



All Peoples
United Church of Christ
SOJOURNER NEWS

A Central Oregon House Church

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SEEKING JESUS IN A TIME OF MULTIPLE DEMONSTRATIONS

Are we in a time when people of spiritual and moral fiber appear to be jumping on their favorite horses and riding frantically off in many directions? As seniors (“sages” by virtue of our ages) we are called to speak and act to build bridges among factions of similar values.

A retired UMC, New Hampshire pastor, told of a group of his parishioners, accosted by police at an anti-pipeline protest in far away western New York state. An officer pointed to a 92-year-old lady in a wheel chair and asked, “What did you think you were doing bringing a little old lady in a wheelchair to an event like this?” They replied, “We didn’t bring her. She brought us!”

Part of building bridges calls for knowing

who our spiritual and moral “neighbors” are and what they are up to. Beginning locally should be a “required” first step. Reviewing reports of recent actions taken by APUCCers right here in central Oregon speaks volumes about how “plugged in” APUCC thinking is. Bravo—keep up the great work.

As temporarily isolated snowbirds, I’d like to share the excitement and hope that comes from monitoring rising groups all over the U.S. and beyond!

One such bright spot emanates from North Carolina where the Rev. Dr. William Barber, a Disciples of Christ pastor, is spearheading a sweeping ecumenical movement to shine a spotlight on our “huddled masses.”

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Inspired by the Poor Peoples Campaign, begun by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., this campaign reaches across lines of color, denomination, and socioeconomic status.



Rev. Dr. Barber extends his invitations to a UCC congregation. (Photo credit unknown)

Originally, marches were scheduled to take place in at least 25 states throughout this spring, culminating in a mass march in Washington, DC, on June 21. ▲

KEEPING AN EYE ON OREGON'S LEGISLATIVE SESSION

by Nancy Cook

Oregon's state legislative session begins next week on February 5, 2018. Check out the Oregon Legislature's home page: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/> and keep informed about what is happening during the session. The web site carries much information, including videos about how the legislature works. For the videos look under the tab "Citizen Engagement." On the right side of the page is a box where you can enter your address and find names and contact information for your senators and representatives. I think we have all learned over the past year how important it is to monitor what is taking place in our governing bodies: local, state, and national. It is essential to communicate with those we have elected to make decisions, rules, and laws on our behalf. This "off-year" is short, just 35 days from 5 February – 11 March. ▲

ALERT— Poor Peoples Campaign coming to Oregon! An orientation session was held at the Peace Center in Portland last week. More Oregon PPC news coming. Check bios of Barber and Liz Theoharis, national cochair: <http://liztheoharis.org/about/> AND https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Barber_II

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

All Peoples UCC knows something about people who live in poverty. People in our congregation help some of them. We know they are not the lazy, immoral people that some in our country see. We know that many poor are trying as hard as they can to help themselves, and we understand that a helping hand, and, yes, sometimes a handout, can make all the difference.

I wasn't even surprised recently to read an opinion piece in *The New York Times* ("The U.S. Can No Longer Hide from Its Deep Poverty Problem," January 24, 2018, Angus Deaton) that cited the number "5.3 million people in the United States as living on less than \$4 per day." If you do the easy math, that's \$120 a month. The article makes the case that we need to consider helping the poor in the U.S. as well as the poor in developing countries.

For me, the article also means I need to advocate more strongly in the political arena for services for those 5.3 million. One apparent area for activism is health

care. I firmly believe that medical care for all people should be a right. For too long the United States has been unwilling to provide health and medical care to everyone regardless of whether they can pay for that care.

I don't mean just the emergency care that the poor are given during a crisis, but every day, ongoing, preventive medical care: immunizations, a yearly exam, medications for chronic conditions, and so forth.

For me, that means joining the work of a group like Health Care for All Oregon (hcao.org) as they advocate first to convince the people of Oregon that health care is a right (not a privilege) for all people, and then to convince the people of Oregon to establish a single-payer, Medicare for all, option in the state of Oregon. It's vital that all of us do what we can to make a difference.— Nancy Cook ▲



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MORE ON THE POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

Rev. Dr. Barber has assembled a broad-spectrum leadership team. Cochair of the team is the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis.

Theoharis (right) is codirector of the Kairos Center at Union Theological Seminary and the coordinator of the Poverty Initiative. She is the author of *Always with Us?: What Jesus Really Said About the Poor*.

The campaign stresses that it marches not *for* the poor but *with* the poor. Also that the campaign would be valid whether the current U.S. administration was in power or not; the U.S. needs the moral revival.

