

Worship at HCCUCC April 2014

Sunday worship services begin at 10:30.

April 6

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

John 11:1-45

Come Out, Lazarus!

April 13

Palm/Passion Sunday

A musical journey through Holy Week, with children's palm processional

April 18

Good Friday

4:00-7:00 p.m. Labyrinth Walk
7:00 p.m. prayer service including foot-washing

April 20

Easter Day

9:00 a.m. Outdoor Service on the Front Patio
10:30 a.m. Festive Worship Service in the Sanctuary
(see Holy Week Leads to Easter Celebration, right, for other Easter Morning activities)

April 27

Second Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31

I Believe Because I Doubt

Tidings is published monthly by Hillsdale Community Church, United Church of Christ. The printed version is produced on recycled paper. An electronic version is available at www.hillsdaleucc.org. Send a request to tidings@hillsdaleucc.org to be added to our email list. *Tidings* is edited and designed by Tim Ditch.

Holy Week Leads to Easter Celebration

Holy Week is a time to remember and recall Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection, as we recall the innocents who suffer in injustice, and the promise of hope and new life that God offers to all.

The week begins with Palm/Passion Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 13. The tone of the service moves from celebration to solemnity as we begin with a festive procession and celebratory hosannas. Together we will share communion as we remember the last supper. As the hour of worship progresses, we will be led by the choir through the last days and hours of Christ's earthly life. This is the day that Jesus entered the city in triumph, but as a part of his journey to the cross; this is the week in which the crowd's cries of "Hosanna" would soon turn to "Crucify him."

We will continue our tradition of having the labyrinth walk on Good Friday evening from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The labyrinth, based on an ancient design in Chartres, France, is a way to focus the mind and body on God as you walk a continuous route. The labyrinth walk concludes at 7:00 with a service of prayer including foot-washing.



Easter morning, April 20, begins with an outdoor service at 9:00 a.m. This is rain or shine, so dress for the weather! A continental breakfast will be served from 9:30 until 10:00. At 10:00, an egg hunt takes place for the kids, followed by a festive Easter worship service with choir and organ at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Jennifer will share an inspiring message, and the service concludes with members of the congregation joining the choir for Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*. Following the worship service, Easter brunch will be served in Fellowship Hall. Tickets for the Easter brunch and continental breakfast may be purchased Sundays after church. They are also available in the church office during the week. See "Easter Brunch..." on page 2 for more information.

Hillsdale Welcomes Lake0 UCC to Worship

Plan to be in worship on June 1 as we at Hillsdale host Lake Oswego UCC for a festive hour of worship and celebration of our joint confirmation class. We will celebrate Pentecost, so you are invited to wear red!

Easter Brunch Adds to Easter Celebration

Come join us in our first-ever Easter Brunch immediately following the worship service on Easter morning, April 20. We are working hard to make this event memorable, with good food and great company. Tickets are only \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Brunch tickets also provide admission to a simple continental breakfast at 9:30 following the early service. If you already have brunch plans, tickets for the continental breakfast are available for \$2.50 for adults or \$1.25 for children.

The Easter Brunch menu features eggs, bacon, roasted potatoes, ham, meatballs, fruit, dessert, and more. Coffee, tea, and juice will be served as well. Continental breakfast will feature freshly baked muffins, fruit, coffee, tea, and juice.

From the Pastor

by Jennifer Brownell

I was honored to have a short essay included in the most recent edition of *Geez Magazine*, whose tagline is “holy mischief in an age of fast faith.” The sabbatical you so generously supported last year is still bearing fruit—this is one of the pieces of writing that came out of that time. You can check out www.geezmagazine.org/magazine/article/breakfast-alone/ if you'd like to see the essay online, or listen to an audio recording. Or, you can read it here:



I reach around the shower curtain and show Jeff the towel hanging on the hook.

“Umm...”

“Too heavy?” I ask.

