

January 2020

F I R S T

 **CHRISTIAN**

C H U R C H

*Disciples of Christ*

WZMCM

# Welcome 2020 Worship, Work, Wellness

## Engaging Balance

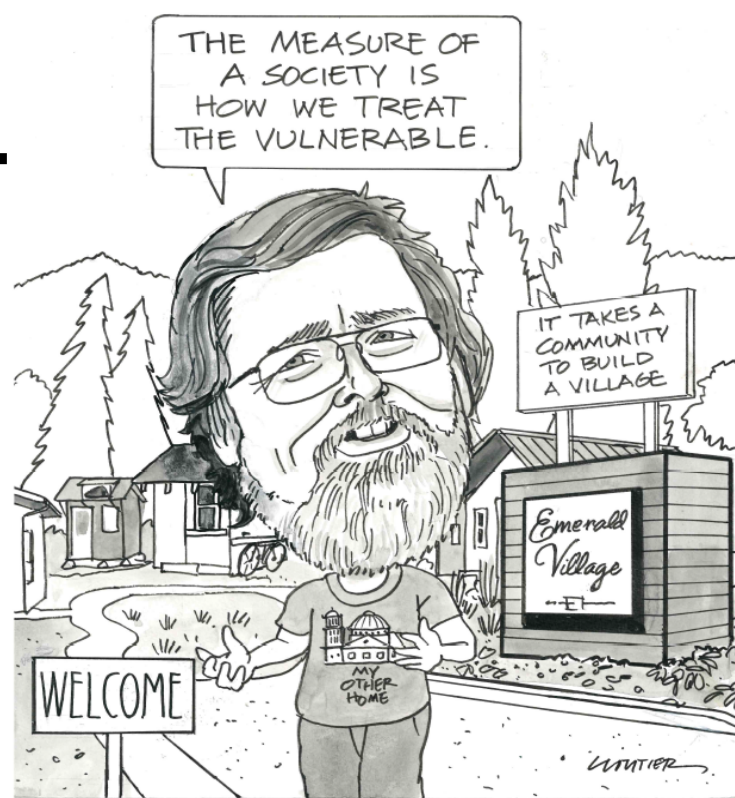


### In This issue

**Ministers Moment  
Recycle Roundup  
Disciples Peace Intern Application  
Spiritual Formation Classes January  
Poor Peoples Campaign  
Annual Meeting and Potluck**

# Minister s Moment with Rev. Dan Bryant

## January 2020



At our late Christmas Eve service, I recognized one of the architects who designed one of the homes at Emerald Village Eugene. I know him to be a very active member of another congregation in town so was a little surprised to see him here. He told me that our service has been a tradition in his family for years and he'd have a revolt on his hands if they did not come! He's is not alone. For whatever reason, that service attracts more non-members than members by at least 3 to 1 if not 4 to 1 whereas the 7 pm service is more balanced, probably 50/50. Between the two services we see well over 200 visitors on Christmas Eve. That phenomena, though not necessarily unique to us, reflects a reality which from which we often benefit—there is an unusually high identification in the community with our church. We see it in the number of volunteers from the community that help with the Sunday Breakfast, that donate to our Helping Hands Ministry and that come to the monthly interfaith services and in many other ways. I often hear from community members, "if I were to belong to any church, it would be First Christian!" Doesn't pay the bills, but it is nice to hear.

Our reputation also comes with challenges. One of the most frequent things we hear from walk-in traffic is that someone was referred to us by another church or agency as a place to come to get help for some need, usually because they are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless or have some bill they cannot afford to pay. This past Sunday an older gentleman came late to our second service and waiting patiently in the back for the service to finish. He asked to speak to me. That happens on at least 1 out of 3 or 4 Sundays. His request was not the usual, however. He wasn't homeless but he was looking for someone who was, a young woman for whom he was very concerned. She had been evicted from the Mission for reasons he did not know and he took it upon himself to find another place for her, but could not find her. The more we talked, the more he became interested in what we do. "Look," he said, "I am a Messianic Jew and conservative Republican. [He ran against Floyd Prozanski in the last election for the Oregon Senate.] I probably wouldn't agree with many of things I heard in your sermon, but I care about people and I like what you are doing. And I would like to help you and I want to put more pressure on our city council to do more for the homeless in our community. Our lack of shelter is a disgrace and a human tragedy."

