



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

In the heart of Eugene

July 2019



Church in the Park

Bring a Potluck item and your lawn chair!

July 7, 2019

10:30 AM

Lamb Cottage at

Skinner Butte Park



6 min (1.2 miles)

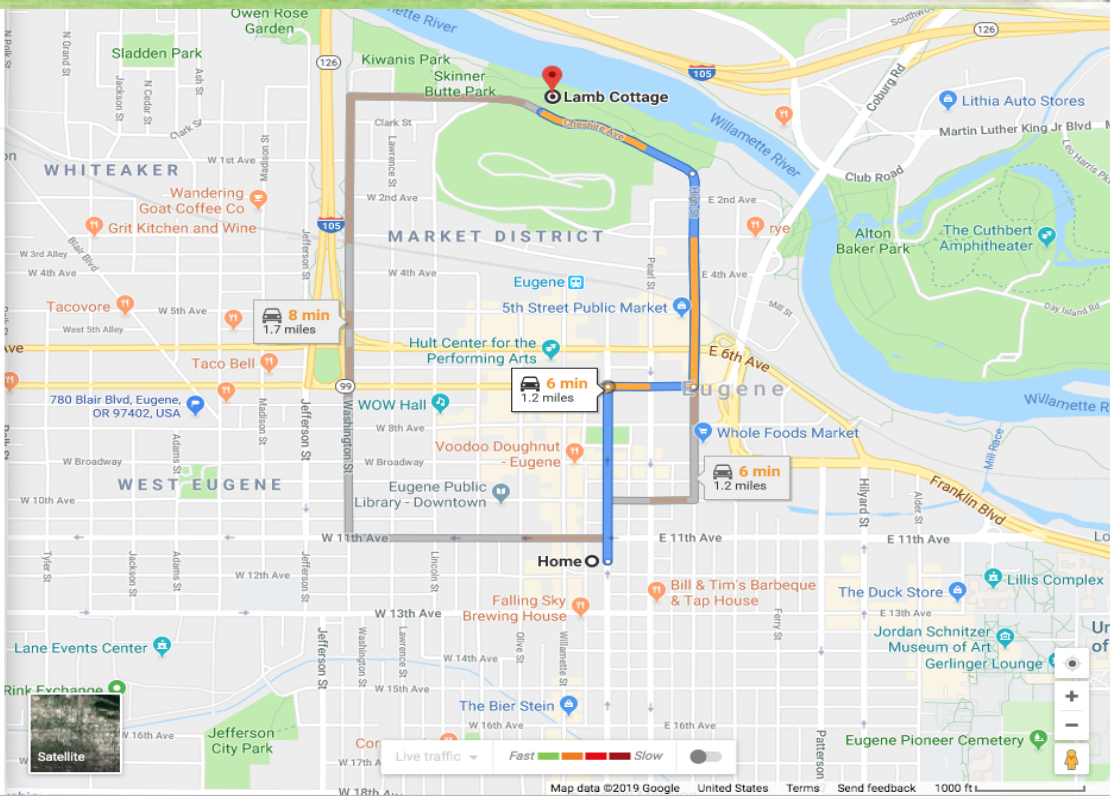
via Oak St and High St
Fastest route, despite the usual traffic

1166 Oak St
Eugene, OR 97401

- ↑ Head north on Oak St toward E 11th Ave
0.4 mi
- ➡ Use the middle lane to turn right onto E 7th Ave
0.2 mi
- ⬅ Turn left at the 2nd cross street onto High St
0.4 mi
- ↙ High St turns slightly left and becomes E Cheshire Ave
Destination will be on the right
0.3 mi

Lamb Cottage
130 Cheshire Ave, Eugene, OR 97401

These directions are for planning purposes only. You may find that construction projects, traffic, weather, or other events may cause conditions to differ from the map results, and you should plan your route accordingly. You must obey all signs or notices regarding your route.





July 2019

I cannot think of a time when I have been more discouraged and worried about the future of our nation. Just when you thought the immigration crisis could not get any worse, the media was flooded with the image of Oscar Martinez and his two year-old daughter floating face down in the Rio Grande. Just when you feared we might blunder into war with Iran, we learn that we were ten minutes away from just that. Just when you thought our politics cannot get any worse, the Supreme Court gave political parties carte blanche for gerrymandering. And don't get me started on the numerous actions taken by our government in the last two years that will only hasten climate change and the massive problems that will create for enormous numbers of people, not to mention our support for the murderous Saudi regime, continued threats of Russian meddling in our elections, and on and on.

