

tidings

Worship at HCCUCC March 2014

Worship services begin at 10:30.

Sunday, March 2

Guest Preacher Rev. John Boonstra

"Climate Change:
What Would Jesus Do?"

Wednesday, March 5

Ash Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Simple worship service
7:30-8:30 a.m. Ashes on the Go

Sunday, March 9

A Man, a Woman, a Snake,
and a Tree

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Sunday, March 16

I Will Bless You

Celebrating Camp Adams and
Outdoor Ministries

Genesis 12:1-4a

Sunday, March 23

Water, Water Everywhere?

John 4:5-42, Exodus 17:1-7

Sunday, March 30

Those Who May See

John 9:1-41

Tidings is published monthly by Hillsdale Community Church, United Church of Christ. The printed version is produced on recycled paper. A full-color electronic version is available via e-mail. Send a request to tidings@hillsdaleucc.org to be added to the e-mail list. *Tidings* is edited and designed by Tim Ditch.

Talk to People You Know about Why Marriage Matters

Meridian UCC is hosting "Faithful Conversations: Talking to People You Know about Why Marriage Matters"—an interfaith community training led by Oregon United for Marriage. Learn how to gracefully engage members of your congregation, friends, family, neighbors, colleagues, and others about why marriage matters for all loving, committed couples because of your faith. Research has shown that having a conversation with someone doubles the chance that they will support the freedom to marry. Come and learn new skills and tools to be able to share your support with confidence and love. The event is Sunday, 3/2, from 1:00 until 3:00 at Meridian UCC ("Frog Pond"), 6750 SW Boeckman Rd, Wilsonville.

Learn More about Marriage Equality

What is marriage equality and why is it important? How is support of marriage equality consistent with our church's Open and Affirming stance? How can we be supportive of efforts to move toward marriage equality in Oregon? We will have the chance to talk about these and other questions at three forums coming up in March. Join marriage equality activists for informational sessions in the Mount Hood Room on Tuesday, March 11, at 10:30 a.m.; Thursday, March 13, at 6:00 p.m.; and/or Sunday, March 16 at 9:00 a.m.

Back to Eden: Nature Won't Wait!

by Jim Ruyle

Twenty-five percent of our species of native plants and animals will be gone by the year 2050, 50 percent by the end of the century. That's what scientists say our children and grandchildren are in for unless we restore some of the habitat we've taken away from those species. We've been working on habitat restoration at Hillsdale Community Church, UCC, for three years, and we've made some visible progress, like converting unused grass all along Texas St. to native plants, planting natives in our upper parking lot islands, and attacking Himalayan blackberry and other invasive, nonnative plants elsewhere.

This spring we're starting a meadow east of our lower parking lot that will have milkweed and other plants to attract butterflies and other pollinators. We're also planning restoration of our north lot to create attractive walking/meditation space with access to a future community garden to share with our new neighbors at Stephens Creek Crossing. And we must get on with a plan recommended by the city of Portland three years ago to reduce the runoff from our roof that damages stream beds and fish spawning grounds downstream. That will also reduce our water/sewer bill.

Our biggest challenge in accomplishing all this is organization. It takes people to save God's creation, and they have to be available on nature's schedule. Nature won't wait for convenient meeting times. Planting must be done this spring, before dry summer weather, or wait until fall. Watering must be done during the dry season. Weeding out invasives must be

done while the soil is wet. And nice weather to do these things is hard to schedule. What we need is a reserve of people who care about saving nature when nature calls (if you'll pardon the expression). They don't have to be gardeners, just folks who feel called to help save nature in any way they can (as we all are, the way I read the Bible). There's a church in town that has what they call the "shovel and rake gang." They come out in large numbers every Thursday morning to work on their grounds. They come out because they like to. They have refreshments and fellowship and have fun doing their work. Let me know how you feel about an idea like that. jimruyle@comcast.net, 503-223-8838.

Collins Lecture Series Features Author Karen Armstrong

On Thursday, March 6, author Karen Armstrong will present "The Transformative Power of Compassion" at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. Armstrong is a British author and commentator known for her books on comparative religion. A former Roman Catholic religious sister, she first rose to prominence in 1993 with her book *A History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*. Among her other books is *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*. Armstrong's work focuses on commonalities of the major religions, such as the importance of compassion and the Golden Rule. She received the \$100,000 TED Prize in 2008. She used that occasion to call for the creation of a "Charter for Compassion."

On Friday, March 7, Armstrong presents "Continuing the Conversation: Interfaith Perspectives on Compassion and the Common Good."

The Thursday lecture runs from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. The cost is \$40 preferred, \$25 general, \$15 student.

The Friday lecture is from 9 a.m. until noon in Kempton Hall at Trinity. The cost of \$10 includes a continental breakfast.

