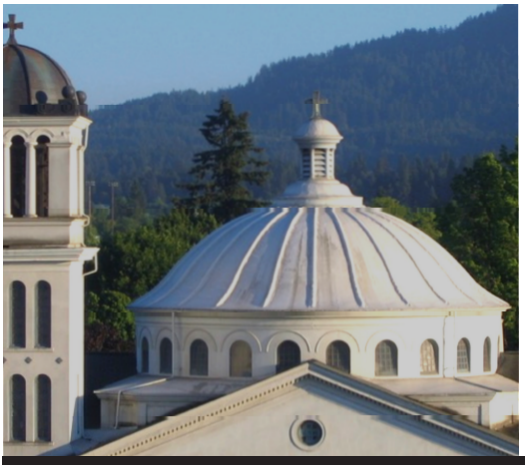


FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH EUGENE

Disciples of Christ

December 2019 - The Closing of the Year

Holiday Worship Schedule

December 1, United Service, Hanging of the Greens,
First Sunday of Advent - Hope
December 8th Second Sunday of Advent - Peace
December 15th Third Sunday of Advent - Joy
December 22nd Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love
December 24th Early Service
December 29th United Service
Office Will be open Monday December 23rd until 2:00 pm.
No Education Hour December 29th to January 5th
Christmas Gift Distribution:
Helping Hands Room Hours:
Please see the FCC calendar on line for all the details

Ministers Moment with April Oristano

We come again to Advent.
A time of waiting, watching, listening.
A time of remembering, anticipating.
A time of renewal and wonder.
What does this season mean to you?

Each family in the church has particular symbols and traditions that connect them to the season, the mystery, the story. This year in Sunday worship I want to celebrate the light that shines in and through each one.

“Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you!” Luke 1: 28

Some of us enter the mystery through the nativity story; others connect to God through the image of our candlelight circle on Christmas Eve. Some spread light by volunteering on the coldest nights; others become angels of their own, bringing messages and gifts of goodwill and warmth to those with a little less; But no matter the story the message is clear: We celebrate that the light has come (and always will) and the darkness has not (and will not ever) overcome it.

On Sundays we will play with themes of light and dark, warmth and cold; watch how we progressively dim the sanctuary lights as we approach Christmas Eve and intentionally sit closer together. Forgive me if I cover your favorite pew with fabric, but the purpose is that we find warmth and light among one another. Use your hands to spread warmth and light — Hand warmers and flashlights (particularly small hand held ones and LED powered lights) will be collected throughout the month of December and donated to the Helping Hand Room for their very necessary winter support of our unhoused brothers and sisters. Listen to the voices of our church — as singles, couples, friends, and diverse households from the heart of Eugene lead worship. Join us as we play, praise, and make way for peace.

"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." Luke 2:15b

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
4-7 PM FCC BASEMENT

Advent Workshop

$3/PERSON OR $10/FAMILY

BRING THE ENTIRE FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS TOO
FOR AN EVENING OF DIY CRAFTS & GIFT MAKING

PLEASE BRING FINGER FOODS TO SHARE
CONTACT JUDITH IVY TO VOLUNTEER

JUDITHIVYMUSIC@YAHOO.COM 541-344-7347

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH EUGENE

Disciples of Christ

Holiday Season at FCC

On Sundays in December members of the Personnel Committee will be in the sanctuary collecting special donations to the staff for Christmas cheer.

Help us show the many employees of First Christian Church how much we appreciate their hard work. Please contact Personnel Chair Jennifer Harris with questions.

Blue Christmas

December 21

7:00pm

First Christian Church in the Heart of Eugene
1166 Oak Street - free parking in willamette lot

A quiet reflective service for those of us who are grieving, lonely, sad, not feeling particularly festive, or just in need of a time of quiet in the busyness of the season.

We need COOKIES!!!

Cookies needed for Christmas Eve early service.

Please drop off cookies to the front office by Dec 23

CHRISTMAS EVE IN THE HEART OF EUGENE

The Gifts We Bring
7:00 pm

Carol Sing - Join us - at 6:45 pm!
Join us after for refreshments.