“The four evils that this campaign takes on are **systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, and ecological devastation.**” Theoharis says, “they are wreaking havoc on people’s lives and livelihoods.” ▲



Story by Nancy Cook, Chris Waller and others

WHEN WOMEN MARCH, expect smiles, laughter, hugs, lots of conversation both serious and lighthearted, friendship and kinship, passion, enthusiasm and commitment, song and chants, babies,



Photo by L. Power

kids, teens, women young and old and the men who support them, dogs (well, it's Bend), but most of all, a peaceful expression of concern and love.

Being present among all of this, being a part of it, felt awesome. Doing something and standing up for women's rights, decency and sanity in government, the power of voting and giving a voice to the America people.

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Photo by L. Power



Above—Marchers gather in Drake Park before the march. Quite a few men joined the event!

Right—A shy person’s sign!



Photo by N. Cook

Most of all, hope, hope was present everywhere.

That’s a women’s march.

Several of APUCC’s congregation marched with over 3000 women, men, and children from Central Oregon on January 20, 2018. The day of the march was cold, but sunny and absolutely Central-Oregon beautiful. Many there wore their pink hats, a tradition from the first march in 2017. Our own Fran Davis has made 55 of the hats for people to wear. There are more photos, including one you click on and drag to

see a nearly 360° view at <https://www.facebook.com/centraloregonwomensmarch/>. You should be able to go to the Facebook page even if you do not have a Facebook account.. ▲

Photo by L. Power



HOW BOUT APUCC “BIOS”?

We are interested in increasing our congregations’s sense of unity, as in the song “Getting To Know You.” We invite each of you to share Your Story with others. It doesn’t mean revealing secrets, but sharing your highlights with our church family. Each of us is valuable to the entire church family, so help us to know one-another better.

GREETINGS, BILL HARDIN

The first “victim” to agree to be interviewed is closest to your editor at the moment... sitting here in our motorhome in Arizona!

In 1933, Bill was born in Texas. He says that his adult life began in 1957 when he married! The most formative aspect of his childhood came from being a member of a family of strong individuals. He graduated high school in Ontario, Oregon, at age 16, and at age 17, he joined the Air Force. Being GI Bill eligible, yielded both higher education and later the opportunity to buy a home. That also led to marriage to Priscilla, 61 years ago. A Masters Degree in education and guidance and counselling enabled him to put food on the table for a growing family of four children.

Mildly curious about religion, he visited a few churches during high school with little enthusiasm. While stationed in Las Vegas, he was baptized; shortly thereafter, his wallet was stolen!. “Seemed like an omen at the time,” he says. All of his church experiences after that, he attributes to Pris. ▲

CLAMSHELL RECYCLING

Bend’s Environmental Center is teaming up with Whole Foods to cosponsor recycling of those pesky clamshell containers that hold so many produce items and other groceries. Whole Foods successfully recycled all the plastic clamshell containers they collected last week. They will do it again on three remaining 2018 dates: 4.28, 7.28, and 10.27.

Due to the long interval between collection dates, APUCC hopes to ease the storage of these wickedly polluting items by collecting clamshells every time we gather to worship, holding them in one place and turning them in as a group on the above dates! These events run from 10:00–4:00 at the Whole Foods store in Bend near Costco. Only clear plastic clamshells are accepted. ‘Want to join this project? We will be participating in one of the UCC’s three great loves—love of creation. ▲

FEBUARY WORSHIP PLANS

All Peoples UCC meets to worship the first and third Sundays of the month at 11 a.m.
Bookworms study meets 10–10:45 a.m.

NOTICE: For a few months, we will be meeting at Redmond's County Library, 827 SW Deschutes Avenue, in the Community Room.

FINDING REDMOND'S COUNTY LIBRARY

- **From the north**—From Hwy 97 in Redmond, go right on Glacier (Hwy 126); right on 8th, cross Deschutes Ave. and go straight ahead into the library parking lot.
- **From the south**—coming north into Redmond on Hwy 97, exit left at Glacier (Hwy 126), right on 8th, at Deschutes Ave., cross straight ahead into parking lot.
- **From east or west on Hwy 126**—turn north on 8th St., at Deschutes Ave., cross straight ahead into library parking lot.
- **Finding the Community Room**—Enter at the main entrance, enter the first room on the left, opposite the rest rooms.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Feb. 4th—11 a.m. Worship—Liz Douville
10 a.m.—Adult Book Study/Discussion—
My (Underground) American Dream by
Julissa Arce, Discussion lead-
ers—Nancy
Cook and Laurie Power.
Feb. 18th—11 a.m. Wor-
ship—David Cook
10 a.m. Adult Book Study/
Discussion continuing—My
(Underground) American
Dream by Julissa Arce
Discussion leaders—
Nancy Cook and Laurie Power.

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

For additional information and location/date
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