

## Sundays at HCCUCC April 2015

Sunday worship services begin at 10:30.

### April 5 • Easter

8:30 a.m. Outdoor Service

9:00 a.m. Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Egg Hunt

10:30 a.m. Festive Worship Service

### April 12

*John 20:19-31*

### April 19

*Luke 24:36b-48*

### April 26

*John 10:11-18*

## A “Shower of Blessings” for All

by Margy Kleger

*“Behold, I will make you a Neu person.”*

This will be a *Neu* type of shower. Barbara Raz *Neu* will be the recipient of our wedding “shower of blessings” on Saturday, April 11, at 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All people who would like to come and share Barbara’s *Neu* life joy are invited. This is not just for women—men are included too! Barbara has touched all of our lives in many ways.

Barbara has requested that whatever money you may have spent on a typical shower gift (which probably would not get used) be donated to one of two charities of her choice. Giving trees will be available

for you to put your donations on, or you can give directly to the charity and receive a tax deduction receipt. Cards with special wishes and thoughts to Barbara and Paul Neu can also be hung on these giving trees.

Both of her chosen charities are showering blessings on the needy: one locally, one in South Sudan. With our help, these people can also be blessed with *Neu* lives.

The local charity is **Neighborhood House**, which is already familiar to many of us. In recent years their reach has almost doubled because the need has doubled. They serve 18,000 vulnerable children, families, and seniors in our Southwest Portland neighborhood, and are based within blocks of HCC. You can contact them at [www.nhpdx.org](http://www.nhpdx.org).

The other charity is **Healing Kadi**

**Foundation** in which Paul’s daughter Kim is active. This is a medical organization in the new nation (2011) of South Sudan. This African country has only 120 medical doctors and 100 registered nurses for a population of 10.6 million countrywide. The mission of Healing Kadi Foundation is to bring modern, reliable, and sustainable health care to South Sudan. They are expanding their new clinic in a community of 500,000 which has no paved roads and very little clean drinking water. Please check out inspiring videos of this organization at [healingkadi.org](http://healingkadi.org) under the News tab.

Please come and be part of this shower of blessings in honor of Barbara Raz and Paul Neu’s marriage. RSVP to Margy Kleger by Sunday, April 5.



Congratulations to Paul Neu and Barbara Raz Neu, married in an intimate ceremony in the Mount Hood Room on March 14.

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## Celebrate Easter with Your Church Family

**E**aster morning, April 5, begins with an outdoor service at 8:30 a.m. This is rain or shine, so dress for the weather! Breakfast will be served from 9:00 until 10:00 in Fellowship Hall. 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*.

## Community Garden Off to a Great Start

*A message from Dave Sexton, Friends of Portland Community Gardens:*

**W**e had a second successful Crossroads Community Garden work party on March 17 with the help of 12 students and staff from the University of Utah on their Alternative Spring Break. We were one of several Portland nonprofit organizations the university volunteered to work with this week. They were a great asset in furthering our progress. Our thanks to them. Kathleen, Michael, and I from FPCG were there to give direction and join in the work.

In four hours, we were able to move the compostable grass and weed debris generated at the last work party away from the proposed garden area; smooth the surface inside the fenced area by removing more grass, filling holes, and leveling mounds; excavate and move several large chunks of concrete from the center of the fenced area; and move a shed onto leveled concrete blocks in the garden space.

The pièce de résistance was manually moving the shed. After all the discussion at the steering committee meeting the night

before about what to do about the shed, we made an on-the-ground decision to give moving it a go since we had all that youthful help at our disposal. Amazing what 12+ strong bodies can do together. *[Editor's note: See more photos on the calendar page.]*

Our next work party is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Saturday, May 16. There is no work party in April.

## From the Pastor

by Jennifer Brownell



**T**his is shockingly late for a thank you note for a gift received in November, but I do hope you'll accept this THANK YOU for the new robe that many of you pitched in to purchase for the tenth anniversary of my ordination. I've been waiting to offer the official thanks until the robe is ready, and I recently received the good news that it is on its way to debut during Easter worship, April 5! THANK YOU for your generosity, care, and support. My other usual robe, which I wore for the past 10 years, has gotten pretty worn and rough around the edges, and it will feel good to be in a shiny new robe. Again, THANK YOU.

Putting on new clothes (or in this case new robes) feels like getting a fresh start, which is, I think, why some of us remember a tradition of new clothes for Easter. This is about more than looking smart for the visitors and family who will be in worship, although that is fun too. Wearing new clothes is a way of saying we want to start life, be transformed, enter into the resurrection and new life that Christ promises not just at this time of year but always.

This past month I had the incredible privilege of officiating at the wedding of Barb Raz Neu and Paul Neu. For their wedding scripture, they chose Colossians 3:12-17, which contains the line "Above all, clothe yourselves with love..." This is a beautiful reminder not just on those big occasions like weddings and Easter worship services, but every day. Because not just at Easter, but each morning, we are invited to put on the clothes that Christ makes new for each day.

Clothe yourselves with love, brothers and sisters. I'll see you in church!

## Portland Pride in Urgent Need of Helpers

*A message from Karen Kulm, representative of the Central Pacific Conference UCC Justice and Witness Ministry Team:*

**I** am writing today with an urgent request for help. Joyce Liljeholm and I have helped coordinate the CPCUCC presence at Portland



Crossroads community garden got off to great start last month! Here is just a part of the first work crew. Do you see any familiar faces? See more photos on the calendar page.

Pride (booth and parade) for many years. However, Joyce has had to step back and “retire” this year. I also am unavailable during the festival this year.

So my ask: I need someone to be a booth coordinator and someone to be a parade wrangler. I have already registered the conference for a booth and for the parade. I will write a Pride Recruitment article for On The Way and for the Justice & Witness Ministry Team Rolling Justice. I will also send out a booth recruitment email to local churches. I will do as much as I can to help prepare, but I will be out of town from June 12-15.

