



# First Congregational United Church of Christ

## The Pilgrim

Winter 2019  
Vol. XXVI, Issue 5  
A SEASONAL PUBLICATION

## “ADVENT REFLECTIONS”

by Rev. Dr. Janet Parker

### A Poem for Advent

*Amidst ten thousand losses and swirling joys*

*At this very instant*

*On this sacred Earth*

*I wait.*

*Come to us,*

*Beauty, Wisdom, Goodness, Peace,*

*Solace, Grace, Counsel, Love.*

*Through the open archway this cold night*

*Air, rich as gold, flows*

*Fine snow glistens our faces.*

*Each flake,*

*Every exquisite crystal blossom*

*Is a covenant of your love*

*Told a thousand thousand times.*

*Amen.*

*Patricia Van Ness, “Advent”*



In Advent, it is more appropriate for the pastor to offer prayers and poems than newsy articles. Each of us has our own losses and swirling joys to nurse close to our breasts this Advent. Some we tell others, some we do not. “Life is complex” as a wise parishioner at a former church used to say. As we enter one of the busiest and holiest seasons, a season when we fight through stress to find moments and glimpses of Joy, Love and Peace, my prayer for you is this:

That in the coming days, you may know the coming of Christ in the laughter of a child, the tenderness of a kiss, the sound of a favorite carol, the tears sparked by a precious Christmas memory, and in the spaces in between your striving hours. May you find a moment or two to be still and wait. May God be born in your waiting, as God was born in Mary’s, and may you thus become a Christ-bearer to those around you. For the Word is still becoming flesh, and aches to clothe itself in you and so to touch the world anew.

# CHRISTMAS

First Congregational Church

*An Advent Service of Hope*

Sunday, December 1, 2019, 10:30 a.m.

*An Advent Service of Peace*

Followed by the Annual Budget Forum

Sunday, December 8, 2019, 10:30 a.m.

*Out of the Darkness Service*

An Alternative Christmas Experience

Tuesday, December 10, 6:00 p.m.

*An Advent Service of Joy*

Followed by Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 15, 10:30 a.m.

*An Advent Service of Love*

with Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 22, 10:30 a.m.

*Christmas Eve Service*

featuring the trio of Adam LaMotte, Robin Dubay  
and Laurent Nickel on Baroque period instruments

Tuesday, December 24, 8:00 p.m.

Cookies and Carols begin at 7:00 p.m.

*Christmas Carol Hymning*

Sunday, December 29, 10:30 a.m.

# MODERATOR MOMENT

by Anne Sullivan

This season of fall is one of my favorite times of the year. I am reminded by nature to embrace the darkness: to reflect on self and examine inwardly. I enjoy the reflection and introspection of this season, evaluating what I am holding onto and what I want to release. As I think about writing this article, this fall season of our church and our community seems so very relevant.

From the website, *Spirituality and Practice*:

“Fall is the right time to practice getting out of the way and letting Spirit take charge of our lives.”

“Buddhist teacher Sharon Salzberg, another of our Living Spiritual Teachers, writes in *Lovingkindness* about one of the offshoots of letting go: ‘Generosity has such power because it is characterized by the inner quality of letting go or relinquishing. Being able to let go, to give up, to renounce, to give generously — these capacities spring from the same source within us. When we practice generosity, we open to all of these liberating qualities simultaneously. They carry us to a profound knowing of freedom, and they also are the loving expression of that same state of freedom.’ Fall, then, is the perfect season to give generously of your time and talents to others.”

I have been filled with hope about a sense of what we are becoming, what we are learning and what our community is capable of during the Transition Team listening sessions around the interim questions, Who Are We, Who Are Our Neighbors,

and What is God Calling Us to Be and Do?

Reverends Janet and Avena led us in a beautiful service of Healing on October 27th. Again, this is a part of our necessary self-reflection, letting go, and healing toward our future, personally and communally. And you are all practicing this Generosity. Our Stewardship, Budget and Nominating teams are all actively engaged during this season, and are looking toward all of you to examine how you will engage and bring this spirit of generosity to First Congregational.

