

tidings

Worship at HCC August 2013

August 4 (11th Sunday after Pentecost)

Holy Communion

Luke 12:13-21

The Rich Fool

August 11 (12th Sunday after Pentecost)

Luke 13:10-17

Healing

August 18 (13th Sunday after Pentecost)

Luke 12:49-56

Why Do You Not Know How to
Interpret the Present Time?

August 25 (14th Sunday after Pentecost)

Isaiah 5:1-7

Love Song to a Vineyard

Luke 13:6-9

A Fig Tree Cursed

**Editor's Note: Due to illness,
publication of this month's
Tidings was delayed.**

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August Potluck Promises Fun

The final Summer Potluck Picnic takes place Saturday, August 10, from 2:00 until 6:00 at the home of Lynn and Elaine Walser-Clark. Bring your favorite picnic food, tableware for each member of your group, and a donation of school supplies for Neighborhood House. Plates, napkins, cups, iced tea, and coffee will be provided. BYOB if you'd like something else.

Past-year donations at the Walser-Clark potlucks have provided more than 300 items for the Grauer and Neighborhood House drives. Lynn and Elaine's address is 5626 SW Illinois Street, Portland.

Help Wanted: Pray-ers Needed

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:19)

Hillsdale Community Church believes in the importance of prayer and in the power of God to answer prayers. The Prayer Chain ministry at Hillsdale Church consists currently of 20 people who have committed to pray regularly, confidentially, and individually for people and concerns that are requested of them. Each pray-er forms part of a chain of people who are praying at the same time for the same request and it is through that chain that God's love flows.

Here's how it works: You sign up to be a pray-er. Pray-ers receive occasional prayer requests either by phone or email and make a commitment to pray as soon as

possible after a request is received. Prayer requests may involve an individual need or a wider community need or may be an invitation to give thanks to God. Requests, which come mainly from members and friends in our immediate community, are given to the pastor or to the prayer chain coordinator. The specific request is then sent out to the pray-ers and a chain of prayers are lifted up on behalf of the requestor.

If you would like to join in this ministry as a pray-er, please contact Barbara Raz (braz@teleport.com, 503-244-7153).

And, everyone is welcome to submit prayer requests as needs arise!

Back to Eden—A Nature Quiz and an Invitation

What's the biggest reason our songbird populations have dropped dramatically? What are the two biggest causes of habitat loss in suburban America? What do 96% of bird species need to feed their young? Which plant should you choose for your garden, one that looks like it's being eaten by insects or one that looks undisturbed? What would happen to life on earth if all the insects disappeared? How much of our plant and animal species will be left on earth by the year 2100 at our present rate of extinction? Why don't churches speak out about this?

These are questions posed by E.O. Wilson and Douglas Tallamy in their wildly popular books, *The Creation* and *Bringing Nature Home*. We are discussing these and related questions at the 9 am Sunday class

beginning July 28 using these books as resources. Come and see these books by two of America's leading biologist/entomologists and learn what churches and other property owners can do to help save nature. Contact me with any questions. (jimruyle@comcast.net, 503-223-8838).

Pastoral Reflection

by Rev. Pat Ross

"...and on the seventh day God finished the work he had done, and he rested... God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because God rested from all the work that he had done in creation." (Genesis 2:2)

If you have not read Jennifer's latest blog entry I encourage you to do so. There are three ways you can read it: by going to her blog (surfbatical.blogspot.com); or, thanks to Barbara Raz, looking at the notebook in the Narthex; or looking at the posted version on the bulletin board in the Narthex. In her latest entry, Jennifer reminds us in vivid words and beautiful images what sabbath means and why marking sabbaths is so important.

We rejoice with Jennifer as she experiences her sabbatical and we may want to remind ourselves why it is important for us to mark the sabbath, too.

My orthodox Jewish friends remind me that part of their Sabbath ritual is to refrain from using electricity. Some days that sounds like a really good idea. I am told that the majority of smartphone owners are never more than six feet away from their phones. When eating, drinking, sleeping, traveling—never more than six feet away. Now, don't get me wrong, I think smartphones are great. I am amazed when I am talking to my granddaughter and some question arises—with a few flicks of her fingers an answer appears on that little screen. "Where's the nearest Starbucks?" "Which president was an M.D. before taking office?" "How do I get back on track after I have missed my turn?" It is amazing. I am glad for her and for me. But I hope she doesn't sleep with it. I hope she leaves it off when we are having dinner. I hope that if she ever finds herself in an oppressive situation, like the young woman in the movie *Prada* who was ordered to keep her phone accessible at all times, she too will throw that phone into the nearest, deepest fountain.

