

tidings

Worship at HCCUCC September 2014

Sunday worship services begin at 10:30.

September 7

Holy Communion

Acts 17:22-28

Forest Sunday

September 14

Psalms 139:7-12

Land Sunday

September 21

Romans 8:18-27

Wilderness/Outback Sunday

September 28

Revelation 22:1-5

River Sunday

All-Church Picnic Coming September 7

This year our all-church summer picnic will be held on our own beautiful church grounds right after church on Sunday, September 7. This will be a potluck, so bring your own favorite picnic food to share. Drake Mitchell is bringing home-made ice cream—a recipe from Ben and Jerry's. Let's end the summer right! Everyone is invited.

HCC Welcomes New Staff Member

We are delighted to welcome Martha Parker Barstow to the staff as part-time Minister of Congregational Life beginning September 4.



Martha Barstow

Martha's position is being funded by a grant from the national United Church of Christ which recognizes Hillsdale as a renewing congregation. Martha's duties will include working with the congregation to identify strengths and spiritual gifts of church members, and identify opportunities for members to grow the mission, education, worship, and fellowship committees, as well as other programs, projects, and ministries of the church. She will provide some pastoral care on an emergency basis, and support our adult Christian education and spiritual formation opportunities. Martha will also be a visible leader in worship, preaching

occasionally. All of this in about 12 hours per week! Her work will free up Pastor Jennifer to further develop and enrich our outreach opportunities.

A second-career pastor, Martha comes to us from Cedar Hills UCC, and she will be ordained in our Sanctuary on the afternoon of Sunday, November 16.

Here are a few facts about Martha to help you get to know her: Martha has been a part of the UCC her entire life; her father and uncle were ordained UCC pastors. She grew up in northeast Ohio and eventually moved to Massachusetts where she met her husband and raised their children on the family dairy farm.

Martha received a Master of Divinity degree, with a concentration on Spiritual Formation, in 2013. She is a Registered Nurse and recently completed the Faith Community/Parish Nursing Program.

She enjoys people and loves to see the movement of God in each person and throughout creation. She is an avid reader, and when she finds a bit of time, she enjoys quilting.

Martha and her husband Dan love to spend time at the beach, and they are "coast-to-coast" parents of three children and six grandchildren.

Good News Is Bread

Awonderful experience most of us enjoy on a daily basis is sitting down to a healthy meal with our family or friends. There are many in our wider community who have no resources to buy ingredients for a meal, have no way to prepare it, and do not have the benefit of being surrounded by family and friends to enjoy conversation around a good meal.

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Doreen's Place, a homeless shelter located on Hoyt Street (near the train station) and run by Transition Projects (a city agency), is a place where homeless men can go to have an evening meal—sitting around a table and eating off “real” plates—and get a bed for the night. Our church has committed to serving a nutritious 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 purchase the food, folks to do the shopping, people who make food donations, people to prepare and cook the meal, and a group to transport and serve the meal at the shelter. The meal we serve is prepared in our church kitchen by a team of three or four people, and includes a casserole, salad, rolls, fruit, dessert, and milk. A group of five or six people transport and serve the food at the shelter.

Heartfelt thanks go to the volunteers who have helped to make this HCC ministry possible. During the past year, there were 14 members and friends of our congregation who helped to prepare the meals, and eight or more faithful folks who helped to transport and serve the meals.

If you would like to be help with the meals for the shelter during the coming year (September 2014 through August 2015) on the second Monday of each month, please make the following contact:

Cooking

- No cooking experience is required.
- Requires a 3½-hour afternoon commitment (3:00-6:30) once every three or four months.
- Contact Barbara Raz (503-244-7153 or braz@teleport.com).

Transporting/Serving the Meal

- Would be a great experience for a family to do together!
- Requires a 1½-hour commitment in the evening (6:15-7:45). The commitment could be once during the year or could be for every month or whatever suits your schedule.
- Contact Barbara Raz (503-244-7153 or braz@teleport.com).

“When people were hungry, Jesus didn’t say, ‘Now is that political, or social?’ He said, ‘I feed you.’ Because the good news to a hungry person is bread.” —Desmond Tutu

Going Up?

What difference has this church made in your life? In the coming months, you will be contacted about making a financial commitment to a capital campaign called *Raising Our Welcome* to make our church work better for everyone! A major part of this campaign is an elevator connecting the lower parking lot and Fellowship



About the campaign logo: The sun represents God's light in our community and in our lives. The outstretched rays are like outstretched arms of welcome. The hills represent the ups and downs in our lives.

