

All Peoples
United Church of Christ
SOJOURNER NEWS

A Central Oregon House Church

Vol. XV, Number 4

April, 2015

EARTH DAY—A CALL TO ACTION

What will we do on Earth Day, April 22nd, to follow the lead of Creation Justice Ministries?

Creation Justice Ministries (formerly the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program) calls numerous denominations to work for better stewardship of God's creation. This year's Earth Day theme looks to the relationship between food and global warming concerns. *(See story on page 3)*

The Earth Justice people offer a special theme for this year's emphasis.

Food waste has become an enormous problem in our country, and the EPA has come up with a challenge for us to reduce this waste. Many of our churches have ministries that

GLOBAL CONCERNS

“Maybe if we thought about these things through the lens of food, we would make better decisions.

Because food is personal; it happens every day. It's the focus of families, focus of household, community and personal traditions.

So it's not just something put out there as parts per million of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases building up someplace.”

The quote above comes from:
“Climate Threats to Alaska Food Security”
High Country News—Aug. 20, 2014

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feed the hungry and care for the homeless, just like Jesus taught us. Coupling these two initiatives: curbing food waste and serving our neighbors, we will be on the path to being better stewards to our planet and our brothers and sisters.

For more information about the Food Recovery Challenge and how you or your congregation can get involved, visit the Food Waste page at EPA.

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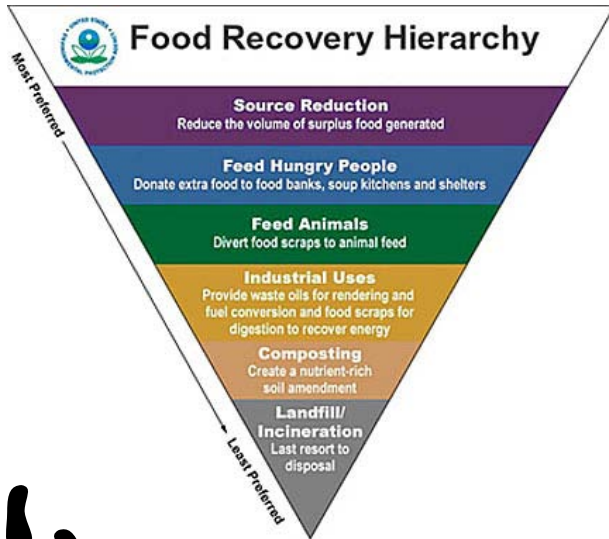
NEW WAYS OF BEING THE HANDS OF CHRIST

Crisis Intervention Training offers an opportunity for Jericho Road volunteers to be better prepared to serve. This Crisis Intervention Training is FREE.

APUCC volunteers are invited to attend the class from 1–2:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 14th. The Crisis Intervention Training will be offered at the Community Presbyterian

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REAL SUSTAINABILITY?

Do you subscribe to TruthOut on the web?. Their articles are strictly copyrighted, (we respect their work) you will find a strong reality check in a recent post titled, "Sustainable Living Means

Making Big Changes; Why Can't We Face Up to It?" Published Sunday, 29 March 2015

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Church, 529 NW 19th St., in Redmond.

Eileen C. Flory, C.I.T. Coordinator for the Bend Police Department will help us to:

- understand how stimulus/stress and ability to cope interact to create crisis situations.
- understand how to manipulate stimulus/stress and ability to cope to defuse a crisis situation.
- understand the keys to active listening and how to use that skill to help defuse a crisis situation.

This is an innovative first-responder model of crisis intervention with community, health care, and advocacy partnerships.

The Jericho Table environment can easily present situations where this sort of training could play a vital role in supporting and fulfilling Jericho Table's reason for being.

Sponsored by The Jericho Road Board of Directors, APUCC volunteers are asked to:

RSVP by April 6, 2015.

Email Linda Shaw at:

[<redmondjerichoroad@yahoo.com>](mailto:redmondjerichoroad@yahoo.com)

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Are you feeling “Ho-hum” about yet another Easter rolling past? Are you “up to here” with toy bunnies, candy eggs and fake grass in baskets made under near-slave conditions in far away countries?

We call ourselves a people of hope. Yet, maintaining a hopeful outlook is not easy. Facing the bombardment of Easter commerce or, greater by far, the overwhelming pressure of news stories about local, national and world disaster and despair, the Easter/Pentecost saga offers renewal that is just what Progressive Christians need.

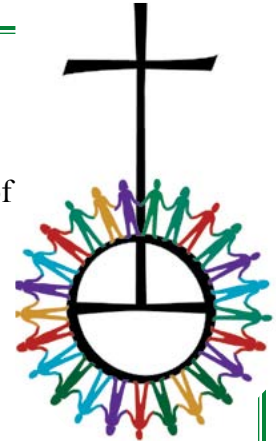
Looking beyond the details of the resurrection story to the larger meaning of those faraway Biblical times, we relive the drama of the disciples deprived of their amazing leader. With that immense loss, go the hopes nurtured through four years of working by his side... dashed in a few short days of anticipation, triumph, violence, fear, grief and then, aimlessness.

And next, the road to Emmaus... the re-birth of hope! The inflammatory understanding that the very hope they seek is within them as newly minted people of The Way... people charged with carrying the news, *the SPIRIT*, with them into the world.

But if we pray,
“Dear God, we’ve been trying so hard and we can’t see much progress. We are but simple clay vessels.”

It is time to hurry back to the New Testament; time to read Acts 2:17:

“I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters; Your young men will see visions, your old men dream dreams. When the time comes, I’ll pour out my



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Spirit on those who serve me, men and women both, and they'll prophesy."

