

Clackamas United Church of Christ
A Just Peace Congregation
September 2015 Newsletter

Pastor's Note 

Reflections on 25 Years at Clackamas UCC

On Sunday, August 16, Clackamas United Church of Christ and I celebrated our 25 years of ministry together. It was a wonderful event, and I extend heartfelt gratitude to all of those who worked to make this an awesome day. I especially thank the members of the Staff Relations committee who hosted the event. Also – it was a blessing to have Catherine Wilcox, Cody Prouty and Caitey Andersen speak during the service about their experiences growing up in our church. As always, I loved the chance to sing with Lori Prouty, and we were able to do two duets together. What a lovely day!

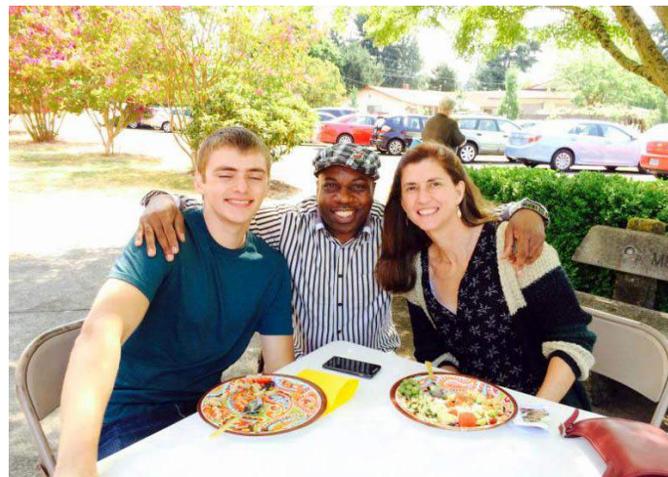


Rev. Denise & Alyssa & Spencer Prouty

I was asked to reflect on our 25 years in ministry at Clackamas UCC, and these are the words I shared at the anniversary celebration.

25 years ago – on a hot Sunday in August – I became the pastor of this congregation. The interim pastor – Rev. Matthew Nelson – and I shared leading our summer service at Camp Adams. This is a very unusual way to pass off the reins. Today there is at least a one month gap between serving pastors. Never shall they meet. ☺ I'm not sure why this has evolved. I really did like the way we handled our crossover, and I do remember that Sunday fondly. There was a deeply spiritual sense to it, and I think that it was a meaningful experience for all present.

My husband Steve and I came from Chicago with 4-year-old Caitlin and 1-year-old Ryan in tow. Ryan even learned to walk on our road trip from Chicago to Milwaukie – staggering across hotel carpets. Steve was coming to join a medical practice associated with Providence Hospital Medical Center. I was coming to become the pastor at Clackamas UCC. I had been encouraged by the Conference Minister – Rev. Don Severson – to take on the challenge of pastoring this church. It was a challenge



Keil & Ann Boring & Jean-Paul Mutalimba

because the congregation had recently come out of times of turmoil and upheaval. The Conference objective was to assess Clackamas UCC's viability. My first objective was to restore harmony, balance and community. My second objective was to revitalize a fatigued but dedicated and talented group of church members. I brought faith, energy, creativity, compassion and enthusiasm to the table. I'm confident that the last 25 years of our history together speak for themselves. We have been blessed.

I could address our positive transformations – becoming Open & Affirming, a Just Peace Church and an Environmental Justice Church. I could point out stable membership numbers and balanced budgets. I could convey how we went from being a vulnerable congregation to a model small church, but that's not what comes to the forefront of my mind today.



Barry Boring, Bev, Dennis & Ron Johnson, & Steve Andersen

After watching the pictures of our church life stream by in a photo presentation created by Lori Prouty, what hits me the strongest is the depth of our relationships as a community. I know where life took many of the young faces we watched on the screen.

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Clackamas

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Just Peace Congregation

Clergy: Rev. Denise Andersen

(503) 653-3945 macinola@comcast.net

Cell Phone: 503-351-3615 (for emergencies)

Choir Director & Organist:

Jean Herrera (503) 654-2449

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

Moderator: Peggy Soliday (503) 305-8824

Vice Moderator: Jeff Pratt (503) 658-2098

Clerk: Rhonda Frick-Wright (503) 659-9732

Treasurer: Lori Prouty (503) 522-1034

Financial Secretary:

Patti Hanson (503) 659-4991

Christian Education Chair:

Steve Andersen (503) 653-3945

Youth/Young Adults:

Rev. Denise Andersen (503) 653-3945

Trustee Chair:

Dave Frick-Wright (503) 659-9732

Deacon's Chair:

Cathy Cooper (503) 653-1298

Justice and Witness:

Bill Magorian (503) 653-2917

Staff Relations Chair:

Jean Herrera (503) 654-2449

Newsletter Submissions: The Clackamas United Church of Christ Newsletter is open to submissions from members and committees. We welcome information, poetry, photos and art for consideration in this monthly publication. Also – we love to receive member “News” so we can give the appropriate “pat on the back.” Submissions to be considered can be emailed to Denise Andersen at macinola@comcast.net.