In this same context, our congregation has begun a conversation about homelessness. This is not really a new conversation for our church. However, as homelessness has increased and become a crisis across our city and nation, and is at times directly impacting First Congregational, this is a renewed conversation.

We have begun to discuss what our role is in responding to needs; what is our mission; what is the right thing to do for our congregation and for our neighbors? In the spirit of this season and our social justice ministry, I hope to continue to engage with you all in dialogue. I am hoping we can reach a place of balance between our own Lightness and Darkness which will inform our mission and service.

Blessings to you all. I am so grateful for all your generosity of time, energy and community.





# TRANSITION UPDATES

by The Transition Team

The Transition Team has started writing our Local Church Profile, which will be utilized in our forthcoming search and call process. We have learned a great deal about who we are, who is our neighbor, and who God is calling us to become, from our congregation's conversations and activities during this interim time. To date, First Congregational UCC has formed an active Transition Team, received and analyzed a detailed Assessment Report from our consultants at the Center for Progressive Renewal; consulted together about a thoughtful sermon series on our church covenant; held eight after-church listening sessions and chapel discussions; and experienced a moving service of worship to acknowledge and heal trauma and grief associated with change and loss. We are offering a Zoom Consultation open to everyone on December 5; a special listening session for families and children on December 1. We will also offer more opportunities to share stories and reflections from our church's history; and helpful resources for training in compassionate communication and dealing with conflict. We are extremely grateful for your prayers, your support, and your participation as we move forward together!

To join the Zoom call with the Transition Team on December 5, please use the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/7411288620>. If you need further instructions on how to participate in a zoom meeting please email Andre at [communications@uccportland.org](mailto:communications@uccportland.org) and he will send you the "How To Participate" document.

*Transition Team: Joanne Albertsen, Frank Baldwin, Julie Blanchard, Bill Cunitz, and Ted Heid*

## Get your UCC Advent/Epiphany Devotional!

Would you like to spend a little focused time on your spiritual life this Advent season? Pick up this year's UCC Advent Devotional, "A New Earth," which for the first time includes readings daily readings through Epiphany. "A New Earth" includes a biblical text, reflection and prayer for each day.

The promise of God's presence and restoration is not just for humanity but for all creation. Keep company with the stars and planets, cattle and sheep for the Advent 2019 season.

Arriving soon at First Congregational and available for a suggested donation of \$3 (free to those who can't pay). Order yours from Rev. Janet ([revparker@uccportland.org](mailto:revparker@uccportland.org)). A limited number are available.



# COMMUNITY CORE MINISTRY

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

by Margaret Baldwin

Have you enjoyed the musical offerings from the choir recently? If so, please thank our new music director (organist and choirmaster) Grant Edwards, who has brought his own energy and creativity to the music ministry at First Congregational. The choir has sung anthems ranging from the camp song "All God's Critters Got A Place in the Choir" to the 16th century setting of Psalm 33: "Exultate Justi in Domino" and the Zulu prayer for peace, "Ukuthula." Grant has an exciting variety of anthems and service music selected for Advent. Don't miss out!

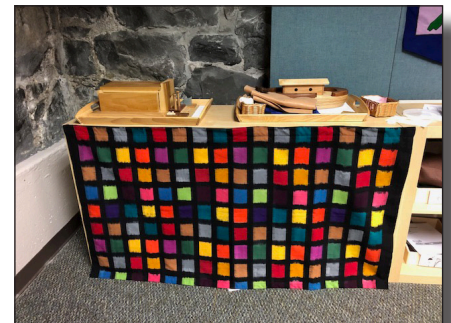
A Worship Team has met a few times with Rev. Janet to discuss ways in which we can shape the Sunday morning service to meet the needs of this congregation. Perceiving a need for members to grieve and let go of past hurts and former pastors, Rev. Janet and Rev. Avena held a service of healing and acknowledgement on the last Sunday in October. The team welcomes input from the congregation. If you would like to share an idea or make a comment, please send an email to [community@uccportland.org](mailto:community@uccportland.org) or speak to me at church on Sunday.