Technology brings many good things to our world; so much that is helpful, creative, and that contributes to efficient communication, BUT we need some breaks from even the best inventions.

This past Tuesday some of us at the church experienced a surprise electronic sabbath. The electric company came to remove a dead tree on the church property which endangered some power lines and possibly other things as well. In order to do their work, they needed to turn off the church's electricity for about eight hours. We were able to hold Bible study, and we did—no tea, but cups of water were okay. However, we could not make or receive calls,

use our computers, calculators, coffee machine, or go to the bathroom without a flashlight. So following Bible study, most of us went home. And I don't know about anyone else, but I loved having a summer afternoon to be at home, drink some iced tea, and play with our puppy. God created human beings in such a way that we thrive when we remember to mark Sabbaths: turn things off, quiet down, look around at the summer beauty, and breathe.

HCC Women Plan Patio Party

On Friday, August 16, Lynn and Elaine Walser-Clark will host an informal patio party for the women of HCC. The party begins at 4:00. Come when you can; stay as long as you like! Please bring a finger food to share, your beverage of choice (lemonade and iced tea will be provided), and a comfortable picnic chair, if you wish. You are welcome to bring photos of your travels to share with others.

If you need a ride, contact Barbara Raz (braz@teleport.com or 503-244-7153). Lynn and Elaine live at 5636 SW Illinois St., Portland. For directions or more information, call them at 503-891-5323.

Short on Shawls

We are running quite short on prayer shawls at the moment. Please consider making a shawl to donate. There is a supply of yarn available in a basket near the stand, or you can choose your own. Shawls can be knitted, crocheted, quilted, or sewn.

Shawls are distributed to members and friends of our congregation who are struggling with health issues and need a reminder that they haven't been forgotten, to new parents, as well as to those suffering a loss. There is a directory on the table by the stand with a notation by those who have been given a shawl.

Contact Anita Moss (503-246-6874 or mossanita@live.com) if you have questions or if would like to participate in a knitting circle.

HCC Feeds Hungry Men

A healthy meal is something most of us enjoy each and every day within our family, but there are many in our community who do not have this opportunity on a daily basis.

Doreen's Place, a homeless shelter run by Transition Projects, is a place where homeless men can go to have an evening meal and a bed for the night. Our church has committed to serving a healthy meal at this shelter once a month.

It takes resources, both money and volunteers, to prepare and serve the meal for approximately 100 men: money to

buy the food, folks to do the shopping, food donations, people to prepare the meal (prepared in our church kitchen by a team of three or four people and includes a casserole, salad, rolls, fruit, dessert, and milk), and a group to transport and serve the food at the shelter.

Heartfelt thanks go to the many volunteers who have helped to make HCC's ministry possible this past year. There were some 15 members and friends of our congregation helping to prepare the meals this past year and eight or more faithful folks who helped to serve the meal.

If you would like to be involved with the meals for the shelter during the coming year (September 2013 through August 2014) on the second Monday of each month:

Cooking • Contact Barbara Raz (503-244-7153, braz@teleport.com). Requires a 3½-hour afternoon commitment (3:00 to 6:30 p.m.) once every three or four months.

Serving the meal (would be a great experience for a family to do together!) • Contact Jack Morby (503-293-9058, morby517@aol.com) or Max Malone (503-469-9909, max_or@frontier.com). Requires a 1½-hour commitment in the evening (6:30 to 8:00 p.m.).

"There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread."

—Mohandas K. Gandhi

Our church family has sought out this opportunity to share God's love and to do what we can to alleviate hunger in our community. It's also an opportunity for you to help!

Where We Came From Helps Us Know Where We're Going

On Sunday, July 21, the church met for worship in an unusual place—the Fellowship Hall. The congregation sat around tables and shared stories of our families' immigrant experiences. Where did our ancestors come from, and how long ago did they arrive in America? Do we know anything about the hardships they faced? What traditions did they bring with them, and do we still practice any of these customs?

We asked these questions to help us imagine issues that may confront modern-day immigrants, as we think about those people who will soon be our neighbors in Stephens Creek Crossing. Many of the new residents will likely be new arrivals to our country and city, have fascinating stories of their own, and face new challenges. Our church has committed to a partnership with the Stephens Creek folks, hoping to join with them in creating a communal vegetable garden on the church grounds. We don't know exactly what form this garden might take, but we want to be ready offer our support and encouragement. We also look forward to our lives being enriched by learning about the traditions and perspectives of our neighbors. We want to be prepared

to extend an extravagant welcome, and how we can best prepare our community to do that will be the subject of a conversation we will continue in the coming months.

