

F I R S T

 **CHRISTIAN**

C H U R C H

MEMBER

Disciples of Christ

In the ❤️ of Eugene

REMAIN CALM.

BE KIND.

In This Issue:

Transition Team Update

The Ministers Moment

The W.A.Y. Updates

and so much more!!!



February Ministers Moment with April Oristano

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

I've been praying a lot about and for the journey of transition we are on – and encourage you to do the same – I wanted to bring a word of encouragement. This passage in Ecclesiastes is a perennial favorite of mine and I believe it offers me more than one insight and I hope that it might for you too.

This time of transition we have entered is not either a time to plant OR to uproot, it is actually both; a time for experiences of great joy and celebration in and amongst the sadness of grief. This was a deeply lived experience for me at the memorial service for David Frisinger, where moments of spontaneous joy bubbled out, followed by our deep sorrows at having to say goodbye, followed by boisterous singing and hugging. Thank you, by the way, to all the employees and volunteers who participated in the memorial, all the members who attended and have offered help to the church or Kit and the family. More evidence to me that we are an amazing village, a living organism that loves and grieves, riding the waves of life.

We can be angry and compassionate at the same time; we can both want to help and not know how to do it; I've learned it is actually possible to lead worship AND soothe an infant but I don't recommend it weekly; All around us we can see evidence of our shared life evolving. Have you felt the tension of opposing forces or feelings within yourself the past few months?

We are feeling it acutely because of the upcoming retirement of our long-term pastor, but there are echoes of transition everywhere. But I wager you've felt it before when you've realized a favorite acquaintance in the church has found a new place to worship, AND when you've been gone a few weeks and there are new faces in the sanctuary you've not met; or think for a minute about the odd tension you felt when instead of the snow storm a few weeks ago spring sprung and the bees came out for a day. **All the feels.**

You've felt this tension when you've recovered from surgery – both thankful for what has been done and desperately hoping to be out of bed soon. But some in the church are feeling it in committee meetings – where large budgets and buildings can be a source of great joy and incredible burden; in task forces commissioned to help improve our outreach services while also ensuring compliance with state regulations for health, sanitation, and emergency responsiveness. It can feel like we are tearing something down when the goal is to build something up – but it would be helpful to remember we are a people of the resurrection -- This is both an experience of uprooting AND one of planting.

One quick shout out: I am impressed and inspired by the early efforts of the Transition Team – they are working hard to help us have an Interim Staffing Plan and develop a profile so candidates will respond and interview in early spring. But their work is not easy! They are carrying emotional work for all of us, discerning work, where ethics and faith and compassion are deliberated – pray for them so that they may feel your strength and support as they move ahead, and pray for yourselves as we are making space for God to move through us and among us and make of us something new. How are you praying for the church lately? How are you feeling about our transition? What keeps you grounded when life throws a curve ball? I look forward to hearing you share your wisdom with one another and with me.

FEBRUARY 2020 FCC SERVICE AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

		2-Feb	9-Feb	16-Feb	23-Feb
9 am Traditional Service					
ELDERS	Offering Communion	Michael Kennedy Connie Kennedy	Judith Ivy Sonny Bettleyoun	Rick Johnson Sandi Ybarra	John Moore Cheryl Moore
DEACONS	CP	Anthony Brimberry	Laurie Geiger	Conrad Tjemsland	John Metzger
	CP		Teffany Heffner	Rex Bradley	Jonah Metzger
	CC	Delilah Smith	Lori Smith	John Weare	Delilah Smith
	CC	Rex Bradley	Bill Smith	Anthony Brimberry	Jamie McCornack
	OT	Lori Smith	John Metzger	Jamie McCornack	Conrad Tjemsland
	OT	Bill Smith	John Weare		
11:15 am New Celebration Service					
ELDER		Dow Cobb	Karen Sturms	Leitha Menegat	Kathryn Ann / Kit Frisinger
DEACONS	CP	Paul Blaylock	Annie Tobin	Jeannie Hagy	Abigail Rotholz
		Avery Puhn	Benjamin Thompson	Sophie Navarro	
HOMEBOUND	Route 2	Dow Cobb	Judith Ivy	Rick Johnson	Cheryl/John Moore
COMMUNION	Route 3	Connie/Michael Kennedy	Sonny Bettleyoun	Patty Osborne	Kathryn Ann / Kit Frisinger