As you ponder this, here are some “job details” to consider:

#### **Booth Coordinator**

As we get closer to June 13, the organizers of Pride will send us a booth location and a “load in” time.

- Arrive at “load in” Saturday morning with volunteers to set up booth (literature, conference banner, decorations, etc.).
- Make sure booth stays staffed with volunteers.
- Tear down booth with volunteers at end of festival Sunday afternoon.

#### **Parade Wrangler**

Our spot in the parade will be determined several days prior to the parade.

- Recruit two vehicles to drive in the parade and carry people who cannot walk the distance. (I can also help with this.)
- Arrive early at parade staging area to “check us in” (usually by 10:00).
- Help me recruit several marchers to be our designated “Parade Monitors.” These monitors will view an online training video and then make sure all parade rules are followed.
- Pick up and bring to parade site the ONA placards to carry in parade (or designate someone to do this).
- Collect all the ONA placards at the end of the parade (or designate someone to do this).

Please consider helping with this special request. As I said, I will help with recruiting volunteers, announcements, sharing my knowledge, etc., but just cannot be there that weekend.

Thanks for your consideration and please call me with any questions. (Karen Kulm, 360-991-5774)

## Women’s Tea Suspended

Marteena and Ruth are sorry to have to suspend the annual Women’s Tea for 2015. Although Ruth’s surgery and recovery have gone very well, the tea is just a bit more than they can take on so soon. Marteena has been Ruth’s mainstay during her recovery and she, too, needs some time to recoup her energy before taking on this much of a project. They love presenting the HCCUCC Women’s Tea and look forward to putting it back on the schedule for the Saturday before Mother’s Day, 2016.

## Spring Focusing on Changes

by Martha Barstow

Things are changing... The weather has been warm and the signs of spring are evident in the buds and blossoms on various trees, plants, and flowers.

Things can change for us a church body as well. We have shared our thoughts on the question, “If we were to start a new church, what would we want to include, what would it look like?”

Highlights from the summary are as follows:

#### **People**

- Interested in Celebration Sunday and welcoming and greeting.

#### **Communication**

- High level of interest in effective communication.

#### **Service**

- Interest in church being a community hub. Other interests spread fairly evenly.

#### **Programs**

- Strong interest in programs which provide spiritual food.

#### **Intergenerational**

- Identified interest in a monthly youth program and multigenerational relationship building.

#### **Property**

- Interested in discussing memorial and general gardens and a bike rack.

This information reveals a wide span of interests and limited focus. The full summary and an interesting article on focusing can be found in the Narthex or online at these links:

<http://peter.hillsdaleucc.org/publications/VisioningSummary.pdf>

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5855/too-much-on-the-menu-when-churches-lack-a-clear-mission>

This is exciting yet challenging news! Let us be in

prayerful discernment to more fully understand

*I thank God for all of my HCC family and for your prayers and support surrounding my surgery in February. In Jennifer's absence, Stephen Minister Gloria Craig was there to pray with me in the moments before surgery. I've felt so cared-for and loved with your calls, cards, and good wishes. The surgery and my recovery have gone better than expected. The many cards of encouragement on my coffee table continue to cheer me and remind me how much this congregation cares for its own. It's now a time for prayers of rejoicing and thanksgiving. God bless you all.*

*Ruth Rusnak*

# 4 tidings

our mission and focus as a church community. Look inward—what makes your heart sing? Look outward—what is God calling our church to be? What is our focus?

We will continue the dialogue and together focus on God's call to us as a church body.

*So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it. Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal.* (Philippians 3:15-17, *The Message*)

## Congregational Meeting Called

A congregational meeting has been called by the Consistory for Sunday, April 12, immediately following the worship service. Updates to current projects and programs including the building project are on the agenda.



A baby shower for Ryan Boyer and Michelle Marcus-Boyer was celebrated on March 15

# tidings

April 2015

**Hillsdale Community Church**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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.

**Congregational Meeting April 12 • See page 4**



# April 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00a Loaves and Fishes MC 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting R3	2 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	3 4-7p Labyrinth Walk FH 7:00p Good Friday Service FH	4 1:00p Sanctuary Decorating
5 Easter 8:30a Outdoor Service PATIO 9:00a Breakfast FH 10:00a Easter Egg Hunt SS 10:30a Festival Worship Service SANC	6	7 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MH	8 1:00p Memoir Writing Group 1:30p Tai Chi FH 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting R3	9 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Interspiritual Prayer Group CH	10	11 2:00p Raz-Neu Celebration FH
12 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities DN 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1	13 Transition Projects/ Hoyt St Meal BC 6:30p Post-Sabbath Bible Study (PSBS) MH	14 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MH	15 1:30p Tai Chi FH 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting, R3	16 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	17	18 9:00a More Than Precious in His Sight: A Conversation about Race and Faith FH
19 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities DN 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1	20	21 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MH 12:00p Tidings Deadline	22 1:30p Tai Chi FH 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting, R3	23 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	24	25
26 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities DN 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1	27 6:30p Post-Sabbath Bible Study (PSBS) MH	28 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MH	29 1:30p Tai Chi FH 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting R3	30 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	May 1	2

BC=Bud Clark Commons (655 NW Hoyt St) CH=Chapel, Room 4, Education Wing CR=Choir Room DN=Downstairs FH=Fellowship Hall GT=Golden Touch (SW Barbur at 19th)  
 MH=Mt Hood Room MR=Maple Room MC=Multnomah Center (7688 SW Capitol Hwy) R1=Room 1, Education Wing R3=Room 3, Education Wing SA=Sanctuary UL=Upper Parking Lot