The Transition Team has been busy listening to you share your thoughts and feelings in their

listening sessions after church many Sundays this fall. They are starting to work on the church profile in preparation for the Search Committee's quest to find a new settled pastor for our congregation. Please see the Transition Team report in this Pilgrim for further details about the process.

Earlier this fall the Family Ministry Team held a bake sale and raffle to raise money for Godly Play materials. It was a tremendous success, netting over \$1000. There are many items missing from the Godly Play boxes which contain materials used to tell each of the Bible stories in the curriculum. For instance, there is a lovely wooden ark, but Noah and the animals are missing from the ark (see picture). Happily, we have an opportunity to purchase the Godly Play materials we need from a church that is no longer using them, at a discount. More news in the future about that wonderful possibility.

The shelves where the items are stored are open to allow children to use them to tell stories in their own words, but soon the shelves will be covered with bright colored fabric panels on weekdays, when the classroom is used by other groups. Thirteen yards of Velcro will secure the panels to the shelves! We will let you know when it's time to come down for a visit to see the new Godly Play materials and the new fabric panels.



## *CHILDREN AND YOUTH*

by Pam Fine

As part of the many conversations the FCUCC Transition Team is having, parents of our infants, children, and youth are invited to participate in a conversation with the Team on Sunday, December

1st. The gathering is an opportunity for parents to be heard regarding the changes in the church, as well as their ideas about what transition means for their kids and their families and their needs going forward. The gathering will be held in the Kiva in the basement beginning at about noon. Child care will be available.

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## *EVE'S CIRCLE: ANOTHER YEAR OF COMMUNITY, SERVICE AND FAITH*

by Nanci Tangeman

Eve's Circle is off to a good start this fall. Our September meeting featured Kim Hunt, the communications director for Do Good Multnomah. Do Good Multnomah is a nonprofit organization that partners with the community to provide permanent supportive housing and low-barrier emergency shelter to houseless veterans in the Portland area. Kim reminded us that Do Good had its first shelter right in our own chapel in 2015, and currently rent an office in our Annex building on Broadway. Today they operate Sandy Studios with 50 units of permanent supportive housing, the Veteran Village with 15 transitional tiny homes and the Wy'East Shelter that can house up to 100 people nightly. Thank you, Jessica Denniston for organizing our September meeting. More about Do Good Multnomah at [DoGoodMultnomah.org](http://DoGoodMultnomah.org).

In October we attended the curator's event at the ArtReach Gallery, From Empathy to Abstraction. The conversation between Dr. Sheldon Hurst and artist Keith Wilson was open, interesting and enlightening, covering the processes and discoveries that are part of the artist's work. A session of "Slow Art" where we looked and shared our own perceptions of Keith's art drew us into the conversation, as well. Eves provided light refreshments for the event.

On November 23, Eves met in the Fellowship Hall from 10:00 a.m. to noon to put up the Christmas Tree and kick off our annual Undies Under the Tree drive, where we collect new underwear and socks. Each year we donate hundreds of items to the PTA Clothes Closet and area shelters. This year we're also collecting underwear and socks for the veterans at Do Good Multnomah, as well as for area children. For more information contact Nanci Tangeman or Judy Bishop.

This year Eves leadership is a real group effort – that means we need YOU to be part of the group! Each month we're asking a different person to coordinate. Here's the rundown for the rest of the year. Notice there are a few gaps! If you'd like to coordinate a meeting, please contact Jessica Denniston or Alice Forsythe. We have a couple of good ideas – or bring one of your own.

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| December 28 | Visit to Portland Art Museum – led by Elaine Molskness                                 |
| January 25  | Eves Read  |
| February 22 | Playing with Prayer – an all-church program coordinated by Avena Ward and Janet Parker |
| March 28    | To be determined   |
| April 25    | To be determined   |

May 15 – 17      Eves Retreat at Camp Adams  
 June 27            To be determined  
 July 25             Planning for 2020

Eve’s Circle is open to all female-identifying members and friends of First Congregational UCC. For more information contact Jessica Denniston, Alice Forsythe or email [eves@uccportland.org](mailto:eves@uccportland.org).