Living up to one's reputation is a big challenge. Sometimes it feels like peoples' expectations far exceed our abilities and at other times I am amazed at the ways in which we have risen to the challenge to answer a call. This Saturday one of our members, Marilyn Reid, has initiated yet another effort to do just that, responding to the call of Disciple minister William Barber to join the Poor People's campaign. (see the article on p. 4) Barber, I learned on Sunday, was recently named by one national publication as the 2nd most influential religious leader in the country, just after the Pope! It seems fitting for a congregation with our reputation to initiate such a local effort as part of a national campaign. May we live up to the challenge in the New Year!



# Green Chalice Newsletter

We will be holding our annual **Recycle Roundup** in the back of the sanctuary for two Sunday's. This will NOT include the plastics we collect from time to time. That collection may happen in February. Please keep collecting #'s 2, 4, and 5, properly cleaned and with labels removed until specifically requested.

We will need help setting up on **Saturday the 11th at 10 am**. We will also need help getting all the materials to their destinations and cleaning up the area on **Sunday the 19th** Contact Phyllis Weare to see when and where you could help.

**For this Roundup we will accept the following:**

Corks (real cork only), toner cartridges, Foil lined candy/nutrition bar wrappers, Clear plastic bags. (For Safeway collection), Plastic bread sacks for cat litter CD's and packaging, electronic gadgets, Wired objects bulk styrofoam, Styrofoam peanuts (not squishy ones) clean only, Sneakers, writing implements, Dental related objects: toothbrushes, dental floss containers, toothpaste tubes, and all their packaging. Paid for by Colgate

**For MECCA:**

yarn, thread, cloth, ribbons,  
bows, feathers, jewelry, baby food jars,  
nature magazines, old calendars, greeting  
cards, vinyl records, metal (pop-off) bottle  
caps, and other possibly artistic supplies.

It's amazing to see how much we can collect for reuse and keep stuff out of the landfill. "I have been to the mountain" and seen our refuse pile up—It's called "Short Mountain" but it's steadily building higher and higher!

## Green Chalice





## Apply Now to be a Peace Intern

Spend the Summer  
Traveling, Teaching  
& Transforming!

For Young Adults aged 21 or older  
For more than forty years, DPF's Peace Intern program has provided a vital witness for peace within church camps and other youth events of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

Peace Interns are young adults who provide educational and program support at church camps and other church-related assemblies and events about peace and justice issues, serving as counselors and resource people, and modeling the lifestyle of peacemakers for youth and adults alike.

Apply today at:

<https://www.disciplespeace.org/apply>

---

Classes run from January 5th - February  
Gifts of the Dark Wood Led by Dick Busic and John Hazen, they will facilitate discussion of Eric Elmes 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.

### WAY Middle & High School

Join us for food, faith, and fellowship as we study. New Year, new curriculum, new facilitators! Bring a friend. We're talking about the Book of Revelation, continuing in our Fathom curriculum series, led by Rev. Sharon Warner and assisted by John Metzger.

### Children's Ministries:

Our Children's Ministry brings children aged 4 through 5th grade together this year. Children will hear and experience weekly stories of the New Testament, and respond with wonder, spirituality, and creativity. Following Jesus is a curriculum based on the Children Worship and Wonder model, but brings a deeper focus to Jesus' life and teachings.



## Christian Education



## Poor People's Campaign

### A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

---

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!

Thanks.



# Thank you

## **Special Thanks to a special volunteer, Laura Powell:**

We are the extended family of **Rhia Paulson**, longtime member and friend of First Christian Church. We live all over the country, from Nevada to Arizona to Minnesota and Virginia. When it became apparent a few years ago that our cousin Rhia needed additional support and assistance, we were greatly relieved to discover that members of FCC Eugene were already carrying God's love and compassion to her, and in particular we want to express our appreciation to one key person, **Laura Powell**.