CP= Communion Prep; CC = Communion Clean Up; OT= Offering Tray pickup

FCC SCHOLARSHIPS

APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 30

Spring = College Scholarship is Coming

Applications are now available in the church office for school year 2020-2021, due back on March 30. Our goal is to continue awards to our current successful college students and bring on the new ones coming up. Our current recipients are: Kailyn Bright OSU; Andrew Brandenfels OSU; Josie Thomas UO; Peter Thompson Pacific Lutheran; and Bethany Waggoner Columbia University. **Save the date: April 19, 5:30 at the Valley River Inn.** Purchase tickets or a whole table and invite your guests...see Ginny Todd, Lori Smith, Kerry Crow or Maureen Russell. Individual tickets will go on sale March 29 between Sunday services.

ON THE ROAD

HEART OF EUGENE TRANSITION TEAM

Greetings from the FCC Transition Committee,

January 30 update:

We've been hard at work this week. We've assembled job descriptions, DOC guidelines, and feedback from the Pastors, and are using them to draft a transition plan so Regional Minister Cathy Myers Wirt can search for suitable Interim Pastor applicants.

We're also updating our Congregational Profile to give a snapshot of FCC for prospective pastors. There is a lot going on here at 1166 Oak Street!

The celebration of Dan's 30 years of ministry is set for April 5 (Palm Sunday) afternoon. Next up: Over the next two weeks we'll finalize the transition plan and profile with Cathy and start discussing prospective Interim candidates.

As always, look for our updates here in the newsletter, in the weekly e-news, the bulletin, and on the bulletin board outside of Holy Grounds coffee shop.

Blessings,

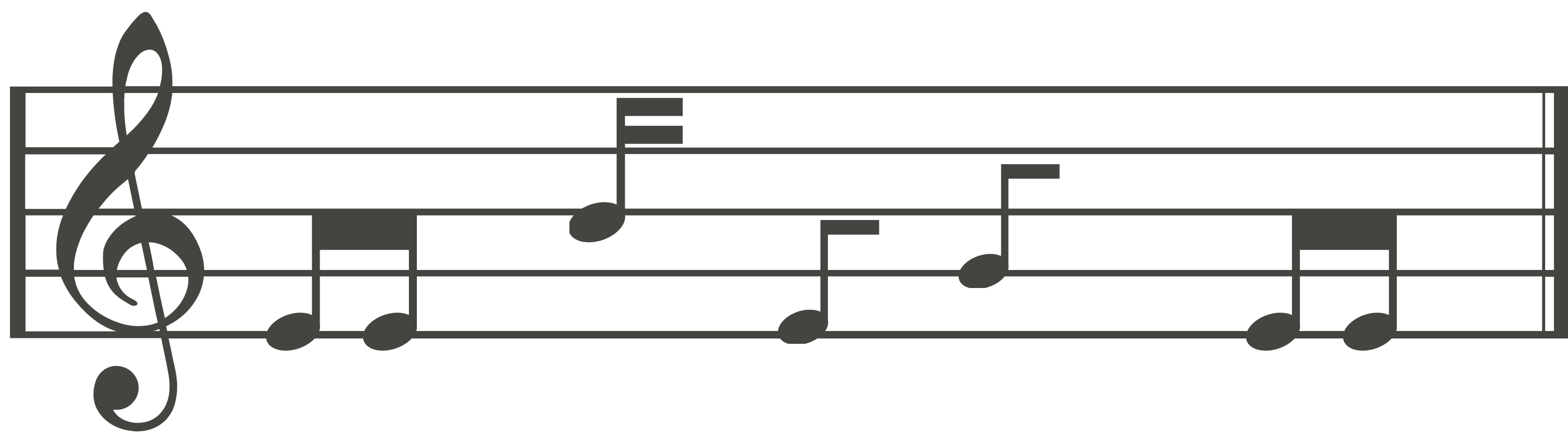
Your Transition Committee.