Lessons and Carols
11:00 pm

Carol Prelude on Harp at 10:45 pm
We exit in silence with the bell tower chiming at midnight.

Both services are appropriate for families and both conclude with a candlelight circle.

1166 OAK STREET FREE PARKING

WWW.HEARTOFEUGENE.ORG

어서 오세요, 그들이 나에게 말했습니다

Me dijeron: ¡vamos!

COME
they told me

pa rum pum pum pum

a new born king to see

pa rum pum pum pum

our finest **we bring**

rum pum pum pum

to lay before the king

pa rum pum pum pum pa rum pum pum pu

shall I play for you

pa rum pum pum pum

me and my

pa rum pum pum pum

2019 Christmas Special Offering

Our finest gifts supporting the Ministries of our Region

Received December 15th and 22nd in many congregations

Spiritual Formation December 2019

"Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart." Luke 2:19

As we head into Advent, we are drawn into a time of increasing darkness, spiritual longing and anticipation of the Light to come. This is naturally a time when the days and earth grow quiet, yet our culture propels us into hectic activity. Taking time for contemplation, quiet reflection and prayer can help us stay grounded in the present moment – pondering the journey of our faith story as it unfolds, rather that rushing to the manger and Christmas festivities.

At the Annunciation, Mary had been visited by the angel Gabriel who told she should not fear, had been chosen by God and she would carry the Son of God – and she had accepted the calling. Her world had just changed dramatically. Mary had much to ponder. In doing so, she was practicing contemplative prayer.

Contemplation been practiced throughout the centuries and across religions. It has been defined as: to ponder or reflect deeply; to concentrate on spiritual things as a form of private devotion; to enter state of mystical awareness of God's being; to have intention or expectation. Christian contemplative heritage includes our desert fathers and mothers, St. Augustine, St. Hildegard, Meister Eckhart, Julian of Norwich, St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, Thomas Merton and many others, including current practitioners.

Thomas Merton wrote, "…the true contemplative is not the one who prepares his mind for a particular message that he wants or expects to hear, but who remains empty because he knows that he can never expect or anticipate the word that will transform his darkness into light. He does not demand light instead of darkness. He waits on the Word of God in silence…" Here is contemplation as expectation, an opening for God.

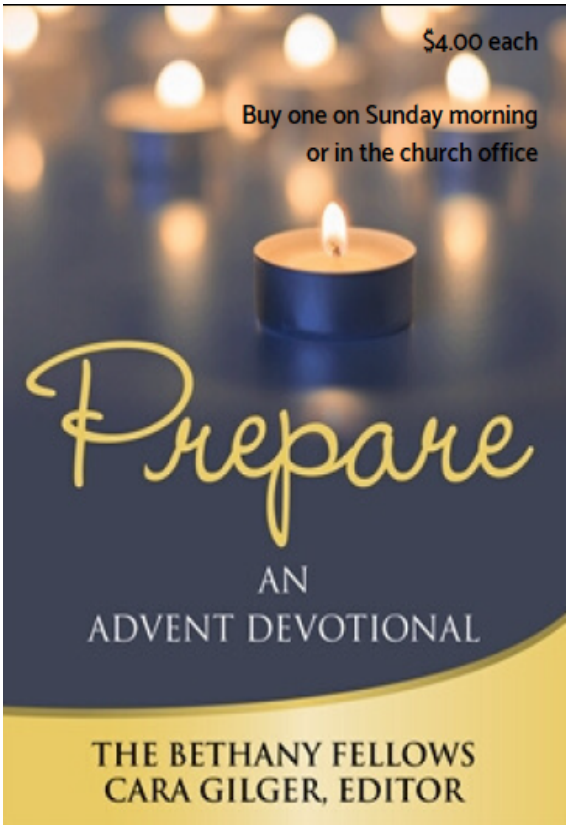
The juxtaposition of dark and light is a theme in contemplative writing. Psychologist Sylvia Boorstein feels this time of year can facilitate a deepening journey, "Perhaps... these days of less sunlight are opportunities for more contemplative time, more looking deeply to see what can only be seen in the dark."

