

A Just Peace Congregation

The Good News – April 2022 Newsletter

“I don’t believe God exists.”

My 15 year old son made that statement to me last night. And I was so happy.

My 13 year old son wanted to join in the conversation. Which made me happy, too.

I was mostly happy that my sons felt comfortable enough and safe enough with their pastor of a dad to make that statement.

My son said he couldn’t believe in a magical entity up in the sky somewhere who acts at certain times and doesn’t act at other times. I don’t believe in that god, either.

I used to be interested in “apologetics.” Apologetics isn’t about saying sorry. In the Christian tradition, apologetics means “defending the faith.” It often seeks to find arguments to convince people that God exists, Christianity is right, the Bible is inerrant, and if you don’t believe in Jesus you are going to hell.

I guess these arguments might have a place for some folks, but I’ve rarely seen people convinced by Christians cramming dogma down another person’s throat. In fact, this kind of apologetics usually has the opposite effect. Bullhorn guy on the street yelling at people to repent or else they will be punished for all eternity rarely gets any converts. We all just walk by, annoyed that someone is telling us that God is pissed off at us. And I think most of us know that bullhorn guy has missed the point. Deep in our bones, I think most of us realize that if there is a God worth believing in, it’s a God who is love.

But my boys wanted an answer. Why does their Dad believe in God?

I found myself talking about Easter and Resurrection.

Anthropologists tell us that throughout human history, we’ve had a major problem: violence. You hit me, and I hit you back. Only, I’m going to hit you back a little harder than you hit me, in order to teach you a lesson to never hit me again! Well, the lesson doesn’t work, because then you hit me even harder. Pretty soon, the violence has escalated so much that we may be on the precipice of WWII.

Yes, that escalated quite quickly.

One of the main problems for humans is violence. Tragically, it continues to be our main solution to problems.

And so then I quoted Einstein to my boys - “We can’t solve a problem by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.”

Easter and Resurrection are about solving the problem of violence by using a different kind of thinking - one that is beyond the human dilemma of violence.

In John 20, the resurrected Jesus meets the disciples in a locked room. Remember, these guys have just abandoned and betrayed him to the cross. And how did the resurrected Jesus respond? Not with anger or wrath, but with love. He stops the cycle of violence and says, “Peace be with you.” And then, instead of sending his disciples on a violent crusade to kill the bad guys who killed him, Jesus sends them on a mission to forgive.

If I were telling the story, I’d probably have Jesus come back as Rambo. But Jesus comes back as Jesus - the same loving, forgiving, compassionate Jesus.

I really enjoyed that conversation with my boys. I don’t think it was enough to convince them. And that’s okay. I’m much more interested in the conversation than I am in convincing them.

Hope you have a blessed Easter season.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Adam



*Pastor Adam Ericksen
photo credit: Stuart Wolfram*



photo credit: Stuart Wolfram

Prayer Requests

Keep the following folks in your prayers!

Family and friends of **Rev. Norm Bengel** – Upon his passing February 17

Judy Boncaro – Ongoing health issues

Donna Brown (friend of **Nancy Provost**) – Healing from cancer

Roberta Chaffee – Ongoing health issues

Sandra Collar – Recovering from a broken knee after falling

Savannah Goddard (friend of **Amy Brinkley**) – Waiting for a kidney transplant

Evan Kallak (nephew of **Nancy Provost**) – for the sudden loss of his father, Rod Niemann

Junita Kauble – Follow-up after cancer treatment

Deb Niemann (sister of **Nancy Provost**) – Upon the sudden loss of her husband, Rod Niemann

Dwight Richardson – Ongoing health issues

Millie Sandwick – Ongoing health issues

Elsie Savin – Ongoing health issues

Hermanese Sims (best friend of **Judy Boncaro**) – Upon the death of her youngest sister

Steven Schroedl – In treatment for autoimmune disease

Prayer Works

*If you would like to be included in our weekly prayer chain,
please email Pastor Adam at adam@c-ucc.org.*



Thank you!

