

tidings

Worship at HCCUCC October 2014

Sunday worship services begin at 10:30.

October 5

Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20

World Communion Sunday
Neighbors in Need Offering

October 12

Exodus 32:1-14

Philippians 4:1-9

Hallelujah! Sunday
Bible Presentation Day

October 19

Exodus 33:12-23

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Living Messages

October 26

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Matthew 22:15-22

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What Matters To You?

Does it matter what I think God looks like? Why do we still read the Bible anyway? How come good people suffer? What's the difference between spiritual and religious—and what am I? Why is it so important in United Church of Christ to be welcoming to everyone? Can I get to know some other people over a drink and basket of chips instead of sitting to next to them in the pews?

Join us for *What Matters to You?*—a class for new and renewing Christians—where we'll consider these and other questions in a friendly, informal atmosphere every Wednesday in October at 7:30 p.m. at Laughing Planet Café with Pastor Jennifer and other seekers. Sign up in the Narthex or email jennifer@hillsdaleucc.org

Church Work Day Planned

There will be a work day on Saturday, October 11, from 8-12. This will be an opportunity to spruce up our grounds (there will be a pruner on-site!) as well as “cheer up” our Sunday School rooms.

If you want to work outside, bring your clippers and gloves. There's enough work for everyone, as we need to trim back the hedge on the east side of the parking lot as well as pull weeds in the rose bed. We'll have a chipper to make chips from all the prunings.

There are inside jobs as well. Donuts, cookies, and coffee will be provided. No experience is needed! Come for as much or little of the morning as you can.

Newcomers to Gather for Luncheon

If you have been coming to Hillsdale UCC for a few weeks or a few months, you are warmly invited to a newcomer lunch on Sunday, October 19, right after church. This is an informal gathering to get to know some others new to the church, find out a little about HCCUCC, and share a little of your own story. Some people who attend the newcomer lunch may wish to join the church as members. If you would like to join, but can't make it to the luncheon, let Pastor Jennifer know.

What is OWL?

Last spring, Jana McKeown and Alex Hamilton attended training to become Our Whole Lives (OWL) teachers for elementary-age children. Our Whole Lives is a curriculum developed by Unitarian and United Church of Christ educators that equips students with age-appropriate information in the areas of human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Our Whole Lives is grounded in a holistic view of sexuality. Values of self-worth, sexual health, responsibility, justice, and inclusivity are important at every age, but especially in the early years, as children are gaining a first understanding of their bodies.

We will be offering OWL for elementary students in Winter 2015. If you are interested in learning more about OWL, and especially if you have a child who will be attending, please attend an informational session on Sunday, October 26, just after

worship in the Mt Hood Room. Childcare is provided. If you have any questions, contact Jana (nate_jana@mac.com) or Alex (iamgregsbird@gmail.com).

Keeping our Open Doors Open

Our capital campaign—*Raising Our Welcome*—is going terrifically as we raise money for a new elevator and other accessibility improvements. As we celebrate our open doors in the weeks and months to come, let’s make sure to keep our open doors *open*. Thanks for remembering your regular gift which keeps the systems of our building going, our staff paid, and our mission giving to many other organizations strong. Questions? See Drake Mitchell.

Raising Our Welcome

by Anita Moss

I was reading an excerpt from the *Still Speaking Devotional, Taking the Long View* by Richard L. Floyd, UCC pastor, earlier this week. It certainly applies to our Raising Our Welcome campaign:

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.”—1 Corinthians 3:6

“I drove over to see Ralph at his hilltop orchard a week after I had presided over his wife’s funeral and burial. He was well into his nineties and they had been married for seven decades. I was all of 27. It took me awhile to find him, because he was out planting apple trees.

He seemed glad to see me and said, “You may wonder why I am planting trees that I will never live to see bear fruit. But it’s what I have always done, and I am not going to stop now. There were apple trees in this orchard when I came here that somebody else had planted, and there will be apple trees here after I’m gone.”