Certainly there have been other times when things did not look bright. The Rev. William Barber, the Disciple preacher who has become the leading voice in our nation today on civil rights and many other issues, likes to remind people, especially white Americans, that many people in this country have been through worse—two centuries of slavery, Jim Crow laws, the genocide of Native Americans, internment of Japanese-Americans, just to name a few examples. We lament the hundreds who have been victim to mass shootings in recent years and forget the four thousand who were lynched between 1870 and 1950 with no one held accountable. We heard all about the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riot this past week that began the modern movement for LGBTQ rights, but how many Americans know anything about the celebration of Juneteenth that is just one mark in centuries of struggle for Civil Rights?

A little historical perspective can do much to counter one's discouragement over current affairs. Not that the sufferings of the past should make us feel better about the trials of today, but to know that somehow we got through those dark times and even triumphed over some horrendous evils. I have been fortunate to have met a number of Holocaust survivors over the years, a dwindling bunch of incredibly courageous people. Their stories of unimaginable terror and superhuman bravery have never left me more discouraged, to the contrary, they have always given me hope. They are witnesses to the strength of the human spirit and the power of the smallest light that shines in the greatest darkness.

These are perilous times and things may indeed get worse. I cannot help but worry, but I can also take action. I can work for a better tomorrow. I can make life a little better for someone else today. I can follow the example of those heroes from the Holocaust, countless soldiers who survived unspeakable horrors and those incredible students of Marjorie Stone Douglas High School to speak up and not give up hope. For ultimately I know that Easter will always follow Good Friday, good is always stronger than evil and nothing can defeat love.

-Dan Bryant



**All are welcome to use the restroom
that best fits their identity.**

**A gender neutral restroom
is located in Grace Chapel.**

In 2012 the congregation unanimously agreed to become Open & Affirming. While it may appear to be a one and done decision, our experience of being the body of Christ and living into transformational, radical hospitality reminds us daily of how much we still have to learn, how much we still seek to understand, in order that we might truly offer God's Shalom to all. This month let's explore what the signs on the bathroom mean.

All are welcome to use the restroom that best fits their identity.

This statement can be very confusing. I can see that starting with "All are welcome" may have been misleading, but the point was to express to all persons: *It is safe to use the bathroom here*. The church is a place that should be free of hate speech, discrimination, and harassment. Many already experience privacy in the use of the bathroom facilities here — if you go confidently into the restroom and no one stops you or questions you it is because the gender you present to the world and the one you identify with match with near certainty and you "pass". This sign expresses that gender non-comforting persons can expect the same experience.

A gender neutral restroom is located in Grace Chapel.

A Gender Neutral Restroom can also be called a Family Restroom, a Handicap Accessible Restroom, a Single Use Restroom, or a Unisex Restroom. In our entire 40,000 square feet of this church, we have only one. Very few of our restrooms are fully accessible for wheelchairs or caregivers to provide support to children or companions; the only place to change a diaper in this church is in the nursery or in the pew. Individuals who identify as non-binary may be uncomfortable going into either the mens or the women room and this is one purpose of a single use restroom, to avoid binary choices such as male or female.

Gender Identity and Sex - not the same!

People use the words gender and sex interchangeably and while connected, they are not equivalent. Everyone is born with sexual organs* and assigned a gender at birth by a physician - male or female. But this is not really one's gender or gender identity, it is simply a classification of one's genitals, and from there we presume an identity: boy or girl, male or female, when what physicians really mean is penis or vagina.

A person's gender identity is in their brain. It's how a person thinks and feels about themselves, how one behaves or express themselves in the world. You cannot tell a person's gender identity from their biology. How a person expresses their identity (more masculine, feminine, androgynous clothing, haircuts, etc) is called gender expression.

The Executive Ministry Team hopes that this article may help you to talk with others about the importance of the accessibility of safe restrooms for lgbtqia+ persons, and also widens the lens of our welcome to include accessibility needs for persons with disabilities, care givers, and even single parents.

Learn more about the language of gender at: www.genderspectrum.org/the-language-of-gender/
or www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/sexual-orientation-gender/gender-gender-identity/whats-intersex

*This is a gross over generalization and erases the number of persons born Inter-sex or with chromosomes, hormones, genitalia that are not exclusively male or female.