Because of Jeff’s muscular dystrophy, he can’t heft all of the towels in the linen closet. It’s part of the shorthand of our marriage that we both know which towels are light enough, and which are not—a difference indistinguishable to anyone else. Did I grab a heavy one by mistake? Or is there some part of me that wishes, that hopes, even, that this time he’ll be able to use this towel, the heavier one?

Is this what you see when you see a man rolling along in an electric wheelchair, a woman walking beside him? Do you see a morning measured out in the relative weight of one towel over another?

I imagine other marriages. Someone hoards *Playboys* or Superman action figures or measuring cups; someone overspends on jewelry or online poker or television evangelists. Someone withholds sex for an imagined slight; someone kicks the dog when the other isn’t looking. One couple makes love twice a year; another, twice a day. Some marriages are built on teetering piles of lies, the truth never spoken about the blanket-sharing disagreement that began in the honeymoon suite, or

the pineapple-upside-down-cake incident, or the cancer.

No one ever needs to know these things.

It is not that way in my marriage. As soon as we leave the house, what looks like our most difficult Issue-with-a-capital-I is out there. A blinking neon sign over our heads reads, “Guy in wheelchair!”

A lighter towel found, I push Jeff to the sink where he will shave and brush his teeth, while I go to the kitchen and heat up a bran muffin for breakfast.

You ask, “how do you do it?” I’m guessing you don’t mean choose as my companion a man who does not enjoy breakfast, the most perfect meal of the day. But truthfully, in the early years of our marriage, I shed more tears over the pancakes we would never share than the legs that would never walk. At first I shouldered the prospect of a lifetime of solo morning meals with much less grace than I did the disability that seems so big.

In a while, I will transfer Jeff back to the bed so he can lay flat while I pull on his socks and pants. I’ll crack a joke, transfer him back to his wheelchair. He will kiss me goodbye and say, “I love you.” I will say it back. That we both mean it is what will carry us both through today, this week, next year, a lifetime.

But first, I’m going to eat this muffin. By myself.

See you in church!

Women’s Tea Is Coming in May

Marteena Sander and Ruth Rusnak will once again host English Afternoon Tea. Join us Saturday, May 10, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The menu will include tea sandwiches, English scones, delectable sweets and, of course, fine tea served in elegant style from porcelain tea pots. This year, our own Gerry Craig will provide background piano music for your pleasure while you enjoy your tasty treats and conversation. Tickets will be \$10.00 each and will be available in the Narthex before and after worship on April 27 and May 4.

For more information contact Marteena Sander (heidisgg@yahoo.com or 503-615-8131) or Ruth Rusnak (xiiicatsold@yahoo.com or 503-701-2462).

HCCUCC to Offer OWL Training

Developed by United Church of Christ and Unitarian Universalist churches, Our Whole Lives (OWL) is comprehensive sexuality education to help children, youth, and adults to be emotionally healthy and responsible in terms of their sexuality.



Hillsdale will offer the training for K-1 and K-6 levels May 16-18 at the church with trainers Amy Johnson and Anil Oommen.

Schedules and registration forms are available in the Narthex. The cost for the training is \$150. Send payment and registration form to the church office by Monday, April 28.

Registration is filling fast, so getting your registration in early is advised. For more information, contact Pastor Jennifer.

Recycling Event Scheduled

A community recycling event (where the batteries and bulbs in HCC's collection bins are headed) is scheduled for Saturday, April 12, from 9:00 until noon at St. Luke Lutheran Church by Gabriel Park. A list of the many other items being accepted for recycling can be found on a flyer posted above HCC's collection bins in the Narthex. For additional information, visit www.community-recycling.org.

Spring Brings Blood Drive

Good news comes this spring! Red Cross has apparently worked through their donor services organizational changes, and we finally have a blood drive scheduled at Hillsdale! Mark your calendars now for June 4, between 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. Since we did not have a fall drive, the pattern for regular donors has been interrupted. Coordinator Margy Kleger appreciates that some of you have actually asked about the status of the blood drives! Now there is something to look forward to! Thank you for your patience and faithfulness through this time of change. See you June 4!

