

tidings

Thanksgiving Feast Celebrates Traditions

We will have our church family's traditional Thanksgiving feast in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 24, following the Festival of Thanksgiving worship service. You are invited to bring a favorite dish from your family's Thanksgiving tradition to share with your church family.

Sign-up sheets are available in the Narthex. Please contact Paul Gonzales (paulsings@thewoofen.com or 503-234-8600) if you can help with set-up, serving, or clean-up, or if you have questions.

Letter from Pastor Jennifer



On the last Sunday in October, we heard the Mary Oliver poem *Wild Geese*. As we enter into November, as we move from fears of Scare City to knowledge of the Abundance of life in God, this seems like a good one to carry with us.

*You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours,
and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.*

Worship at HCCUCC October 2013

November 3

24th Sunday after Pentecost
Luke 18:1-8

Persistence and Patience:
Moving out of Scare City

November 10

25th Sunday after Pentecost
Luke 20:27-38

Whose Wife Will the Woman Be:
Moving out of Scare City

November 17

26th Sunday after Pentecost
Luke 21:5-19

Signs and Portents:
Moving out of Scare City

November 24

27th Sunday after Pentecost
*Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 100;
Philippians 4:4-9; Luke 1:68-79*

Moving into the Country of
Abundance

From Scare City to Abundance: Supporting God's Work through Hillsdale UCC

As the calendar changes, we move from October's "scare city" to November's abundance. During this time, every member and friend of Hillsdale Community Church, United Church of Christ, is invited to prayerfully consider the abundance in their lives and how our time, talents, and resources can be used to support God's work through the church.

In early November, you will receive your 2014 faith giving form, along with a memory album including photos and reflections from our year together. Once you receive a memory book from a church friend:

1. Record your faith-giving amount on the card. There is an optional section to be completed if you would like to give electronically—by automatic debit from a checking or savings account. After you have filled out your form, help children complete their faith-giving cards.
2. Seal your faith-giving card, along with any children's cards, in the security envelope provided and place it in the pocket at the back of the memory book. Then pass the memory book on to the next person on the list.
3. Celebrate with thanks the collection of our faith giving cards at our Sunday worship service on November 17.

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.

*Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.*

*Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting-
over and over announcing your place
In the family of things.*

See you in church!

In the Light,

Pastor Jennifer

Calling All Turkeys!

This time of year, many supermarkets offer turkeys at a very reasonable price when you spend a minimum amount in their store. If you do not have a use for a turkey but would be willing to donate it, the HCC Hoyt Street/Transtion Projects meal ministry would gladly accept your gift. The bigger the turkey, the better! We often use turkey in the casseroles we prepare for the monthly meal where we feed about one hundred hungry men. Just place your turkey into the freezer that is in the back pantry area of the kitchen or contact Barbara Raz (503-244-7153 or braz@teleport.com).



Newcomers' Lunch Planned

If you've been visiting Hillsdale Community Church UCC for a while (or if this is your first Sunday!) and you'd like to learn more about the church, join us for a Newcomers' Lunch in the Mount Hood Room on Sunday, December 1, after church until 1:00 or so. RSVP to Pastor Jennifer or Elizabeth Pigg (503-892-8980).

Advent Update

Save these dates for special Advent and Christmas celebrations!

Sunday, December 8, 6:30 p.m. • Christmas Dessert Concert

Saturday, December 21, 7:00 p.m. • Longest Night Service

Wednesday, December 24, 11:00 p.m. • Christmas Eve

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 27, 10:30 a.m. • All Ages Spontaneous Christmas Pageant

Centering Prayer

A growing group is gathering three times a week for centering prayer. This is a simple but profound method of prayer in which we quiet the breath and mind as we turn our thoughts to God. Join us in the Sanctuary Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:10-10:30 and Sundays from 8:30-8:50. See you there!

Liturgist Training Workshop to Be Offered in January

Hillsdale Church has a select group of lay leaders, called liturgists, who function under the Worship God Joyfully team. Occasionally, we try to refresh our skills and expand our membership. Those of you who are already serving as liturgists for worship, please take note of this training workshop scheduled for Sunday, January 12, right after church. It has been quite a while since our last training and we need to brush up in order to make the very best possible first impression for visitors and clear communication for everyone.

If you have a talent and passion for reading Scripture in front of people and can project your voice well, you are invited to attend this training workshop. New liturgists will be chosen from those attending on January 12.