## FOND FAREWELL TO MICHAEL KELLY

by Rev. Parker

On the weekend of October 5-6, First Congregational UCC said goodbye to Michael Kelly



and celebrated his 14+ years of faithful service as Music Director. A fabulous farewell party on October 5 was well attended by past and present members, friends, choir members and section leaders. The church and the choir made sure Michael’s favorite dessert was on hand in abundance—ice cream with all the toppings! Quite a few people spoke about the

impact Michael’s ministry of music had made on them individually, as well as on the church as a whole. Special thanks goes to Nan Wagner, Ann Laskey, Anne Sullivan, Lorence Long, Lesley Sepetoski, Cara Rothe, and the whole choir for organizing, preparing and cleaning up the party! On Sunday, we formally said goodbye to

Michael in worship, and he gave a parting gift to the congregation with his beautiful rendition of Mendelssohn’s Farewell Elegy on the piano. The affection, love, and appreciation felt by the congregation for Michael and his tenure as Music Director at First Congregational was palpable. His accomplishments in building our choir and music program will continue to bless this congregation as it moves forward under new leadership.

I know that Michael’s departure was hard for many members of the congregation. It was important to me and the Church Council for Michael to feel appreciated, respected, and cared for in his departure from our church. In the end, I believe that we achieved that goal. As we turn the page and move forward under Grant Edwards’ leadership as Music Director/Organist, we will never forget the many contributions and the dedicated service that Michael Kelly provided. We wish Michael and Jim all the best in their future endeavors. And, we look forward to seeing them again whenever they wish to return and reconnect with the church.



# THIS SEASON IN MUSIC

by Grant Edwards

As I recently affirmed in the program notes for Letters from Emily, choral singing has always been my favorite activity. Not as a mere pastime, I have experienced first hand how a written text, when set to music and sung, commands enormous power. It can be the most elevating of all human endeavors. It also demonstrates an undeniable truth: We can accomplish more in collaboration with others than we ever could dream of doing alone.

Have you wondered how you might get involved with our Chancel Choir? Just ask me anytime. We currently have room for more singers and we are a welcoming group. No experience is necessary but you do need a reasonably good ear (listening is singing!), ability to match pitch, and a cooperative spirit. The month of December (Advent through Christmas Eve) might be a good time to make a short term commitment to singing with us. Rehearsals are in the sanctuary on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., and we're used to having a lot of fun as we challenge ourselves in the choral arts.

This is my 25th year in service at First Congregational, and although I am only beginning to settle into my expanded duties, this much is clear: To make music for a living is an unparalleled privilege, and this is the best job imaginable. The quality of the choral singing in this community is a rare and marvelous thing, and we are excited to present one delightful offering after another in the coming season.



Do not miss our 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service, which will feature acclaimed string players Adam LaMotte, Robin Dubay and Laurent Nickel on Baroque period instruments, with Mary Sutton on harpsichord. They will accompany our choir and soloists in a presentation of the 1684 Canticle of the Nativity by Marc-Antoine Charpentier. Sung in English, this impeccably crafted, light-hearted cantata tells the story of the birth of Jesus largely from the point of view of the shepherds, using the musical language of dance.

November 17, Stewardship Sunday: We presented a musical allegory on liturgical sculpture, "Carved in Wood" by Tim Nickel for organ and marimba, with Joe O'Donnell, guest organist. "O How Amiable", the immortal anthem by Ralph Vaughan-Williams, with Joseph Pettit, guest organist. Congregational songs include "Lean on Me" and a Caribbean Hymn accompanied by a panoply of percussion.

During the four Sundays of Advent vocal music will be inspired by each of the four Advent candles: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Featured works include two original compositions, "Drop Down, Ye Heavens" and "Hope is the Thing with Feathers", from my oratorio Letters from Emily. Classic choral works include Paul Manz' timeless "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" and Jane Marshall's brilliant "Good News!" We also venture into new territory with a rock-inspired Magnificat by Jackson Berkey, of Mannheim Steamroller fame, and an ingenious integration of "The Rose" and "Lo, How a Rose" as arranged by the choral group Conspirare.