To My Church Family,

I would like to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, and visits. They meant so much to my mom (Pat Keeling) and to me.

Pastor Jennifer, thank you for being here with your love and comfort and for two beautiful memorial services for my mom.

For Tim and Jon, the music was so beautiful. It was perfect! And thank you so very much to Paul and everyone who put together a wonderful reception.

Most of all, thank you to my church family for all of your love, kind words, and prayers. I have never felt so much love. My prayers and love are with you all.

Sincerely,

Jackie Collins

Pet Blessing Service Welcomes Creatures Great and Small

Our annual blessing of the pets will take place Sunday, April 27. Well-socialized animals on leashes or in crates are welcome during worship. Then after worship, we'll move to the patio where we bless those pets who reside with us now or in blessed memory. In addition to living animals, you are invited to bring toy animal friends or photos and other mementos of animals who have passed away.

Newcomers Welcomed at Special Luncheon

If you have been at Hillsdale a few weeks or a few months, and would like to connect with other newcomers, learn a little about the church, and share some of your story, you are warmly welcomed to attend a Newcomers Lunch on Sunday, April 6, following the worship service.

We will receive new members on Sunday, April 20 (Easter!). If you are interested in joining the church and can't make the Newcomer's Lunch, please speak with Pastor Jennifer.

One Great Hour of Sharing Benefits People Near and Far

We will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering on April 6. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, you have been there with Betzi Yungclas as she climbs into the Humane Borders pick-up truck and heads into the Arizona desert several times each week. The truck carries distinctive blue barrels full of water that Betzi and other local volunteers and staff distribute to water stations in the desert. The stations are on pre-approved private and public lands and marked by tall blue flags that can be seen by people crossing the desert and dehydrated. Humane Borders has documented that between October 1999 and March 2012, 2,269 deaths were recorded at the U.S.-Mexican border. Global economic systems over the past several decades have destroyed local farms and markets in Central America and southern Mexico. People are desperate to survive; desperate enough to cross the 262-mile desert and risk death by dehydration in hopes of finding employment to feed their families. Immigration issues are vast, of course. During an exercise during the gathering of volunteers, Betzi reflects on the goal of her service with Humane Borders. "To take death out of the equation," she states simply.

At the same time, a group of 30 newly arrived refugees from Myanmar (Burma), Somalia, and Iraq surround Crystal Zook as she coordinates a cultural orientation session. They have just arrived in Lancaster, Pennsylvania,

through Church World Service Refugee and Immigration Ministries. Some have arrived after decades of living on the edge of survival in refugee camps. Some have arrived as the result of danger to their lives from political violence. All have arrived to new and disorienting differences of language, food, smells, transportation, housing, jobs. Crystal, with her patient spirit, shares necessary information, listens through as many gestures as words, and gathers the new refugees together so they can meet one another and offer mutual support. Her favorite part of service? Crystal smiles, “getting to know the women, to hear their stories, to share tea with them.” Crystal and the Church World Service Refugee and Immigration office staff help people find new possibilities for life. Your participation in One Great Hour of Sharing helps that happen every day.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, you are there in southern Arizona and southeast Pennsylvania and throughout the world as lives are saved and made whole. Thank you for your participation and passion.

Facilities Improvement Plan Nears Completion

Your Consistory has been working since the first of the year on a Facilities Improvement Plan to present to the congregation.

We recently met with Jon von Behren, Gary Roberts, and Jeff Brownell to review in more detail the work that their committee did last year. After that, we have asked Jon to contact the architect about helping us get cost estimates for various possible improvements. While this is going on, we are also meeting with people to learn about options for having a successful capital campaign.

