

tidings

Sundays at HCCUCC May 2015

Sunday worship services begin at 10:30.

May 3
Holy Communion
John 15:1-8
Vine and branches

May 10
John 15:9-17
Love one another

May 17
John 17:6-19
Pray

May 24
Acts 2:1-21
Pentecost. Wear red to worship!

May 31
John 3:1-7
Trinity Sunday

Your Guide to 50 Days of Prayer

Between April 6 (Easter) and May 24 (Pentecost), you are invited to join your church community in 50 days of intentional prayer. The Season of Prayer is an opportunity to reflect on the role of Hillsdale Community Church UCC in your life, in the community, and in the world.

What is Prayer? Prayer is making a connection with God. Sometimes prayer involves talking. Sometimes prayer involves listening. All the time, prayer is making time and space to be intentional in your relationship with God.

Prayer Gatherings. For those who find that their prayer is strengthened by group experiences, those who do not know how to pray, or those who are out of the habit of prayer and would like a restart, check the calendar of prayer gatherings. There are a variety of options and times for gathering to pray.

Prayer At Home. Each day, an email is sent with a scripture of the day, a prayer practice to try, and particular prayer requests for the church building, programs, and directory. If you do not receive those emails but would like to, please send a request to tim@hillsdaleucc.org.

Prayer during Meetings. As we gather for meetings and classes, consider adding prayer to our time together. Pray for one another, pray for our church and pray for others. You may wish to use your own prayer practice, to choose the

prayer practice from the daily prayer email or to use this format.

Read from Scripture. (Suggested daily reading here: <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily.php?year=B>)

Pay Attention. Allow a moment or two of silence while all consider how God is still speaking through this reading.

Share. Invite each person to share God's message to him or her. Use this not as a conversation time, but a time of deep listening.

Pray. Pray out loud for one another, based on your sharing. You may want to pray spontaneously, or pray in order (such as "pray for the person on the left").

Group Prayer. End with a group prayer such as the Lord's Prayer.

Enter the Season of Prayer

You are strongly encouraged to join with your faith community in prayer for one or more of these gatherings. All gatherings are appropriate for all levels of experience in



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prayer. All gatherings are drop-in and free of charge, except as noted. Childcare is planned where noted, and always available with 24-hour notice to Hillsdale UCC 503-246-5474.

Doodle Prayer. Praying in colors and shapes bypasses the logical side of our brain, taps into our intuition and creativeness, and helps us to pray more freely. Age: All.

Intercessory Prayer. Learn to or practice praying out loud. The focus is on the needs and concerns of others. Age: Adult.

Lectio Divina. A Latin term meaning “divine reading,” Lectio Divina describes a way of reading the Scriptures whereby we gradually let go of our own agenda and open ourselves to what God wants to say to us. Age: Adult. Location: Sanctuary.

Prayer Retreat. A time of personal and group reflection, learning, and sharing. Age: Adult, childcare provided. Location: Fellowship Hall. RSVP requested. Cost: Purchase of study guide \$20.

Praying at Home. Quick tips and practices to help you pray at meals, bedtimes, and other occasions at home. Age: All. Location: Sanctuary.

Praying the Lectionary. Reading and reflecting on the scripture for the coming Sunday and listening for the still-speaking God. Age: Adult. Location: Mt Hood Room

Reluctant Meditators. Those of us who find meditation most difficult are the ones who need it most! New and seasoned meditators welcome as we share a Christian meditation practice called centering prayer. Age: Teen/Adult. Location: Maple Room.

Taizé. Service of music, participatory prayer, and silence designed to achieve a contemplative state. Age: Adult. Location: Maple Room.

Prayer Chain Has New Coordinators

by Linda Waltmire and Paula McCall

Need a prayer of petition or thanksgiving for you or a loved one? HCCUCC has a dynamic group of 25 caring individuals who are ready, willing, and able to focus on the prayer needs of our congregation.

For the last several years the Prayer Chain has been led by Barbara Raz-Neu. Thank you, Barbara, for a spectacular job! We appreciate the love and caring for our congregation that came through in your messages and the guidance given to the prayer-ers.

Like spring, change is in the air. The first change is that we have agreed to take over coordinating the prayer chain team. Once we get started, feel free to give us your input and suggestions on how to improve what we are doing.