Musical Director Nancy Anderson invites you

SANCTUARY CHOIR

Wednesdays 7:30-8:30 pm



REDDING • CHICO • PARADISE • MARCH 21-26 2020

WAY Mission Trip

DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY SPRING BREAK 2020

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

MARCH 1, 2020 WITH \$50 DEPOSIT

TRIP COST: \$300

FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH



CHAPERONES NEEDED
TALK TO PASTOR APRIL

Sunday, February 23, 2020
3:00-6:00 pm

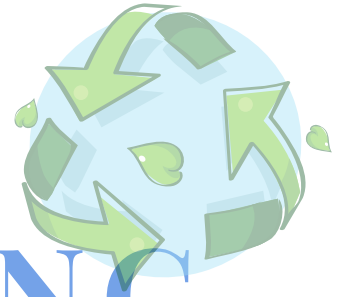
WAY FUN DAY

Hosted by Avery Puhn

Meet at DEFY (85 Division Ave)
and go to Avery's house after
\$15 for DEFY

rsvp 541.953.3326

GIVE BACK AND PAY IT FORWARD



WAY RECYCLING FUNDRAISER

Take home a blue bag in the sanctuary.
Empty and clean all cans and bottles.
Drop off full bags at Bottle Drop Center
or back at the church office.



**BOTTLE DROP CENTER LOCATION:
2015 BROADWAY (NEAR GARFIELD)**

ALL PROFITS SUPPORT MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRIES IN THE HEART OF EUGENE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF SUMMER CAMP, MISSION TRIPS, AND YOUTH PROGRAMS.

Invest in Futures

Give to Week of Compassion

For we are co-workers in God's service;
you are God's field, God's building.
1 Corinthians 3:9

Week of
Compassion
weekofcompassion.org

Week of Compassion

February 16 and 23

Each year we provide information and encourage donations for the Week of Compassion, Disciple Churches work around the world. Not just for one week but year around. Through Week of Compassion we respond to needs of refugees and immigration ministries, help during and after natural disasters and development projects in impoverished areas. We work in Africa, Asia, Australia, Bangladesh, Central Americas and a Border Ministries Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, Mumbai, Puerto Rico, and Myanmar.

Offerings for this work are accepted any time during the year, while we emphasize them for a week each February. Our hopes and prayers are that our congregation will step up with generous offerings out of our abundance, to help our brothers and sisters in deep need around the globe. We will provide special information during the Sunday school hour on February 23, 2020. The Global Ministries team: Betsy Brandenfels, Karen Hertel, Phyllis Weare. Laura Robinson.



"The ones who love you , miss you"

In Loving Memory

the FCC Staff, Family, and Friends

First Christian Recycles!

Thanks to all who remembered to bring in our collections for our January Roundup. These collections are for materials that the city of Eugene doesn't pickup. We had a BIG pile: the largest amount was for MECCA with materials for crafts, nature pictures, cards, and other art supplies available at low cost to artists and teachers.

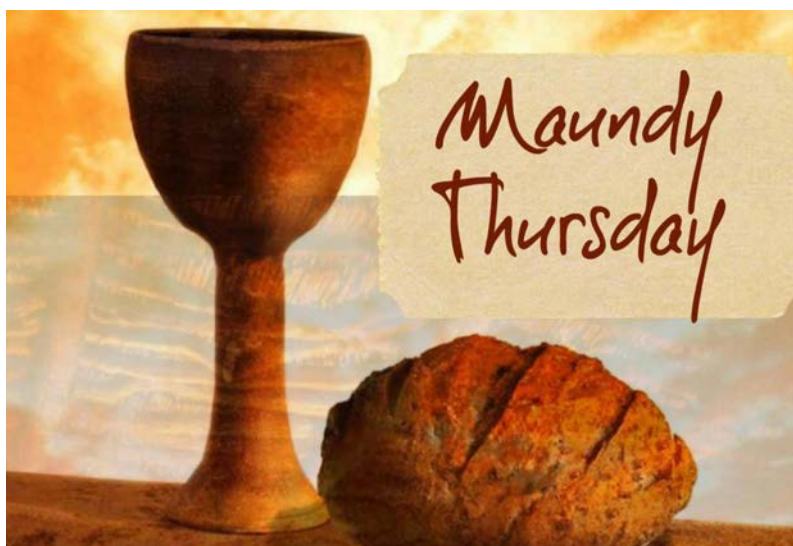
Now, please note! We are planning another plastics collection of #'s 2, 4, and 5s. that we have been saving up at home. We will accept materials two Sundays: March 1 and 8. We will collect upstairs on Sundays and sort on Mondays downstairs. Reminder: All materials must be clean with no trace of foods. AND: all must have one of the numbers clearly showing. AND: all paper and plastic labels must be removed. AND: we remember that some of the labels are baked on and we don't worry about them. If you can get a fingernail under an edge, it's removable. It will really help if you presort as much as possible into separate containers.