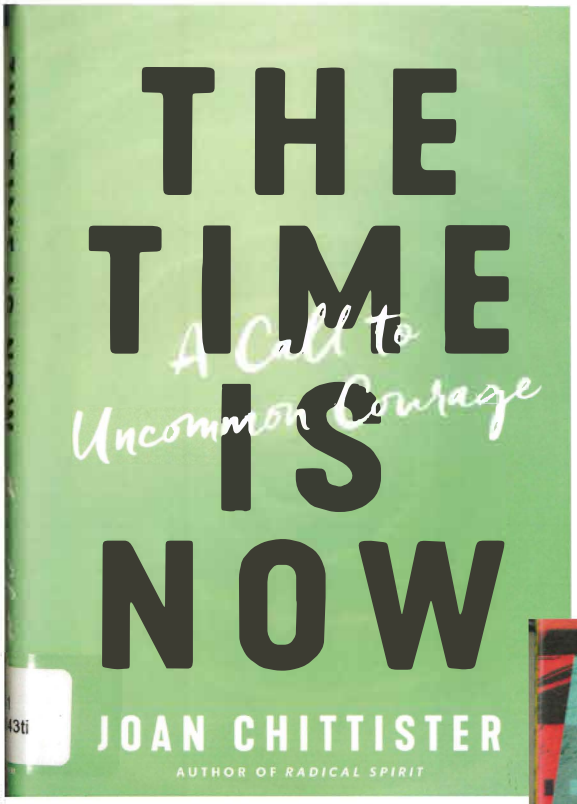
Love is often described as the central core of such prayer, either from God or for God. Meister Eckhart found it transformative, "What a man takes in by contemplation, that he pours out in love." Thomas Merton experienced God as love, "We do not see God in contemplation - we know Him by love: for his pure love and when we taste the experience of loving God for his own sake alone, we know by experience who and what he is." Joseph Pieper echoed this thought in saying that what distinguishes contemplation is a knowing that is inspired by love, "Without love there would be no contemplation. Contemplation is a loving attainment of awareness." And he saw this love as joy, "The common element in all the special forms of contemplation is the loving, yearning, affirming bent toward that happiness which is the same as God Himself, and which is the aim and purpose of all that happens in the world."

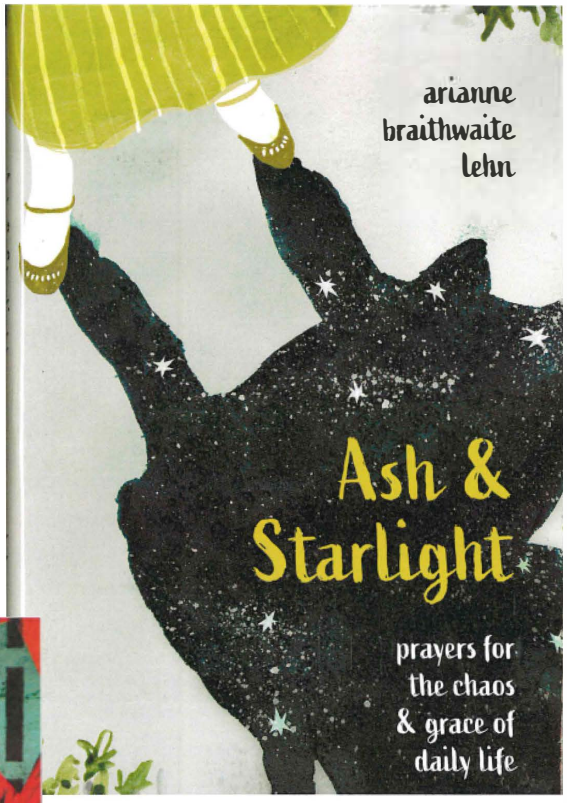
During Advent, there will be an opportunity for silent contemplative prayer in the Grace Chapel during the Christian Education hour. There will be a written introduction to the practice, images of Mary and the Holy Family, candlelight and soft music to help hold the contemplative focus.