Past generations built our current church. This is our opportunity to build on their gift. The Raising Our Welcome campaign will fund an elevator which will allow an easier flow of people, food, equipment from one floor to another, and will allow the lower parking lot to be more useful. It would also include some remodeling of the restrooms and offices upstairs. Letters of Intent (used to make a pledge) were distributed to members and friends in September. You are requested to take time over the next weeks to prayerfully consider making a pledge payable over three years to make our



About the campaign logo: The logo was designed and donated by Rosie Augustine, a local artist by way of Scotland. Watch for her booth in art fairs in the area.

facility physically accessible to all and improve our building performance. Please return your Letters of Intent by Sunday, October 12, so all of the pledges can be included in the totals when the Campaign culminates in Hallelujah! Sunday, October 12. Plan to stay to celebrate together following the church service that day with a meal in Fellowship Hall!

From the Pastor

by Jennifer Brownell



In September, Louise and I made our yearly trip to Forest Grove to visit her friend Delores, who has been living there in an adult foster home facility. When we arrived, we received the upsetting news that Delores had passed away in the spring. When we got over our initial shock, we decided to see if we could visit Delores’ grave site. Louise picked up some flowers and we found the (as yet) unmarked spot where we said a prayer and shared some memories. We laid the flowers, symbols of new life, on the spot, and we left the cemetery feeling more at peace than when we had arrived.

I’m sharing this story in case you wonder what church is for. After all, you can get music at the concert hall, something to drink at the coffee shop, and someone to talk to on pretty much any city bus. But the church offers something that the concert hall or coffee shop or city bus does not, and that is ritual. Rituals are more than just repeated actions. They are repeated actions with the intention of connecting to the divine. When we celebrate communion or baptism or new members or ordinations—and when we stand over a grave site and say ancient words of comfort and love—we are participating in rituals that have been practiced by generations of faithful people who have gone before. But they can still be as fresh for us as they were thousands of years ago if we practice them with intention and integrity.

That’s why I’m excited about a new worship plan for the kids. As an addition to the great work of our Sunday school teachers, our hope for our monthly Children’s Chapel (happening this month on October 26 during the worship hour) is to introduce our children and youth to the rituals as well as the stories of our faith. With ritual as one of the tools in their toolbox, they will be able to connect to God during times of celebration, as well as grief.

What rituals matter to you? How did you learn them? What sustains them? Let me know. And I’ll see you in church!

—Pastor Jennifer

*I want to say thanks to all those who came to my 104th birthday party. Thank you for your presence and presents! I enjoyed it all very much.
Edythe Connolly*

October 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00a Loaves and Fishes MC 7:30p What Matters to You? LP	2 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	3 7:00a Commitment Caller Training MH	4 9:30a CET Follow-up Meeting R3
5 Neighbors in Need Offering 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 10:30a Communion Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1 11:45a Commitment Callers Meeting MH	6 2-7p Blood Drive FH	7 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MH	8 1:00p Memoir Writing Group MD 7:30p What Matters to You? LP	9 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	10 4:00p Daughters of Earth Paintings Exhibit SA	11 8:00a Work Day
12 Hallelujah! Sunday 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1 11:30a Celebration Luncheon FH	13 Transition Projects/ Hoyt St Meal BC	14 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MH 7:00p Consistory Meeting MH	15 1:30p Tai Chi FH 7:30p What Matters to You? LP	16 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	17	18 8:30a Stephen Ministry Retreat FH
19 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1 11:30a Women's Retreat Planning Meeting MH	20 6:30p Bible Study MH	21 Tidings Deadline 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MH	22 1:30p Tai Chi FH 7:30p What Matters to You? LP	23 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	24	25
26 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1 12:30a OWL Parent Information Meeting MH	27	28 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MH	29 1:30p Tai Chi FH 7:30p What Matters to You? LP	30 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	31 7:30p A Little Fright Music Halloween Organ Concert SA	November 1