Christian Education Committee - for the months and many hours of research and communication searching for the perfect new playground structure to replace our aging equipment. The new structure has been ordered and will be installed later this summer! Thank you committee members: **Erika Beseda, Debbie Meyer, Ellery Palanuk, Lori Prouty, Lynn Radcliffe, and Jazelle Savin.**

North Clackamas Parks District - for installing a doggie waste station and trash receptacle near our bioswale area. We love our visiting neighborhood dogs and their owners ☺. For those new people not aware, the church property is directly adjacent to the sports fields of Ann-Toni Schreiber Park. Our property and the park are visited daily by local dog walkers.

**Do you know someone who deserves a special thank you, please let us know at web@c-ucc.org or call (503) 654-0741.*



Sunday, April 10 – Palm Sunday Service, 10:30 am

Thursday, April 14 – Maundy Thursday (event tba)

Sunday, April 17 – **Easter!! Join us!!**

EASTER Celebration!

Rev. Adam Ericksen leads worship

8:30 am - On-Line Celebration Service

10:30 am - In-Person Celebration Service

11:30 am - Easter Egg Hunt



Community Garden at CUCC - Welcome, Aspire Together!

If you've been to the church grounds this month, you may have noticed something interesting outside. [Aspire Together](#), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) located in Milwaukee is working to create a community garden for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/D), their families, and providers.

Co-founders, Rachel Mohr and Shelley Ellsworth, will be giving a presentation about the garden and their mission for people with disabilities during our worship service on **Sunday, April 10**. Our service starts at 10:30 am.

The garden will hold a meet and greet open house on **Saturday, April 16**, with the grand opening **Monday, April 18**. Please follow their website or social media for photos and updates throughout the entire grow season or if you want information on volunteering.

[Website: aspiretogethernonprofit.com](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

We're Hiring!

CHILDREN'S
Sunday School

We're Hiring a Sunday School Teacher!

We are hiring a Sunday school teacher and preschool/nursery provider. If you know of anyone who would be a good fit, or for more information, please have them contact

[Pastor Adam](#).

Nooma Lenten Discussions

Mondays at 4 pm PT during Lent (except for March 21) Pastor Adam will hold Zoom conversations centered around Rob Bell's video series called "Nooma." In the New Testament, the word "pneuma" is the word for Spirit. Each video in this series has something to do with Christian spirituality.

You can join the discussions on Zoom by [clicking here](#). Our schedule and link to the videos are below. Feel free to watch the short video before each conversation.

- March 7 - [Rain](#)
- March 14 - [Breathe](#)
- March 28 - [Lump](#)
- April 4 - [Luggage](#)
- April 11 - [Dust](#)
- (After Easter bonus) April 18 - [Rhythm](#)



Women's Sewing Circle - Wed., April 6, 10 am - 1 pm

The Sewing circle is happy to be back meeting weekly in Fellowship Hall starting Wednesday, **April 6 from 10 am to 1 pm**. We will meet every Wednesday throughout the year, unless notified otherwise. Bring a sack lunch for a noon meal, and come and join us! Not crafty? Come anyway - we'll supply you with something to do!



Art & Spirit Circle - Mon., April 18, 7 pm

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for fun conversation, crafting and arts. We meet the third Monday of every month with a different project each month. Here are photos from last month when Debbie Meyer taught us to stencil tea towels! April's project is soon to be announced.



Book Club - Thurs. April 21, 10:30 - 1 pm



The CUCC Book Club has been suspended for two years and is anxious to meet again in person. Book Club will be restarting on Thursday, April 21, in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue every third Thursday of the month through December.

Time: 10:30 – 12:00 Book Club
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

Bring: A book that you may have read during the pandemic
Brown Bag Lunch 12:00 – 1:00
Please bring recommendations of books and/or authors so we may choose our reading selections for May – December.