The second change is a new email address to facilitate this work. Thank you, Tim! Before sending any request, we ask that you talk to the person(s) and get their permission to have us pray for them. Please send your requests for prayers of petition and thanksgiving to prayerchain@hillsdaleucc.org

If you do not have access to a computer, please call Paula McCall at 503-244-5607. Feel free to leave a message if no one answers. You may also call Kathy Schneller at the church office (503-246-5474, ext. 223). She'll forward your request to us by email.

From the Pastor

by Jennifer Brownell

May will be an exciting month at Hillsdale UCC. Having received a second bid, we will be able to move ahead with the permitting and elevator-ordering—another step toward beginning our long-awaited construction.

On the whole, as I told you in worship on April 12, I think we are doing the right thing to improve and modernize this building which is our collective greatest asset.

It is, however, a concern of mine that we might begin to think that we are installing an elevator so that the 85 of us gathered here on Sunday mornings can ride up and down for an hour.

Instead, we give generously—sacrificially, even—not to something that belongs to us: the people we like and the people like us and the people sitting here now. We give generously—sacrificially, even—exactly because this building does NOT belong to us. This building is a gift, passed on to us by others for us to hold until we can pass it on again: not just with the people we like, or who are not messy, or who can give us something in return, or who think like us—but for all people.

Recently, members of the Consistory and Foundation visited Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church, which has, in the last four years, transformed its building into a community center. Every room is in use most every hour of every day: a coffee shop buzzes with customers, children play in a small toy corner while their parents chat nearby, there is a writer's group meeting in one room, an AA meeting in another, some people are there to learn about organic gardening techniques, and some others are there to plan a campaign to help immigrants have safety and rights. There is a feeding program for the poor in the basement and somewhere else a kid's birthday party is in full swing. The Sanctuary doors are flung open, and signs invite visitors to meditate or pray or light candles in this sacred space. The doors are unlocked all day. That building is alive! As we move ahead with this campaign, this is the vision that we must have for this building as well, if we are follow Christ's teaching in all that we do.

Is Taborspace at times inconvenient for those who share the space? Yes. Is it messy? Most assuredly yes. Do the folks of Mt. Tabor Pres sometimes wish they could spread out into their space in all the ways they used to? I do not doubt that the answer is yes.

But are they doing what Chrsit has called them to? Is



everything they owned held in common? Yes, yes, yes. Let our answer to Christ's calling also be YES, YES, YES.

See you in church!

Pastor Jennifer



Community Garden Plans Work Party

Crossroads, the new community garden being developed on our property, will hold its third volunteer work party on May 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Everyone is invited to join in helping transform this former playground and parking lot into a place for area residents to grow their own food.

The Crossroads project is a cooperative venture of the Friends of Portland Community Gardens, Hillsdale Community Church UCC, Neighborhood House, Stephens Creek Crossing, and Southwest Watershed Resource Center. It was recipient of a \$2,000 SWNI neighborhood grant.

The work party will take on tasks such as dismantling an existing fence, weeding, transplanting shrubs, and removing gravel. All tools will be provided.

The garden is expected to be ready for gardeners in early 2016.

Caring for Others Brings Strength

by Martha Barstow

Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others. (Philippians 2:4, Common English Bible)

Dan and I are in Boston spending time with our family. The city has been alive with Marathon activities, sold-out Red Sox games, and excitement is in the air as the spring flowers are blooming and the snow has melted.

I've been struck by the strong sense of community and kind

behaviors that have deepened after the tragedy of the Marathon bombing and the ensuing trial of the accused. A woman on the "T" (Boston's version of the Max) actually gave up her seat for me without being asked. She heard my daughter tell me there were no seats available and she quickly stood up and offered her prized seat on the crowded train. I noted others stepping aside to allow room to walk on the congested sidewalks, and there was less honking of horns on the busy Boston streets.

Boston Strong...

My family walked to a spot where they would watch the Marathon runners go by; I stayed at the house and watched the runners on TV. As I watched in amazement at the masses of people demonstrating endurance and determination to keep going in cold and rainy conditions, I noted an older man being held up—completely supported—by a younger man. The older man would have fallen to the street if he were not being held. The younger man had let go of his personal interest in reaching the finish line and hoping to make good time. He did what was best for the older man and helped him get to and cross the finish line standing up. *Boston Strong...*

Isn't this what Christians do? What we at Hillsdale Community Church UCC do? Aren't we experiencing prayer in a new way and holding each other up, watching out for what is better for each other and the world beyond our doors?