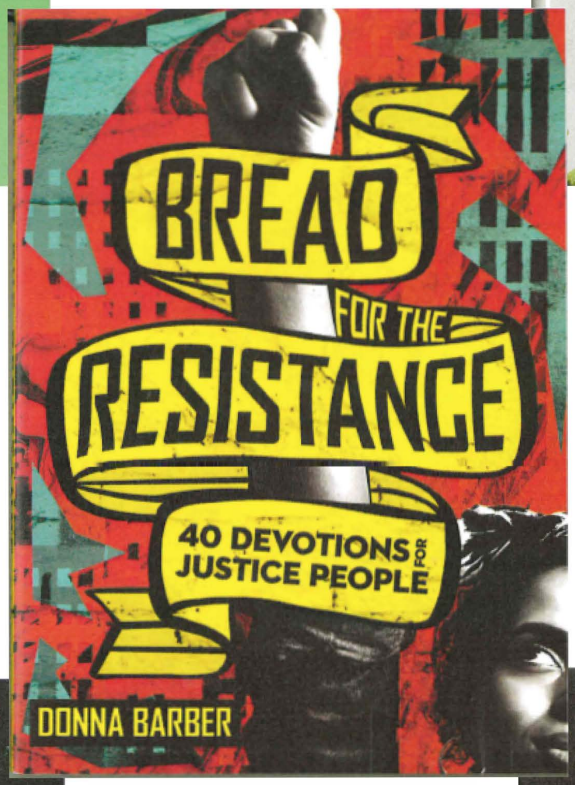
Robin Cushman will host this offering on December 8, 15 and 22 at 10:15 am in the Chapel. Please contact her if you have questions.

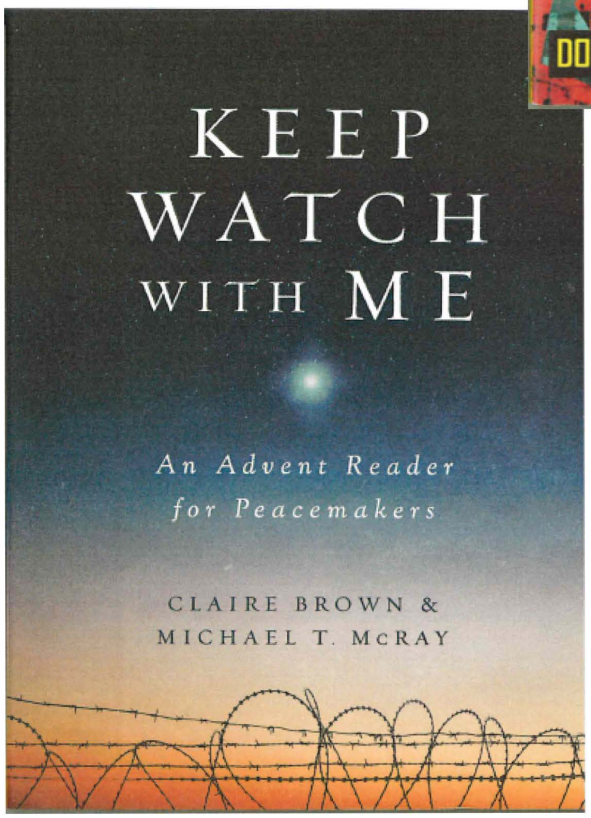
Eugene FCC, under the guidance of the Spiritual Formation Committee, is taking the leadership in forming an organizing committee to establish a local presence for The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral. The first meeting will be on January 11, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm in the Chapel. If you are interested in taking part in the leadership of this local campaign, please mark your calendars! More information will follow, including a process for RSVPing.











FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH EUGENE
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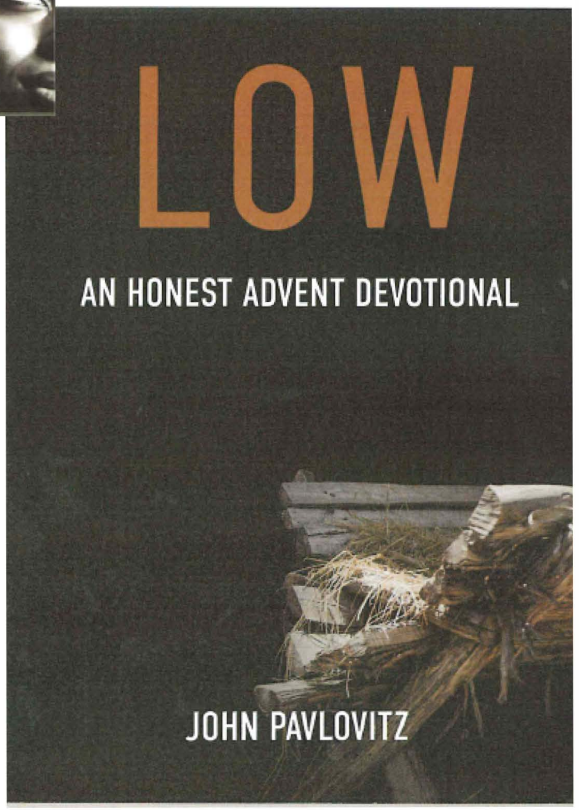


Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him

2019 ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH EUGENE

SHOPPING LIST

Name: _____

Gifts from Global Ministries	Cost per Item	Quantity	Cost per Share	Quantity	Total
Flock of Chicks	$ 20.00				
Honeybees	$ 30.00				
Goat	$ 120.00		$ 10.00		
Sheep	$ 120.00		$ 10.00		
Water Buffalo	$ 250.00		$ 25.00		
Our Sponsored Child in India - 1 month	$ 25.00				
100 Gallons of clean water storage in Argentina	$ 20.00				
Books for 30 students in Vietnam	$ 60.00		$ 20.00		
Vegetable planting information sessions for 300 people in Cambodia	$ 100.00		$ 20.00		
Counseling Services for Refugee Survivors of trauma	$ 100.00		$ 25.00		
"SOGIE" training for 50 faith leaders working with LGBTI+ Refugees in Kenya	$ 500.00		$ 25.00		

Stocking Stuffers from Local Ministries	Cost per Item	Quantity	Total
Breakfast for 5 People (Sunday Breakfast)	$5.00		
Lodging for 1 person, 1 night (Square One Village)	$5.00		
Toiletries for Safe Spot Resident (Community Supported Shelters)	$5.00		
Blankets for Homeless (Helping Hand Ministries)	$10.00		
Bus Passes (Good Samaritan Ministry)	$10.00		
Grocery Card (Care and Share Ministry)	$10.00		

I was hungry and you gave me food: I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Matthew 25:35

Total

Total of Gifts Given [ ]

Check [ ] CASH [ ] CREDIT [ ]

Please make checks payable to First Christian Church

Alternative Christmas Gift Sales
Set to begin Dec. 1 and continue through the 22nd.
Every year our congregation generously spends thousands of their Christmas gift money on gifts for people with real needs, while remembering and honoring their families and friends with attractive cards describing the needs of local people served by various local service groups in First Christian Church. Also we have the opportunity to direct aid to several overseas projects. Are goats your favorite gift? Or chicks, or maybe a water buffalo??

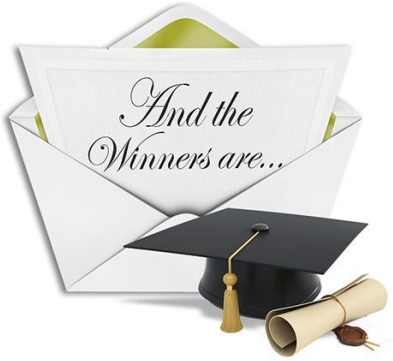
Look over the Order Form in this newsletter and bring your selections and payments to the table in the back of the sanctuary. Feel free to ask the Global Ministries Team your questions. We will accept checks, credit cards, and of course, cash! These gifts are one of our ways of honoring the birth of Jesus, the reason for the season as well as families and friends.

