



**FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL**
United Church of Christ - Portland

The Pilgrim

July - September 2019 Vol. XXVI, Issue 4
A SEASONAL PUBLICATION

“WHO ARE WE?”

BY REV. DR. JANET PARKER

“Who am I?” “Who are we?” These are two of the most fundamental questions a person can ask. How do I understand my personal identity? And how do I perceive the identity of key groups that I belong to? While it’s easy to confuse these two questions, they are not the same, even though they are related. Group identities are by necessity not as nuanced, complex and individualized as our personal identities. Often, we don’t identify with every single aspect of the group we belong to. Nevertheless, having a say in the identity of our “tribe” is important. We all need to feel that our voice is heard.

One of the three core questions for the interim time is “Who are we?” We have begun to explore this question through informal conversation, within the Transition Team and Council, and in the congregation-wide discussion we had on the FCUCC covenant in July. One fascinating question that has bubbled up in some these conversations is, “how Christian are we?” Or even, “is this church comfortable using the term “Christian” to describe itself as a corporate body?” The Transition Team and I stumbled upon this question when we discovered that an introductory part of the church covenant, a “preamble” of sorts, has dropped out of use in recent years. That part reads, “We are a progressive Christian community embracing diversity of thought, belief, and action. In our worship and in our lives, we believe that God is still speaking, and that the risen Christ lives in and among us.”



As we have been thinking about this particular statement of identity, passed by the congregation but unused in recent years, we began to reflect on the fact that a number of folks in our congregation may not identify with the term “Christian.” They may be more comfortable describing themselves as “followers of Jesus” than as “Christian.” Others practice or belong to more than one faith tradition, but find their spiritual home in our congregation. Some were raised Christian, love the liturgy, music and traditions of the UCC and First Congregational, and find their friendship community here, but may describe their belief system as agnostic or even atheistic. What’s happening here?

Folks who make a living studying the church have described a “sea change” that’s been happening for some time within our culture and within the ranks of the churches. Just as our larger society is being polarized, so are our churches. Sadly, many feel that the term “Christian” has been hijacked by the religious right. I have gay Christian friends that have told me it’s easier for them to come out as “gay” than to come out as “Christian” because of the

stigma attached to “Christianity” now in some liberal circles. Author Ann Rice powerfully expressed this sentiment when she posted on Facebook in 2010:

“I quit being a Christian. I’m out. I refuse to be anti-gay. I refuse to be anti-feminist. I refuse to be anti-artificial birth control...I refuse to be anti-science....In the name of Jesus Christ, I quit Christianity and being Christian. Amen.”

Wow. As a pastor who’s dedicated my life to the church and to following Jesus, I find this “sea change” incredibly sad. One of the most important reasons I felt called to leave academia in 2005 and return to pastoral ministry is because I was so angry that my faith was being hijacked and weaponized by the political and religious right. I wanted to be part of the progressive Christian left’s movement to reclaim the public face of our religion to promote Jesus’ values of justice, inclusion, compassion and peace. I wanted our broader society to see a different face of Christianity, one that is crying out for beloved community, not gated communities. I also recognize that it’s more accurate to speak of “Christianities” than of a monolithic “Christianity.” For that reason, the newly discovered “preamble” to FCUCC’s covenant fits me. It fits my personal identity and the identity of a group that I want to belong to. But I realize that it may not fit everyone.

What do we do about the fact that some among us may no longer identify with the name “Christian” but still want to be UCC—FCUCC, in fact. That some may wish to speak of themselves in other ways, honoring and following Jesus and his values, and the core values of the UCC, but allergic to an identifier—Christian—that has been misappropriated by many? These are tough questions.

I don’t have the answers for this church because that’s not my job. That’s your job. But now is the time to be exploring questions like these. As we do, we might keep in mind that the United Church of Christ gives all its members freedom of conscience; that we have “testimonies not tests of faith.” And, on the other hand, that on the map of American religion, the UCC still stands within the broader Christian stream of historic world religions. And maybe some tension between our individual identities and corporate identity is both normal and generative—fertile ground for theological reflection and spiritual growth.

And so, in closing, I want to share with you a few words of another Preamble: the Preamble to the UCC Constitution. It reads, in part:

“[The United Church of Christ] claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God.”