Everyone is welcome whether or not you have a book to share. It is as much about fellowship as the books we read. Please contact [Peg Soliday](mailto:peggsoliday251@gmail.com) if you have questions: peggsoliday251@gmail.com, (503) 305-8824 (home), (503) 559-6731 (cell).



eARTh – Celebrating Our Mother Earth through Art, Thurs., April 21, 1-4 pm

Join Rev. Denise Andersen and Val Hornburg as we celebrate our planet this Earth Day; we'll come together to explore ways we can use nature as an art tool. St. Francis has been described as a nature mystic, one who finds God in the vast and beautiful fields of nature. In following St. Francis' path, we'll find ways to bring nature deeper into our home environment. We'll also take a look at the amazing works of Andy Goldsworthy - an English sculptor, photographer, and environmentalist who produces site-specific sculptures and land art situated in natural and urban settings. We'll share litanies that celebrate our Earth. *"The whole earth is full of God's glory."* *Isaiah 6:3*

Date: Thurs., April 21, 1-4 pm

Location: Franciscan Spiritual Center, former Marylhurst College Campus - St. Catherine Hall/Clark Commons, 3159 Furman Dr., Marylhurst, OR 97036 (between West Linn and Lake Oswego)

Led by: Denise Andersen and Val Hornburg

Cost: \$40 per person

Supplies: bring a journal, pen, and natural found objects

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Rummage & Bake Sale - Fri./Sat., April 29 & 30

Friday 12-6 pm & Saturday 10-4 pm

CUCC Rummage Sales provides four great opportunities:

1. Clear Out Your Clutter and Simplify
2. Recycle for the Sake of the Planet
3. Support Non-Profits with Leftover Rummage
4. Raise Funds for Our Church

Folks can plan to bring items to the church the week of the sale. **We need volunteers to**

help! Please see [Jan Straub](#) or [Joyce Steiner](#) for more information or to volunteer.



Clackamas River Brass Quintet - Sun., May 1, 10:30 am During Worship Service

Join us during our worship service on **Sunday, May 1 at 10:30 am** to be graced by the Clackamas River Brass Quintet! This five-piece brass quintet will play throughout our worship service - 2 trumpets, 1 french horn, 1 trombone/euphonium, and 1 tuba. Members are local musicians who have been together over 10 years and perform throughout the area. We are so happy they will perform for us - don't miss this special day! Learn more about the Clackamas River Brass Quintet at [this link](#).

Member News



Cat Cooper Family Update

Thank you to **Cat Cooper** who sent us the following family update.

“Hello! A quick update on us over here and a cute picture. Lottie, is now five months old! Wow time flies! Jamie is back to work part time and I cover all the baby care needs during that time.

Chris is working driving truck for the Roofing Co. This is working out great for the family. We are getting the baby scheduled! I have communion in April and May - hope to see you then.” Peace, Cat

*Baby Lottie, Cat Cooper's Granddaughter /
Parents: Jamie & Chris*



Catylynn Duff, Women's Track and Field Nationals 1st Place

Catylynn Duff Wins National Title - Congratulations!!

by [College of Idaho](#) published March 3, 2022

Catylynn Duff wrote another chapter into her accolade-filled career as a member of The College of Idaho women's track and field team at the 2022 NAIA Indoor Track & Field Championships on Friday afternoon.

Duff, who entered the championship with the top throw in the nation in the weight throw, with her sixth and final throw with a toss of 58-4 1/2 (17.79m) secured the first national

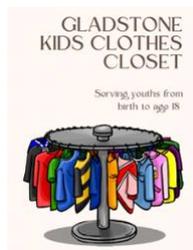
title for a C of I women's field athlete at the national meet in program history. The toss was 3.5 inches further than runner up Madison Sutton of Benedictine. Plus for the Culver, Oregon native, she is the third female student-athlete to win an individual national title in indoor track & field history. This is her second appearance at the NAIA Indoor Track & Field Championships, where she finished sixth in the weight throw and eighth in the shot put in 2021.

***Catylynn is the daughter of **Heather Duff**, and granddaughter of **Jean and John Herrera**.*

****If you can share an update, we'd love to hear it! Please send to Lori at web@c-ucc.org or call (503) 654-0741.*

Justice & Witness

Local Volunteer Opportunity - Gladstone Kids Clothes Closet - see brochure pdf in downloads file.



