



PCS NEWS  
NEWS AND COMING EVENTS OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE SIU SLAW



VOLUME SIXTEEN

NUMBER FIVE

MAY 2016

**FROM PASTOR GREG:**

I think it is time that I ask for some help.... We've made it through Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.... Once we hit Pentecost (May 15), we'll have experienced most of the high points of the Christian Year, so it's time to get back to "normal." The trouble is, I don't really know what normal is anymore. We're moving into the part of the year that the lectionary call "Ordinary Time", ordinary/normal seem about the same to me. Additionally we've added a new flavor to the stew of leadership in Jean Gottschalk and I'm really excited to see what our normal mode of operations looks like.

I am thankful for the support and encouragement that you have been providing. It is an exciting time to be a Presbyterian in Florence, Oregon.

In the next few weeks, we are going to start a fund drive to purchase Hand Bells for the church. We borrowed bells from the Yachats church so we could play on Palm Sunday. The Bell Choir was well received. We posted a short video of the Bell Choir playing on our Facebook page and in the past month it has been viewed more than 535 times. In truth, I've watched that video quite a few times so I'm sure it hasn't been viewed by 535 different people.

Our Bell Campaign needs to raise approximately \$11,000 to purchase a Three Octave set of bells and the needed accessories for a new bell choir – tables, pads, covers, gloves, music stands, folders, and table coverings. We invite you to "Buy a Bell." On a table in the Fellowship Hall we will have a bell display with Bells that can be purchased for the church. Inside the bell handles we will place a tag with the history of the bell – "Given by \_\_\_\_\_" or "Given in honor of \_\_\_\_\_" or "Given in memory of \_\_\_\_\_."

Bells cost about \$300 a piece, on average, but there is enough room in the handle that a bell could be given in honor or memory of more than one person. It seems like a lot of money, they are hand crafted and expected to be in use when we've been gone 100 years or more. We continue to search for bells that we could borrow long term, or buy from another congregations that aren't in use anymore. So far, no luck. If we find a used set of bells at a fair price, we will certainly lower our fund raising goal. Watch for more details to come.

As we move towards our new normal, I'd like to encourage you to continue praying for the person that you need to invite into God's kingdom. If each of us would invite one person to consider a new life in Christ, or to return to living for Christ, God would be glorified, lives changed, and perhaps we would live into filling God's sanctuary on Sunday Morning.

If "Evangelism" seems a little intimidating, pray for a person that you can invite to come to church with you. Most of us go to church because someone invited us. We may have changed congregations since then, but an invitation certainly played a part.

## THE SHARING SHELF, MAY 2016 - *Older Americans Month*

Mother's Day is the big event in May, on the 8th - and a gift to all mothers everywhere, V-E Day is also on May 8. Memorial Day offers up its memories on May 30. . . . . Special days abound throughout May, out of which we have selected some fun ones to share. May 1 is Mother Goose Day, and surely there is a Mother Goose rhyme somewhere that includes our next selection - Lumpy Rug Day. . . . . May 4 is National Candied Orange Peel Day; it's companions for tongue tingling times are National Hoagie Day on the 5th and National Macaroon Day on the 31st - and *maybe* National Escargo Day on the 24th. . . . . May 8 is No Socks Day followed immediately by Lost Sock Memorial Day on May 9. . . . . May 16 is Wear Purple for Peace Day, and this may include making peace with yourself over the lost sock issue. Further help may be found by backing up to May 6 and playing yourself a merry tune on International Tuba Day.

Books selected for May are gifts to the library along with some newly located at various sales:

*Paul*. An anonymous gift - a set of 8 small books about Paul's life, his messages & his impact on Christianity. "An official resource for the Methodist Church," to whom we say thank you.

*Chicken Soup for the Soul - The Story behind the Song*. "The Exclusive Stories behind 101 of Your Favorite Songs." By Jack Canfield, et al. A gift from Vi Harding.