Who are we? Together, let’s find out.

Yours on the journey, Rev. Janet



MODERATOR MOMENT

by Anne Sullivan

Greetings from your moderator. First Congregational has been buzzing this summer. So much amazing work is at hand. And Council is busy too, collaborating with the Transition Team, Core Ministry Facilitators, Budget Committee, and our Interim Minister to continue our programming and ministries through the summer, plan for Fall, and continue our work in this time of introspection and preparation with our Interim Minister. I am so grateful for the many hours of work so many amongst us have volunteered, to keep our ministry moving forward.

With Welcome Back Sunday approaching on September 8th, in this edition of the Pilgrim I would like to speak largely to our children, youth, and families. It is so very important to continue to acknowledge the transitions and changes you all have experienced. I know these must touch each of you differently, but as a mother and family member also, I imagine I can relate.

Change and transitions bring with them lots of uncertainty and everyone responds to these differently. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like to. The Church Council has been striving to maintain programming for consistency's sake, while also assessing the needs and desires of our community.

We have been able to maintain the Godly Play program, classroom and teachers, with a new training for staff and teachers being completed in August. We are all

ready for you! Come and join us!

You might note that last year we began to have the children remain in service on Communion Sundays. As of September 8th, the children will return to weekly lessons, and will re-join the service for Communion following their lesson. Jessie Tarter is our Children's Ministry Coordinator and brings wonderful gifts to our program. Feel free to chat with her when you come downstairs after church to pick up your kids from the classroom.

Our Middle and High School Youth lost their Teen Ministries Coordinator, Annie Tarter, at the end of June, due to Graduate School. The Family Ministries team worked with them and with Annie to take time to say goodbye and have some separation prior to moving on.

Denise Denniston joined this team last spring and has continued to volunteer with our youth as the Youth Ministry Associate. Denise has provided some needed continuity through this transition. Their schedule is for Youth Group on two Sundays per month plus an activity/outing once a month. For example, September 7, they are going to Oaks Park. And in October they have an evening event to do a corn maze in the dark! I want to impress upon all parents and youth that you are welcome and we would love to have you join this group.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

SPECIAL DATES IN OCTOBER

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SERVICE RETURNS!

October 13, 2019

Many of you have asked whether we will have another blessing of the animals service this year, and the answer is an enthusiastic "yes!" On October 13, plan to bring along your furry, feathered, or scaly friends to be blessed in worship as we honor the legacy of St. Francis and our call to be partners with God in caring for God's beloved Creation and in seeking ecological justice for all God's people. If you would like to volunteer to help with this service, please let Rev. Janet know.

PLEDGING YOUR IRA MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION TO FCC

When I turned 70, I learned that it would be necessary for me to withdraw funds annually from my IRA whether I wanted to or not. Since those funds have grown over the years tax-free, Uncle Sam wants to collect some revenue on my tax-deferred savings. The IRS publishes a table, based on your age, that gives the minimum percentage of funds that must be withdrawn before the end of each year.

If someone does not want to add to their taxable income, two options exist. One is to invest this Required Minimum Distribution in an after-tax investment account.

Another option is to make what is known as a qualified charitable contribution from your retirement account directly to a non-profit organization, such as First Congregational Church in Portland! And this is exactly what I have done this year, dividing my minimum distribution between the church and two other non-profit organizations. It's very easy to set up. You will get pledge credit for the full amount of your gift to the church and you may have the satisfaction of making a larger gift than you thought possible!

Since the distribution goes directly to the non-profit from the firm that manages your IRA, it is not taxable. Even though you don't get a charitable deduction for this transfer of funds, the benefit of not adding to your taxable income is worth it for some households in light of the higher standard deduction now in place.

If you have such a qualified retirement account, I strongly urge you to consult your tax accountant or financial advisor to see if it makes sense for you. It sure makes sense for me! We know it makes a lot of sense for First Congregational Church or any non-profit that will benefit from your generosity.