Global Ministries Team

DECEMBER 2019 FCC SERVICE AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

		1-Dec	8-Dec	15-Dec	22-Dec	29-Dec
9 am Traditional Service		United Service				5th Sunday - Deacon Team 4
ELDERS	*Offering*	Stephen Landale	Rick Johnson	Sandi Ybarra	John Moore	Connie Kennedy
	Communion	Sonny Bettleyoun	Judith Ivy	Patty Osborne	Cheryl Moore	Michael Kennedy
DEACONS	CP	Lori Smith	Matthew Coady	Conrad Tjemsland	Conrad Tjemsland	John Metzger
	CP	Bill Smith	Teffany Heffner	John Weare		John Metzger
	CC	Matthew Coady	Laurie Geiger	Rex Bradley	John Metzger	Delilah Smith
	CC	Delilah Smith	John Weare	Anthony Brimberry	John Metzger	Jamie McCornack
	OT	Rex Bradley	Lori Smith	Jamie McCornack	Delilah Smith	Conrad Tjemsland
	OT	Anthony Brimberry	Bill Smith		Jamie McCornack	
11:15 am New Celebration Service						
ELDER			Mel Menegat	Dow Cobb	Karen Sturms	John Hazen
DEACONS			Sophie Navarro	Paul Blaylock	Annie Tobin	Abigal Rotholz
			Abigail Rotholz	Jeannie Hagy	Avery Puhn	Noah Oristano
HOMEBOUND	Route 2	Stephen Landale	Rick Johnson	Dow Cobb	John/Cheryl Moore	John Hazen
COMMUNION	Route 3	Sonny Bettleyoun	Judith Ivy	Patty Osborne		Connie/Michael Kennedy

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



A Word From the Winners of Our 2019 Scholarship Awards

From Josie Thomas:
This last summer, I was in South Korea at Dankook University. For the majority of my trip, I was a student, but I also spent three and a half weeks as an intern teaching English to college students. Fall term, I am attending the University of Oregon as a junior. I'm taking 3rd year Korean (KRN 301), Semantics (LING 415), Origin of Storytelling (ANTH 163), and Research Writing (WR 123). Despite my packed class schedule, I'll also be seeking out more musical / theatrical opportunities in town, as I was unable to participate in choir this term. I definitely have my work cut out for me, but I'm very excited and thankful for the scholarship from the church! I look forward to sharing my continuing journey.

From Kailyn Bright:
Since September I have been attending school at Oregon State University, and working two jobs on campus. I work at the Faculty Media Center as well as the Student Multimedia Studio. I am taking fifteen credits, nine of which are in my degree program, Digital Communication Arts. I am taking writing for the media professional, media and culture, and intro to new media communications, each of which I am really enjoying. On top of those I am working on completing my baccalaureate core requirements so I am taking a German dictatorship class, and a women and gender studies class. On top of that I have been trying to go to Epic at OSU, which is a Christian group at the college, as often as I can make it with my busy schedule. Things are going good so far, I am currently in the middle of taking midterms. I am looking forward to the holiday season and wish the best for all of you!

From Andrew Brandenfels:
I spent the summer at home in Eugene taking an online class from a musician named Au5. He's a professional music producer who has spent years and years studying his craft and it was a wonderful opportunity to be able to learn from him.
This fall I am back in Corvallis for my second year studying at OSU. For my classes I'm taking voice lessons, recording, music theory, music technology, and computer science. I'm also involved in a leadership position with my fraternity, Phi Delta Theta, as Network Administrator. For this position I'm responsible for maintaining internet and printing services for our chapter house which serves around 100 active student members. I want to thank First Christian Church for providing me with the opportunity to be here learning and helping invest in our student communities.

From Bethany Waggoner:
My masters program has a mandatory summer placement, so I was abroad during the summer. I worked as a gender and organizing consultant at the Taghyeer Movement in the West Bank, Palestine. Taghyeer is a civil society organization based in the West Bank, whose mission is to create social and political change by transcending victimhood and practicing the values of good citizenship with integrity. Taghyeer's vision is to achieve a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict that guarantees independence, freedom, dignity, and a secure life for all. They work to end Israeli occupation and also to build more inclusive institutions and advance development in Palestine.

