

Christ's Church Methodist & Presbyterian United
Monmouth, Oregon

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Welcome to All

We welcome ALL to Christ's Church. Knowing that God has created and love all people, delighting in the gifts and diversity of us all ... We invite all persons, regardless of age, disability, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender to participate fully in the life of this Body of Believers—as we experience the Love of God together

DISCIPLINE: It's not a four-letter word!

As far back as childhood I can recall adults complaining that the young people just “have no discipline” or that they should be “taught some discipline”. It seemed to me that what most of them really meant was in reference to “a good paddlin” or a “swift spankin” or, in my step-father's case, “a good whuppin” that was typically administered with a hedge limb you had to cut and bring to him! Ah, the good ole' days! Such discipline was designed to elicit compliant, more appropriate behavior.

Once I got a little older the term “discipline” took on a somewhat more humane meaning, i.e. it referred more to a sense of training – either the mind or the body – for the purpose of regimenting oneself academically, intellectually, or physically. The amazing Olympic athletes seen on our televisions these days are the product of intense discipline designed to deliver peak performance in their respective event. Like many today, I had to exercise self-discipline in working my way through rigorous academic training in preparation for my chosen field of ministry.

Still later I learned that the denomination in which I am ordained has an entire *Book of Discipline* (BOD). This document is updated after every quadrennial General Conference of the world-wide church to include any changes that are made to it. The BOD contains the history, theological understandings, organizational structure, policies, practices, “laws” used in the governance of the Church. The BOD is followed to greater or lesser degrees by all United Methodist churches and clergy as a tool that unites us into a common body for the sake of fulfilling the mission of the church.

So it's clear that “discipline” is not a four-letter word! It is also clear that the term takes on different meanings in different contexts: behavior modification (even if sometimes crudely applied!), performance enhancement, and mission fulfillment. However, there is yet another facet of this word

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that is crucial to both individual spiritual growth and to the life of the church as a community of faith. I am referring to spiritual disciplines and discipleship. Again, please remember that this is not a four-letter word!

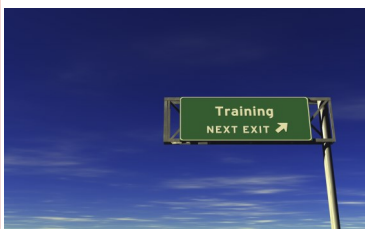
Spiritual disciplines are those faith practices that help modify our behavior, increase our knowledge, and focus our mission *and that also make us more human!* They include the various “means of grace” such as the sacraments, prayer, worship, fasting, serving, scriptural study, etc. Regular participation in such practices is essential for our spiritual growth. For that reason *every church* will benefit from developing and regularly promoting their unique *discipleship process* that is available for every person the church encounters inside or outside of the church. How would describe to a newcomer the way in which Christ’s Church MPU can help them grow spiritually as a disciple of Jesus? What, if any, is the process?

Such a process need not be a rigid “cookie-cutter” requirement but a grace-filled, never-ending, multi-path invitation to everyone to come as they are and to proceed as they are led to do so. It is vital, however, that people are made aware that a lighted pathway is available to them should they choose to walk it on their unique journey. Spiritual growth as disciples – followers of Jesus’ Way – doesn’t happen in solitude but always in concert within a community of faith where discipleship is valued and practiced but never forced. Only through the practice of spiritual disciplines does one’s deep soul formation of compassion, mercy, agape love, tolerance, sense of justice, kindness and humility take root and blossom.

Your church should afford everyone the opportunity to learn selflessness, cooperation, respect for differences, social awareness, sensitivity to and respect for the value and dignity of all persons, environmental and resource stewardship, the importance of community and so very much more. Your church must teach, model, and then send you out to practice your faith. It should also provide an arena in which reflection with others is encouraged and nurture is given. *This*, then, is the discipline of the spirit that is not so much taught as it is *communicated and lived*. Such discipline is not a four-letter word but is, instead, an invitation to life in the Realm of God. Thanks for being a part of it as we continue the journey of faith together!



TRAINING FOR HOMELESS PROJECT



WOU football stadium.

Most of you have heard us talk about some training before we host some homeless families in Monmouth.

The dates that seem to accommodate many of you are Thursday, February 27 at 7:00PM, and Tuesday, March 4 at 6:00PM. Both training events will be at Christ's Church Methodist and Presbyterian United, 412 Clay Street, Monmouth, about two blocks south of the

It is critical that everyone be involved in training before serving as volunteers working with these families particularly the children. Hopefully you will be able to attend one of these training events. If you cannot attend either event, please let me know and we will develop some special arrangements.