Bill Cunitz, member,

Financial Oversight Committee



ADVOCATING FOR IMMIGRANTS

by Jane Brolsma

In collaboration with the Central Pacific Conference of the UCC, our church declared itself an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation this past January. This declaration commits us to four requirements, one being "advocating for justice and comprehensive humane immigration reform." What a challenge! Almost daily there are attacks on the rights and treatment of immigrants. Unjust detentions in deplorable conditions, unnecessary and cruel separations of families, increased border militarization, and brutal ICE raids, are all deeply troubling for people seeking a more compassionate way.

Our church family can actively engage in advocating for

immigrants. The need is high for us to add our voices and demand these disturbing policies end. We have agreed to "be a compassionate and persistent voice for justice for our immigrant brothers and sisters and their families." This works best when we have an organized way to receive information and requests for taking specific actions.

Will you join me in forming a small group to organize this advocacy work for our congregation? If you have a desire to focus some energy on this issue, please email me, Jane Brolsma, at jkb1059@gmail.com, or call 541-515-1884. See you in church!



URBAN TOUR GROUP PORTLAND

"Urban Tour Group of Portland, Oregon, was formed in 1970 by a group of architects and their spouses to give downtown walking tours to school children. These tours encourage an awareness of both the natural and man-made environment, while fostering a sense of responsibility for our city and an understanding of its history, present, and future.

The "Life in the City Tour" is one of three tours offered free of charge to elementary teachers and their students. This tour provides a visual feast of rich, and varied architecture. Highlights include public artwork, sculptures, parks, gardens, and a variety of historically and architecturally significant locations.

Thank you for letting us tour the beautiful First Congregational Church. It is our desire to continue our good relationship with you so that students may receive the greatest benefit from their walking tour in a way that is both educational and respectful."

An excerpt of the letter we received from Janet Lockwood, Liaison, Life in the City

EXTENDING THE CHURCH LIBRARY

by Paris Hancock and Dr. Sheldon Hurst

Church Council has approved an exciting expansion of our church library to include two locations with two different emphases. Sheldon Hurst, our Artreach Gallery Curator, and Paris Hancock, our Church Librarian, are working on this project, which features a new Arts Library adjacent to the Fellowship Hall/ArtReach Gallery. It includes books on art, poetry, music, and film. A sizable gift of arts-related books makes possible the expansion of these holdings, and it helps to define this part of our library. Making it adjacent to the ArtReach Gallery space will enhance our future work with the arts and our church's public presence in the downtown Arts community. The room will continue to provide space for small group meetings.

The second collection—the remainder of our current library-- will reside upstairs in the room adjacent to the Sanctuary to the left of the Chancel (formerly known as the Minister's Office). It will include books related to Theology, Spiritual Discipline and Guidance, Biblical Studies, World Religions, Social Justice, Novels, and Children's Books. This library will also provide space for small group meetings and chairs for reading and meditation in one of the church's most beautiful and under-used spaces. We hope it will become a space for folks to read and relax prior to worship.

Our church's life continues to grow in a deeper commitment to work in the areas of the Arts, Spirituality, and Justice-seeking. Including these emphases in our library collections will provide resources and encouragement to this work. As is true now, certain books will be for circulation while others will be for reference and study in the library itself.

We are excited to unveil the newly renovated libraries towards the end of this month. Please feel free to take a peek at the new space anytime. You can contact Cara Rothe, Business Manager, if you have any questions or ideas.



TRANSITION UPDATES

by Frank Baldwin

The interim season between settled pastors is a unique and valuable time for a congregation to explore its vocation, history, culture, and future. There are three essential questions that every church should address during this temporary but important interval: Who are we now? Who is our neighbor? And who is God calling us to become? Your Transition Team was appointed by the Church Council to join them and Interim Senior Pastor Janet Parker in guiding First Congregational UCC through these months of discovery and discernment.

Our transition consultants, Cameron Trimble and the Center for Progressive Renewal, have completed an assessment report on our congregation and our community to guide us through this process. A summary of the CPR findings has been sent to the congregation, along with a link to the full 32-page report for those who wish to study it. The report makes four key recommendations, which the Transition Team and the Church Council have embraced as our foundational agenda:

- A) Heal the Pain of Pastoral Transition
- B) Clarify Our Church's Mission and Vision for the Future
- C) Invest in the Financial Stability of the Congregation
- D) Complete a Successful Search for a New Pastor

We've determined that leadership in points A) and B) are the responsibility of the Transition Team; leadership in point C) is the purview of the Church Council; and leadership in point D) begins with the Transition Team drafting the Church Profile which will be used in recruiting our new minister, and concludes with a Search Committee elected by the congregation presenting a candidate to be called by vote of the church.

