



No matter where
you are on life's
journey, you are
welcome here!

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Pastor's Corner: Lenten Imagination

Historically, the season of Lent is a time of reflection and renewal. It is a season to look inward, to re-examine who we are in light of who God has called us to be. It's a meditative time in the church, as we acknowledge our need for God and yearn toward the good news of Easter's hope and resurrection.

As we prepare to embark on the season of Lent, which begins on February 22, we are giving it a little twist. This year we are going to focus on imagination, as a tool for reflection and examination. What is God's imagination for us and who we can be as a congregation and as individuals? How do we imagine ourselves living more fully into the people and church God has called us to be? What new ideas, what creative insights, missions, and ministries, might God be awakening or stirring in us as we seek to grow in and live out our faith?

Over the course of Lenten worship, through our Wednesday evening Lenten series, and during some special gatherings of

the church, we will explore these questions in creative and imaginative ways. Together, my hope is that we will discover some new insights into where and how God is leading us.

Several weeks ago, I used an image in a sermon about geese and how as a congregation we follow their example of flying—they fly in a V formation to draft off each other and go farther distances than they can go alone. They take turns at the front of the V, so that leadership is shared and each creature has times of rest. They stay in formation as much as possible, honking to encourage one another and sometimes giving up their individual desire to fly in a totally different direction. They accompany each other when one has to leave the flock.

This rich metaphor for communal life certainly applies at LOUCC, and part of how I understand my role as pastor is helping us to stay in formation, encouraging us to keep going, to work together, and to share leadership. Where I see this Lenten

season most helping us is by giving us focused time to imagine, explore, listen for, and discern just where God wants to go—what direction, or directions, we should aim our energetic and faithful flock.

In my understanding of ministry, this imagining is a shared task, one that we listen for and embark on together. I hope you will participate as much as possible in the Lenten events, and especially worship and a workshop on Sunday, March 4, when we host Reverend Amy Spivey from First Parish Project, the continuing education program that I've been participating in over the past two years. Amy will lead us in some specific questions and imagining as we listen for God's call on our lives and our church today.

I look forward to imagining the possibilities with you!

*Sharing our walk,
Jennie*

From the Piano Bench

I am grateful for new musical opportunities coming to LOUCC this month. If you peek around the corner of the Gustafson Room, you will see a lovely new spinet piano donated to the church by Mr. Pat Menjou of Tigard. The piano belonged to his wife, who accompanied her mother, an opera singer. After we get the piano tuned, watch for announcements of a "blessing recital" featuring musicians from our congregation. The piano will be used for intimate services and other small group events in the Gustafson Room. Thanks to Gerry Craig for facilitating the connection between Mr. Menjou and LOUCC, and to the intrepid moving crew who waited out snow, wind, and rain to bring the piano safely to its new home: Monica Honegger and her trailer, Bill Deane, and Kurt Munson.

Our other new acquisition is making an appearance in the choir, in the pews, and on Sunday mornings: please welcome our new contemporary songbook "*Sing Prayer and Praise*," a publication of UCC. Many blessings to Pam

Rossio and the Rossio family, whose generous donation in memory of Rob Rossio helped us purchase enough books for the congregation and choir, plus an accompanist edition for the music director. Also, thanks to Pastor Jennie Ott and the worship committee, for their guidance and support in the process of choosing this book. The book, edited by Reverend Scott Ressman, offers a wide variety of new music to expand on the repertoire and styles we have in the *New Century Hymnal*. I enjoyed meeting Rev. Ressman at the UCC Fall Gathering last October, where he introduced a number of songs from the book and spoke passionately about the importance of blending contemporary musical styles into congregational worship. Keep your ears open for new tunes played as instrumental interludes, sung by soloists, by our youth and children, by the choir, and song by song, by the congregation. I am excited to be introducing new music into our worship, including multiple-verse songs, chants, rounds, and responses.

Please stay in touch and give me feedback on songs that move you, songs that speak to your heart, and also songs that don't work so well for you. This is music for us to explore together, alongside the beloved favorites that we already know.