- 2). Tubs and lids
- 4) tubs, bottles and lids
- 5). Bottles, tubs and lid

Mark your calendars! Let's make our collection perfect!!

Interfaith Earthkeeper Eugene has a great website **you can google for current information of progressive churches. Representatives from several churches meet the second Wednesday 1-3 pm on rotating system. Jerry Smith and Phyllis Weare represent us. More reps would be welcomed. You will be surprised on the depth of effort of this group. The agendas and minutes are posted and free to all to use.

Sadness!! Our Children's Trust lawsuit to force our government to take some actions to reduce the carbon emission threat to our earth's climate was dismissed by the court (Juliana v. US. Government). After years of hard work, now these youth and their pro bono lawyers will have to mount another appear "When will we ever learn?"



Important Dates

Lent Begins February 26, 2020

Ash Wednesday February 26, 2020

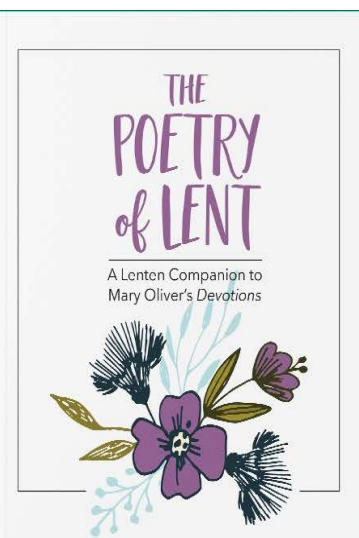
April 5th to April 11th Holy Week

April 9, 2020 Maundy Thursday

April 12, 2020 Easter Sunday

Easter Week

Sunday April 12th to Saturday April 18th



**Purchase your
Lenten devotionals
just \$4.00
- or -
Pick up a copy in
the church office
for \$4.00**





SPIRITUAL FORMATION

SPIRITUAL FORMATION:

The Gifts of the Dark Woods: Seven blessings for Soulful Skeptics. January 5 to February 16 in the Library.

Led by Dick Busic and John Hazen, they will facilitate discussion of Eric Elnes book. This book is about seeing life through new eyes, recognizing that experiences of failure, emptiness, and uncertainty are as critical for finding our way through life as they are unavoidable.

Feb 23 Week of Compassion Education Hour



**Starting March 1:
Resurrecting Easter class**

Dan will be teaching a class during Lent (the five Sundays of March) on Sunday mornings based on the book Resurrecting Easter: How the West Lost and the East Kept the Original Easter Vision by John Dominic Crossan. Participants do not need to purchase the book for the course, though you may wish to do so. It can be ordered at any bookstore and online. Note: if purchasing an electronic version, make sure that it includes the illustrations and not just the text.



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The Reverend April Oristano, Minister

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The **First Christian Church Newsletter** is published by First Christian Church, Eugene for it's members and friends.

Mission Statement

We believe in love of God for all people

We gather as a worshipping community of faith to follow Jesus Christ

We delight together in what God is doing through us to bring: healing within brokenness; unity within diversity; joy within grief; and power within weakness

Our mission is to strengthen relationships we have with God, with each other, with our families, and with our world.

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation and people of all orientations, and gender identities are welcome in the full life and ministry of our church.

We are a global ministries church and we join and with global and local partners to work for justice reconciliation and peace.

We are a Green Chalice congregation and we strive to demonstrate the fullness of God's Shalom through living out our faith by caring for God's creator.