The Transition Team has been meeting every other week since May to plan ways we can utilize these key recommendations to engage our church in the three essential questions noted above: Who are we now? Who is our neighbor? And who is God calling us to become? Thus far, we have studied the CPR Assessment Report and presented it to the congregation. We have assisted Pastor Janet in a well-attended congregational conversation about our ten-year-old church covenant. And we have held four after-worship listening sessions to hear comments and address questions.

We have laid the groundwork for additional listening sessions to help clarify how we envision the past, present, and future of our church. We are developing an October 20th Congregational Conversation on the highlights of our history and our hopes for the future. We are designing opportunities for all of us to develop the skills of compassionate communication. We are working with Pastors Janet and Avena on a worship experience to acknowledge, heal, and move beyond unprocessed trauma and grief associated with our recent pastoral transitions. Stay tuned for further details. And we have envisioned with the Church Council a timeline for the balance of the interim season, which will see us drafting our Church Profile and beginning the Search and Call process this winter, hopefully leading to the calling of a new Senior Pastor next summer. We are most grateful for the encouragement and participation of the congregation as we engage together in these vital tasks of transition; and with great confidence in the love of God for First Congregational UCC, we ask for your prayers, your trust, and your continued support.

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

NEIGHBORS IN NEED



 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2019
ucc.org/nin

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 6, 2019, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through ucc.org/justice, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

CORE MINISTRY UPDATES

CALLED TO CARE REPORT FROM THE FIELD

by Avena Ward

You may have heard the words “called to care” and wondered what is that? The Called to Care Team are members and friends of Portland First Congregational who offer a ministry of connection. The Called to Care Team includes people who are committed to and excited about the opportunity to extend community to our members and friends who don’t get out to attend worship and other church events. Team members aim to meet people where they are and bring the love and care of the church community with them. We practice active listening. We’re not counselors or health care providers, we’re not there to fix situations, run errands or meet all of a person’s needs. We are there to provide a ministry of presence, share joys and concerns, pray, and sometimes offer communion with the pastors.

Called to Care is excited to announce a new initiative. Starting this fall with Welcome Back Sunday we invite you to donate those extra greeting cards you’ve been collecting at home. We’ll make them available each Sunday after worship in the Fellowship Hall so that you can send a card to someone you’ve been thinking about but not communicating with, someone on the prayer page, or just someone you know who would love to know they’ve been remembered. After you write and address the card you can drop it in the Called to Care box and it will be mailed for you from the church office. What could be easier?

If you’re interested in joining the Called to Care Team see Pastor Avena Ward or Ann Laskey. If you have cards to donate bring them to church and look for the Team member staffing the Cards for Connecting table.

COMMUNITY

by Margaret Baldwin

On a coolish Sunday afternoon in August, First Congregational Church members set off after church to enjoy a picnic at Peninsula Park in Northeast Portland. The food was abundant and the enthusiasm of kids enjoying their last few days of summer was infectious. Swings and teeter totters in the adjacent play area provided some fun for our youth. It was a good time to sit down for a chat with a friend from church, or a chance to get to know someone new. Frank Baldwin led singing of some old classics from camp with his guitar, and a newcomer, attracted by the music, joined us for a few songs.

If you weren’t there, we missed you, but mark your calendar for next year!



Rev. Dr. Janet Parker at the picnic

New teachers and veteran teachers met to review the philosophy and structure of Godly Play lessons in early August. One of the key principles of Godly Play is to encourage kids to wonder about things as they listen to the stories of the Bible. This philosophy fits well in

the UCC where we are not bound by doctrine but free to wonder and ask questions throughout our spiritual journey.

Rev Janet has formed a worship committee to work with her in planning worship over the next year. Stay tuned to this space for more information about worship. If you have ideas or thoughts you would like to share, please contact Margaret Baldwin, Community Core Ministry Facilitator. My email address is on the back of the bulletin every Sunday and on the website.