Hall with the Sanctuary and offices upstairs. Watch for more information to come and prayerfully consider what you are able to pledge.

From the Pastor

by Jennifer Brownell

I got a message on the phone this morning from a neighbor saying that she goes by our church every day on the way to work. She was calling to inquire about baptism, saying she had always wanted to be baptized but had not found the right place until now.



As we head into the *Raising Our Welcome* capital campaign to secure funding for an elevator and other accessibility improvements, you will be asked to prayerfully and generously contribute to our church's life together. There are many good reasons to be generous on a personal level. In recent years science has confirmed what faith has known for millennia that being generous makes you happier, more willing and able to trust in God, and more compassionate towards other people. But the call from the young woman seeking baptism reminds me that, while giving can be a profound personal spiritual practice, it is also much more than that.

As we give money to the capital campaign, we support the continuation of a powerful and lasting symbol in our community that is visible to every person who passes by. Our building is where the sacred sacraments and rites of our faith—baptism, communion, weddings, memorials—have taken place, and the memory of those, and the anticipation of the ones to come, are held in the very walls and floors. Our building is a place where we gather to shelter from the elements and share meals together, as together we lift our hearts in prayer for those who enjoy neither safety nor shelter, food nor drink. Our building is the place where we are strengthened so we can continue God's work in our neighborhood and the world. Our building is not a fortress, designed to keep others at bay. It is a doorway, through which many may enter into God's presence and the healing of a warm and welcoming community.

Yes, our building is walls and windows, elevators and faucets, carpets and heating ducts. But our building is so very much more than that.

See you in church!

Pastor Jennifer

Sunday Portland Parkways Is Coming September 28

You are invited to join in the festivities and welcome the visitors from around the city passing by the church that day. On your way to church, be aware that some of our access

streets to Capitol Hwy will be blocked off or involve detours.

The event runs Sunday, September 28, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. over a route of six miles.

End the Sunday Parkways season by taking advantage of the route, including a walk-only trail. Whether rolling down Troy Street or exploring the SW Trails with its rolling hills and scenic views, don't forget to stop by Gabriel Park, Multnomah Village, and Hillsdale Shopping Center for food, music, activities, and more.

At press time, the map of the route was not available. Watch for updates here: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/58929>

New Offerings for Children

We are excited to offer these additions and enrichments to our Christian education and formation for children this year.

From 9:00-10:30 on Sunday mornings, free childcare is always available for parents and grandparents attending adult ed at that hour. Rather than free play, we now offer an enriched opportunity at that time with a game, service project, craft, skit, or other activity led by our childcare providers Sam and Julia. A healthy, hearty snack is served at around 9:45. Children are still invited to gather at the bell tower at 10:15 to help ring the bell.

Kids Club will take place just about monthly and is open to 4th-7th graders looking for fun activities on a Sunday afternoon. Watch for information about field trips, games, and other enjoyable outings.

How do we prepare our children for worship? This fall we introduce Children's Chapel as one option. After the children's story in the Sanctuary, the children will be dismissed to a worship service that is prepared just for them, and includes music, scripture reading, prayers, sharing communion, and even a short sermon. Children and youth of all ages have leadership roles and are welcome in Children's Chapel, which will take place on October 26 and November 30 during the Sunday School hour.

It's Back-to-School for Adults Too

Got that September itch to head back to school? Consider joining one of these classes this fall:

What Matters to You, Matters To Us. If you are new to the UCC, or feeling like you'd like a brush-up on some of the basics, join Pastor Jennifer and a small group for an informal study group this autumn. No previous experience assumed. Plenty of conversation and opportunities to ask (and answer!) questions. This *new* small group opportunity will be limited to eight people and we will meet six times on a day and time that works best for those interested. Call or email Pastor Jennifer with questions, or look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Sunday Morning Adult Education. Every Sunday, 9:00-

10:00 a.m. A new book is read every couple of months on a topic chosen by the active and engaged students in this lively class. During the summer, the class has been reading *Christianity after Religion* by Diana Butler Bass. Watch for information about the fall book.

Tuesday Bible Study. Every Tuesday morning at 10:30. Look at the lessons for the coming Sunday in an informal and friendly environment. Newcomers always warmly welcomed. No previous Bible experience required.