~From the Praise Song Advisory Team, Sunday, July 22, 2007:

"Praise music is a memorable, melody-based composition which is musically accessible without being simplistic; it has a fresh sound incorporating less-traditional rhythms and harmonization. Praise music makes one "feel" something with a goal of establishing a deeper relationship with God. It can move one to thought, action, and reflection based on the text or theme. The language of praise music is inclusive and accessible. It encompasses traditional religious vocabulary; explores non-traditional, contemporary images of God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit; and draws from the rich imagery found within sacred Scripture. Praise music seeks

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Exploring Marriage Equality

In response to a congregational decision at our Fall 2011 congregational meeting, we will be exploring the issue of civil marriage equality for same-sex couples in our worship and education time on February 5 and 12. Please mark your calendars for both days, including an educational workshop following worship on February 12 from 12:00-1:30pm.

Last fall, the Community of Welcoming Congregations, an umbrella organization of congregations in Oregon and Washington that support the inclusion and equal rights for lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender persons, invited all of its member organizations to offer congregational endorsement of civil marriage

equality. Our Council supported the statement but wanted to have the vote of the full congregation before adding our name to the letter, which was intended to rally support to have same-sex marriage added to the Oregon ballot in 2012. By the time of our congregational meeting, civic leaders had decided not to put the issue on the ballot for 2012 so we didn't need to vote on the letter; however, we decided that we would like more education on civil marriage equality.

Rev. Jennie Ott will speak to the issue on February 5, and then our church will host Rev. Tara Wilkins on February 12, who will lead us in worship and then offer a workshop on marriage equality. Tara is the Executive Director of the

Community of Welcoming Congregations and is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. As a person of faith, she is an ardent activist for Trans-Les-Gay-Bi inclusion and equality, and she has a passion for working with youth and young adults as they explore the links between their gender, sexuality, and spirituality.

Over the course of these two Sundays, we'll explore the difference between religious and civil marriage, how our faith can offer a particular lens to this issue, and ways that we as individuals and as the church could choose to support marriage equality. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend worship and the workshop.



Please join us for a **church wide game night** on:

Sunday, February 26th from 5:30 - 7:30 in the Fellowship Hall

We will provide the soup. Please bring along either a side dish or dessert to share.

Feel free to bring along your favorite games as well as guests to join in the fun. All ages are welcome. Come for part or all of the evening.



Any questions?
Call Nan Deane @ 503-697-8406

Hope to see you there!!



Piano Bench

(Continued from page 2)

to embody the covenantal values of the United Church of Christ: Justice and Peace, Multiracial/Multicultural, Open and Affirming, Accessible to All – as we seek unity; celebrate diversity; honor inclusion; hope for relational, loving communities; and explore multiple images and understandings of God.”

Susan Peck
Music Director



BIRTHDAYS

- 2/7 Harmony George Jaursch
- 2/9 Bruce Ellison
- 2/9 Hannah Rossio
- 2/17 Megan Deane
- 2/17 Hilary Martin Himan
- 2/22 Cathy Peterson
- 2/24 Joan Gornbein
- 2/28 Andrew York



ANNIVERSARIES

- 2/15 Jane Lovelady & Jan Standea

Sunday, February 5th Souper Bowl of Caring

Our youth will hold soup pots on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. They will join young people in churches across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting.

Please support the youth of our church in this effort to “love our neighbors” by dropping your dollar or more in the soup pot on Sunday, February 5th.

On-Call Pastor

Jennie Ott will be on vacation from Friday, Feb. 10 to Saturday, Feb. 18, during which time Rev. Linda Mines Elliott will serve as the on-call pastor. If you have any pastoral needs or emergencies during that time, please contact Linda at (503) 380-5948 or lmkelliott@frontier.com. Many thanks to Linda for serving our congregation in this important way!