Rev. Frank Baldwin leading in song



Sharing a meal together at the picnic



What activities do we have planned at the picnic?

HOSPITALITY

by Karen Hurst

Fellowship Hour: Many thanks to all of you who participated this summer (whether you had summer birthdays or not!) in contributing to our Sunday morning Fellowship Hour food, set-up, and clean-up. Special thanks to Jim Sikel who has coordinated this effort and started the summer off with a Sunday of Sundaes, as well as to the leaders each month: Margaret Baldwin in June, Pam Fine in August, and Anne Sullivan who is coordinating September. If your birthday passed and you were not able to help, or if you are inclined to help whenever this Fall, please be in touch with any of the leaders or with Karen Hurst.

ArtReach Gallery, Library Reconfigurations: Sheldon Hurst and his ArtReach team have given us excellent art to engage with during the summer, and we can look forward to a number of fine Fall events, specifics of which are in the ArtReach report. The establishment of an Arts Library in what was “the” library, and the creation of a new library space upstairs (in the room to the left of the podium in the sanctuary, where theology, fiction, history, and other topics will be shelved) is an important step forward in diversifying the uses of our wonderful spaces. Paris Hancock is leading this transition--much gratitude goes to her and to those who are helping! Once renovations are finished later this month, look for the open library door before or after worship and check out the space as well as a book or two.

Welcoming and Informing: We are good at welcoming and we always try to be better. Wearing name tags, making

name tags available to visitors, and seeking out those who are new, or new-ish, or not very well known to us as individuals, is a work of broadening our own perspectives as well as creating new connections. Our pencil table also works to connect us with possibilities we might otherwise not know about or have considered participating in. Event information, Soul-Box making supplies and information, and handouts both general and specific in nature are ours for the taking. Upcoming but still in creation stages will be posters for the stairway walls that highlight our activities and values as a church family.

What else might there be?

Also known as: What new might be a place you'd want to fit into!?

- Do you like to chat? Would you like to be among those who greet arriving folks before worship on the occasional Sunday? What would it be like to have a number of greeters: Outdoors at each entrance? Inside the entrances to help with directions and with the elevators? Upstairs to offer name tags? Standing around to answer questions...? Might this be your calling?
- Do you ever take pictures? Would you like and be willing to share them? All you'd have to do is send photos you take at church events to our church social media sites. That would give us ways to keep up with what we do; it would share our events, interests, activities, and mission values with those who go to such sites to find out about us; it would give us a visual record; it would give us images to choose from for the Pilgrim and for the web-site and for posters. And if you are passionate about photography, maybe you'd even want to join (or lead!) a small group that would meet occasionally to be sure all church events have someone with a camera who will use it with an eye towards recording our current history! Might this be your calling?

PEACEMAKING

by Cheryl Clevenger

Pot Luck in The Park is looking for someone to help out on the 3rd Sunday of each month. It could be a permanent or on call position. Please contact me at peacemaking@uccportland.org.

I am excited to announce that Eve's Circle are thinking about doing a service project with Do Good Portland.

On Wednesday evenings between 6:30 and 9:30 PPOP(People Portland Outreach Project) meets at the church to put together emergency kits to give out to the homeless. If anyone (especially young people) are interested let me know.

The Soul Box Project has been a great success and we encourage you to please continue to fold Soul Boxes, even without a special challenge. The Soul Box Project is collecting one origami box for every person killed or injured by gunfire in the US since 2014. These Boxes are exhibited in massive displays to reveal the gunfire epidemic.

Thanks to everyone who does so much to help.

Cheryl



Over 42,000 people are killed or injured by gunfire in the U.S. every year.

Gun violence. Defense. Accidents. Another 22,000 die from suicides with guns. Statistics can tell us facts, but they do not reveal the pain. How do we put meaning to those numbers? The Soul Box Project is showing people the numbers. We are collecting one hand-folded origami box for every victim of gunfire in the U.S. and displaying tens of thousands of them in public spaces around the country.

When people see the numbers, they feel the magnitude of this gunfire epidemic. And they realize they can make a difference: By locking up their guns. Or supporting a friend

BEHIND THE DESK OF THE BUSINESS MANAGER

By Cara Rothe

There has been a flurry of activity this summer!