The next Newsletter deadline is September 20 for the October Newsletter.

Web Sites to Check out:

Clackamas UCC at <http://www.c-ucc.org/>

UCC National Offices - www.ucc.org

Community of Welcoming Congregations

www.welcomingcongregations.org

Progressive Christianity <http://www.tcpc.org>

Just Peace www.ucc.org/justice/just-peace

CPCUCC Monthly Newsletter

<http://cpcucc.org/wp14/on-the-way/>



Concerns

Keep the following folks in your prayers!

Amy Brinkley – For continued healing.

Elsie Burtard – in Adult Foster Care. Now on hospice care. (Sandy Paulson's mother.)

Glenn & Jean Camper – for healing and comfort.

June Kalb – in Adult Foster Home with Alzheimer's.

The Paulson Family – Please keep in your prayers.

Betty Pribil – at Princeton Village Assisted Living.

Dwight Richardson – Now living at Royalton Place on 5555 SE King Rd., Milwaukie, OR 971-272-3188

Bill Rutledge – Hospitalized for cardiac issues.

Eldon Steiner – Severe back/leg pain issues.

Barbara Williams – in rehabilitation at the Villages.

Lewis-Wolfram Family – keep them, and especially Eli, in your prayers.

Phyllis Yambos & Lita Pratt – condolences at the passing of Phyllis's sister, Irene.



Commentary: Julian Bond- Justice Ally and Icon, Now Justice Saint

by J. Bennett Guess, National Officer of the United Church of Christ

Since hearing the sad news of Julian Bond's death on August 15th, I've been trying to remember the first time I ever learned his name. He has been one of my heroes for as long as I can remember.

I'm pretty sure it was in 1976, when, as a 10-year-old, I started my fascination with politics. While many boys were busy collecting baseball cards, I was preoccupied with memorizing political resumes and studying legislators' policy positions. I can vividly remember sitting at the kitchen table with my mother, writing down and working to commit to memory all the significant political players. I'm pretty sure Julian Bond was on one of those lists. *Continue reading at:*

http://www.ucc.org/commentary_julian_bond_08202015



Gordon & Lisa Nielsen

I lived through sickness and death with beloved families, and I mourned their struggles. I coached people through mental health, addiction and physical health problems and helped them to create positive life plans. I baptized babies, celebrated life accomplishments like graduations and weddings. I taught children and adults values that included a spiritual component and brought a bit of art into their lives. There's not a face that went by on that screen that I do not feel deeply connected to – even if our time together was in the past. They – and you – are all a part of my soul.



Catherine Wilcox & Lacey Kloster

And they are part of our collective soul as Clackamas United Church of Christ. This is not my ministry. It is ours. It is not a celebration of my 25 years at this church – it is ours.

I find that my prayers for everyone who has been in our congregational life continue – no matter where life has taken them. To those who we have lost contact with, I wish them all good things and hope that their lives have been impacted in a positive way by their experiences here at Clackamas UCC. I pray that the young people who grew up in this church were influenced in a way that they will never be able to shake – that they will forever hold in their hearts what they've learned here – especially that they are loved and accepted unconditionally. Our doors are open to



**Dave & Rhonda Frick-Wright – 3 generations
with Maren & Thomas Williams**

everyone who enters them, whether they are returning, visiting, or just dropping by and then decide to stay. We will meet them where they are and invite them to join us – if only for a while. Maya Angelou's wise words should be etched in our hearts.

**“I've learned that people will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget how you made them feel.”**

So what is my vision for the future? That we continue to develop these evolving relationships. That we acknowledge that the interpersonal contacts we make are really the most important part of our lives. That *how we make people feel* is transformative. Other things may pass away, but we will never forget the people we cared about – the people we **care** about.

In closing, I share a small line from the letter the Apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians: “*Whatsoever one soweth, that shall they also reap.*” The good things that we have sowed and harvested through this congregation are immeasurable.

*May God continue to bless us as we have been
truly blessed. Rev. Denise Andersen*



Rev. Denise & Julia Sutton

Mission and Outreach News

Service Project – You Can Help!



The Service Project for this month's CPC Annual Meeting will be the [Tonya House](#) in Pendleton. This is a

home for troubled teen girls. While most might come for 6 months, some only stay there for a few days while others could be there for three years. Each church has been asked to **contribute bedding and/or towels**. All beds are **TWIN SIZE** and they are in special need of:

- mattress pads, sheets,
- pillowcases, comforters,
- quilts or blankets,
- "Bed in a Bag" or homemade quilts,
- towels and washcloths.

