerpts are from a recent tribute by Brian McLaren, evangelical Christian pastor, author, activist and speaker and leading figure in the emerging church movement. For McLaren’s entire tribute, go to:

<http://brianmclaren.net/archives/blog/in-honor-of-marcus-borg.html>

DR. BORG AND ALL PEOPLES UCC

Tributes abound in recognition of the life of Marcus Borg. He has meant something special to each of us at APUCC; our study and meditation over his thoughts, writings, and personal appearances undoubtedly varied from individual to individual. But for each of us he opened new doors to spiritual growth. We are each the richer for Dr. Borg.

Now, our prayers are with his family and, yes, for his global family as we accept that there will be no more liberating words flowing from his prophetic mind...
from his deep closeness to The Creator.

“Nothing in the world is more flexible and yielding than water. Yet when it attacks the firm and the strong, none can withstand it, because they have no way to change it. So the flexible overcome the adamant, the yielding overcome the forceful. Everyone knows this, but no one can do it.”

Lao Tzu, 6th century B.C.E

INTERFAITH CLIMATE ACTION DAY — MARCH 3RD

This event focuses on the Oregon State Legislature in Salem.

Meet at Salem’s First United Methodist Church, 600 State Street (1 block from the State Capitol) with Policy Briefing and *visits to legislators* from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Then, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. the Central Pacific Conference Climate Action Network will gather at Salem First Congregational United Church of Christ, 700 Marion Street NE (3 blocks from the State Capitol).

Here’s an opportunity to participate in very important political action that is super meaningful in our time. Carpooling and home stays will be available and the light snow pack in the passes may make a trip over the mountains (caused by climate change!?!)
simpler than in past years. Meet some live-wire activists from other CPC congregations.

Contact the Rev. Caren Caldwell, pastor of the Medford UCC church at 541-621-0663, or <caren@medforducc.org>

IS THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT AT A POLITICAL TIPPING POINT?

Ted Glick, national campaign coordinator of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, poses the question and then answers it with his own assessment in a piece printed on the EcoWatch website.

Gloom sets in as he considers the makeup of the national legislature, it's denial and internal divisions. However, he then proceeds to point out 3 key factors that give him hope:

- 1—Glick points to growing grassroots strength of the climate movement like protests of the XL pipeline, anti-fracking protests and fossil fuel divestment movements.
- 2—The recent drop in oil prices is having a big impact on both gas and oil industries. It is coupled with a renewed unwillingness to invest in the oil and gas industries. He sees this as tightly coupled to the difficulties of the coal industry and tightening federal regulations on all three enterprises.
- 3—Last, the dramatic rise in energy “renewables” signals a more rapid reduction of dependence on fossil fuel than predicted. Glick cites a recent report by Bloomberg New Energy Finance: “By 2030, the

world's power mix will have transformed: from today's system with two-thirds fossil fuels to one with over half from zero-emission energy sources. Renewables will command over 60% of the 5,579GW of new capacity and 65% of the \$7.7 trillion of power investment.”

Glick also points to the likely impact of Pope Francis' major upcoming encyclical on Climate change and it's influence on the December United Nations Climate Conference in Paris.

But, what about that climate-denier-run Congress? Will they be able to fundamentally alter these powerful economic and political developments? Glick closes with a call to emulate the civil rights movement: “by escalating strategic, well-thought-through, nonviolent direct action and other visible, demonstrative actions in the streets, as massive and coordinated as we can make them.

“2015 might be a turning point year, but it definitely won't be if we don't rise to the occasion.”

HOW MUCH DO WE CARE ABOUT HUNGRY CHILDREN?

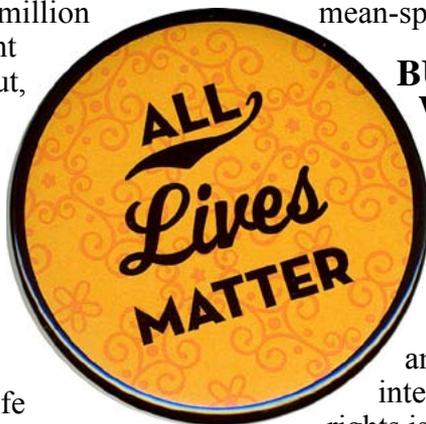
In a call to action against Congressional attitudes, Mariana Chilton, associate professor of public health at Drexel University, reminds us of President Obama's 2008 calls for the elimination of childhood hunger among our 12.4 million self-reporting insufficient food. Now, she points out, that that number has climbed to 15.8 million!

Seven years later, in his State of the Union message, Obama announced: "I want our actions to tell every child, in every neighborhood — your life matters, and we are as committed to improving your life chances as we are for our own kids." Obama calls for an increase in the child tax credit, improved wages and paid family leave.

Chilton is appalled by the response of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell who said, "Hopefully that's just rhetoric. He

knows we're not likely to pass these kinds of measures. We'll still look for things that we can actually agree on."

It would appear that pandering to political party holds far more sway than serving community needs. As American citizens and Christians, what can we do to counteract mean-spirited laws and legislation?



BUTTON, BUTTON, WHO NEEDS THE BUTTON?

All Peoples' current button campaign makes a strong, broad statement of caring for all lives; it speaks to our concern for love and respect toward all of God's amazing creation. Readers may interpret many meanings from abortion rights issues to our concern for global warming — they would be right.

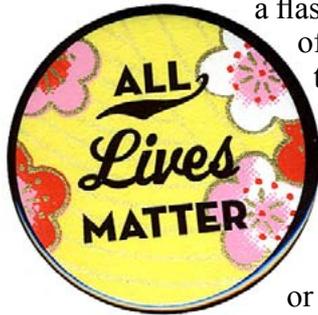
A recent dialogue found on the Rev. Tara Wilkins' Facebook page focuses more closely on the issues of race and prejudice prompted by the chant "Black Lives Matter."