This Diversity Sunday worship service required lots of helpers. Trudi Frengle and grandchildren provided flowers for all the tables, Anita Moss and Nayan Fleenor made signs and posters for the day, Mary Ann Schacher played the piano, John Biskey made sure we had a working sound system, Jon von Behren and Bob Brandon contributed content to the service, and lots of folks helped with set-up and clean-up. Terry Cornell and Tim Ditch helped with the preparations ahead of time, and many of you turned out to worship and to share during the service. Thanks to everyone who contributed to a wonderful day of sharing and reflecting.

Recycling Update

Both collection bins were emptied and their contents taken to St. Luke's Lutheran church during the Community Recycling event of July 13. Hillsdale members had brought in 30 compact fluorescent bulbs and 25 pounds of batteries during the two months since the bins were previously emptied. Good going, and let's keep it up! The earth upon which we all depend will be livable longer because of your recycling.

If a battery has already begun to leak, please don't bring it in. The recycler doesn't want it in that condition. Instead, wrap and then dispose of it along with your regular garbage.

Weekend Retreat at Camp Adams Features Annual All-Church Picnic

Welcome Pastor Jennifer, Jeff, and Elijah back to HCC at a weekend retreat at Camp Adams over Labor Day weekend (Friday, August 30, through Sunday, September 1). The All-Church Picnic will take place beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday during the retreat.

You may stay overnight Friday and/or Saturday, or just come for the day. Information/registration forms and sign-up sheets are available in the church Narthex, or you can call the church office to reserve a place. The cost for the All-Church Picnic meal is \$7.50. The cost for other meals and lodging is listed on the purple flyers in the Narthex.

Carpools will meet at the church at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday. Financial assistance is available for the food cost if needed. Please turn in your registration form and payment by Sunday, August 25.

Please direct questions to Anita Moss (503-246-6874 or mossanita@live.com).

August 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers LOT	2	3
4 9:00a Adult Study Group MHR 10:30a Communion Worship Service and Children's Sunday School SANC/SS	5	6 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MHR	7 10:00a Loaves and Fishes MULT 1:30p Tai Chi FH	8 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers LOT	9	10 2:00p Summer Potluck Picnic WCH
11 9:00a Adult Study Group MHR 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School SANC/SS	12 Transition Projects Meal BUD	13 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MHR	14 1:00p Memoir Writing Group, MDH 1:00p Tai Chi Party EH	15 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers LOT	16 4:00p Women's Patio Party WCH	17
18 9:00a Adult Study Group MHR 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School SANC/SS	19 Tidings Deadline	20 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MHR	21 1:30p Tai Chi FH	22 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers LOT	23	24
25 9:00a Adult Study Group MHR 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School SANC/SS	26	27 7:00a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MHR	28 1:30p Tai Chi FH	29 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers LOT	30 All-Church Retreat at Camp Adams	31 11:00a All-Church Picnic at Camp Adams

BUD=Bud Clark Commons, 655 NW Hoyt St
EH=Ewing Home, 5149 SW 26th Dr
FH=Fellowship Hall
GT=Golden Touch Restaurant (SW Barbur at 19th)
LOT=Upper Parking Lot
MHR=Mt Hood Room
MDH=Maria Dunlop's Home, 12146 SW 29th Ave
MULT=Multnomah Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy
SANC=Sanctuary
SS=Sunday School Rooms
WCH=Walser-Clark Home, 5636 SW Illinois St

Make a Difference Team Has Busy Summer

Transition Projects has a shortage for blankets for their shelters. The need is immediate so please bring any new or gently used blankets to the church. We are working with Transition Projects to arrange a barrel for our donations. If you have questions, talk to Barbara Raz or Elaine Walser-Clark.

Multnomah Days Parade • We will be participating in Multnomah Days Parade this year and welcome everyone who wants to join the fun. The parade will be Saturday, August 17 starting at 10 a.m. The theme is The Village Goes Green. The Grand Marshall is Rick Nitti, Executive Director of Neighborhood House. One comment we have received is that the parade has been too "quiet." They are hoping for music, banners, costumes, dancers, and something to bring some excitement to the event perhaps reflecting the green theme. Diana, a friend of Elaine Walser-Clark, has offered to drive her metallic blue 1967 Camaro convertible in the parade. Two senior members of our congregation (no names you will have to come to see who they are) will be riding with Diana. We are also hoping for lots of happy, noisy Hillsdale children walking with us as we celebrate this neighborhood event. One of the great things about this parade is that it does not take a lot of preparation or time commitment. It is just fun! Please contact Elaine Walser-Clark if you have questions or suggestions. We will have more information about where to meet and other "stuff" as the time draws closer.