Two of Rhia's cousins, **Sue and Berta**, made multiple trips to Eugene and Laura was their expert on Rhia's past and present day-to-day needs. Laura's knowledge and expertise guided them to specific interventions that were needed most. Her ministry and her wisdom helped maximize their effectiveness.

Jesus instructed us to "love our neighbors." Laura, you are a living illustration of that selfless love. By loving Rhia you have blessed all of the extended family as well.

We are making a monetary contribution, in honor of Laura, who we hear is sometimes called "The Church Lady", to the Care and Share Fund of the church, which we understand seeks to support other church members who find themselves in a time of great need. Please accept this gift as an expression of our appreciation for your loving kindness.

**Sincerely,  
Tom Evans and all of the family**

# A TIME OF TRANSITION

Yes, after 29 years of being one of our pastors, Dan has announced that he will complete his ministry here Easter Sunday. (Just about 3 months from now).

That means that our church is already preparing for “transition time.” I like to call it the “NO LONGER/NOT YET TIME”. And your transition committee is already at work to help the church have interim staffing in place for it. Hopefully the following questions and answers will help everyone understand important issues about this “NO LONGER/NOT YET TIME.”

## \*WHY DO WE NEED THIS IN-BETWEEN TIME?

- +Time for our hearts and minds to say “Goodbye to the past” and Hello to the future.”
- +Time to stop, look and listen for what’s next for FCC-Eugene.
- +Time to search for the right other pastor.
- +Time to work out the possible compensation arrangement for our pastors.
- +Time to determine where the energy / responsibilities for our pastors and congregation will focus.

## \*WHY DO WE NEED AN INTERIM PASTOR?

- + To give us time to do the necessary tasks of transition and preparation.
- +To help keep the life of the congregation going on track and sustaining its ministry.
- +To provide pastoral care and oversight for all.
- +To bring a fresh perspective which can be helpful in our planning.

## \*DO WE NEED A FULL TIME INTERIM ?

- +The more time the interim person is available the more the church is able to do the necessary work preparing for what’s next.

## \*WHO ARE THESE INTERIM MINISTERS ANYWAY?

- +A “seasoned” minister who has had years of effective ministry and feels called to this particular task.
- +A minister who has had special training/education and possess special skills for the task.

## \*WHY NOT JUST HAVE APRIL DO IT?

- +There is too much to do and too many bases to cover.
- +Good to have someone new to hear the concerns, questions, thoughts of the people.

## \*WHY IS THE INTERIM NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE “REGULAR MINISTER “ POSITION?

- +The skill and gifts of the interim are not necessarily what’s needed in the “regular” pastor.
- +Interims are not seeking a call to a “regular: position.

## \*WHY CAN’T DAN BE AVAILABLE TO US AFTER HE COMPLETES HIS MINISTRY HERE?

- + The staff pastors will be our pastors and we need to look to them for our needs.
- + Experience shows that we need clear guidelines for this concept.

Sure hope all of this is helpful. It’s now full speed ahead. Please pray for our process. And contact us with your questions and concerns. Thanks for listening. Now is the time to enjoy Dan’s remaining time with us and to celebrate 29 tremendous years !



# ANNUAL MEETING

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 2020

10:30 am

United Worship

12:00 pm

Congregational Potluck  
& Business Meeting

Potluck Sign Ups on Sundays in Sanctuary  
Contact Kerry Crow to sign up for Potluck

### BUSINESS DOCKET INCLUDES:

Future 2.0 Updates

Transitional Ministry Team Updates

Installation of Treasurer

Appointment of Nominating Committee

Approval of 2020 Operating Budget

Contact President Amy Metzger with agenda questions

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
- Ric Satterwhite, Audio Visual



Phone 541.344.1425 Fax: 541.383.3618 Email:  
 office@heartofeugene.org

**Website: [www.heartofeugene.org](http://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 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.