Our library expansion and renovation project is in full swing. We expect the project to be completed in September. If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can contact me or Paris Hancock.



I met with a representative for Oregon Women's History Consortium. We are discussing the potential for a customized suffrage marker for the front of our building that commemorates the National American Woman Suffrage Association Convention held at our church in 1905. This project is also in collaboration with the Oregon Historical Society, the

Oregon Heritage Commission, and the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. We are reviewing potential sites for the marker with the Oregon Department of Transportation.

We have new Annex tenants moving in on September 1. The UPRISE Collective opens spaces and provides

support for people with targeted identities to engage in social uplift within their own communities, outside of privileged, hierarchical, white supremacist models.

We are also excited to have the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA) contract with us for all of their monthly meetings in the Fellowship Hall through 2020. Anyone who lives or works in downtown is encouraged to attend their meetings. They often have special guests from city planners to neighborhood advocates. I have attended several of their meetings and they have been very informative.

More good news! Our kitchen is now officially certified with the Multnomah County Health Department. Our application has been approved. This means we can now prepare food for public consumption. We hope this will open service opportunities in the future. If you have ideas about how to use our kitchen, you can contact me or a core-ministry facilitator.

We are so grateful for our Facilities Manager, Steve Eggers for all his work on the front porch beautification project. We enjoyed watching the front of our building come alive this summer!

who's struggling. By writing to their legislators.

Folding a Soul Box is a nonconfrontational, nonpolitical way to take action. To express outrage or frustration. To honor a victim. To help heal a grieving heart. This is something you can do – right now. Make a Soul Box today and send it in to be included in our exhibits.

It begins with two pieces of paper, when you acknowledge one life. It comes together in a massive art statement. It continues with a cultural shift, as people take meaningful, individual actions.



ADULT SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

This fall, we will enjoy a full line-up of adult spiritual exploration opportunities during the 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. before Sunday worship.

Explore the radical idea of "Sabbath as Resistance" with the Rev. Pam Fine, using Walter Brueggemann's book by that name. Dive into the powerful, autobiographical experience of *Waking Up White* through the eyes of author Debby Irving in a book study led by Rev. Dr. Janet Parker, and explore how to become anti-racist allies. Finally, join Rev. Dr. Sheldon Hurst in an exciting "ADVENTure of JUSTICE" and learn about "Mary, Joseph, Jesus, and the Rights of Being Human" in December. Here's the full outline of classes:

September 15, 22, 29, and October 13, 20, 27, in the Chapel

Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now

How can we thrive in a society of overconsumption and over stimulation? And how can we transform that society? Biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann addresses such questions and more in his book *Sabbath as Resistance - Saying No to a Culture of Now*. Explore this provocative read with Rev. Pam Fine

Some books available for purchase through the office, or order online

Book is available from Amazon for \$13.50, from Powell's for \$15 and a few books will be available at the church on 9/8.

November 10, 17, 24

Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race

Delve into this autobiographical narrative by Debby Irving with Rev. Dr. Janet Parker and find yourself in the story of race in America.

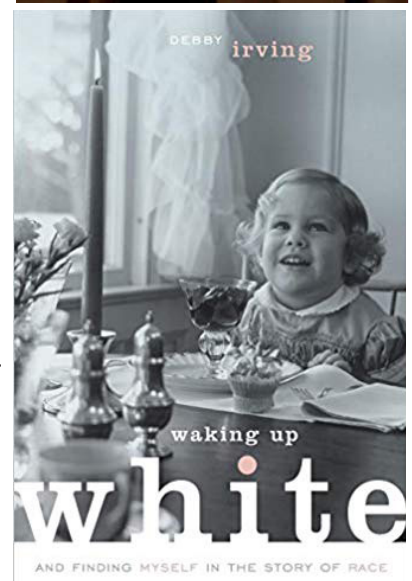
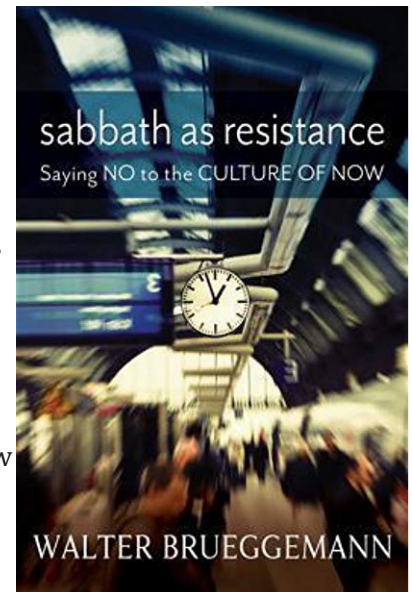
Some books available for purchase through the office, or order online