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MUSIC STAFF

That we so rarely need to audition new paid singers in our choir is a powerful testament to the quality as well as the collegiality of our music program. Although she is certain to return on occasion, our former choral leader for the altos, Genna McAllister, has found herself in demand as a freelance musician, too much so to continue regular service in our choir. She is currently busy traveling for singing gigs, composing the soundtrack for a locally produced short film, and writing music for local contemporary dance performances. We are however thrilled to welcome back Eugene native, Elizabeth Winship, whose rich contralto voice graced us for several years before she pursued and successfully competed a Master's degree in Vocal Performance at the Schwob School of Music in Georgia.

This fall we also bid farewell to Josh Randall, our tenor leader for the past 8 years. He has completed his nursing degree, and now lives in southern Oregon to pursue his new vocation. His remarkably evocative and expressive delivery of a wide variety of musical styles will not soon be forgotten. After a brief search, we are fortunate to welcome Joseph Pettit as our new tenor leader. Not only a highly experienced singer in professional ensembles as far flung as Hawaii, the mainland, and in Europe, Joe is also a fine organist and choir director, having served at Seattle's Plymouth UCC, Trinity Lutheran near Pacific Lutheran University, and St. James Lutheran Church of Portland, among other distinguished locales.

This fall we also saw the return of Jonny Roberts, recent graduate of Portland State University in Vocal Performance. He dazzled us last spring in the Locus Iste Choir with his powerful delivery of the bass role in the oratorio *Letters from Emily*, and will continue to sing with us as occasion permits.

Finally, we also welcome Mary Sutton, our new choral accompanist / organ scholar. Although Grant will continue leading the choir from the piano much of the time during rehearsals, and will present preludes, offertories, hymns, and other service music as usual, it is clear that a dedicated accompanist is desired—from time to time—in order to maintain the high standards and flexibility our choir is accustomed to. The new position also offers training in organ technique, offered by Grant, to help ensure continuation of this art in future generations. Mary is additionally interested in learning more about the realm of choral music, and we expect to hear (and sing) liturgical compositions composed by her in the near future as well. Mary is a talented multi-instrumentalist, holds a Master's Degree in piano performance from PSU, and is highly regarded for her service in many Portland area churches.

We are indeed blessed to reaffirm our ongoing commitment to draw upon, nurture, and delight in the talents of some of the finest musicians in Portland, our beautiful City of the Arts.

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## CONGREGATIONAL SONG NOMINATIONS

Do you have a favorite song in a popular genre—outside the “box” of hymnals—that you have always considered inspiring, mind-expanding, or otherwise spirit-filled? Have you always wanted to sing it as a community during worship? The Beatles' “Let It Be,” Pete Seeger's “Turn, Turn, Turn” and Bill Withers' “Lean on Me” come to mind. Or how about “Hands” by Jewel, with the lyric “in the end, only kindness matters”, or “Hammer and Nail” by the Indigo Girls? Our worship team is now inviting the congregation to nominate such songs in past or contemporary popular styles. Please contact Grant Edwards for more information: [uccmusic@comcast.net](mailto:uccmusic@comcast.net)

# HOSPITALITY CORE MINISTRY

## *HOSPITALITY UPDATE*

by Karen Hurst

HOSPITALITY CORE MINISTRIES at First Congregational UCC: What we do within our building to connect with visitors, neighbors and each other.

How the process works: The Core Facilitator (a one-year volunteer commitment) makes sure that our ongoing Ministry Teams (more about these below!) are functioning, helps solve problems as they might arise, and supports new ministry ideas that get proposed. The Facilitator meets with pastoral staff and the other two facilitators, usually monthly.

Current need:

- A 2020 Core Facilitator: Someone who will embrace the concepts of the Hospitality Ministry and oversee the Core.

What ongoing ministries are in this Core:

### ARTREACH GALLERY:

This team, led by Curator Sheldon Hurst, plans exhibits, organizes related events and educational programs, does publicity, and provides necessary labor to hang and take down shows. Team members have also been instrumental in readying the new Arts Library.

Current needs:

- Help with publicity.
- Greeters during ArtReach Gallery hours.