Gladstone Kids Clothes Closet is looking for someone who would be a liaison and coordinate a small group of two to three CUCC people willing to volunteer two hours a month on the 4th Saturday of each month (during the school year) 10am - noon.

The clothes closet is located at Gladstone High School and serves the Gladstone / Milwaukie / Portland community without any income or residence requirements. Donated clothing is available at no charge to kids and families. At this time, the school district requires that

volunteers be vaccinated and masked. Work involves sorting donated clothing and assisting shoppers. Can you help to coordinate this effort? Please contact Becky Speulda, bbspeulda@yahoo.com, (503) 997-8503.

Missions Monthly Spotlight: Water for Life



Clean Water Matters



“I’ll have water, please.” For Lent, whenever you buy something to drink, ask for water instead, then use the money you’ve saved to donate to the Water for Life Campaign. The money each of us saves is

collected and used to fund clean water projects in the US and across the world. Please make a notation on your **Water for Life** online donation or check, or drop your donation in the Water for Life jar at church. We will collect funds for this outreach through Easter Sunday.

Here are a few water facts to know in 2022:

- More than 21-million Americans drink water that violates U.S. health standards.
- Every year in the United States, water borne diseases cause over 7-million illnesses, and 6,600 deaths.
- Nearly \$260-billion is lost every year due to a lack of water sanitation.
- Less than 0.5% of the Earth's water is fresh and drinkable.
- The United States uses 322 billion gallons of water every day, mostly for energy and food production.
- The average American uses 82 gallons per day. This includes the fresh, drinkable water we flush down the toilet.
- Climate change is affecting our water supply in many ways, including: rising sea levels, higher temperatures (which means more bacteria and less fresh water), natural disasters and unpredictable, severe weather patterns, including drought.

Earth Day 2022



Earth Day 2022 - Fri., April 22

Earth Day is celebrated annually on April 22. This day was born out of a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California and carried forward today by the Earth Day Network. Earth Day was created to help bring awareness and support for environmental protection around the world. Arbor Day is another popular observance to help the environment by encouraging individuals to plant trees and other plants in an effort to take care of our environment.

Earth Day in other Countries

Earth day is celebrated in more than 193 countries including London UK, Madrid Spain, Tuvalu, Manila Philippines, Caracas Venezuela, Togo, and Kiev Ukraine.

Our children and grandchildren will bear the brunt of climate change, and their voices have an outsized impact in the halls of power when they speak about how climate change affects their future.

What can you do -

- Join an Earth Day Clean-Up. Every Earth Day, [SOLVE Oregon](#) hosts an extensive lineup of clean-ups throughout the state, drawing thousands of volunteers who pick up trash, remove invasive weeds and plant native trees and shrubs in the state’s beloved outdoor spaces. Interested in participating in one of these clean-ups? Browse through [SOLVE’s directory](#) of dozens of [Earth Day clean-ups](#) and events happening in 2022 in Portland and beyond.

- Join the National Earth Day Climate Prayer on April 22 at 12 noon. See prayer below. During Faith Climate Action Week click on [Interfaith Power & Light's Facebook](#) videos and pray along with various faith leaders.
- Attend Earth Day Plant Festival Apr 22 - Apr 24, 12 - 5 pm, at the nonprofit art and reuse store ReClaim, 1 N. Killingsworth St., Portland, OR. ReClaim hosts this Earth Day weekend celebration complete with native plants, used plants, a recycling collection, and live music. The event will close with a plant exchange on Sunday. More info at [this link](#).

Climate Blessing - We Hold the Earth

We hold brothers and sisters who suffer from storms and droughts intensified by climate change.

We hold all species that suffer.

We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life.

We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous actions to limit carbon emissions.

We pray for right actions for adaptation and mitigation to help our already suffering earth community.

We pray that love and wisdom might inspire my actions and our actions as communities. . .

so that we may, with integrity, look into the eyes of brothers and sisters and all beings and truthfully say, we are doing our part to care for them and the future of the children. May love transform us and our world with new steps toward life.