Mission's Menu February

Rice and Beans

Stewardship Corner

Date	Income	Budget	Attendance 2012	Attendance 2011
January 1	\$5,740	\$3,380	48	68
January 8	\$4,732	\$3,380	78	70
January 15	\$8,429	\$3,380	67	78
January 22	\$1,511	\$3,380	79	71
January 29	\$2,695	\$3,380	74	34

Financial Summary as of December 31, 2011

	Budget	Actual	Difference
YTD Income	\$172,908	\$170,657	(\$2,251)
YTD Expense	\$193,224	\$186,090	\$7,134
Difference		(\$15,433)	

February Worship

2011-2012 Committees

5th	Theme: Marriage Equality Text: 1 John 4:7-12 Reader: Emily Peterson Scripture: Jessica Honegger Ushers: Carole Heath, Nan Deane Ralph Holcomb, Julia Munson Counters: Kathi Rise
12th	Theme: Marriage Equality Preacher: Rev. Tara Wilkins of CWC Reader: Dawn Hayami Scripture: Sharon Davis Ushers: Nancy Delbrueck, Cathy Peterson Scott Peterson, Clayton Crowhurst Counters: Kathi Rise
19th	Theme: The Big Picture Text: Mark 9:2-9 Reader: Roy Schreiber Scripture: Carole Heath Ushers: Chuck Erkenbeck, Sally Weersing John Sather Counters: Kathi Rise
22nd	<i>Ash Wednesday Service</i> <i>7 PM</i>
26th	Theme: Imagine God's Paths Text: Psalm 25:1-10 Reader: Penny Holcomb Scripture: Pat Crane Ushers: Larry Launder, Jane Lovelady Ildi Klein, Amy Clark Counters: Kathi Rise
Other February Responsibilities: Coffee Hour: Trustees Mission Menu Items: Rice and Beans <i>Good Newsletter deadline—February 21st</i>	

Officers

Moderator: Bill Deane
 Moderator-Elect: Sharon Davis
 Treasurer: Jim Crane
 Financial Secretary: John Sather
 Clerk: Jan Standlea

Trustees

Dawn Hayami: Chair Jim Crane
 Ken Gisch Monica Honegger, Property
 Cindy Ellison, Property Kurt Munson

Worship & The Arts

Penny Holcomb: Chair Mary Cox
 Ralph Holcomb Bee Neufeld
 Kathi Rise Pam Brown

Social Justice & Mission

Amy Clark: Chair Leslie Crowder
 Loren Northup Bruce Ellison
 Joan Gornbein Harmony George Jaurisch
 Jane Lovelady Julia Munson
 Sandy Johnson

Faith Development

Jan Indermill: Chair Jessica Honegger
 Cathy Peterson Jan Standlea

Congregational Care

Carole Heath: Chair Pat Crane
 Nan Deane Nancy Engeman
 Nancy McLean Suzanne Gwynn

Green Team

Sally Weersing: Chair Ken Gisch
 Monica Honegger Barbara Kelley
 John Sather Chuck Erkenbeck
 Carol Bellows Frank Groznik

Property

Monica Honegger Cindy Ellison
 Kurt Munson Clayton Crowhurst
 Scott Peterson

Pastor Parish Relations

Pat Crane Ralph Holcomb
 Jane Lovelady

Personnel

Nancy Delbrueck Quent Neufeld

LOUCC Delegates

John Sather Ralph Holcomb
 John Binkley Sherrie Binkley
 Hilary Himan (Alternate)
 Penny Holcomb (Alternate)

Roll Out LOUCC's Green Carpet for Film Maker Matt Briggs

On Sunday, March 11, the LOUCC Arts and Lecture Series welcomes feature filmmaker and Lake Oswego resident Matt Briggs, creator of the groundbreaking documentary **Deep Green**. Mr. Briggs traveled the world to study how to reduce dependence on greenhouse-gas-generating energy. In his March 11 lecture Mr. Briggs will discuss a number of practical technologies he observed being used in the U.S., Europe and China and which he uses in his newly remodeled First Addition home.

Although the March 11 lecture begins, as usual, at 3:00 pm, Mr. Briggs will provide a showing of his 77 minute documentary, *Deep Green*, beginning at 1:45 pm

the same afternoon. Though the lecture does not depend on having seen the film, viewing it before Briggs' presentation will reinforce his premise that solutions do exist and that we, as stewards of our environment, can help.