*Chicken Soup for the Golden Soul*. "Heartwarming Stories for People 60 and Over." With stories by Erma Bombeck, Ruth Stafford Peale, Tom Landry, Max Lucado, and many more. From Vi Harding.

*Crock-Pot Cooking*. Rival. "More than 300 recipes especially for the original Crock-Pot slow cooker."

*Across Many Mountains*. By Yangzom Brauen. "A Tibetan Family's Epic Journey from Oppression to Freedom," across the Himalayas, poorly clothed, poorly fed, snow, ice, pain, suffering. A gift from the Book Group.

*The Wellness Lowfat Cook Book*. From the University of California at Berkeley. "Including a revolutionary new eating plan - The Healthy Heart Solution."

*In the Time of Trouble*. By Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer. Amidst the dangerous struggle for independence in Cameroun, 14 year old Jessie Howells experiences the disappearance of her parents, and "It falls to her to forge relationships - with her siblings and with God - that will prove enduring in the face of loss." A gift from the McKees.

*Great Recipes for Good Health* from The Reader's Digest. With kitchen spatters evidencing its frequent use, this book covers it all - from snacks to lunches to main dishes & cooking for one/two.

*Bonhoeffer - Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*, by Eric Metaxas. 608 pages later and you will know everything you ever wanted to know about Dietrich Bonhoeffer - his involvement in the Valkyrie plot on Hitler's life and "Operation 7," smuggling Jews into neutral Switzerland. Gifted by Vi Harding.

G. Trueblood, Librarian



## FINANCE NEWS.....

The Finance Committee would like to thank Jane Hanawalt for her presentation at Sunday's S/S/S on wills, living trusts, and advance directives. Jane covered several important issues, and several persons attending asked additional questions that could not be answered completely in the time available.

Some questions concerned endowment funds. Although it is true that gifts and bequests can be made to the Western Lane Community Foundation, it was not mentioned that the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw also has an endowment fund. This fund was started by a gift of ten thousand dollars; the income is to be used solely to support mission activity in the local area, but the principle can never be spent. Anyone can give additional funds to our church's endowment fund, either by gift, by bequest in a will, or through a living trust document. The person making the contribution can specify the permitted use of the funds, restricting the annual income from the funds to local mission, broader mission, building maintenance, general operations, or any other purpose compatible with the church's mission statement. The terms of the endowment fund do not allow the principle to be spent under any circumstances, but any donor is also welcome to add that restriction to the terms of the gift.



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### **FEBRUARY-MARCH SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

Six new members were received at the February Session meeting. Please welcome Pat & Mina Dickson, Elva Philp & Larry Newman, Don Pryor, and Norma Wood.

We now have a Facebook page; check it out and post to it!

Session has begun discussion of how many members are needed on Session; it has become very difficult to find members willing to serve. Joan Skarda has taken on the Membership Team, and Paul Floto has added Administration & Personnel responsibilities to the Finance Team.

28-40 people attended the Wednesday Lenten suppers and services, and 38 attended the Seder meal on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will have these suppers and services again next year.

Joan Skarda has been working on our Florence Chamber of Commerce membership, so that our church will appear on its Florence church list.

Souper Bowl Sunday brought in 109 cans for Food Share and \$89 for Habitat for Humanity.

The Property Team is currently reviewing carpeting samples for Fellowship Hall and evaluating assistive hearing technologies for the sanctuary and/or Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Greg, Gail Nichols, and Susan Nofrey attended the Presbytery of the Cascades meeting in Vancouver, WA, in March.



## **Book Group News for May**

The Book Group met April 1st to discuss *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. It took Doerr 10 years to complete the book. It's set in Germany and France before and during WWII. Doerr weaves together the stories of a blind French girl, an orphaned German boy, and a Nazi officer searching for an enormously valuable gem. Our group was fascinated by the book and highly recommend it to others.