BC=Bud Clark Commons (655 NW Hoyt St) CR=Choir Room FH=Fellowship Hall GT=Golden Touch (SW Barbur at 19th) LP=Laughing Planet Café (4405 SW Vermont St) MH=Mt Hood Room MR=Maple Room
 MD=Maria Dunlop's Home (12146 SW 29th Ave) MC=Multnomah Center (7688 SW Capitol Hwy) R1=Room 1, Education Wing R4=Room 4, Education Wing SA=Sanctuary UL=Upper Parking Lot

The Fall Blood Drive Returns

by Margy Kleger

Blood donors, please take note! Our fall Blood Drive is back! Sign up in the Narthex to participate in the October 6 drive. We have never had a Monday drive before, but since they neglected to even schedule a fall drive last year, I was glad to get a date at all!

The drive will be from 2:00 until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 6. Registration will be in Fellowship Hall, and the mobile unit will be parked in the lower lot. I think the goal is 25 units of blood. Please sign up and help save a life!

Recycling Event Coming Soon

The next Community Recycling event at St. Luke's Lutheran Church will run from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, October 11. A poster showing the types of material being accepted at this event is posted above the battery and bulb recycling bins in the Narthex. As before, drivers will be expected to enter via St. Luke's driveway from SW 45th Avenue, a short block south of SW Vermont Street. A donation of \$2 per household will be appreciated, as it helps to cover costs incurred by St. Luke's.

Youth Corner

Early Birds Sunday Youth

In addition to Sunday School during worship, your children are welcome at 9:00 to participate in service projects, games, or crafts. A healthy, hearty snack is served at around 9:45 a.m., and children ring the bell at 10:15. In the past few months, the Early Birds Sunday youth created and distributed Love Rocks, participated in a sidewalk chalk-art extravaganza, practiced their cooking skills by making fruit-kabobs, and filled bags with school supplies for children around the world.

Children's Chapel

How do we prepare our children for worship? This fall we introduce Children's Chapel as one option. After the children's story in the Sanctuary, the children will be dismissed to a worship service that is catered to them, and includes music, scripture reading, prayers, sharing communion, and even a short sermon. Children and youth of all ages have leadership roles and are welcome in Children's Chapel, which will take place on October 26 and November 30 at the Sunday School hour.

Gift Bible Sunday

On Sunday, October 12, we will gift Bibles to third graders and to older children who have not yet received a Bible from HCCUCC. If you have a child or grandchild who would like to receive a Bible on that day, let Pastor Jennifer know. She always chooses a special verse for each child, and would like to include everyone.

Pastor **Rev. Jennifer Brownell** (jennifer@hillsdaleucc.org) Director of Music/Administrator **Tim Ditch** (tim@hillsdaleucc.org)
Office Assistant **Kathy Schneller** (kathy@hillsdaleucc.org) Child Care Providers **Sam Hinerfeld, Julia Miller**
Minister for Congregational Life **Martha Barstow** (martha@hillsdaleucc.org) Custodian **Terry Cornell** (terry@hillsdaleucc.org)

2014 Consistory Members: Bob Brandon, President (503-313-0056 - Bob.Brandon@tfc.com); Carl Wamser, Vice-President (503-504-4296 - wamserc@pdx.edu); Erica Johnson, Past President, Share Christ's Word (503-341-7821 - ericaljohnson@gmail.com); Drake Mitchell, Treasurer (240-672-1738 - drakem@pdx.edu); Nayan Fleenor, At-Large, Make a Difference (503-645-6132 - nayan@mindspring.com); Ruthanne Rusnak, At-Large, Fellowship (503-701-2462 - xiiicatsold@yahoo.com); Cathy Thomas, At-Large, 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.





A Little Fright Music

A Halloween Concert featuring organists Tim Ditch and Don Frueh

Friday, October 31 • 7:30 p.m.

Hillsdale Community Church UCC
6948 SW Capitol Hwy • Portland

Costumes encouraged! Refreshments follow the concert.
The concert is free; donations to the church's concert series gratefully accepted!