See Denise with your donations. **Thank you!**



FREE 12-week course taught by family members with lived experience for people who love someone with a mental illness. *This Family-to-Family class gives information, hope and support that truly make a difference.*

Place: Oak Grove

Dates: **Saturdays, Sept. 12th-Dec.5th**

Time: 9:00 am to 11:30 am

Attend with other family members and;

- Gain insights into how mental illness affects relatives; learn to communicate with your loved one and professionals; look at latest research;
- learn to advocate;
- learn about medication issues and latest treatment options; and
- learn to cope with worry and stress.

Free class manual provided. [Register Now!](#)

Contact NAMI Clackamas [\(503\) 344-5050](tel:(503)344-5050)

info@namicc.org



The Resolution Passed. Now What?

The Justice and Peace Task Force was recently thanked by the UCC Palestine Israel Network for its endorsement of the "A Call to Take Actions toward a Just Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" resolution, which passed at the UCC 2015 General Synod. In upcoming months, the Task Force will share ways in which Clackamas UCC can help implement the various facets of the resolution. The letter and more information is available at the JPTF bulletin board. In the meantime, here's a start:

- 1) Final text of the Resolution. www.uccpalestineisraelnetwork.org/Our-Resolution-.html
- 2) Statement from UCC Global Ministries Partnership. www.uccfiles.com/pdf/General-Synod-and-Israel-Palestine.pdf
- 3) Statement by UCC's newly-elected president, Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer. www.huffingtonpost.com/rev-dr-john-c-dorhauer/ucc-action-seeking-peace-_b_7755974.html

Upcoming Event – Save the Date

Tree of Life Conference "Eyes on Gaza"

- October 16th-18th – First Congregational UCC

Come and find out about this important justice work. See Rev. Andersen for more information.





September Calendar

Sundays at Clackamas UCC

Bible Study 9:20-10:10 Beginning September 13

Worship - 10:00 Until September 13

Worship Changes to 10:30am on September 13

During Worship - Youth Are Dismissed for Activities

Wednesdays at Clackamas UCC

Women's Circle - 10:00 - 1:00

Choir from 6:50 - 8:00 Beginning Sept. 2nd

If interested please join us!



Sunday, September 6 - Labor Day Weekend

Picnic at Charlie Hinkle's on the Willamette River

Everyone Is Invited! (Swimming is optional. 😊)

BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE & HEAD ON OVER TO

14079 SE Fair Oaks Way in Milwaukie

 Thursday, Sept. 10 - Book Club - 7pm at the Andersen's - General Book Discussion. Our October Book will be Swim, Ride, Run, Breathe: How I Lost a Triathlon and Caught My Breath by Jennifer Brownell.

Sunday, September 13 - Worship Changes to 10:30, Bible Study Resumes at 9:20 - 10:10, Council Meets after Worship, Potluck!

Monday, Sept. 21 - Art & Spirit Circle. 7pm at the church. \$5.00 for Supplies. Dessert provided. Join us!



September 25th & 26th - Rummage & Bake Sale - folks are needed to donate, bake and help! Noon-6 on Friday, 10-4 on Saturday.



Central Pacific Conference of the UCC's Annual Assembly in Pendleton, Oregon.

September 25th - 27th. See Denise for info, [register here](#), or visit their [Facebook](#) page.

Sunday, September 27 - We welcome the Rev. Ann Duffy as our worship leader today while Rev. Denise is at the Pendleton Assembly.

Sunday, October 4th - Communion Sunday.

October 9th-11th - CPC Women's Camp at Camp Adams. Rev. Dana McBrien resource leader for "Spirit Now Live in Me." See Rev. Andersen for info.

October 16th-18th - Tree of Life Conference "Eyes on Gaza" at First Congregational UCC, Portland. See Rev. Andersen for more information.

Saturday, October 17 - 5:30pm [Clackamas Women's Services](#) 30th Anniversary Gala at [Oregon Golf Club](#), West Linn - celebrating three decades of support for women and children. See



Suzanne LaCampagne for more info, or this link for [tickets](#).

CUCC Reminders

Offerings - remember to keep up your contributions during these lean summer months!

Per Capita is a denominational dues that we pay per member at Clackamas UCC. It's \$13/person, and we ask members to pay that. If you can't remember if you've paid your per capita this year, just ask Patti Hanson and she'll look it up for you.

Building Use Note: Please remember to promote our site for folks looking for a 2015 event setting.

Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program

Clackamas UCC is part of this rewards program. Visit their website & sign up to support Clackamas UCC at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.