During the workshop we will all be given an opportunity to use the podium and microphone, with team members giving feedback and helpful suggestions. Pointers and key vocal suggestions will be part of the instruction also. This important leadership role is an integral part of our worship experience.

If you have any questions, please speak with Margy Kleger, Tim Ditch, or Pastor Jennifer.

Looking Ahead: Bible Study

The Bible is probably the least understood and yet most often cited book in the world. Learn some, grow in your faith, and enjoy good company at our weekly Bible study, each Tuesday at 10:30. Beginning in December, we will be doing a special study of the book *The Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. How does this classic tale bridge the span between Bible times and modern times? Find out by joining the Bible study at 10:30 on December 3, 10, and 17.

Confused? Perplexed? Need Advice?

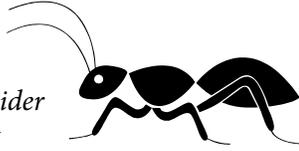
Dear Theo is an advice column that lets you ask your most pressing questions—and get answers. Visit on the web at www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/dear-theo/

Written by three UCC ministers of diverse ages and backgrounds, Dear Theo welcomes questions on all kinds of topics: sexuality, relationships, church culture, conflict, mental health, family drama, ethical and moral dilemmas, and everything in between.

A new letter will be answered each week. Just email your questions and problems to Dear Theo at deartheo@ucc.org. Don't worry—your identity will always remain anonymous!

A Message from the HCC Foundation

“Go to the ant, you lazybones; consider its ways, and be wise. Without having any chief or officer or ruler, it prepares its food in summer, and gathers its sustenance in harvest. How long will you lie there, O lazybones? When will you rise from your sleep?” (Proverbs 6:6-10)



This proverbial ant knew the importance of preparing for tomorrow. Unfortunately, there are more of us who are like the lazybones than the ant when it comes to planning for the future: Recent studies indicate that approximately 70% of Americans die without a will—a plan for the future of their accumulated assets.

As Christians, the preparation and periodic review of a will is an act of faithful stewardship that expresses our belief about God’s claim upon us—and upon what we have been given to use and manage. A will provides for the distribution of our possessions in keeping with our values and beliefs and ensures that what we have acquired during our life will become available to benefit others after our lifetime.

As part of the plan contained in your will, give careful consideration to a gift for the ministry and mission of our congregation and the wider church, just as you have done during your lifetime. In this way, you can make sure that others may gather at harvest what you have planned for during your lifetime.

For more information about planned giving, ask Jennifer or any member of the Hillsdale UCC Foundation: Fred Raz, Charlene Dickinson, Gerry Craig, or Lynn Wolff.

Back to Eden: Making Meadows

Full planting season is upon us. The West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District has given us a special meadow-mix of seeds for planting in the space along Texas St. east of the back driveway. The Sunday School children were the first to start planting. In September, under the leadership of Alex Hamilton, they planted seeds in flats that are now sprouting and will be placed in the ground early next year. The Back to Eden team will broadcast more seeds on the ground in late October for sprouting next spring. The seed mix includes annuals that will provide the first show and perennials that will take over later including plants and grasses with some flowering for color and pollination. In about February, we will plant milkweed starters specifically to attract migrating monarch butterflies that are suffering from loss of their forest habitat in Mexico. We will also be picking up an order of native plants from the Backyard Habitat Program’s fall sale on November 10 for planting in select areas on the church grounds.

More and more members of our church are learning the importance of this habitat restoration for addressing the loss of plant and animal species caused by loss of native plants needed by wildlife for their survival. The Sunday morning adult class recently finished studying E.O. Wilson’s *The Creation* and Douglas Tallamy’s *Bringing Nature Home*, fascinating books that explain the implications of habitat loss and how to address it. If you would like to receive e-mail or other notices about the activities or upcoming meetings of the Back to Eden team, please let me know (jimruyle@comcast.net).

Women’s Retreat Is Coming in February



Hands to Work; Hearts to God, a retreat for the women of Hillsdale Community Church, is planned for February 28 through March 2, 2014.

Join the women of HCC for a weekend (Friday night through Sunday morning) of fun, friendship, and nurture at the Oregon Coast. Spaces are limited. A deposit of \$25 will hold a space. The cut-off date for registration is December 1, and full payment will be required by January 19, 2014.

