

The Church On The Hill



A Newsletter for members and friends of Waverly Heights Congregational, UCC

**JUNE 2007 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 94 VOLUME 2**

**DAVID ZAWORSKI, PASTOR
TRISH EFFENBERGER, EDITOR**



This year marks the 50th anniversary of the formation of the United Church of Christ. Our denomination is "50 years bold!" General Synod is the every-

other-year national meeting of the UCC and this year it will be a spectacular celebration. The theme is "Let it Shine!" The location is Hartford, Connecticut. And I'll be there with Marie, Joel, and Jenna, and Lisa Kane also plans to attend. You can be there too, virtually, with daily live webcasts. You'll want to be.

The line-up of guest speakers includes Bill Moyers, Barack Obama, Marian Wright Edelman, Lynn Redgrave, and many other brilliant and courageous voices calling us into bold visions for the next 50 years. Go to ucc.org, bookmark it, and look at some of the Synod links. (Really, do it now; you can read the rest of this later.)

Along with all the celebrating, we will of course have some business to attend to (see for example, the Sabbath Year resolution article in this newsletter.) That, too, might be interesting -- a chance to see how the struggles that face all mainstream denominations these days are played out in our unique UCC way. The genius of the UCC, its great strength and weakness, is that our structure lets one or another part of the church make bold, prophetic

statements without any compulsion on any other part of the church. Consider Open and Affirming. Long years ago some local congregations became Open and Affirming of all regardless of sexual orientation. A bit after that, a series of General Synods adopted O & A stances that set policy for our national offices and called on local churches to consider O & A. To date, fewer than half our UCC congregations have declared themselves Open and Affirming (somewhat more than half here in Central Pacific Conference; we are the leaders nationally.) General Synod takes seriously the calls that come from local churches and conferences (regional bodies of the UCC). As local churches and conferences we are called to take seriously the resolutions that come from Synod. But we're not called to all agree on everything. Two years ago this was tested by the Synod resolution in support of marriage equality for same-sex couples, and sadly that strained too hard for some churches who chose to withdraw from the UCC. But again, our structure allows that to happen -- many other denominations don't.

We are called in the UCC to live out the peculiar faith that God's Spirit is acting in all of us even, and it could be even especially, when we don't all agree -- neither alone nor together do any of us have the whole mind of God. It is not an easy faith to live. It demands willingness to risk a clear witness in a spirit of deep humility, to have confidence in how the Spirit is moving us without arrogance and denial of the Spirit moving differently in others' lives. Not easy, but we'll keep working on it as we have been for the last 50 years.

Visit our web site @ www.waverlyucc.org

Fifty years bold and ready to let it shine! It's going to be a great celebration in Hartford. Join us on the web and in your prayers!

Your brother in Christ,
David


A Special
THANK YOU


Altar

Thanks so much to Dana Weir for her beautiful Pentecost altar for the month of May. Please contact Jill Johnson if you are interested in decorating the altar for a month or even for a Sunday or two.

Church B&B in Ashland

Ashland 1st Congregational UCC is again this year offering in church homes overnight hospitality with breakfast to guests traveling to Ashland for the Shakespeare Festival or for other reasons. The rates are \$35 per person per night double occupancy, \$50 per person per night single occupancy, and a one-bedroom apartment is available for \$100. The funds raised are for the mission outreach program of the church. For reservations please call 541 482-1981 or email ucchrist@opendoor.com. Ashland UCC is an Open and Affirming and Just Peace church.

TAIZE SERVICE

Join us for our monthly Taize on Wednesday June 6th at 7:30 pm to herald in the summer months in a centering way. This is an intimate service just for you.

Come and sing, sit in silence and be inspired. See you there.

Newcomer's Lunch

There will be a Newcomer's Lunch on Saturday June 23rd at 1:00 P.M. If you would like to join us please call Scott Selfridge at 503-757-8766.