Monday Bible Study. Second and fourth Mondays, 6:30-8:00 p.m. An in-depth look at one book the Bible that is suitable for both beginners and experts. We are finishing up Exodus and getting ready to begin Acts in September so it's a great time to join. About 30-45 minutes of outside reading and study are suggested between each gathering.

UCC Offers Daily Devotional

Do you subscribe to the daily devotional from the UCC? Here's a great one from back in June by Quinn Caldwell. If you'd like to receive one of these short and inspiring devotionals in your inbox every day, the incredibly quick and easy sign-up is here: <http://www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/daily-devotional/>

"They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat..." Isaiah 65:21-22

Isaiah's words sound nice, but the fact is, if you build to last, somebody else is going to inhabit your house one day.

Take your church building; aren't you living in a house somebody else built? Whether we like it or not, generation follows generation, and each one takes over in the end what the previous ones left behind. What kind of house is the next generation of your church going to find when they move in? Is it well-maintained? Cleaned and loved? Are they going to have to spend forever getting rid of all the old crap you've let accumulate and ripping down the bulletin boards that you've left hanging there with the same stuff on them for the last 20 years?

Or will they discover that somebody figured out how to organize themselves so that the back of the Sanctuary got decluttered regularly and the sills of the stained-glass windows got de-grimed every once in a while? Will they find that you had the discipline to repair broken furniture, to tear down the year-old notices and repaint the hallway once a decade?

Will they move into a house that somebody loved and cared for as if it actually mattered, or will they find a place that looks like it was owned by a hoarder with a cat problem?

Like it or not, somebody else is going to inhabit your house of worship sooner or later. Decide now what you want them to think of you—and God—when they do.

Prayer: God, you provide every shelter house, including the one in which I worship. Help me to care for mine as if I were grateful. Amen.

The Holiday Season Is Just around the Corner

Making holiday plans with your family? Make sure to include your church family in your conversations! Here's a list of some of the upcoming special services and events through the end of the year.

- A Little Fright Music Halloween Organ Concert.** Friday, October 31, 7:30 p.m.
- Thanksgiving Sunday Worship followed by Thanksgiving Feast** . Sunday, November 23
- Christmas Dessert Concert** Sunday, December 14, 6:30 p.m.
- Longest Night Worship.** Sunday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols.** . . Wednesday, December 24, 11:00 p.m.
- All Ages Spontaneous Christmas Pageant.** Sunday, December 28, 10:30 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 2014

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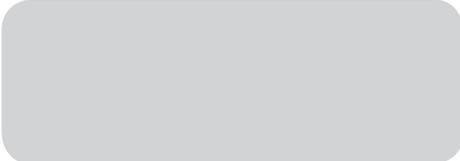
Hillsdale Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Receptionist **Kathy Schneller** (kathy@hillsdaleucc.org) Child Care Providers **Sam Hinerfeld, Julia Miller, Chris Sessions**
Coordinator of Congregational Life **Martha Barstow** (martha@hillsdaleucc.org) Custodian **Terry Cornell**

2014 Consistory Members: Bob Brandon, President (503-313-0056 - Bob.Brandon@tfc.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 - elefun@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.



September 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MH	3 10:00a Loaves and Fishes MC	4 9:00a Walking Group UL	5	6 12:00p Barbara Kunz Memorial Service and Reception SA/FH
7 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 10:30a Communion Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1 11:45a All-Church Picnic	8 Transition Projects/ Hoyt St Meal BC 6:30p Bible Study MH	9 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MH	10 1:00p Memoir Writing Group MD	11 9:00a Walking Group UL 6:30p Choir Party CR 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	12	13
14 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1 11:30a CET Meeting R4 11:30a Women's Retreat Planning Meeting MH	15 7:00p CET Training MH	16 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MH	17 Tidings Deadline	18 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	19	20
21 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1 11:30a Campaign Informational Meeting SA	22 6:30p Bible Study MH	23 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MH 7:00p Consistory Meeting MH	24	25 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	26	27
28 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1	29	30 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study MH	October 1 10:00a Loaves and Fishes MC	2 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	3	4

BC=Bud Clark Commons (655 NW Hoyt St) CR=Choir Room FH=Fellowship Hall GT=Golden Touch (SW Barbur at 19th) MH=Mt Hood Room MR=Maple Room

MD=Maria Dunlop's Home (12146 SW 29th Ave) MC=Multnomah Center (7688 SW Capitol Hwy) R1=Room 1, Education Wing R4=Room 4, Education Wing SA=Sanctuary UL=Upper Parking Lot