Information will be available soon regarding the location and cost. Watch for more announcements!



Update from Olivia Hinerfeld

Editor’s note: Olivia was for several years one of our child care workers. She graduated from high school in June and is now attending Georgetown University.

Hi! I hope everyone at Hillsdale is doing well! I thought I’d let you know how my first six weeks at Georgetown went.

Last week, I had my first set of midterms. I haven’t received most of my grades yet, but I am relatively confident that I passed everything and for the most part am enjoying my classes. However, I’m excited to get beyond the gigantic introductory courses and into the more specialized, discussion-based classes in the coming semesters.

Currently, I am a member of the leadership team for College Democrats, writing for *The Voice* (one of two student newspapers), playing Ultimate Frisbee, and tutoring a third grader at a low-income elementary school in Ward 7 in reading. Yesterday, I had an interview for the Freshmen Outreach Committee of GUSA (student body government of Georgetown). Over 40 students applied for the position, which is an appointed position in the executive branch of the government, but I’m really hoping I get it! I think my interview went well. (*Note: Olivia did get the position and is now the*

Chair of the Sustainability Council in the Freshmen Executive Committee.)

In College Democrats I am a member of the DC Relations committee. The leader of the committee placed me in charge of the group's Twitter account (I've never used twitter before!) so I am quickly becoming well-versed in the art of political tweeting. We have been meeting with the campaigns of various mayoral candidates and making platform suggestions with policies that would help benefit students in the DC area. Right now we are focusing on tenant's rights issues and the DC noise ordinance.

Yesterday I went to meet my tutee for the first time at Burrville Elementary School—that's the elementary school where Obama built a book shelf last year on the National Day of Service. It's the first thing you see when you walk into the school.

I've been making an effort to see a lot of the speakers that come to campus. So far, I've listened to Senator Tim Kaine, Senator John Tester, and Jon Favreau, who served as President Obama's head speechwriter for the past eight years. He was incredible to listen to. Tomorrow I am going to listen to lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

This weekend I am going with several friends to the eastern shore of Maryland for a mini-vacation. I am looking forward to getting some time away from Georgetown!

Love,
Olivia

Youth Corner

Confirmation Schedule

November 3, 5:30-8:00 p.m. at Lake Oswego UCC

What does God look like, anyway?: images of God from Bible times to here and now

November 17, 5:30-8:00 p.m. at Hillsdale UCC

God bless the whole world, no exceptions: exploring the world's religions

Attention all Middle and High Schoolers

You are invited to Medical Teams international Real. Life. exhibit on November 16. The REAL. LIFE. Exhibit is a walk-through, multi-sensory exhibit that allows people to experience what REAL. LIFE. is like for children affected by disaster, conflict, and poverty. Visitors to the exhibit describe the experience: "Eye-opening." "I will never be the same." "Inspiring." "I must do something." "I can make a difference." We'll meet at church at 1:00 to carpool to this life-changing experience.

Mark your calendars now for a Middle- and High-school Christmas lock-in at Ainsworth UCC in NE PDX, Dec 20-21.



Why Marriage Matters

Marriage matters to gay people in similar ways that it matters to everyone. Gay and lesbian couples want to get married to make a lifetime commitment to the person they love and to protect their families.

Marriage says "We are family" in a way that no other word does

- Marriage is one of the few times where people make a public promise of love and responsibility for each other and ask our friends and family to hold us accountable.
- Gay and lesbian couples may seem different from straight couples, but we share similar values – like the importance of family and helping out our neighbors; worries - like making ends meet or the possibility of losing a job; and hopes and dreams - like finding that special someone to grow old with, and standing in front of friends and family to make a lifetime commitment.

It's as basic as the Golden Rule:

- Treating others as one would want to be treated includes allowing marriage for gay couples who are truly committed to each other.
- Most straight couples would never want someone telling them they couldn't marry, and when they think about it, many say they wouldn't want to deny that for anyone else.

In America, freedom means freedom for everybody

- Marriage is a fundamental freedom that should not be denied to anyone.
- We should protect, not limit individual freedoms.

Marriage strengthens families. It gives couples the tools and the security to build a life together and to protect their families

- Couples get married because they want to be there for each other in sickness and in health, when times are good and when things get tough. State and federal marriage laws provide a safety net of legal and economic protections for married couples and their children - including the ability to visit your spouse in the hospital and to transfer property, which can mean being able to remain in the family home when your spouse has passed away.
- There have been attempts to create marriage-like relationship systems, but they don't provide the same security and protections.