As an alternative to viewing the documentary on the day of the lecture, LOUCC's Green Team is planning several in-home showings both prior to and after March 11. Watch for notices in LOUCC's weekly e-news of these additional opportunities to view the film.

If you would like to create your own "movie night" by inviting friends and neighbors to a showing in your home, please contact Barbara Kelley or Chuck Erkenbeck who have



secured licensing rights and DVD copies from the filmmaker. The DVD, available for showing February through April, is suitable for Dinners for Seven or other sharing type groups.

For further information, contact Ralph Holcomb, (Holcomb@pdx.edu, 503-753-7049) Barbara Kelley, (cedar776@comcast.net, 503-699-8686) or Chuck Erkenbeck. (clerkenbeck@msn.com, 503-250-2864)



The Confirmands and Parents will meet on Sunday, February 5 from 12:00-1:30pm. Confirmands will meet for class, and parents will meet separately to review Our Whole Lives materials. Lunch will be provided.

From Friday, February 24-Saturday, February 25, the Confirmands will gather at Ainsworth UCC for the first of two Our Whole Lives Retreats. Confirmands, please arrive by 6:30pm at Ainsworth (2941 NE Ainsworth St., Portland, OR) and bring your overnight gear. We'll end at 9pm on Saturday night. See you then!

February 2012

LOUCC, Beit Haverim, Other Users

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>29</p> <p>10:30am - Worship Service</p> <p>12pm - Congregational</p> <p>2:30pm - BH Religious</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:15am - Great Events (AA)</p> <p>11:45am - Women's AA</p> <p>12pm - Bible Study</p> <p>8:30pm - Cleaning Time @</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30pm - DDT-Don't Drink</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:15am - Great Events (AA)</p> <p>12pm - Overeaters</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:30am - Weight Watchers</p> <p>9am - Bodhi Tree Chinese</p> <p>1:30pm - Sojourners @</p> <p>6:08pm - Women's 608</p> <p>7pm - Worship Team</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:15am - Great Events (AA)</p> <p>12pm - Overeaters</p> <p>4pm - Beit Haverim Service</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10am - Torah Study @</p> <p>2pm - Cleaning Time @ All</p> <p>3pm - Liturgical Movement</p> <p>7pm - Saturday Night (AA)</p>
<p>5</p> <p>10:30am - Worship Service</p> <p>12pm - Confirmation Class</p> <p>12pm - Confirmation Parent</p> <p>2:30pm - BH Religious</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:15am - Great Events (AA)</p> <p>11:45am - Women's AA</p> <p>12pm - Bible Study</p> <p>8:30pm - Cleaning Time @</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5pm - Green Team @ John</p> <p>6:30pm - DDT-Don't Drink</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:15am - Great Events (AA)</p> <p>12pm - Overeaters</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30am - Weight Watchers</p> <p>9am - Bodhi Tree Chinese</p> <p>1:30pm - Sojourners @</p> <p>6:08pm - Women's 608</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:15am - Great Events (AA)</p> <p>12pm - Overeaters</p> <p>4pm - Beit Haverim Service</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10am - Torah Study @</p> <p>2pm - Cleaning Time @ All</p> <p>7pm - Saturday Night (AA)</p>
<p>12</p> <p>10:30am - Worship Service</p> <p>12pm - Faith Development</p> <p>2:30pm - BH Religious</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:15am - Great Events (AA)</p> <p>11:45am - Women's AA</p> <p>12pm - Bible Study</p> <p>7pm - Missions Team</p> <p>8:30pm - Cleaning Time @</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30pm - DDT-Don't Drink</p> <p>7pm - Trustee Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:15am - Great Events (AA)</p> <p>12pm - Overeaters</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:30am - Weight Watchers</p> <p>9am - Bodhi Tree Chinese</p> <p>1:30pm - Sojourners @</p> <p>6:08pm - Women's 608</p> <p>7pm - Beit Haverim @ Hood</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:15am - Great Events (AA)</p> <p>12pm - Overeaters</p> <p>4pm - Beit Haverim Service</p>	<p>18</p> <p>2pm - Cleaning Time @ All</p> <p>7pm - Saturday Night (AA)</p>
<p>19</p> <p>10:30am - Worship Service</p> <p>2:30pm - BH Religious</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:15am - Great Events (AA)</p> <p>11:45am - Women's AA</p> <p>12pm - Bible Study</p> <p>8:30pm - Cleaning Time @</p>	<p>21</p> <p>4pm - Congregational Care</p> <p>6:30pm - DDT-Don't Drink</p> <p>7pm - Council Meeting @</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:15am - Great Events (AA)</p> <p>12pm - Overeaters</p> <p>7pm - Ash Wednesday</p> <p>8pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30am - Weight Watchers</p> <p>9am - Bodhi Tree Chinese</p> <p>1:30pm - Sojourners @</p> <p>6:08pm - Women's 608</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30pm - Confirmation OWL Retreat @ Ainsworth UCC</p> <p>6:15am - Great Events (AA)</p> <p>12pm - Overeaters</p> <p>4pm - Beit Haverim Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>2pm - Cleaning Time @ All</p> <p>7pm - Saturday Night (AA)</p>
<p>26</p> <p>10:30am - Worship Service</p> <p>2:30pm - BH Religious</p> <p>5:30pm - Church Game</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:15am - Great Events (AA)</p> <p>11:45am - Women's AA</p> <p>12pm - Bible Study</p> <p>8:30pm - Cleaning Time @</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Good Newsletter Dealine</p> <p>6:30pm - DDT-Don't Drink</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:15am - Great Events (AA)</p> <p>12pm - Overeaters</p> <p>6pm - Lent Series @</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:30am - Weight Watchers</p> <p>9am - Bodhi Tree Chinese</p> <p>1:30pm - Sojourners @</p> <p>6:08pm - Women's 608</p> <p>7pm - Worship Team</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:15am - Great Events (AA)</p> <p>12pm - Overeaters</p> <p>4pm - Beit Haverim Service</p>	<p>3</p> <p>12pm - Council Workshop</p> <p>2pm - Cleaning Time @ All</p> <p>7pm - Saturday Night (AA)</p>