We hope to have gathered sufficient information to share with the congregation after the worship service on Sunday, May 18. Please “save the date”! This is all very exciting for the future of Hillsdale Community Church!

tidings

APRIL 2014

Hillsdale Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

6948 SW Capitol Hwy • Portland, OR 97219
503-246-5474 • www.hillsdaleucc.org

Pastor **Rev. Jennifer Brownell** (jennifer@hillsdaleucc.org) Director of Music/Administrator **Tim Ditch** (tim@hillsdaleucc.org)
Receptionist **Kathy Schneller** Custodian **Terry Cornell** Child Care Providers **Julia Miller, Chris Sessions**

2014 Consistory Members: **Bob Brandon, President** (503-313-0056 - Bob.Brandon@ltic.com); **Carl Wamser, Vice-President** (503-504-4296 - wamserc@pdx.edu); **Erica Johnson, Past President, Share Christ's Word** (503-341-7821 - ericaljohnson@gmail.com); **Drake Mitchell, Treasurer** (240-672-1738 - drakem@pdx.edu); **Nayan Fleenor, At-Large, Make a Difference** (503-645-6132 - nayan@mindspring.com); **Ruthanne Rusnak, At-Large, Fellowship** (503-701-2462 - xiiicatsold@yahoo.com); **Cathy Thomas, At-Large, Worship** (503-246-9509 - eleftun@aol.com)

In Christ, we the members of Hillsdale Community Church United Church of Christ, declare ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation. We cherish and embrace individuals and families of all kinds. Believing that God's unbounded love and grace are offered to all and meant to be shared and celebrated by all, we seek to be a congregation that includes all persons, embracing differences of age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, mental and physical ability, as well as racial, ethnic, or social-economic background. We welcome all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, and fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of participation in our congregation. We commit to be a community of faith and spirit that works toward openness and understanding, offering justice, healing, and wholeness of life for all people. We believe that through our diversity, all can grow and practice a unity of faith that transcends our differences.



April 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 10:30a Bible Study MH	2 10:00a Loaves and Fishes MC 1:30p Tai Chi R4 6:00p Lenten Soup Supper R4	3 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	4	5
6 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering 8:30a Centering Prayer MR 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 10:30a Worship Service/Children's Sunday School SA/R1 11:30a Newcomer Lunch R4	7	8 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 10:30a Bible Study MH 7:00p Consistory Meeting MH	9 1:00p Memoir Writing Group MD 1:30p Tai Chi R4 6:00p Lenten Soup Supper R4	10 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	11	12
13 Palm/Passion Sunday 8:30a Centering Prayer MR 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 10:30a Communion Worship Service/Children's Sunday School SA/R1	14 Transition Projects/Hoyt St Meal BC 6:30p Bible Study MH	15 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 10:30a Bible Study MH	16 1:30p Tai Chi R4	17 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	18 Good Friday 4-7p Labyrinth Walk 7:00p Prayer Service	19
20 Easter 9:00a Outdoor Service PATIO 9:30a Continental Breakfast FH 10:00a Easter Egg Hunt SS 10:30a Festival Worship Service SANC 11:45a Easter Brunch FH	21	22 Tidings Deadline 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 10:30a Bible Study MH	23 1:30p Tai Chi R4	24 9:00a Walking Group UL	25	26
27 8:30a Centering Prayer MR 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 10:30a Worship Service/Children's Sunday School SA/R1 11:30a Pet Blessing, PA	28 6:30p Bible Study MH	29 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 10:30a Bible Study MH	30 1:30p Tai Chi R4	May 1 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	2	3

BC=Bud Clark Commons (655 NW Hoyt St)
CR=Choir Room
FH=Fellowship Hall
GT=Golden Touch (SW Barbur at 19th)
UL=Upper Parking Lot
MH=Mt Hood Room
MR=Maple Room
MD=Maria Dunlop's Home (12146 SW 29th Ave)
MC=Multnomah Center (7688 SW Capitol Hwy)
PA=Front Patio
R1=Room 1, Education Wing
R4=Room 4, Education Wing
SA=Sanctuary



Easter Brunch

Sunday, April 20 • 11:45 a.m.

Adults \$6 • Children \$3
includes continental breakfast at 9:30.

Continental Breakfast

9:30 a.m.

Adults \$2⁵⁰ • Children \$1²⁵
If purchased separately. Included with Easter Brunch.

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