

United Voice

United Lutheran Church
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

2230 Washington Street, Eugene, OR 97405

www.unitedlutheran.org

Worship Services: Sundays, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.; Summer: 9:45 a.m

Education Hour: 9:45 a.m., School Year Only

March 2012

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The American monk, Thomas Merton, was a poetic spirit. His observations of every-day life often would penetrate to the depths of Spirit. The example which follows comes from a

larger piece in which he steps back from a day working under the hot sun in the fields around the monastery.

“It is God’s love that speaks to me in the birds and streams, and all these things are seeds sent to me from [God’s] will. If these seeds would take root in my liberty, and if [God’s] will would grow from my freedom, I would become the love that [God] is, and my harvest would be [God’s] glory and my own joy.”

As it turns out, Lent always happens in the northern hemisphere in late winter and sometimes in early spring. It is a time when the sun rises earlier and stays longer in the sky. Buds begin to swell. The early perennials such as crocus, daffodil, rhubarb, and garlic poke above the ground. Life begins to show itself after the season of cold and dark.

In Lent, we have the opportunity to open ourselves to the seed of God growing within us. Of course, God’s presence and power are mysteries which we can never control or coerce. Yet, we can take the time to ask for eyes to see them come through even in our own lives. We can ask that the Spirit blow into us with new life. We may do this even as we so often cover such gifts from God by our fear or selfishness.

In these forty days of renewal which lead to the greatest miracle of them all, the rising of the Son at Easter with forgiveness and life, Merton’s words give me a way to approach Lent and what this season might be. It is a time for seeds, seeds to take root in my liberty that I would become the love

which God is and produce a harvest which would both glorify God and bring me joy. That would be such an amazing gift!

I pray that Lent will be a time for us, individually and together, to experience the growth of the seeds of God’s love. May they produce within us actions which give God glory, give us joy, and bring healing into God’s creation!

Blessed Lent, Tom Dodd, pastor

HOLY HISTORY & SACRED GROUND: MARCH 9-11

United’s 2012 Congregational Renewal Weekend, March 9 to 11, will focus on “Holy History and Sacred Ground: Connecting the Story of the Bible and the Land of Israel.” As an extension of his 2011 sabbatical, Pastor Tom Dodd will be the speaker, giving presentations weaving history, geography, and the faith together. He will use a number of slides from the sabbatical time in Israel as well as others to help us see the land and to grow in our understanding of the Bible, helping us explore the cultural background of the first century so that we can get a better context for understanding Jesus’ words and actions.

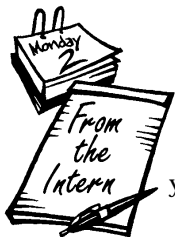
The schedule for the weekend is:

Friday, 3/9	6:30 p.m., Fellowship
	7:00 p.m., Presentation
Saturday, 3/10	9:15 a.m., Catered Brunch*
	10:00 a.m., Presentation
	5:30 p.m., Potluck Dinner
	6:15 p.m., Presentation
Sunday, 3/11	9:45 a.m., Presentation/Adult Class

*If you haven’t already signed up for the brunch, please call the church office to do so.



Q: What animal-loving bestselling writer once landed in the hospital after being butted & trampled by a flock of sheep? Answer on page 2.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
 Grace and peace to you in the name of the one who is, was, and always will be Lord! I pray this month blesses you.

A few weeks ago I returned to Colorado to offer a memorial service for a friend's baby. At the wake we were talking about the places we've traveled and the many twists and turns our lives have taken since we met in junior high. We spoke about her journey as a mother. It dawned on me that missionaries are in some ways holding a huge cosmic sign that says, "Have Gospel, Will Travel." We laughed and cried and laughed and cried some more. This is how mourning goes. Actual travel and our baptismal journey unite us as people blessed with the gift of time on earth. From our very beginning at birth until the deep stillness that comes with death, people are moving, some wandering restlessly, others at times clearly journeying. As you read this, our Lenten journey is underway, with God moving in our hearts.

Journey changes both the traveler and the people they encounter because it forces us to improvise where we once had comfortable routine. Travel can include the inward, contemplative journey as well as going to distant lands. If we stay in one geographic location the journey frequently entails changing our habits. Among the many reasons for following Lenten disciplines are to be drawn by God to the source of all comfort, power, and life – Jesus.

