



The Church on the Hill

Waverly Heights Congregational
United Church of Christ

David Zaworski, Pastor

February 2010
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Okay, the season of lent is coming up, starting Ash Wednesday 17 February. Many of us grew up with the idea of “giving something up for lent.” And usually about this time I’m suggesting some alternative ways to mark this season, like maybe *taking on* something for

a way of reminding ourselves of God. If my stomach growls, I remember why I’m not eating, I remember God. And of course, the value of remembering God in something fairly straightforward like a fast is that it trains us to remember God in much more difficult and important realities, like say, dealing with a really annoying family member.

So let’s do it, let’s give something up for lent. But maybe not something as simple as coffee or chocolate. Let’s give up anything that is less than God’s unconditional love!

Blessings,

David

lent instead. But not this year. This year I’m all over the idea that we might all give up something for lent—and I’ve got a little list of things we might give up. How about: anxiety, or the desire to fix situations (or people!), or thoughtless speech, or eating without bothering to taste our food, or being reactive, or needing to feel justified. How about giving up anything that distracts us from knowing the presence of God in every individual and each bit of creation all around us.

Okay—maybe it’s a bit much to think of “giving up” any of these. But we could practice letting go. When someone says something and we feel defensiveness rising up, we can practice letting it go. When we feel distress at bad decisions being made by those we love, we can practice letting go of our need to make everything better and instead give them room and patience to figure things out and grow into their own wisdom. When we start to speak just to show we’re right about something, we can practice letting go of getting the last word.

This really is what fasting and other “giving up” is supposed to be about anyway. It’s not about “punishing the flesh.” Rather, fasting is mostly just

TAIZE

Our next Taize service will be on Wednesday, March 3rd at 7pm. This is an evening candlelit service of music, meditation and reflection. Come join with others for an uplifting and deepening evening. We had a few first-timers at our Winter Taize service and they all commented that they enjoyed it and were looking forward to the Spring service. Come and bring a friend – more voices enrich the singing and the service. If you have questions, please talk with Jill Johnson at church or at 503-422-9525.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION CHANGE



As part of better using our resources—both the church's money and the natural resources of the world—we are moving toward sending out the church newsletter over the internet for those for whom that will work. Those who still need or want a paper copy will still get one, but others will receive the newsletter as a file attached to an email. Those of you who already get the all-church email notes from time to time, please look for further word about this in an email in the month ahead. If you're not getting church emails but want to, please drop Pastor David a note.

WWW's

The WWW's met on the third Thursday of January. We discussed what went well and what needed improvement at the bazaar in case we do another next year. We also talked about a spring tea around Mother's day, a PROPER ENGLISH TEA. Dress up and be prepared for some fun and music. Another earlier fundraiser may be planned to help with the cost of having child care during church.

There will be two one night stands, reader's theater productions, in March. So for a \$5 donation we can experience great theater together.

We have long wished the Daytimers and the WWW's could get together. We will be doing this in February by hosting the Daytimer's for their third Wednesday luncheon. We will set up and provide the food. We are also offering to give rides if that would be helpful.

The next evening meeting will be on the FOURTH Thursday at JEANNE'S HOME. Look for an e-mail later on.



CROP Hunger Walk Preparations

Ron MacKenzie (In-Care, First Congregational U.C.C. of Portland) is the Team Leader for the Church World Service CROP Hunger Walk in Portland, which is 10 a.m., Saturday, May 15 at Sellwood Riverfront Park. The walk will be 2.5 miles along the Willamette River. He is looking for volunteers to act as recruiters for walkers for each congregation. Please contact him at ron.w.mackenzie@gmail.com for more details.

For more information about the Church World Service CROP Hunger Walk, please visit their website at:

http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=crop_main

Calendar of Prayer February 1st, 2010

O God of all the prophets,
knew us and chose us
before you formed us in the womb.
Fill us with faith that speaks your word,
hope that does not disappoint,
and love that bears all things for your sake,
until that day when we shall know you fully,
even as we are known by you. Amen.

Happy 94th Birthday to
Betty Tice on February 6th,
and Happy 97th birthday to
Violet Hyde on Feb. 18th.



Prayers for a speedy recovery for Nancy Tice's brother, John Tice, as he recovers from complicated back surgery on Jan. 13th. He is healing very well, and can't wait to get back to "therapy" in the pool at Mt. Scott Community Center.

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST NEWS- LETTER 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 contact the church office at (503) 238-1337.

**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

Please submit articles for the March issue no later than Monday, February 22nd.

Thanks,

Trish Effenberger,
Editor

A great outpouring, UCC members continue Haiti fundraising efforts

Written by Jeff Woodard



The overwhelming outpouring of generosity from United Church of Christ members and congregations to earthquake-ravaged Haiti continues to set new standards, according to church leaders. As of noon Tuesday (Jan. 26), more than \$560,000 had been raised by the UCC Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund, according to Susan M. Sanders, UCC's minister for global sharing of resources.

"The total of \$566,246 includes \$359,245 that has been raised through online contributions," says Sanders. The two-week total is more than double the \$250,603 raised during the first six days following the Jan. 12 disaster.

Creative initiatives from UCC entities are also taking shape. [Retirement Housing Foundation \(RHF\)](#) in California has issued a \$50,000 match grant to encourage employees to donate; an employee campaign at [Advocate Health Care](#) in Chicago is sharing proceeds with both the UCC and Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America (ELCA); [First United Church of Christ in Hampton, Va.](#), is planning a benefit concert for Haiti on Feb. 21; and the youth group of [Mountain Rise UCC in Fairport, N.Y.](#), voted to donate the \$1,720.25 it recently raised through Christmas wreath sales.

In addition, [Beecher Memorial UCC in New Orleans](#) has sent a first offering of \$629 and has pledged to receive a special Haiti offering the first Sunday of each month in 2010. In a letter to UCC Wider Church Ministries, the Rev. Juan R. Thomas, Senior Pastor at Beecher Memorial, wrote: "The citizens of New Orleans and the members of Beecher Memorial UCC, who 4½ years after Hurricane Katrina continue to rebuild from devastation, destruction and pain, are deeply affected by what we have seen in Haiti."

Haiti is receiving millions of dollars in emergency aid at a time when it owes a huge debt to the international community. Jubilee USA Network, a leading advocate of nations in debt, is joining a global call for Haiti's \$1-billion-plus debt to be waived.

"For Haiti to have a solid chance at a strong recovery, and to build back better, its debt must be forgiven," says Sanders. Adds Neil Watkins, Executive Director of Jubilee USA, "The international community cannot possibly expect Haiti to pay back a loan for emergency relief in the wake of this disaster."

Checks payable to United Church of Christ marked for Haiti may be sent to: UCC, Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund; 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Online gifts are still being accepted at the [Haiti Earthquake Relief donation page](#). All gifts received by the UCC Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund will be used for relief and rehabilitation initiatives. Administrative costs are being covered by UCC members' contributions to Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM).

**Waverly Heights
United Church of Christ**

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503-238-1337
www.waverlyucc.org

Worship Service
Sundays @11:00 am

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

FEBRUARY