DAMN YANKEES



Jo-Anne Flanders and Rick Johnson are planning to attend the 7:30 Saturday night, August 20th presentation of "Damn Yankees" at The Shedd, and they cordially invite you to join them for dinner first, 6 p.m., place to be determined by a group vote. This invitation MUST expire on Sunday night, July 13. We plan to sit together in \$29 seating. Call Jo-Anne on her NEW cell phone number at 541-844-5079.

"TICKETS: Reserved seating, \$39, 37, 33, 29...

DISCOUNTS: Students of all ages ~35% discount with student ID. 10% group discounts for purchases of 6-14 tickets to a single show. 15% discount for purchases of 15 or more."

(NEW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)

Jo-Anne Flanders

TEMPORARY ADDRESS:

19600 Coburg Road

Eugene OR 97408

541-485-2886, home (buried in storage unit);

541-844-5079, cell.

Damn Yankees

Richard Adler, Jerry Ross, George Abbott & Douglass Wallop
(1955)

Our History

Did you keep a copy of the 2016 Sesquicentennial Program from the banquet dinner? FCC Historians are requesting that you share your keepsake with the church, as we have misplaced our saved copy. You may drop it by the church office, attention Jo-Anne Flanders. THANKS!!





QUARTERLY

FINANCIAL

NEWS

-MICHAEL KENNEDY

YEAR TO DATE BUDGETED INCOME \$ 202,185
 YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL INCOME \$ 233,895

DIFFERENCE: +31,710

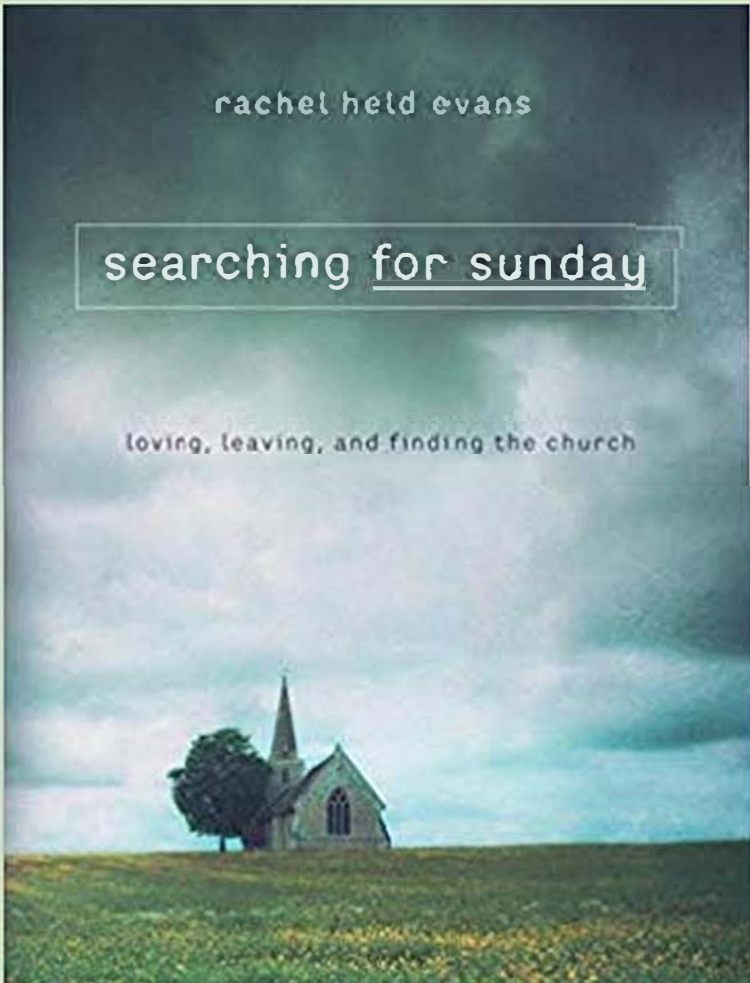
YEAR TO DATE BUDGETED EXPENSES: \$202, 185
 YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENSES: \$193,541