Jesus is clear when he calls the disciples to leave everything and witness to new life. He asks disciples to leave their material possessions, their jobs, their families, and even their former identity. The process of letting go involves grief, even if the pain is replaced by a new joy found in God. Grief takes time to be expressed and sometimes feels like it goes more backward than forward. Lent gives us time to travel into grief and let go. God will work in our hearts during Lent, making space and giving us time to grieve. Lent is an open ticket to faith, issued by God, and redeemable at anytime because of the Easter event.

"Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. . . They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them." Mark 6:7, 13.

May you experience the power of the Lenten Journey this year!

In Christ, Intern Laura

A: British country veterinarian, James Herriot, author of *Creatures Great and Small*. He was trying to stop the sheep from eating plants on his lawn.



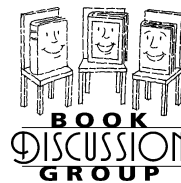
WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Make Wednesday evenings part of your Lenten journey! Soups suppers are served at 6:15 p.m. each Wednesday this month; cost is \$3.00. A Lenten service follows each week at 7:00 p.m., with members of United telling their faith stories.

SPECIAL SPEAKER ON MARCH 4

Andrea Scofield, Executive Director of Camp Lutherwood Oregon, will be preaching at both services on Sunday, March 4, and leading the adult class that morning. Andrea is a lively and engaging speaker, so you won't want to miss this opportunity.

RACE, RACISM, & SELF-DISCOVERY FEATURED THIS MONTH



United's Book Group invites you to join in reading *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky* by Heidi W. Durrow. This novel tells the story of a bi-racial girl (African-American father, white Danish mother), who is sent to Portland to live with her paternal grandmother. It is there that she discovers and grapples with race: "I learn that black people don't have blue eyes. I learn that I am black. I have blue eyes."

We will discuss it on Sunday, March 27, 7:00 p.m., in the church community room. Copies are available at the Eugene library, in paperback at local stores (\$14), and as an e-book through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



FEBRUARY 16 MEETING

- ★The church will be trying out a portable sound system for 45 days.
- ★The Council is beginning the process of looking at options in purchasing a new copier. The current one has made over one million copies!
- ★The Council has begun a discussion about possibly selling the church van as it is deteriorating.



BETH CURENS WESTCOTT
1954-2012

Our dear sister and faithful member, Beth Westcott, died on February 9, nine months after being diagnosed with melanoma in her brain. Her death leaves a hole in her family and our congregation. A memorial service was held at United on Saturday, February 25.

Beth was born to her missionary parents, Gerry and Ginny Currens, in Zorzor, Liberia, West Africa, on September 23, 1954. She grew up among the Loma people in the village of Wozi with her brother Ken. They moved to Wozi when she was four and she vividly remembered the trip there through the jungle on a narrow, muddy trail. They were warmly welcomed into that community that she always regarded as her home.

The family moved to Eugene in 1968 so Gerry could pursue a doctorate in anthropology. Beth remained in Eugene when her parents returned to Liberia, so she could finish high school and attend the University of Oregon. A classical guitarist, she earned her degree in music. The appreciation and love of music remained an important part of her life.

Beth married David Westcott in 1976 and they lived in Portland for a few years. In 1980 they returned to Eugene and soon had a family of four, with Kenny born in 1984 and Kolu in 1986. Beth returned to school earning her master's in education at Pacific University. She spent the rest of her life as an elementary school teacher at Hillside and then Parker elementary schools.

Beth enjoyed traveling with her family, exploring the wonders and beauty of Oregon and the Northwest. She looked forward to each new season of the many performing art groups in Eugene.

She is survived by her parents, Ginny and Gerry Currens, her husband, David, her son, Kenny, daughter, Kolu, and brother, Ken. We hold them all in our prayers as they mourn and remember Beth.

A NEW LOOK AT THE LORD'S
PRAYER



The Confirmation class recently completed its study of the Lord's Prayer. A final activity was to write a paraphrase of the prayer. The class was divided into two groups with one composed of girls and women while the other was boys and men. Both paraphrases are great! Pastor Dodd

Dear awesome Mom,
Your name is holy.
May we follow your foot steps.
We will strive to do your heavenly ways on Earth.
Please give us our daily survival kit.
Forgive us what we did wrong and help us to do the same for others.
Don't test us.
Keep us away from evilness.
Cuz you da boss, Mom
You got all the magic, as always
and we will praise you forever.
Amen.