*Just a
Reminder...*

PLEDGE REMINDER

This is just to let you know that as of May 26th, 2007 we were at 30% of pledged giving for this year. By the end of May, pledged giving should be at 42%, and by the end of June we should be at 50% of the pledged amount. (At this writing, the May 27th offering had not yet been counted or deposited.) A large quarterly Pension Board payment is due on July 1st. Please try to keep your pledge giving up-to-date throughout the summer so that we can meet our financial obligations. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks for your continued support!

Kay Orzel, Treasurer

Division/Clinton Parade/Street Fair

Mark your calendar – Saturday, July 28th

We'll have a Waverly group marching in the parade. It's always a festive, fun and neighborhoodly time – come and march with us!

We will also have a booth on Division Street to chat with folks and distribute Waverly and UCC info.

Please contact Jill Johnson to tell her that you are interested in taking a shift at the booth.



Pastor David will be starting part of his vacation June 16th -- flying to New England for a few days of family visits and travel. From the relatives in Maine it's on to Hartford, Connecticut from June 21st to 26th for the UCC General Synod and 50 year anniversary celebration. David will continue out of town, but much closer, June 27-30 as he serves as chaplain at Camp Adams for the concurrently running Family Camp and Work Camp. During the time David is away please contact Jill Johnson if any emergencies come up that call for pastoral care.

Sabbath Year Resolution

One of the actions of our recent UCC Central Pacific Conference annual meeting was approval of a resolution to put before our national General Synod meeting (see From the Pastor.) It calls on us as a national church and as local congregations to support cancellation of third-world debt by affirming 2007 as a "Sabbath Year" and becoming "Jubilee Congregations." Many third-world countries' development and basic services are crippled by enormous debt -- much of it incurred under colonial powers or under dictators who enriched themselves rather than their peoples. The Bible commands that every seventh year be a sabbath year in which debts are cancelled and those sold as slaves to pay debts are freed. "Jubilee" is an even more far-reaching Biblical command for new starts ever 50 years. To be a Jubilee Congregation is to agree to:

- Pray for a Jubilee for the world's poorest countries;
- Provide a Jubilee contact person as liason between the congregation and Jubilee USA.
- Contribute to Jubilee USA (one dollar per member, or a special offering, or any chosen amount)
- Advocate for debt cancellation by sending the equivalent of one letter per active member per year to a member of congress or the administration calling on them to "drop the debt."

In addition, the resolution calls on us to consider participating in a 40-day "rolling fast" (join in for a day or two, a meal a week, whatever works for you) this fall in support of debt cancellation.

Want to learn more? Get involved? Help educate us at Waverly? contact Andrew Millar and/or pastor David.

June's Offering

Strengthen Our Church

1. What is Strengthen the Church?

Strengthen the Church is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that engages all members in the growth and future of local congregations and Conferences. Through the Strengthen the Church offering we further our commitment to be a multiracial, multicultural church, open and affirming and accessible to all. We strengthen and renew existing congregations and fund leadership for new congregations. We provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults and fund leadership development for the whole church.

2. How are Strengthen the Church Funds shared?

Conferences may use 50% of giving to Strengthen the Church, engaging in local and regional efforts consistent with the purpose of the offering. Churches are encouraged to contact their Conference office for information about its use of the offering. Conferences may provide this information in their church mailings, newsletters, or on their web site. Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ uses the other 50%.

4. How many dollars are given to STC?

In 2006, congregations gave \$446,196 with Conferences using \$216,004 and forwarding \$230,186 to Local Church Ministries. Contributions have grown more than 50% in the last three years!

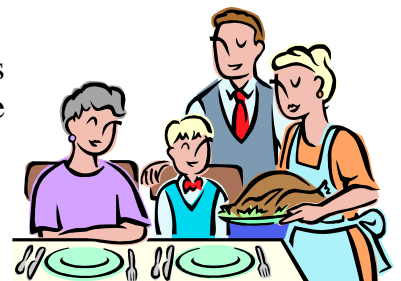


Daybreak Dinners

Waverly will be participating in the June rotation for Daybreak. Volunteers will be preparing dinner for about twelve people on the evenings of June 6th and 7th. These are families who need help while they get back on their feet and can find housing.