Grauer Back to School Project • Cindy Van Loo coordinated this annual project.

Gay Pride Portland Parade • Several Hillsdale people walked in the parade this year along with members from 39 UCC churches and other denominations in the Portland area. The increase of corporate groups was especially visible this year with the focus on marriage equality and civil rights. It was a time of fellowship and laughter shared with other UCC congregations and a lot of fun for everyone. On a side note, Pastor Jennifer and Elijah showed up for the service held in the Park blocks before the parade. Elijah had originally

intended to just visit and not walk in the parade, but he got so caught up in the festive spirit that he walked the whole route! We will participate again next year, and hope to see more people come down and join the UCC churches. It is rare opportunity to participate in a civil rights event that is changing history. Elaine Walser-Clark said, "As someone who marched for racial justice in the 1960s, I can affirm that the experience working for civil rights is something that you will remember for a lifetime." This next year will be especially meaningful with the changes we have seen in the Supreme Court and the upcoming Oregon measures for 2014.

Christians in Palestine • On July 11, Hillsdale hosted Rev. Loren McGrail, a UCC missionary working with Palestinian Christians. The discussion and potluck, arranged by Nayan Fleenor, was well attended. Loren spoke of the her experiences working with the displaced Palestinian Christians and the social justice issues UCC is currently addressing. She also noted that many citizens of Israel are protesting the treatment of Palestinian Christians. Her passionate personal stories about the everyday hardships and injustice was a call to people within the UCC to open their eyes and educate themselves.

Friendship Builders Combine Annual Picnic with All-Church Picnic at Camp Adams

This year, the Friendship Builders will be joining the All-Church Picnic held at Camp Adams. You will have the opportunity of either carpooling for the day, or, if you wish, you may sign up for an overnight stay. It will be a time to welcome Pastor Jennifer and family home, and also to say thank you to Pastor Pat. We have come to love her, and her time with us has enriched all our lives.

Pick up an information form in the Narthex (you may have received the form via email) and be sure to reserve your spot at the picnic by Sunday, August 25. The cost for the picnic is \$7.50 per person.

Questions? Call Margaret Bronson at 503-598-3483.

Youth Corner

Sunday School Celebrates Seasons

"What time is it?" the children ask. "It's Ordinary Time!" the teachers say, according to the seasons of the church year. After the Day of Pentecost we return to Ordinary Time—the Season after Pentecost. It generally covers about half the year, taking us back to Advent where the cycle begins again. The seasons of the church year form a unique rhythm by which Christians can live their lives. By following the seasons, we unite with Christians throughout the world. Even when other seasons change dramatically from one place to another, there is a profound constancy to the seasons of the church year.



Hillsdale children will learn more about the meaning of the church seasons this coming fall as we transition to a new Sunday School curriculum, *Seasons of the Spirit*. Sunday School teachers will meet on August 4 after the church service to begin planning. We are in need of two teachers for the fall. If you feel called to teach the children one Sunday per month, please join us for the meeting and contact Rebecca Holt at rebeccah@lclark.edu or 503-866-0340.

Children's Sunday School Topics

August 4 • We are like... • Psalm 1; Psalm 23; 42:1–5 • The righteous are like trees that flourish and bear fruit. We can be like sheep cared for by God the shepherd. We need God as deer thirsts for water.

August 11 • Sharing the harvest • Leviticus 23:22; Ruth 2 • God told the people to leave part of their harvest for those who had no land. Boaz shared the bounty of his land with Ruth. He honored Ruth for her devotion to Naomi.

August 18 • A stone as witness to covenant • Joshua 24:1–28 • Joshua gathered the tribes and recounted their story as God's people. He set up a stone under an oak to bear witness to the people's renewed covenant with God.

August 25 • Join the celebration • Psalm 148 • All the earth should praise God, who commanded and all were created. All people should come together to praise God, who has no equal on earth or heaven.

tidings

AUGUST 2013

Hillsdale Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Pastor Rev. Jennifer Brownell (jennifer@hillsdaleucc.org)

Director of Music/Administrator Tim Ditch (tim@hillsdaleucc.org)

Custodian Terry Cornell

Child Care Providers Theresa Wechsler, Chris Sessions

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.