Dad, be close to us.
The Lord's name should be special and recognized.
Program us to make us do the right things.
I hope things work out the way they happen at your place.
Give us our necessary needs.
Forgive me for the wrongs I have committed and help me do the same.
Don't put us through bad moments but help us get through bad or hard times.
You're the ultimate power and you hold all the cards.
Everything is yours because you're the best.
Amen.



SIMPLE ENERGY SAVING TIP

A quick and easy way to save energy and reduce your electric bill is to turn off lights in your home (or church) when the rooms aren't in use. New York City schools reduced their energy bills by 11% this way!

WANTED: Members of United to join the Interfaith Environmental group,

Earthkeepers. Talk to Eunice Kjaer.



UPDATE ON FEBRUARY 5
MEETING

Those attending the February 5 meeting approved the 2012 budget of \$202,700.00, heard several reports, and elected new members of the Council and several committees. New Council members are Julie Coffman, Corrie Gustafson, Susan Lunas, and Genevieve Brandt (youth).

EXCITING NEWS FOR TWO MEMBERS



Erik Anstine has signed a three-year contract with the Zurich Opera, and will begin there in September. Currently Erik, a bass, is singing in a young artists' program with the Los Angeles Opera. This summer he will sing with the Santa Fe Opera.

Alex Brink has signed a two-year contract to play football with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. He has played for them this past year as one of their quarterbacks.

Congratulations, Erik and Alex!

YOUR UNITED VOICE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



Thank you so much to the three people who helped prepare the *United Voice* for mailing last month. Your February issue was brought to you by Joanne Gulsvig, Ellen Krueger, and John Masson. If you are interested in helping some month, talk to me.

Gay Kramer-Dodd



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Dave Bakke
- 3 - Anne Mugaas
- 12 - Zane Wilson
- 13 - Kari Van Orsdel
- 14 - Douglas Drouet
Matthew Wilson
- 16 - Kristina Adair
- 17 - Stuart Helikson
- 24 - Joan Wren
- 25 - Gerald Currens
- 27 - Karen Wiant
- 30 - Joseph Bakke
- 31 - Sally Cairnes-Wurster
Candy Snook

ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 - Debbie & Paul Greene
- 19 - Mary & Harry Jahnke
- 31 - Ada & Edward Muth

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 - Jane Barta
- 9 - Susan Lunas
- 10 - Bink Drouet
- 12 - Maija Anstine, John Landon
- 13 - Paige Buenau
- 19 - Genevieve Brandt
- 25 - Peggy Johnson
- 26 - Randy Sullivan
- 28 - Carolee Horning
- 31 - Annetta Forrer, Alex Snook,
Carolyn Langdon





WOMEN OF UNITED NEWS

by Mary Beth Wilson

The monthly Bible studies this month discuss “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away,” (Mark 13:31), following Jesus into

Jerusalem. Discussions get lively! You are welcome at any of the following circles:

Ruth Circle meets Monday, March 12, 9:30 a.m., at the home of Betty Fuller.

Deborah/Phoebe Circle meets Tuesday, March 13, 1:00 p.m., in the church community room (note time change.)

Mary Magdalene Circle meets Tuesday, March 13, 6:30 p.m., at the home of Susan Lunas.

The Women of United have rescheduled the Bold Woman Day celebration until later in the spring. More information will come in the next newsletter.

Thank you to all who helped with the Church Women United program that we hosted in February. It was well-attended and several people commented on how nice it was to have healthy snacks, especially since the program was about childhood obesity and what is being done in Lane County.

Church Women United will meet this month on Friday, March 2, 9:00 a.m., at St. Jude’s Catholic Church on Willamette St., and on Tuesday, March 6, 7:00 a.m., at Brail’s Restaurant. The topic for both gatherings is the World Day of Prayer.

During Lent we are collecting items for personal hygiene kits for Lutheran World Relief. Formerly known as “health kits,” they have a change in contents as well as name. Each hygiene kit needs: a light weight bath-size towel (max. 52"x27"), dark color preferred; two bath-size bars of soap (4 ½ ounces), in original wrapping; one adult size toothbrush in original package, one sturdy comb, and one metal nail clipper (attached file is optional.) LWR adds toothpaste. The cost for that and to ship is \$2.65/kit. If you are unable to shop for kit items you are certainly welcome to contribute to shipping costs.