Allowing committed gay and lesbian couples to get married does not change the meaning of marriage

- All couples who marry in the United States must get a license for a civil marriage, usually at a courthouse or city hall. These civil marriages would also be available to same-sex couples.
- Civil marriage for gay couples does not affect religious marriages, religious institutions or clergy in any way. No religion would be forced to marry same-sex couples, or recognize same-sex marriages within the context of their religious beliefs.
- What defines a marriage is love and commitment, and the ability to protect your family.

adapted from Freedom to Marry's whymarriagematters.org



It's Oregon's turn

Thirteen states plus the District of Columbia allow all loving and committed couples to marry. Oregon, however, is one of 30 with a constitutional amendment prohibiting marriage for same-sex couples. Over the years, public support for marriage has grown. A majority in Oregon now supports marriage for same-sex couples. It's our turn to extend the freedom to marry to all loving and committed couples.

Why we support the freedom to marry

Gay and lesbian couples want to marry for similar reasons as anyone—to stand in front of family and friends and make a lifetime commitment to the person they love. To make a public promise of love and responsibility. To share all the joys and sorrows that life can bring. To be a family, and to protect that family. None of us would want to be told it's illegal to marry the person they love.

As Oregonians, we believe in basic freedom. We believe in treating others as one would want to be treated. We should listen to our hearts and to the values we all share. We should support the freedom to marry for all loving and committed couples.

What's happening?

Oregon United for Marriage is leading the effort to win the freedom to marry in Oregon. Since late July, we've been gathering the 116,284 signatures needed to put the Freedom to Marry and Religious Protection Initiative on the ballot in November 2014. As of October 1, volunteers and staff have collected over 90,000 signatures—and every signature has a story of an Oregonian who values extending the freedom to marry to all couples.

At the same time, we are building a coalition of organizations and individuals to help us spread the word about why marriage matters. We are also building the largest volunteer team in the state and raising the resources we need to win.

This is our chance to tell our stories, to engage our neighbors and colleagues and to help new leaders emerge. This is our moment to win.

It's an extraordinary time. We need people to do extraordinary things.

This campaign will be tough. Our families will be on the line. It will be politically, financially and emotionally expensive. A loss would be devastating. To win at the ballot next year, we have to build the largest grassroots campaign our state has ever seen.

You can help by donating, volunteering, writing a letter to the editor, talking to friends, registering to vote and signing up to stay informed through email and social media. To find out more about how you can help, please visit oregonunitedformarriage.org.



Building a Family: Gina & Regina

"Marriage is a promise that you share with family and friends, a promise that they will help you stick to that commitment during the tough times."

— Regina Perata (left)

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November 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 12:30p Margret Wilson Memorial Service SANC
3 2:00a Daylight Saving Time Ends 9:00a Adult Study Group MHR 10:30a Communion Worship Service and Children's Sunday School SANC/SS 11:30a Congregational Meeting SANC	4	5 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MHR	6 10:00a Loaves and Fishes MULT 1:30p Tai Chi FH	7 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	8	9
10 9:00a Adult Study Group MHR 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School SANC/SS	11 Transition Projects Meal BUD	12 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MHR 7:00p Finance Committee Meeting MHR	13 1:00p Memoir Writing Group MDH 1:30p Tai Chi FH	14 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	15	16
17 9:00a Adult Study Group MHR 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School SANC/SS	18 7:30p Women's Retreat Planning Meeting MHR	19 <i>Tidings</i> Deadline 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MHR 7:00p Consistory Meeting MHR	20 1:30p Tai Chi FH	21 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	22	23
24 9:00a Adult Study Group MHR 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School SANC/SS 11:30a Thanksgiving Feast FH	25	26 7:00a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MHR	27 1:30p Tai Chi FH	28 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed	29	30

BUD=Bud Clark Commons, 655 NW Hoyt St **CR**=Choir Room **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 **STL**=St. Luke Lutheran Church (SW Vermont at 46th Avenue)

NOVEMBER 2013 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)
Custodian **Terry Cornell** Child Care Providers **Julia Miller, Chris Sessions, Theresa Wechsler**

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.