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

This ministry involves everyone in the church family and is organized around birthday months. A team of 12--one for each month--is headed by the Fellowship Hour Coordinator, who makes sure each month's leader is clear about what needs to be done. The leader each month does the contacting of that month's birthday people (lists exist!) to see who wants to bring what.

Current needs:

- A 2020 Co-ordinator to oversee this ministry.
- 12 (not necessarily new because some already in this role want to continue) people to head up each month.

### PENCIL TABLE and WELCOME TABLE:

These two locations are a way of sharing who we are and what we do as a community. They provide information and sign-up sheets; they are a place to ask questions; they offer us a way to connect and get involved.

Current needs:

- Volunteers to staff and update these tables on Sunday mornings.
- A Team Leader to oversee.

#### PHOTOGRAPHY TEAM:

We use photos in The Pilgrim, on our web site, and on posters. All who like to take pictures are welcome to be part of this team: take pictures, select ones you think are particularly good, and send them off to Andre in the office.

Current needs:

- Picture-takers, who will get notified as events are planned that need photographers.
- A Team Leader, who will be the contact person for staff and members planning events.

#### AND MORE:

- SPIRITUALITY ON TAP
  - LOCUS ISTE
  - POSTER PROJECT
  - Book Group, Meditation Group, Meet for Dinner Group, or Your Great Idea?
- FILMS AT FIRST  
ADULT EDUCATION SERIES

These “More” are ones that you can ask about, participate in, start (because you have an interest or idea to share), join in their beginning stages, and investigate.

Current needs:

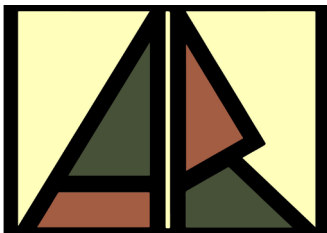
- Your interest, suggestions, and participation

I hope everyone in our church family will find a place to join with others and share in Hospitality Core Ministries. Please be in touch with questions or interests or willingness to take on one of the needs described above!

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## *ARTREACH GALLERY AND ARTS LIBRARY*

by Dr. Sheldon Hurst, Curator



“Art is creating conditions  
that do not quite exist.”  
-- Carl Andre, Artist

Art is fascinating. Everyone seems to do it differently. Painters, poets, musicians, sculptors, dancers --it does not matter what art form we are talking about, the artist wants to do something that does not already exist. One reason is that they are attracted to the possibility of creating conditions that do not quite exist (Andre).

Carl Andre found it very helpful to explore the conditions of making art as a way to stretch his own creative path. I enjoy creating exhibitions of various forms of art because it is a way of inviting creative people to join with us in shaping a presentation that has never existed.

Our gallery holds up the value of such an effort.

### **SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019**

We saw Keith Wilson, an architect/artist, explored elements of architecture from Italian cities 500+ years ago and created his own imaginative constructions. AND in his more recent work he tried to create new conditions in non-objective work that included geometric and organic shapes in very colorful expressions.

The Curator's Event was shared with Eve's Circle who provided refreshments for the forty in attendance.

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019



**OREGON: The Spirit of Nature** gives us an opportunity to see the world of nature through the eyes of two artists.

Patty Bentley paints scenes of local places where nature sings and dances in delightful colors. Pamela Thompson makes photographs with the feelings of how things grow and show us Nature's subtle ways.



**EMERGING PRINTMAKERS** is an education program that gives artists a chance to work on printmaking techniques under the guidance of Director Joseph Mann. The work of twelve artists is included in our Chapel Gallery. Nearly 100 people visited during the Reception November 7.

### **The ADVENTure of Justice: Mary, Joseph and Jesus and the Rights of Being Human**

Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22, 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Chapel  
Led by Dr. Sheldon Hurst

The ethics of Jesus are an historical source for understanding the value of being human. The Human Rights Declaration, passed 70 years ago on December 10 by the United Nations, is a modern claim of this value. Local Artist Myra Clark will join us in our discussion. Her installation LONGING will be in the chapel gallery throughout the Advent season. The art will focus our attention on the ADVENTure of Justice. This Advent series of reflective sessions will focus on the story of Jesus' birth, the ethical teachings of Jesus and other spiritual leaders, the ideals presented in the Human Rights Declaration, poems related to the topics in addition to the art by Myra Clark. We will give special attention to contemporary issues of justice-seeking as they parallel aspects of the birth narrative of Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