LAKE OSWEGO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1111 Country Club Rd.
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
Phone: 503-635-4348

“Never place a period where God has placed a comma” -Gracie Allen

Mission Statement

In Christ, we are called together, as a community of unconditional love, to provide spiritual nourishment, to share God's love through active service within and beyond our church community, and to be responsive to the needs of our ever-changing world.

Open & Affirming Statement

We are called to love our brothers and sisters as God loves us, freely and without reservation. Our unconditional love is inclusive of all God's people. We denounce acts of discrimination and violence against any person.

We celebrate the family in all its diverse forms, and affirm all loving and committed relationships.

We welcome all people into our community of faith, whatever age, gender, gender expression, race, sexual orientation, religion, ethnic background, socio-economic status, or physical or mental abilities. Each person is invited and encouraged to participate in all aspects of our church's life and ministry.

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Jennie Ott	pastor@loucc.org
Music Director: Susan Peck	susan@loucc.org
Office Administrator: Glen Williams	office@loucc.org

Vision

We seek to be an inspiring community, making a difference in people's lives by engaging in missions of compassion and justice, while we honor diversity and act as a progressive Christian voice.

Community – We are a compassionate community striving to accept people wherever they are on life's journey. We believe that the way we treat others is an expression of our beliefs. Community is formed through missions of compassion and justice.

Progressive – We are a community of progressive Christians where spirituality is expressed in a variety of forms. We have a thirst for knowledge where we value the questions as much as the answers. We value the movement of God's Spirit in our community and listen with anticipation to the still speaking God.

Diversity – We honor diversity within our community, respectful that there is more than one path to God. We value being an Open and Affirming congregation.

Justice For The Environment – The whole Earth is our broader community. We are continually learning how to be responsible members of this community. We are committed to fostering our spiritual connection to the Earth.