As "old" sons and daughters, we are not alone in dreaming dreams. Even as we do our small parts... AND WE DO!, we are not alone.

Part of prophesying calls for looking around and joining in the dreams being enacted all around us by fellow dreamers. GOD IS STILL SPEAKING!

In this issue of Sojourner News, we have tried to share some of the stories (and refer to others) of fellow followers of The Way.

Keep dreaming and carry on with hope.

WORSHIP CENTER RECEIVES NEW LOOK!

How do you like the lovely new look of our worship center? Thanks to volunteers Liz Douville and Laurie Power, for prompting us to grace our worship with flowers "dedicated to the beauty of God's creation." Look for a sign-up sheet so you can add to the project.

INDIANA LAW SPOOFED

[Check out: http://www.dailykos.com/story/2015/03/29/1374145/-I-am-a-Christian-business-owner-in-Indiana?detail=email](http://www.dailykos.com/story/2015/03/29/1374145/-I-am-a-Christian-business-owner-in-Indiana?detail=email)

LGBTQ DISCRIMINATION HIDING BEHIND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM LEGISLATION

More states are dealing with proposed legislation permitting religious institutions, individual businesses and corporations to refuse to serve members of the LGBT community on the grounds that it would be against their "deeply held religious beliefs." Most recently, Governor Pence of Indiana signed such legislation. The state is now facing threats of major boycotts if the new law is allowed to stand.

But there is hope in some states. Last year, Arizona backed off in the face of boycotts over an anti-LGBT law. In California, Attorney General Kamala Harris has asked a state court to grant her the authority to prevent just such a ballot measure from appearing on the ballot.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Last Monday at Dawg House II—The last Monday of March found the APUCC “Merry Band” gathered for fun and food... missing several regulars who are traveling or are recovering from traveling.

Mission giving in March came from two sources. Church budget: The Bethlehem Inn—\$125 and Jericho Road—\$50.

Individual donations: St. Vincent de Paul in Bend (\$60) and in Redmond (\$30), Jericho Road (\$35).

AND, this year APUCC’s contributions to the UCC 5-for-5 national fund-raiser, One Great Hour of Sharing, were the largest we have made in many years. Good work, all.

JERICHO TABLE/ROAD ACTION

March was APUCC’s first month to serve Jericho Table’s diners in the new location at the Seventh-day Adventist facility. Melanie Fielzer reports that the operation has been going smoothly. Thanks, volunteers. Thanks again, Melanie, for guiding APUCC’s effort.

More Jericho Road services coming soon. They are arranging for a shower truck to

offer showers to the diners on Thursday afternoons. Also, immunization shots will be available as soon as plans are finalized.

A BLOG FROM POGO

Some bloggers are just blowing off steam but others write with maturity and authority. Neil Gordon, investigative blogger for The Project on Governmental Oversight (POGO) works to keep us better informed about “Corporate Welfare Moochers”

Citizen/Christians interested in monitoring our government and participating with compassion on behalf of the needy may wish to take action upon reading some of the data gathered by Mr. Gordon.

Gordon reports, “Two-thirds of the \$68 billion in business grants and tax credits awarded by the federal government since 2000 went to 528 companies.” Of that largess, 20% went to just 12 corporations and banks!

The remaining 80% earmarked for boosting job growth and investment went to a “select” group of banks, energy companies and government contractors. These numbers come from the non-profit watch-dog

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Good Jobs First. The federal contractors with the most grants and tax credits are: General Electric (\$836.5 million), General Atomics (\$614.7 million followed by United Technologies, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Honeywell, and Raytheon—each with tens of millions of Pentagon grants.

Gordon goes on to point out that many of these companies have questionable track records in business practices, contract fraud and similar misconduct!

Compounding the picture, many of the companies have either reincorporated abroad or merged with foreign companies to avoid paying U.S. taxes. Gordon points to “Corporate Tax Explorer’s” database to show how much recipients of government subsidies paid in federal taxes. The numbers are dismaying... for example, since 2000, GE has paid an average federal tax rate of -9%.

How do these expenditures of our tax dollars care for the poor, free the captives and shelter the homeless?

To learn more, see: <POGO Blog 2015 > 03 > Who Are the Biggest Corporate Welfare Moochers?>

*Make no judgments where
you have no compassion.*

Ann McKaffrey

AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE IN THE NEWS AGAIN

Answers in Genesis (AiG), a fundamentalist Christian ministry is suing a Kentucky office that denied it tax incentives.

Americans United filed a [motion to intervene](#) and a proposed [motion to dismiss](#) the lawsuit, in federal district court; it wants to prevent taxpayer dollars from being used to unconstitutionally finance a religious ministry.

“A fundamentalist Christian theme park run by a creationist ministry doesn’t deserve any form of public assistance,” said the Rev. Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United. “Kentucky never should have gotten involved with the Ark Park, but we’re going to help get it out of this mess and protect taxpayer money from misuse.”

APRIL 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

April 4th—

11 a.m. Worship—

Laurie Power leading

10 a.m. Closing discussion of Chapter 11 of *Convictions*—by Marcus Borg. .

Laurie Power leading.

April 19th—

11 a.m. Worship—Thom Larson leading.

10 a.m. Opening discussion of

An Altar in the World by Barbara

Brown Taylor, Nancy Cook leading.



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Please join us for worship every first and third Sunday.

Sunday worship is at 11 a.m.

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of the next worship service,
email the above.

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