- Sunday, Dec. 1: Procreation as Prototype for the Creative Process:  
**The right to make**
- Sunday, Dec. 8: Rejection of the Migrant -- Giving Birth in a Stable:  
**The right to be**
- Sunday, Dec. 15: Slaughter of the Innocents / Family Separation:  
**The right of life together**
- Sunday, Dec. 22: Forced Migration and the Journey to Egypt:  
**The right of finding place**

# PEACEMAKING CORE MINISTRY

## PEACEMAKING UPDATE

by Cheryl Clevenger

### POTLUCK IN THE PARK - HELP NEEDED

Volunteer, and add a wonderful new dimension to your life and help fulfill one of the important outreach missions of the church! Every Sunday afternoon our church provides beverages (procure, prepare, deliver and serve) to about 300 to 700 hungry and thirsty (many, many homeless) persons in downtown Portland. We have four teams – each team has the responsibility once a month. One of our teams has an opening for at least two persons with a car to help on the third Sunday. It's not complicated and a special-giving way to spend a few hours, once a month on a Sunday afternoon.

Other volunteer opportunities: Transition Projects has other opportunities available besides the dinners that we already do. Emily Coleman will be coming to talk to us on December 8th to thank us for the many years we've been doing dinners there and to let us know about the other opportunities. Some other organizations that are always looking for volunteers are LIFT UP, PPOP, and DO GOOD. I have put brochures for all of them on the welcoming table down stairs. We'll be having someone from LIFT UP coming to make a presentation to the congregation, but it won't be until after the first of the year.

Bruce Bishop is doing a fantastic job with Immigrant Welcoming. If you are interested in that or have any questions you can contact him at [babishopdx@me.com](mailto:babishopdx@me.com)

The Soul boxes are piling up again. Thanks to everyone who is contributing.

### THE NEXT BIG GOAL FOR SOUL BOXES

In October 2020, The Soul Box Project will bring 200,000 Soul Boxes – representing the number of people killed or injured by gunfire in the U.S. in just three years – to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of volunteers will carry these Soul Boxes in a solemn procession, honoring the lives torn apart by gunfire. As usual, we'll help.

The Project needs to collect more than 100,000 Soul Boxes in the months ahead. The more Soul Boxes collected, the more lives will be represented in this iconic display. Maybe you've already folded a Soul Box and sent it in to our displays. Maybe you've sent many. Or perhaps you've just been meaning to all these months.

Now's the time to get involved – to help show the nation the horrific number of lives torn apart by gunfire. Add your voice to this beautiful, visceral, important exhibition. Pre-cut paper is always available in the Fellowship Hall. Help us fill the display case in the north lobby once again.

As of the end of October, people have sent in more than 70,000 Soul Boxes! (A full 10% came from First Congregational. Thank you!)

Please see Nanci Tangeman or Cheryl Clevenger with any questions or ideas.

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## *ADVOCATING FOR IMMIGRANTS: UPDATE ON ICE OUT OF THE COURTHOUSES*

by Jane Broisma

On October 18, numerous immigration justice groups, Innovation Law Lab, and the ACLU of Oregon were in Salem to present a proposed rule to the Uniform Trial Court Rule committee banning Immigration and Customs Enforcement(ICE) agents from making arrests in and around Oregon courthouses. This committee makes recommendations on rules for Oregon's 36 circuit courts and Chief Justice Martha Walters has the final say on which rules go into effect. The encouraging news is that the UTCR committee voted overwhelmingly to support adoption of the court rule. They also asked that the final version of the rule clarify how the rule will be enforced.

Walters has been concerned about ICE arrests in courthouses, but she wanted the rule to be considered by the UTCR committee before deciding whether to enact it. Now it will be up to her as to when and how the rule goes into effect. A similar rule has been adopted in Massachusetts, New York, New Mexico, and New Jersey.



Thank you to those who signed postcards to Chief Justice Walters in September. Banning ICE arrests at courthouses makes our communities safer for immigrants needing to do business there.