DIFFERENCE: +8,644

TOTAL INCOME > EXPENSES \$40,354

		7-Jul	14-Jul	21-Jul	28-Jul
9 am Traditional Service					
ELDERS	Offering	Dow Cobb	John Moore	Sonny Bettleyoun	Glenn McKerrow
	Communion	Linda Dorsey	Cheryl Moore	Sandi Ybarra	Rick Johnson
DEACONS	CP	Lori Smith	Judith Ivy	Amy Metzger	Conrad Tjemsland-TL
	CP	Bill Smith	Colette Culver	Quinn Metzger	Laurie Geiger
	CC	Ed Buzalsky	Paula Luginbuhl - TL	John Metzger - TL	
	CC	Mandy Reid	David VanScoy - TL	Jonah Metzger	Lily Koenig
	OT	Jennifer Harris	Rhoman Ybarra	Delilah Smith	Sharon Warner
	OT		Anthony Brimberry	Molly Smith	
11:15 am New Celebration Service					
ELDERS			Mel Menegat	Karen Sturms	Dow Cobb
DEACONS	CP	CHURCH IN THE PARK	Charliene Toler	Annie Tobin	Karen Feichtner
			Paul Blaylock	Hannah Oristano	Paul Blaylock
Homebound	Route 2	Linda Dorsey	Cheryl/John Moore	Sonny Bettleyoun	Rick Johnson
Communion	Route 3	Dow Cobb	Leitha/Mel Menegat	Stephen Landale	Dow Cobb

CP= Communion Prep; CC= Communion Cleanup; OT= Offering Tray pickup



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN AUGUST

SEARCHING FOR SUNDAY

a mid week spiritual formation opportunity

**STARTS AUGUST 7
6-7:30 PM
FCC LIBRARY**

**Join Karen Duncan and Pastor April to honor the legacy of Rachel Held Evans and explore her thoughts on the church of today and tomorrow.
Nourish yourself and deepen connections to others.**

CHECK OUT SUNDAYS AT FIRST CHRISTIAN

We're eager to share with you the new books and other materials we've added to our church library in the last year.!

So beginning Sunday, July 28 Library volunteers will bring selected new items to the sanctuary every fourth Sunday for you to peruse. If you find something that interests you, we'll be there to help you check them out (church members only please for check out).

In the meantime, please give us your ideas on how the library can best serve the congregation. We'll be bringing our new Suggestion Box to the service on July 28.

-Phyllis and Karen

Rain Garden

Coming August 2019

Thanks to the generous team work of Long Tom Watershed Council, City of Eugene, and the Green Chalice Team of FCC we will soon begin construction of a rain garden in the Willamette St. parking lot and alley.

We are working with Holde Fink... contractors to ensure a quality product and there will be multiple opportunities for volunteer support and labor as the planting begins toward the end of August.

Stay tuned and ask questions of:
Phyllis Weare, Green Chalice Chair, or Dick Busic, Property Chair.



First Christian Church

FUTURE STORY 2.0

Decisions and Discernment

Renewing our vision, examining our building, planning our worship, looking at leadership

Sunday July 21, 2019 10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. in the chapel



Between services, members of the Future 2.0 committee will introduce the phases of the congregational discernment exploration taking place this summer and during the coming church year. We decided 20 years ago to be a light to the world in the heart of Eugene. Ten years ago, we developed a vision plan through a congregation-wide discernment process. Using that past work, we will assess our successes and failures, noting changes in our congregation and our world. How should we carry out our passion for justice in true community, rooted in deep Christian spirituality? How do we want to be church?

FALL

Discern our future vision with a thoughtful review of our 2008 and later plans.

WINTER

Do we repair and improve our historic building or think about alternatives? What about our community ministries?

SPRING

How do we unify our congregation and invigorate our worship? What about alternative ways of doing church? Look at ministerial staffing and transitions in the coming years.

SUMMER

Presentation to the congregation and the board.

Participate in drop-in group discussions at church, an online survey or home meetings on the Future 2.0 topics starting this fall through spring 2020.

Find out more:

Chair: Rick Johnson Vice Chair: John Thompson
Members: Dick Busic, Glen Campbell, Anna Duncan, Glen Gibbons, Karen Hertel, Jamie McCornack, Eliza Schmidkunz
Ex officio: Rev. Dan Bryant Rev. April Oristano Pres. Tom Kozlowski, Board of Directors



First Christian Church Eugene
(Disciples of Christ)
1166 Oak Street
Eugene, OR 97401

Church Staff

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

The Reverend April Oristano, Minister

Yvette M. Diggs, Office Manager

Melody Doll, Accounting Manager

Nancy Anderson, Music Director

Dr. John Jantzi, Organist and Bell Choir Dir.

Ron Dalton, Church Custodian

Larry Wahlstrom, Event Manager

David Frisinger, Maintenance Manager

Phone: 541.344.1425 Fax: 541.383.36188

E-Mail: office@heartofeugene.org

Website: www.heartofeugene.org

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 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 creation.