December 1, 8, 15, 22

The ADVENTure of JUSTICE: Mary, Joseph, Jesus, and the Rights of Being Human

with Rev. Dr. Sheldon Hurst. Exploring Art, biblical stories, and The Human Rights Declaration, and related poems during this Advent Season.

Classes will be held Sundays from 9:00-10:00 a.m.



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Godly Play isn't every-day Sunday School program. The Godly Play approach helps children explore faith by participating in story, enhancing their spiritual experience through wonder and play. As you can imagine, Godly Play requires specially-trained teachers who can create such experiences for the children. We held such a training (and a refresher for those who've taught before) on August 19th.



Dr. Heather Ingersoll leading the training



Godly Play training in the classrooms

Our delightful instructor, Dr. Heather Ingersoll, provided philosophical insights, led us in discussion, and conducted a lesson that demonstrated for all of us how to draw the children into our Christian faith stories in the Godly Play way. Now, we are all ready for the new Godly Play year!

Contact Rev. Pam Fine at family@uccportland.org if you would like a copy of the survey to complete.

2019 CPC Annual Gathering **Though Many Parts, We're One Body** **September 27-29** **Pacific University, Forest Grove OR**

Welcome to the CPC 2019 Annual Gathering! We will GATHER for worship, fellowship, learning, conference business, justice action, celebration, and sharing our stories.

A number of folks from First Congregational, Portland will be attending the Gathering, both as delegates and in other capacities. In addition to Rev. Janet, our lay delegates this year include: Patty Bonney, Bill Cunitz, Denise Denniston, Ann Laskey and Daniel Russo. Bruce Bishop will be attending in his role with Immigrant Welcoming Congregations in the Conference. Youth are also invited to attend as part of the youth program...see below!

The Youth program will include 2 nights stay at Forest Grove UCC, programming Friday evening, all day Saturday and involvement in worship on Sunday. Meals will be provided separately for youth. Everyone will be invited to the Banquet on Saturday evening – a GATHERING to behold for all ages. Please let Rev. Janet and Rev. Denise Denniston know if you plan to send a youth to the Gathering.

Childcare will be available during adult programming times for children through 5th grade, with age appropriate activities. Parents should plan to pick up their young participants promptly after sessions end. A detailed schedule will be available at the event.

Guests are welcome to attend as well! If you wish to attend as a guest, either for the whole Gathering or Saturday only, you may register online at <https://cpcucc.wufoo.com/forms/register-for-2019-cpc-annual-gathering>

ARTREACH GALLERY PRESENTS

KEITH WILSON

from Empathy to Abstraction

SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 27, 2019



Artist's Reception

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
11:30 AM - 1 PM

Curator's Event

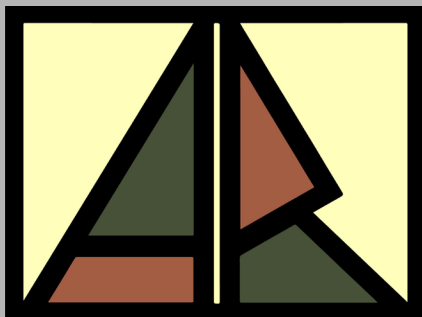
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26
10 AM TO NOON



ARTREACH GALLERY
at First Congregational UCC
1126 Park Ave, Portland, OR
www.artreachgallery.org

GALLERY HOURS

Tues thru Fri 10am - 2pm
Sundays 9am - 1pm
Or by appointment with curator:
drsheldonhurst@gmail.com



ARTREACH GALLERY AND ARTS LIBRARY

by Dr. Sheldon Hurst, Curator

PAST: JULY AND AUGUST EXHIBITIONS

TRUTH-TELLING and RHYTHM & ATMOSPHERE

Our life together as a church family is enhanced on many fronts by Words, Music, Physical Movement, and Visual Images. Each in its own way contributes to opening us to experiences and expressions that relate to deeper spiritual sensitivities. The ArtReach Gallery participates in this dynamic life, consciously choosing a variety of artists whose work will invite us to think and feel in new ways, to talk with each other about our diverse perceptions, and “to live and move and have our being” in creative ways.