Register securely online at www.emoregon.org. The program is sponsored by the Collins Foundation and the Oregon Episcopal School,

Ashes on the Go

Lent is the 40 days before Easter and begins on March 5 with Ash Wednesday, a day of repentance (turning toward God). Like last year, a simple Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7:00 in the morning, and will conclude with an invitation to take the ashes along with a blessing to our neighbors and friends in Multnomah Village. This is based on a movement that began several years ago called "Ashes on the Go," in which churches take the ashes to street corners and offer a prayer and blessing to commuters and other passersby.

Word in the World

Interested in a new Bible Study? In a new study to meet every other Monday evening, we will be engaging the scriptures deeply, beginning with a study of the book of Exodus. Contact Pastor Jennifer for more information—exact start date and locale TBA.

Letter from the Pastor

by Jennifer Brownell



My nephews and brother are visiting from out of town, so I'm taking them to see the sights. So far we've been to Voodoo Donut and Powell's Books, and now we duck into the Chinese Garden. While we're in the Chinese Garden, we decide to get tea in the little tea house, which I've never done before. I'm surprised how quiet it is, here in the middle of Old Town. We climb to the second floor and it feels very exotic to be sipping cranberry tea and nibbling lychee fruits, almost like I'm the one who's on vacation in another place. When we walk back out into the street, I still have my city-dwellers blinders on, but my nephews exclaim about how many homeless people they see. Their questions open my eyes in a new way, and we wonder together what their lives are like.

It makes me wonder how often our spiritual practices are like this. If you've been coming to worship for a while, for instance, it can start to feel familiar and comfortable. What would it be like to invite someone to worship with you who is new to this practice? What would it be like to see through new eyes what has been, until now, routine? What might you notice? And when you move into the world, what blinders might be removed?

We are moving into the season of Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter), and here is the invitation of the season: to approach all that you do with a renewed sense of purpose, intentionality, and wonder. To notice what you haven't noticed before. And then, to walk out into the world with some of your blinders off. And always, to be praying that Christ will accompany you every step of the way.

I look forward to sharing this season with you. See you in church!

New Year's Prayer Blesses Lent

This New Year's Prayer is a blessing that fits well for Lent, too. As one of your Lenten practices, you are invited to share these words with someone you care about.

May God make your year a happy one! Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain, But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes; Not by making your path easy, But by making you sturdy to travel any path; Not by taking hardships from you, But

by taking fear from your heart; Not by granting you unbroken sunshine, But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows; Not by making your life always pleasant, But by showing you when people and their causes need you most, and by making you anxious to be there to help. God's love, peace, hope, and joy to you for the year ahead.

Teen Who Sues Governor over Climate to Be Special Guest at CPCUCC Climate Event

Kelsey Juliana, 17, a Eugene teen who is suing Governor John Kitzhaber and the State of Oregon “for failing to protect essential natural resources, including state waters, coast lines, and the atmosphere,” will be a special guest at Rise Up: Climate, Faith, and Action, a climate conference to be held at Camp Adams March 7-9. (Quote from Eugene Register Guard, Jan. 22, 2014)

Juliana will share her story during workshop time and in conversation with youth participants at the Camp. See a video of her expressing her motivation to advocate for the climate at <http://www.witness.org/videos/trust-Oregon>.

The purpose of the conference is to engage CPC congregations in an organized network of climate advocates working for the recovery of creation in a time of climate emergency. Both adults and youth ages 14-18 are encouraged to attend from every congregation.

Register online for the conference at cpcucc.org by clicking on the red “CPC Event Registration” button located on the left



On February 16, we had the opportunity to play games, hear some great music, and enjoy a potluck feast with our new neighbors at Stephens Creek Crossing. Trudi Raz greets a new neighbor and her son.

Youth Corner

Confirmation Class Takes Off!

Along with our classmates and co-leader Pastor Jennie Ott of Lake Oswego UCC, we will be traveling to Sanctuary One Farm near Jacksonville for the second part of Spring Break (March 26-30). We are grateful to the members and staff at Medford UCC, who will provide us with a place to stay. According to Sanctuary One's website, the farm “helps people of all ages experience nature's power to heal by volunteering on a real working farm; we provide educational tours that open people's hearts and minds; we invite schools and youth-serving nonprofit groups to visit the farm for some fresh air, exercise, and hands-on service-learning; we help teenagers who are in legal trouble learn how to make better choices; we mentor interns who want to become the next generation of care farmers; we promote the ethics of sustainable living; and we provide a safe, loving home to rescued farm animals and house pets.”

side of the home page. Registration fee is \$100 and includes five meals (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast) and two nights' lodging. Limited private room accommodations are available and will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Those who wish to attend the Saturday, March 8 session only may register for \$50. Go to “Rise Up: Climate, Faith, and Action—Day Registration” in Upcoming Sessions.