Every six weeks or so, we join with four other churches (St Ignatius, Colonial Heights, St. David's and St. Philip Neri) to provide a home-cooked meal and a place of shelter for several homeless families. We do this at St. David's of Wales Episcopalian Church.

If you are interested in joining our interfaith volunteers either in this rotation or a future one, contact Andrew Millar (503 234-86340) we would love to have you along.





Pride Parade

Waverly Heights celebrates our Open and Affirming church by marching in the Portland Pride Parade. Join us right after church on Father's Day, June 17th, and we'll head down to join other UCC congregations in marching together, sharing God's love. It's a blast!

JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Because of time restraints, I will be combining the months of July and August into one newsletter. Please submit articles no later than June 19th.

Thanks,
Trish Effenberger, Editor

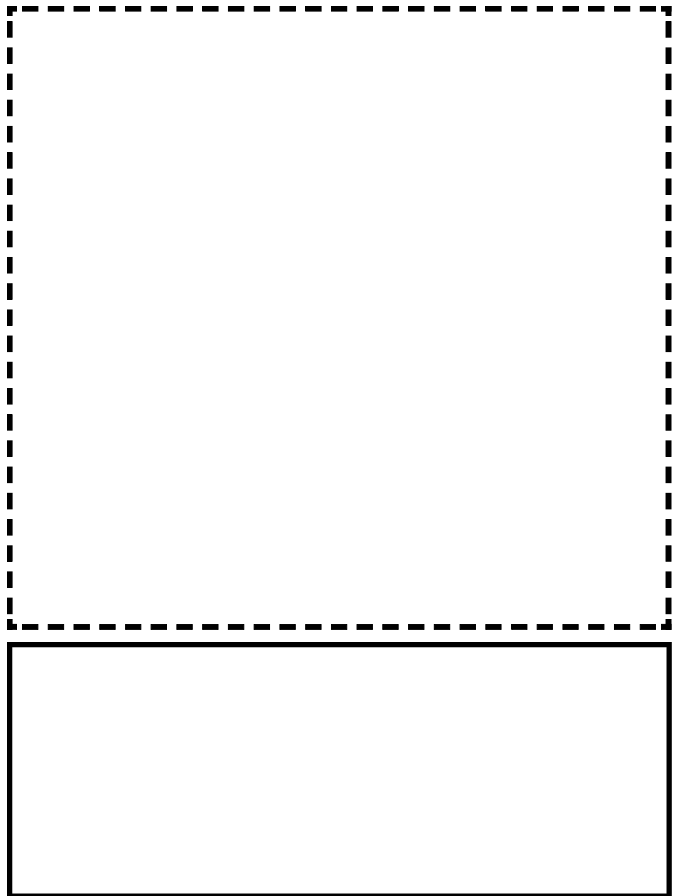


Worship Time Change -- 10AM Summer Schedule

In accord with the vote of the congregation several years ago, worship will again change to **10:00 a.m.** **Sundays starting June 3rd.** We'll be experimenting in June with how this can work for the choir. In July and August on 2nd Sundays we'll talk about the nature of worship and have some opportunity to talk about how the time of worship fits into that.

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST NEWSLETTER FROM WAVERLY...

This newsletter is about the current events of Waverly's ministry and mission. If you wish to have more information and background on Waverly, please feel free to call the church office at 503-238-1337.



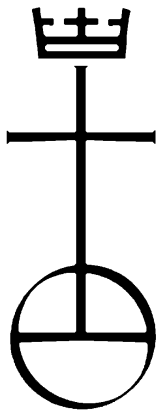
***Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ***

3300 SE Woodward
Portland, Oregon 97202
(503) 238-1337
www.waverlyucc.org

Pastor: David Zaworski

Summer Worship Service:
Sunday - 10:00 am

WAVERLY HEIGHTS CONGREGATIONAL UCC



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ
Welcomes all, Honoring each individual's path**

**We invite everyone to
Worship God, Learn the love of Jesus,
Care for one another
Work for change and reconciliation
In our community and the world.**