Our choice for May is *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. The book tells the story of two French sisters – one in Paris, one in the countryside during WWII. They each play a part in the French underground and they both find a way to love and forgive. The author said her inspiration for Isabelle was the real life story of a woman who led downed Allied soldiers on foot over the Pyrenees. The book is hard to put down. If you'd like to join us to talk about *The Nightingale*, we will meet May 6th to share our thoughts about it.



We'd love to have YOU join us at Mon Ami on Friday, May 6th at 10:00 am.  
Hope to see you there.

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### **OUR NEXT SOUP/SALAD/SPEAKER....**

OES (Oregon, Office of Emergency Services) will be holding a series of drills and disaster preparedness events during the month of June. Many of the coastal communities, including Florence, will be participating in some aspects of these events.

Following each Sunday service during the month of May, as part of our preparedness, the church bulletins will provide information on preparing for and surviving a disaster. Also during the month of May, we hope to provide displays and demonstrations that reflect some aspects of planning and preparation for a local disaster.

On Sunday, May 15, an S/S/S will be held that the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) organization will provide instruction on some aspects of planning, preparation and survival of a disaster, especially an earthquake and Tsunami. A sign up sheet is on the Christian Education bulletin board.



The Pentecost Offering is about helping young people begin life with a strong start...from childhood through young adult. You help provide opportunities for our young people to forge a deep and lasting faith on which to grow and build their lives. Forty percent of this offering remains with our congregation to support ministries with children and youth in our community.

**PENTECOST OFFERING** will be received on Sunday, May 15th

**MINISTRIES FOR TODAY. IMPACT FOR A LIFETIME.**

## JEAN RETURNS AS CHOIR DIRECTOR

My name is Wilma-Jean Gottschalk (Jean). I am honored to be the current director of the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw Chancel Choir. I have always loved to sing and my first love of church music was when I was little and mother took me to her choir practices.

Our church was huge and it had a massive pipe organ. The organist's feet and hands flew and the sound filled the building. The sounds overwhelmed me. I began piano lessons when I was nine and studied on and off as money allowed. Although I would have liked to be a pianist, I knew Carnegie Hall was not in my future. I sang in all my church choirs and joined community choruses every opportunity possible; special choirs formed just to sing a particular work such as the Messiah, the Elijah and Beethoven's Ninth.

Upon graduation I was accepted into the school of music at Kent State University in music education with a voice minor. Nearing my senior year the economy hit school systems hard and music, art, and even physical education teachers had few employment opportunities. I transferred to Baldwin Wallace College to complete my degrees. I graduated with course work for degrees in elementary education, a special education certificate, psychology, and a music minor.

I've directed the Chancel Choir of the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw for 5 ½ years and assisted the director of the Florence Community Chorus for several years directing rehearsals when the director was absent; I also assisted in leading sectionals. Personal illness brought this to an abrupt end in 2013. I am thrilled at the opportunity to resume the privilege of conducting the Chancel Choir of the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw.



- Jean Gottschalk

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### **COLORING MANDALAS AS A MEDITATIVE PRACTICE..**

Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am till noon.

Meditation is a tool that has been used as a spiritual practice in many faith traditions throughout history. Medical science has also found that there are many benefits to mindful relaxation. If you have ever wondered how meditation can be helpful to your overall well-being join us for a mini – workshop on the benefits of meditation. We will be using a technique (coloring) that is not only restful but enjoyable. This workshop will be facilitated by Eleanor Ross, all materials will be provided and there is no charge. Eleanor is a workshop facilitator and spiritual coach. You do not need to sign up ahead of time but if you have questions you can call Eleanor at 541-999-9870.