As we continue on our prayer journey toward Pentecost, let us continually pay attention to God and pray for the direction our church should go in the future. *Hillsdale Community Church UCC Strong!*



Take a Soldier Fishing Plans 2015 Event

The Portland Chapter of Take A Soldier Fishing is sponsoring another Hagg Lake *Take A Soldier Fishing* Event. If interested in participating as a volunteer, either register at www.takeasoldierfishing.org or provide your name and contact information on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Volunteers are especially needed between 6:45 and 9:00 a.m. to help with setup and check in. For further information, contact Jack Morby at morby517@aol.com or 503-704-1842.

tidings

May 2015

Hillsdale Community Church UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

6948 SW Capitol Hwy • Portland, OR 97219
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Office Assistant **Kathy Schneller** (kathy@hillsdaleucc.org) Child Care Providers **Sam Hinerfeld, Julia Miller**
Custodian **Terry Cornell** (terry@hillsdaleucc.org) Minister for Congregational Life **Rev. Martha Barstow** (martha@hillsdaleucc.org)

2015 Consistory Members: Carl Wamser, President (503-504-4296 · wamserc@pdx.edu); Rebecca Holt, Vice-President, Share Christ's Word, Personnel (503-866-0340 · rebeccah@clark.edu); Bob Brandon, Past President, Pastor Relations, Capital Campaign (503-313-0056 · Bob.Brandon@ltic.com); Drake Mitchell, Treasurer (240-672-1738 · drakem@pdx.edu); Nayan Fleenor, Make a Difference (503-645-6132 · nayan@mindspring.com); Ruthanne Rusnak, Fellowship (503-701-2462 · xiiicatsold@yahoo.com); Cathy Thomas, Worship (503-246-9509 · elefun@aol.com)

In Christ, we the members of Hillsdale Community Church United Church of Christ, declare ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation. We cherish and embrace individuals and families of all kinds. Believing that God's unbounded love and grace are offered to all and meant to be shared and celebrated by all, we seek to be a congregation that includes all persons, embracing differences of age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, mental and physical ability, as well as racial, ethnic, or social-economic background. We welcome all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, and fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of participation in our congregation. We commit to be a community of faith and spirit that works toward openness and understanding, offering justice, healing, and wholeness of life for all people. We believe that through our diversity, all can grow and practice a unity of faith that transcends our differences.



May 2015

50 Days of Prayer events appear in teal

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities DN 9:00a Share Christ's Word Team Meeting MR 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1 11:45a Praying at Home SA	4 7:00p Taizé Worship MR	5 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Praying the Lectionary MH	6 10:00a Loaves and Fishes MC 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting R3	7 8:00a Lectio Divina SA 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	8	9 9:30a Prayer Retreat FH
10 Mother's Day 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities DN 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1	11 Transition Projects/Hoyt St Meal BC 6:30p Post-Sabbath Bible Study (PSBS) MH	12 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Praying the Lectionary MH 6:15p Intercessory Prayer MR	13 1:00p Memoir Writing Group 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting, R3	14 8:00a Lectio Divina SA 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	15	16 10:00a Community Garden Work Party 10:00a Doodle Prayer MH
17 Pet Blessing 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities DN 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1 11:45p Praying at Home SA 12:00p River West Village FH	18	19 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Praying the Lectionary MH 12:00p Tidings Deadline	20 9:00a Reluctant Meditators MR 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting, R3	21 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	22	23
24 Day of Pentecost— Wear red to worship! 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities DN 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1	25 Memorial Day - Church Office Closed	26 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MH	27 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting R3	28 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	29	30
31 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities DN 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1	June 1	2 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MH	3 10:00a Loaves and Fishes MC 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting R3	4 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	5	6

BC=Bud Clark Commons (655 NW Hoyt St)
CH=Chapel, Room 4, Education Wing
CR=Choir Room
DN=Downstairs
FH=Fellowship Hall
GT=Golden Touch (SW Barbur at 19th)
MH=Mt Hood Room
MR=Maple Room
MC=Multnomah Center (7688 SW Capitol Hwy)
R1=Room 1, Education Wing
R3=Room 3, Education Wing
SA=Sanctuary
UL=Upper Parking Lot