# BEHIND THE DESK OF THE BUSINESS MANAGER

by Cara Rothe

Our church library expansion is complete! With help from Steve Eggers, Andre Cordes, and Maureen Gullett, and member, Paris Hancock, we completely re-shaped the Minister's Office that was serving as a storage room off of the sanctuary. Among other things, we uncovered and finished the 130-year-old fir floors, replaced all of the stained-glass windows, repaired plaster work, updated the electrical layout, and furnished the space to create a comfy living room feel. I want to thank Carole Caughey, an interior designer and friend of the church for her help in helping with the vision of the space. We are grateful to Evelyn Murray for her bequest that allowed us to make this space something truly special for all to use. So far, the feedback from members, community members, and event clients has been inspiring.



*New Church Library Complete*

Staff have been working behind the scenes on a plan to make our building safer while at the same time, remain welcoming. I have been consulting the Portland Police Bureau and our Park Block neighbors who have been very supportive in our efforts.

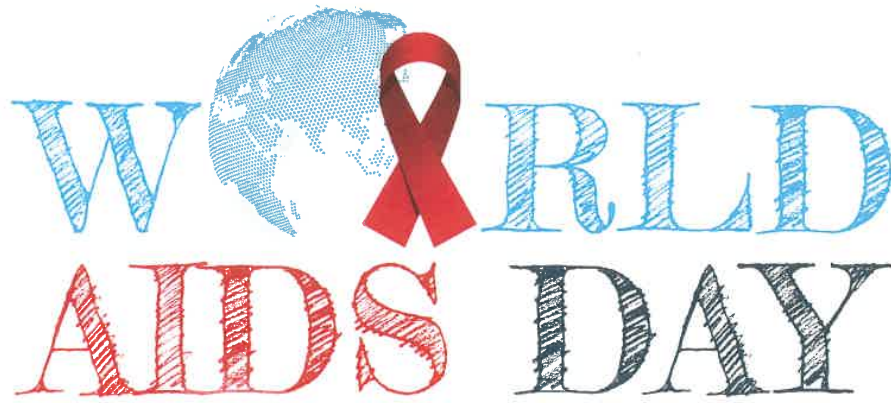
We had some significant flooding in the building in September. The water damage was confined to the basement the southeast corner of the building of the other levels. We will be making repairs over the next couple of months.

We've had some great events this season. We had chanting concerts by Dakha Brakha, Simrit Kaur, and Snatam Kaur, and also hosted U.S. Classic Guitar, and Oregon Historical Society- Teddy Roosevelt Lecture. All of these events were very well-attended!



## CALLED TO CARE

Call to Care is sponsoring an initiative to send Christmas Cards to our homebound and distant church members and friends. Come down to the Fellowship hall after worship on December 1 and 8 to sign cards and reconnect.



**PLEASE JOIN ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES  
OF OREGON'S HIV DAY CENTER FOR THE  
2019 WORLD AIDS DAY LUNCHEON!**

This is an opportunity to honor and celebrate those in our communities who live daily with HIV/AIDS, and those who support the work we do at EMO's Daily Bread Express and HIV Day Center—the only HIV drop-in center serving greater Portland's most vulnerable, low-income, HIV-positive individuals.

There is no charge to attend; donations will be gratefully accepted. All contributions go towards sustaining the HIV Day Center.

**If you can't attend the event, please consider making an online donation at [emoregon.org/give/](https://emoregon.org/give/) and designate "HIV Services."**

**12 TO 1 PM ON WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4**

**Concordia University, Hagen Center**  
Second Floor, 2811 NE Holman St., Portland.  
Limited parking on campus.

**Please RSVP by Nov. 27; go to [emoregon.org/events](https://emoregon.org/events)**  
For more information, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 210,  
or visit [hivdaycenter.org](https://hivdaycenter.org).

**Generously sponsored by Concordia University.**

**First Congregational United Church of Christ**

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Email: [first@uccportland.org](mailto:first@uccportland.org)

*Follow us on social media for event updates, news of our spiritual community, and more.  
Find us on instagram, twitter, and facebook (@uccportland)*