For further information: contact Natalie Becker, Co-Director of Outdoor Ministries for the CPC, at campadams.om@gmail.com or 503-829-2118.

Lenten Reflections: Imagining a Different World

“What does God require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

This year's Soup Suppers are a series of introductions to peacemaking and justice topics, with an emphasis on how we can make a difference with our lives, individually and as a community. For six Wednesday evenings from March 5 through April 9, we will gather in the new meeting space in the education wing from 6:00 to 8:00 for a light meal, conversation, and reflection about God's desire for justice and peace in the world, and how we might each find a way to bring that realm a little closer. Each week will focus on a set of peace and/or justice issues, with an introduction, a time for conversation, and a time for prayerful, worshipful contemplation. Plan to

attend all six sessions to get a full perspective of “what God might be requiring of you” as a personal calling this Lenten season and beyond. Child care will be provided.

Treasurer’s Note

In January the congregation voted to approve a budget for 2014 that included an increase in gifts and offerings of 4.5 percent. In the month of January, the church took in gifts and offerings equal to 95 percent of the amount called for in our budget—95 percent of one-twelfth of our budgeted gift and offering income. Given that January is almost always a bit of a down month for offering income, this is actually a good start for our financial year.

Confirmation Class Needs Your Support

Support the Confirmation Class as we go on a mission trip to a working care farm in Jacksonville Oregon over Spring break. Class members will be selling special treats after worship on Sunday, March 9. See you then!



Your new Consistory, elected at our January annual meeting, gathers monthly to oversee the business, financial, and personnel matters of the church. From left to right: **Bob Brandon, President** (503-313-0056 · Bob.Brandon@ltic.com); **Drake Mitchell, Treasurer** (240-672-1738 · drakem@pdx.edu); **Cathy Thomas, At-Large, Worship** (503-246-9509 · elefun@aol.com); **Carl Wamser, Vice-President** (503-504-4296 · wamserc@pdx.edu); **Nayan Fleenor, At-Large, Make a Difference** · (503-645-6132 · nayan@mindspring.com); **Erica Johnson, Past President, Share Christ’s Word** · (503-341-7821 · ericaljohnson@gmail.com); **Ruthanne Rusnak, At-Large, Fellowship** · (503-701-2462 · xiiicatsold@yahoo.com)

MARCH 2014

tidings

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)

Receptionist **Kathy Schneller**

Custodian **Terry Cornell**

Child Care Providers **Julia Miller, 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.



March 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 8:30a Centering Prayer MR 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 10:30a Communion Worship Service/Children's Sunday School SA/SS	3	4 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 10:30a Bible Study MH	5 7:00a Ash Wednesday Service SA 10:00a Loaves and Fishes MC 1:30p Tai Chi ME 6:00p Lenten Soup Supper ME	6 9:00a Walking Group UL 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	7	8 1:00p Pat Keiling Memorial Service SA
9 2:00a Daylight Saving Time Begins - Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour! 8:30a Centering Prayer MR 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 10:30a Worship Service/Children's Sunday School SA/SS	10 Transition Projects/ Hoyt St Meal BC	11 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 10:30a Bible Study MH	12 1:00p Memoir Writing Group MD 1:30p Tai Chi ME 6:00p Lenten Soup Supper ME	13 9:00a Walking Group UL 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	14	15
16 8:30a Centering Prayer MR 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 10:30a Worship Service/Children's Sunday School SA/SS	17	18 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 10:30a Bible Study MH 7:00p Consistory Meeting MH	19 1:30p Tai Chi ME 6:00p Lenten Soup Supper ME	20 Tidings Deadline 9:00a Walking Group UL 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	21	22
23 8:30a Centering Prayer MR 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 10:30a Worship Service/Children's Sunday School SA/SS	24	25 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 10:30a Bible Study MH	26 1:30p Tai Chi FH 6:00p Lenten Soup Supper ME	27 9:00a Walking Group UL 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	28	29
30 8:30a Centering Prayer MR 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 10:30a Worship Service/Children's Sunday School SA/SS Confirmation Mission Trip	31	April 1 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 10:30a Bible Study MH	2 1:30p Tai Chi FH 10:00a Loaves and Fishes MC 6:00p Lenten Soup Supper ME	3 9:00a Walking Group UL 10:10a Centering Prayer MR 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	4	5

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
ME=Meeting Room, Education Wing
MH=Mt Hood Room
MR=Maple Room
MD=Maria Dunlop's Home (12146 SW 29th Ave)
MC=Multnomah Center (7688 SW Capitol Hwy)
SA=Sanctuary
SS=Sunday School Rooms