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### **SIUSLAW OUTDOOR ADVENTURES CAMP NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**



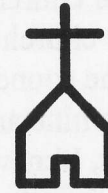
The Siuslaw School District has scheduled their Outdoor Adventures Camp for 5th and 7th graders for Tuesday, May 31-Friday, June 3rd. The program at the Cleawox Girl Scout Camp (south of the Florence bridge) runs from 9:15am to 2:15pm each day. Ben Wells is seeking volunteers from the church to assist with the program. Volunteers are assigned to work in program areas or as escorts for small groups of 5th and 7th graders. You need to be able to walk around on dirt/gravel roads and/or trails with the students. A school district background check is required. In past years, Keith has assisted in the kayak area, and I have both escorted students and assisted in a craft area. Activity areas are scattered around the camp. You can volunteer for one or more days.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions, call or email Gail Nichols. This is a really good way to be active in our community with an age group we don't see too often.

# Why not invite a friend to church?

## OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

April 3 - 71  
 April 10 - 74  
 April 17 - 65



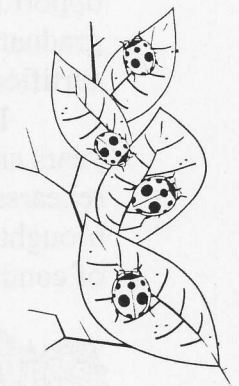
## LECTIONARY

**May 1 (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter):** Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67;  
 Revelation 21:10; 21:22-25:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

**May 8 (7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter):** Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97;  
 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

**May 15 (Day of Pentecost):** Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9;  
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21;  
 John 14:8-17 (25-27)

**May 22 (Trinity Sunday):** Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8;  
 Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15



## USHERS AND GREETERS FOR MAY

|               | Greeters                          | Ushers                          |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>May 1</b>  | Beverly Hopps<br>Doris Russell    | Ken Stone<br>Connie Bradley     |
| <b>May 8</b>  | Marjorie Moreland<br>Don Phillips | John Skarda<br>Joan Skarda      |
| <b>May 15</b> | Glenda Ryall<br>Marvin Ryall      | Ann Floto<br>Paul Floto         |
| <b>May 22</b> | Andy LaTomme<br>Connie Riebhoff   | Nancy Gardiner<br>Carol Parsons |
| <b>May 29</b> | Dee Newton<br>Jane Douglass       | Patrick McKee<br>Sharon McKee   |



## NURTURE TEAM - April 2016



**Prayer Chain** - Ardella Bennett 9 responded to new requests for the prayer chain.

**Parish Nurse** - Our parish nurse Connie Bradley made 31 different contacts/visits to our church family and community members. She also attended two educational sessions.

**Home Communion** - Communion was celebrated at church Easter Sunday.

**Friendly Visitors** - Multiple visits/calls are made each month in our community. Many thanks to those who have responded. We can all do our part by calling on friends and acquaintances. The best time to call on Spruce Point or Shorewood would be before meal times. They start serving at 11:30 and 4:30. Please call the individual first.

**Marie's Mailings** - Marie Mouchett sent out 49 packets this month including 9 get wells and 9 birthday cards.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** - The group meets the first Tuesday of the month at 1:30pm at The Old Coffee Company, 125 Nopal Street- behind BJ's ice cream. Beginners are welcome! More information contact Marty Palmer 541-902-5149.

**Emergency forms** are available in the church office. Update your old one if needed or if we don't have one on file – please take one to fill out!

*There are many opportunities to share our faith by action and we welcome any interested person to our group. We meet every other month on the first Thursday. Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 5th, 10am at our church.*

Call Nancy Gardiner, Chair, 541-997-4239 for ways we can be of help.

***"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."  
- Psalm 51:10***

**SUMMER IS COMING -**

**Supper for Six at 6:00pm on the 6<sup>th</sup>**

**-SUPPER GROUPS CONTINUE**

*If you'd like to join a monthly supper group, please sign up  
on the bulletin board next to Pastor Greg's office*

**We have four groups up and running currently with  
the option to add more groups**

*"Supper for Six" is a way to better get to know one another, fellowship,  
share Christ's love, eat good food, keep the body moving, mind working  
and faith growing.*