Treasurer's Report – March 31, 2021

Submitted by Jeff Pratt

March budget income was down from February's by \$3,019, and expenses were up from February as well, by \$3,638. So, we did not break even this month, and are still in the red for 2022. We had expected March expenses to be high, due to catching up on our pre-fund music director set-aside. Also, our yearly music streaming licenses renewed. Those two items alone amounted to \$3,719.

	March	Year-to-date
Total Income:	\$ 10,079	\$ 32,271
Total Expenses:	\$ 15,418	\$ 39,581
Net:	\$ (5,339)	\$ (7,310)

Bank Balances (3/31)

General Checking: \$ 40,376

Designated Funds: \$ 23,378

UCF (as of 2/25/22)

Operating Reserves: \$ 42,828

Emergency Reserves: \$ 51,970

Building (Roof) Fund: \$ 3,923

Our UCF funds have recovered a bit. They are still down year-to-date by \$4,944; but up from February by \$497.

We also spent, out of the Projects Fund, \$11,671 down payment on the new playground equipment.

As of 3/27, we have collected \$205.04 for Water-for-Life, and \$1,390 for OGHS.

People of Faith Petition to Biden



Climate can't wait. Every day of inaction costs us dearly. Many of our communities have experienced the severe impacts of climate change: wildfires, superstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and increasingly intense weather phenomena that cause damage, injury, and loss of life. [Click here](#) to add your name to the petition to President Biden calling on him to keep his promise to take meaningful action on climate, justice, and clean energy.

Resolution Passed!

Thank you to our members for voting and approving the use of part or all of the previously unallocated portion of the 2021 budget surplus (namely, \$12,588) for replacement of the playground equipment. Our new playground structure will be installed later this summer for our families and children in our community to enjoy!

April Calendar

Sunday, April 3 – Online Service 8:30 am, Zoom Coffee Hour 9:30 am, In-Person Service 10:30 am, Communion

Monday, April 4 – Nooma Lenten Conversations 4 pm via Zoom

Sunday, April 10 – Online Service 8:30 am, Zoom Coffee Hour 9:30 am,
In-Person Service 10:30 am, Aspire Together Community Garden Presentation

Monday, April 11 – Nooma Lenten Conversations 4 pm via Zoom

Thursday, April 14 – Maundy Thursday Service (time tba)

Friday, April 15 – Good Friday

Saturday, April 16 – Community Garden Open House (time tba)

Sunday, April 17 – **EASTER!** Online Service 8:30 am, Zoom Coffee Hour 9:30 am, In-Person Service 10:30 am, Easter Egg Hunt 11:30 am

Monday, April 18 – Nooma Lenten Conversations 4 pm via Zoom; Art & Spirit Circle 7 pm; Community Garden Opens

Thursday, April 21 – Book Club 10:30 am - 1 pm

Friday, April 22 – Earth Day

Sunday, April 24 – Pastor Adam off today, Online Service 8:30 am, Zoom Coffee Hour 9:30 am, In-Person Service 10:30 am

Friday, April 29 – Rummage Sale 12 - 6 pm

Saturday, April 30 – Rummage Sale 10 - 4 pm



Weekly Events:

Sundays at Clackamas

Worship: 10:30 am in-person service. We will require **masks and proof of vaccinations at the entry door**. You may also join our live-stream online worship service every Sunday at 8:30 am on the CUCC [Facebook](#) page, or [YouTube](#) channel. If you have prayer requests, please let Pastor Adam know via email at adam@c-ucc.org or by phone (503) 734-6927.

Tuesdays at Clackamas UCC

Bible Study: 3:30 - 4:30 pm via *Zoom. You may also call in on your phone to participate.

Wednesdays at Clackamas UCC

Women's Sewing Circle: 10 am - 1 pm (bring sack lunch).

Choir Practice: 6:50 - 8 pm (fully vaccinated).

Thursdays at Clackamas UCC

Prayer Group/Check-in: Thursdays at 4 pm via *Zoom. You may also call in on your phone to participate.