Leta Swartz has taken a leave of absence from her leadership position with Women of United due to heavy family obligations. Please remember Leta and her family in prayer. We look forward to her return. If you need information or have any questions, concerns, or suggestions about our women’s group, please contact Mary Beth Wilson.

THEOLOGIAN TO SPEAK THIS MONTH IN EUGENE

Diana Butler Bass will speak on the topic of *Christianity Beyond Religion: The Birth of a Great Spiritual Awakening* on Sunday, March 18, at First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St. The talk is divided into two lectures, at 2:00 and 4:00 p.m., followed by a 5:30 reception, book signing, conversation, and hors d’oeuvres. Cost: \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door, \$10 for students. Registration forms and details at www.eugenefumc.org, or call 541-345-8764.



Q: What team won the first NCAA Basketball Championship on March 27, 1939? Answer on page 7.



Thank you to all who brought Styrofoam for recycling during February. It was a great response! And thanks to Penny Palmer of Earthkeepers who took the very full pick-up truck to St. Vincent de Paul.

Eunice Kjaer

A big thank you to all who came to my 90th birthday celebration in December. It was a wonderful surprise as I thought that I had discouraged my family from having it.

I have loved looking at all my cards and thinking about my church family which I have enjoyed for over 50 years.

Doris Helikson

Julie Coffman shares this note of thanks from Lutheran World Relief:

January 9, Thank you for your gift of \$135 to LWR's Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund. Because of you and the contributions you make to the Shipping Fund, LWR can send LWR Quilts to Sierra Leone . . . (where years of war have left the country so poor that hospitals cannot offer bedding to patients. . .) to comfort the sick.

January 10, Thank you for your gift of \$140 to LWR's Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund. . . We can send even more of these gifts of compassion around the world.

January 10, Thank you for your recent \$51 contribution to LWR, received through the Oregon Synod of the ELCA. Your gift brings help to some of the world's most impoverished families in 35 countries world-wide.

Thank you so much for your support.

John Nunes, President

January 12, 2012

Dear United Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$450 to ELCA Missionary Sponsorship. Your generosity is appreciated now more than ever. . . . [helping] nearly 250 missionaries in 48 countries preach, teach, heal, build, and seek peace alongside our global neighbors.

Because of gifts like yours, villages in the Central African Republic are able to have safe drinking water for the very first time. Community health development training is made available to women in Chile. Congregations in Suriname, Jerusalem, Japan, and Kenya have pastors to proclaim the gospel and develop local leadership. . .

As the ELCA, we do more together than we ever

could do alone. We are a church that rolls up its sleeves and solves problems – doing God's work in the world. Thank you for your support.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Twila Schock
Director, Missionary Sponsorship and Global Appeals

A SUPER SUMMER IS EXPECTED

Camp Lutherwood Oregon is eagerly anticipating summer 2012, *Adventure is Everywhere: We've Got Spirit*. Lutherwood's new registration system at <http://lutherwoodoregon.org> includes information about all the summer programs for children, youth, adults, and families. Something for everyone!

To prepare for the summer ahead Lutherwood is asking its congregations and their members to participate in helping raise \$20,000 by May 1, to provide additional housing for campers, staff, and families. Six platform cabins to house 6-7 people each are ready to be built this spring at the May 5th and June 2nd work days. The Eugene SeaBees Unit will be helping as well, so camp should be ready for campers by June 15.

You may give through a designated church offering, by mail (22960 Highway 36, Cheshire, OR 97419) or online at <http://lutherwoodoregon.org>. All funds need to be collected by May 1st so that supplies can be purchased by May 5th.

Thank you in advance for joining Camp Lutherwood Oregon in providing another amazing summer of camp!

LEAVE A LEGACY



Remember
the Church
in Your Will

If you would like to leave a lasting legacy to the church through a bequest in your will, it can be as simple as stating:

"I leave ____% to United Lutheran Church, an Oregon non-profit corporation, 2230 Washington Street, Eugene, Oregon 97405." The Trust Fund Committee can provide more information.

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EUGENE OR 97405

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Especially for:

Daylight Saving Time
Begins at 2:00 a.m. on
March 11



March 4
March 11
March 18
March 25

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38
Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

For
by
GRACE
you
have
been
**saved
through faith.**

EPHESIANS 2:8, NRSV

United Voice

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