Tara writes: "One reason the chant 'Black Lives Matter' is so important is that it states

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the obvious but the obvious has not yet been historically realized. So it is a statement of outrage and a demand for equality, for the right to live free of constraint, but also a chant that links the history of slavery, of debt peonage, segregation, and a prison system geared toward the containment, neutralization and degradation of black lives, but also a police system that more and more easily and often can take away a black life in



a flash all because some officer perceives a threat.”

One of her readers offered a metaphor, “It is like if someone Jaywalks and he or she happened to be Muslim, CNN, FOX

NEWS reporting, BREAKING NEWS, “Muslim Jaywalker Was Arrested”....

Tara responded: “Yes, any time we are reduced to one piece of our identity, it’s dehumanizing. We all must be careful to understand our own biases, and work to see beyond them.

ISSUES SURROUNDING VIOLENCE AND RACE ABOUND

Current programs discussing racial life in Central Oregon are open to all. Central Oregon Community College is backing a series of meetings addressing racial bias and prejudices. Derald Wing Sue’s “Overcoming Our Racism: Journey to Liberation” serves as the foundation for discussions. The meetings are taking place over six weeks and address how the book’s themes apply to Central Oregon. Kathi Bumblis and Sue Flory recently attended one at Trinity Episcopal. They intend to return for subsequent meetings. Sue will report after more meetings evolve. For background information, see the following URL: <http://www.bendbulletin.com/lifestyle/2754633-151/community-discussion-racism>

WHO IS ARUN GANDHI?

On the occasion of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the grandson of India’s great pacifist leader has raised his voice in partial answer to the question posed above. In the Q-&-A of a recent appearance, a student asked, “How do you be a better human being?”

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When he was a child, his grandfather said that his personal practice was to wake up every morning and promise, “I’m going to be a better human being today than yesterday.”

Arun Gandhi said the way is to start by taking small, personal steps — and never stopping. Don’t look to politicians, he admonished, “Our main problem is politicians.”



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Dawg House II—The last Monday of the month, January 26, APUCC friends gathered for fun and supper at Redmond’s Dawg House II restaurant, 507 SW 8th St, in Redmond. This month’s meeting also saw important business discussed and some conclusions reached.

1—The participants in the Center for Progressive Renewal (CPC) webinar made a report on their experience thus far. Kathi Bumblis, Nancy Cook and Laurie Power

have found many ideas that can benefit our congregation. Although the section on congregational bullying did not apply to APUCC. One element that APUCC might use more fully is the potential of social media platforms available. (See p. 3—Social Media Conference on March 7.)

2—Gloria Olson, moderator-for-now, circulated an updated list of congregational jobs necessary for keeping our enterprise alive. People responsible for making sure that these functions are accomplished were suggested, discussed and agreed to. It takes a lot of effort by many to keep a church without paid staff—ordained pastor or office staff—alive and functioning.

Gloria Olson calls the roster of volunteers the “Stepping Up” list and rightly so.

Mission giving in

December came from two sources.

Church budget: The Bethlehem Inn—\$125 and Jericho Road—\$50.



Congregant donations: St. Vincent de Paul in Bend (\$55) and in Redmond (\$25), Jericho Road (\$35).

LINDA JARAMILLO HEADING HOME TO OREGON

Excerpts from article by Anthony Moujaes

Jaramillo, who has served as executive minister of UCC Justice and Witness Ministries for nearly a decade, announced her retirement on Thursday, Jan. 15, with plans to step down on Sept. 30, 2015.

Serving for nearly a decade in national UCC offices, Linda's leadership has been courageous and distinguished.

Linda writes: I came to this call as someone who was originally drawn to the UCC more than 30 years ago when our core values were lived, but not as clearly articulated -- continuing testament, extravagant welcome, and changing lives," Jaramillo said. "My life has been deeply enriched by my church experiences that began as a laywoman in the pews. I have been powerfully moved by the passion, commitment, challenge, and differences of opinion related to the complex demands of social justice ministries in our beloved church that claims biblically-based, theologically-grounded prophetic witness at its very core. The torches of justice are burning."

Jaramillo, fluent in both English and Spanish, is the first Latina to serve as an officer of the UCC. She has been active in various settings of the denomination, including the UCC's former Commission for Racial Justice and former Coordinating Center for Women. She worked



The Rev. Linda Jaramillo, to step down as Witness Ministries in September.

with the UCC's Central Pacific Conference, was a member of the former Executive Council, and has served as assistant moderator at General Synod.

Thanks, Linda and welcome home!

FEBRUARY 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 the Redmond Hwy 97 reroute, exit left at Glacier, right on 5th north through downtown to Kingwood, right on Kingwood, go 1.75 blocks, and turn left into the hospital parking lot.
- **From west** on Hwy 126, left on 5th and follow southside directions to hospital.
- **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. 1st—11 a.m. Worship—Sue Flory
10 a.m. Discussion of Chaps. 6–7 of *Convictions—How I Learned What Matters Most* by Marcus Borg.
Nancy Cook will lead.

Feb. 15th—11 a.m. Worship—
Liz Douville
10 a.m. Laurie Power will lead study of Chapters 8–9 of the Borg book.

SOJOURNER NEWS

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PO Box 1287, Bend, OR 97709
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Please join us for worship every first and third Sunday.
Sunday worship is at 11 a.m.
For additional information and location/date
of the next worship service,
email the above.
Moderator: Gloria Olson: gloryo@peak.org
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