*Exhibition by Teresa Zawitkowska
in the Chapel Gallery*

During the summer months we shared drawings by the Polish-American artist Teresa Zawitkowska who now lives in the Chicago area. The title of the show was Truth-Telling, and each drawing had a unique title that made us consider the subject in surprising ways. An essay by our curator accompanied the exhibition, inviting viewers to consider the technique of drawing as a process, not just an end product. An artist’s statement was included with the exhibition, and it pointed to the sources for her dynamic images.

Concurrently, musician/artist Adam Hurst shared his artwork with us. On Saturday, July 20, Adam gave a concert at the Curator’s Event. He followed the performance with a discussion of his creative process as he experiences it in all three of his art forms: writing and

performing on cello; giving shape to his sculpture; painting his intimate two-dimensional pieces. A brief written artist’s statement was included with the exhibition, one in which Adam discussed his sources for inspiration.



Cello concert by Adam Hurst in the Main Gallery

NEW EXHIBITION FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER



Genis Loci by Keith Wilson

KEITH WILSON: from Empathy to Abstraction will include paintings by the Berkeley, California artist/architect. The Chapel Gallery will include architectural studies that will entertain us with fantasy buildings composed of memories buildings in Italy. The other paintings in our larger gallery will be a variety of ab-

stract forms, full of colors arranged in delightful patterns. The artist will join us for a reception on Sunday, September 15 following worship. And he will be with us for a Curator's Event on Saturday, October 26 at 10am for a discussion about the nature of his work.

MAKING SPACE will be a short sculpture show that will run concurrently with a sculpture conference at the Portland Art Museum, October 12 -15. North West Stone Sculptors Association (NWSSA) from Washington will join the Portland North West Sculptors (PNWS) from Oregon to show about 40 pieces in our ArtReach Gallery. This means that the church Fellowship Hour after worship on Sunday, October 13 will be among a wide spectrum of art works: Sculptures on the floor and paintings by Keith Wilson on the wall. Thank you for your affirmation of these artists during this October holiday season.

7 x 7, is a consortium of seven art galleries in seven Portland churches: our ArtReach Gallery participates in this organization. We have a plan to share an exhibition September 13- October 28, 2020 that will have an overall title: FOOTPRINTS: Immigration / Migration. Together we will focus on memory, reality, and responsibility that we share in making justice happen. Each gallery

will have a unique exhibition on this theme.

There are cards that name the seven galleries available in the ArtReach Gallery. The cards also lift up our mutual efforts for the show in the Fall of 2020. Please take two or three of these cards and give them to your friends as a way to help us advertise the concern we share for the issues that gather around immigration and migration in our world today. Thank you for the support you give.

FUTURE EXHIBITIONS

OREGON: THE SPIRIT OF NATURE

Patty Bentley : Paintings

Pamela Thompson: Photographs

November 3 - December 29, 2019

TWO CHAPEL GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

EMERGING PRINTMAKERS



November 3 - 27, 2019

MYRA CLARK

An Installation Art

Related to Justice Seeking

December 1 - 29, 2019

 <p>Seven Art Galleries In Seven Portland Churches</p> <p>A consortium of art galleries that supports the work of artists and affirms the creative spirit in art exhibitions throughout the year.</p> <p>ANNOUNCING</p> <p>In the fall of 2020, 7x7 Galleries will present seven different exhibitions on the theme FOOTPRINTS: Immigration / Migration. Each gallery will offer a Wednesday evening educational event focusing on immigration, migration, the art in its gallery, and doing justice in today's world.</p> <p>All events are free and open to the public.</p>	
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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Dr. Janet Parker, Interim Senior Minister

1126 SW Park Ave. Portland, OR 97205

Phone: (503) 228-7219 Website: uccportland.org

Email: first@uccportland.org

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