This fall I'm attending the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University in New York. I'm enrolled in the Masters of Public Administration - Development Practice program and specializing in Gender & Public Policy and Conflict Resolution. I'm also a Teachers Assistant for my program's core course on Sustainable Development Practice, a board member for the Human Rights Working Group and the Gender Policy Working Group, and an intern with the Peace & Social Change Fellowship program at the The Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict and Complexity (AC4). My courses this semester include: Gender, Conflict & Peacebuilding; Program Design & Evaluation; Mainstreaming Gender; Navigating Diversity & Inclusion in Public Policy & International Affairs; and Strategic Management for Non-Profit Organizations.

This summer was very special, as I got to visit the Holy Land and its sites — I even lived in that "little town of Bethlehem". Growing up in a church, you hear about all of these places in Sunday school and in sermons, but it is a whole different thing to go pray at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre or visit sites where Jesus taught. As difficult as things were given the tensions between Palestine and Israel, I cherished the opportunity to bring to life and make more real the stories I heard growing up.

Green Chalice Newsletter

Govs, Inslee and Brown Fighting the youth climate cases

In 2011 Kelsey Juliana and Ollie Chernaik filed a lawsuit on behalf of Oregon youth, charging then-Gov.
Kitzhaber and the state of Oregon with not doing enough to fight catastrophic climate change. Eight years and six court appearances later, the two, now college students are at a high school in Portland with Oregon's Supreme Court. A similar lawsuit is bound for a Washington state appeals court. Despite the two states' liberal legislatures and governors who cast themselves as climate activists, the cases have been met with staunch resistance, highlighting the tough sledding in the Pacific Northwest and the urgency of climate action.

At the core of the youth climate lawsuits is the claim that elected officials have failed to protect the public interest of future generations from the worsening climate crisis that scientists are predicting. The young peoples' lawyers argue, it's the courts' responsibility to demand that the state preserve a healthy climate for future generations by rapidly phasing out greenhouse gas emissions. In response the two states have defended their actions on technical ground, citing separation of powers and questioning the reach of the public trust doctrine…"The impression we're getting is the that the governors don't mind talking about climate change and taking incremental steps. But they're unwilling to take bold action."
Excerpts from Carl Segerstrom of High Country News. 11-14-19 from Green Chalice..

Plastic Recycling Collections:

We collected and delivered approximately five cubic yards of plastics. We did not get an "A" like the Methodists did. We had to carry back two boxes full of rejects—some in the wrong number bags, but mostly in the presence of labels that were not properly removed. One box full was of Chobani yogurt cups which have shrink wrap which is easily removed. We want to keep participating in the on-going collections, but we will be rejecting incorrectly prepared items. Quite a few of the TV meal containers were unwashed, greasy. They were discarded. Sorters can't take time to wash and de-label items improperly prepared. So it's time to UP our preparation and get an "A" next time!

Please keep collecting #'s 2, 4 and 5, be sure they're clean and it's easier to remove labels in small amounts as you empty them. Pouring nearly boiling water into containers with paper labels and waiting until they are cool enough to handle usually makes them easier to scrape labels off. Rubbing Dawn dish soap into labels helps, too. Remember, there are an increasing number of companies using containers with "baked on" that can't be removed. If you can't get your fingernail under an edge, it could be "baked on".

AND lastly, don't bring in your plastics until we announce that we are starting to collect again. Our storage room is very small. While you're honing your skills at label removing, plan to help with the next collection when it's time.
Phyllis Weare for Green Chalice

Another new product recycling now available through Terracycle

Health and Nutrition: Vitamins, and other supplements, cough and cold meds, Infant formula and child nutrition, personal care containers and packaging. Look for details on church bulletin boards and the recycle bins. This might be a way to avoid taking tough labels off some containers—
Green Chalice

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH EUGENE

Disciples of Christ

1166 Oak Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Church Staff

The Reverend Dr. Daniel E. H. Bryant, Minister

The Reverend April Oristano, Minister

Yvette Diggs, Office Manager

Melody Doll, Accounting Manager

Nancy Anderson, Music Director

Chris Turner, New Celebration Director

Ron Dalton, Church Custodian

Larry Whalstrom, Event Manager

David Frisinger, Maintenance Manager

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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 worshiping 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.