Thank-you all for all your support,
Denvy

Living Homeless

It's been almost a year since the PJM (Peace, Justice and Mission) committee asked the question about what is the homeless situation in our communities. Now Christ's Church with numerous other churches, agencies and individuals is working with the Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network to conduct a pilot project to determine if a similar network in Polk County is feasible.

The date of this pilot project is March 16 – 23, Sunday to Sunday. During that time up to four homeless families with school age children will be sleeping and having meals at Christ's Church. Classrooms will become bedrooms, the basement will become a living/dining room and volunteers will become hosts and cooks.

The pilot is an extension of the Salem IHN with the possibility of creating a similar network of churches to house and feed families on a rotating basis. IHN caseworkers screen the families based on need, school children, and whether they are free from drugs and alcohol. Each day the families arrive at the church at 5:00 PM where they are greeted by volunteer hosts for the evening. A bit later another set of volunteers bring the evening meal. Still later in the evening there's a change of guard when the overnight hosts come in.



In the morning volunteers bring in breakfast and set out food to make box lunches. By seven o'clock the families head out to the IHN center where they shower and prepare for the day which consists of attending school, going to work or looking for employment and housing. That afternoon they all return to the center and back to the church at 5:00PM where the cycle starts all over again.

The IHN program is not designed for all homeless; it focuses on families with school children who need a little help to get them back on their feet. The average time that a family spends in the program is about four weeks and the success rate, meaning that the family has a suitable income and housing, is 91%.

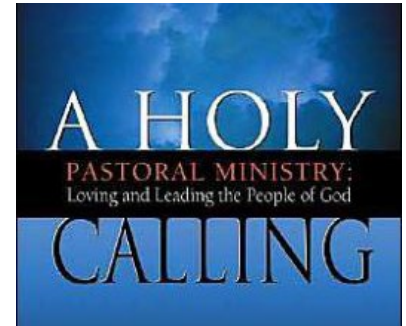
The need to support these families is emphasized by the fact that the caseworkers at the center turn away as many as ten families in a week. The estimate of the number of homeless persons in the Polk communities is around 300, many of them children who couch surf or live with relatives, sometimes in garages.

The program will not only benefit families who are down on their luck, but will also develop relationships among the churches in Monmouth, Independence and Dallas. Volunteers from several churches and communities agencies as well as students from the university will serve as hosts, cooks and coordinators. Recruitment for volunteers will continue. Contact Denvy Saxowsky if you are interested.

Finding Our Next Pastor

Actually the title should be more like listening to hear whom God is sending as our next spiritual leader.

So here's what's happening. The committee, the DPNC, short for Designated Pastor Nominating Committee, finished their work defining who we as a church are in early December. Later in December they received more than a dozen PIFs, that's short for Personal Information Form, which is similar to a dossier or resumé.



After praying and pouring over the PIFs for several weeks, the DPNC created a short list, and agreed to challenge each other to think, pray and review that list more carefully - again. After all, a short list is only one step on a path to eliminating everyone but one. Review each PIF through the lens of what the perspective candidate will or could do for our churches, was our challenge, and how each one might affect our favorite programs. The DPNC is also reviewing sermons and moved to the next stage at the meeting on February 3.

The DPNC has shortened the short list, and is moving into the interview process for those candidates and ultimately recommend a candidate to the board and congregation. When? This is a good time to pray.

A STORY FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY “I’d been struggling with some spiritual wounds that were pretty intense and needed healing- things I didn’t want to share with family and friends. But on that visit as my Stephen Minister walked next to me, I felt safe and comfortable. So I shared my deepest hurts with her- some really painful things that I feared she might judge me for and that made me wonder if God could possibly love me.

After I told her these things, I was really nervous and dreading her response. I was worried that she would think I was an awful person. But instead she put her arm around me and said, “I’m sorry you had to go through that”. And that was a turning point for me. To go from fear of judgment to a positive affirmation of care, empathy, and even sorrow for what I’d been through- it was so meaningful. That’s when I began to feel God’s love again.”

An excerpt from a 2013 brochure from Stephen Ministries, 2045 Innerbelt Business Center Drive, St. Louis, Missouri, 63114

Have you ever felt like the woman in this story? Don’t forget to check it out with Stephen Ministry! On a more local note, We have recently lost several of our church members and friends. It can be overwhelming! One of the ways we can help these families in grief is to share our set of 4 books called Journeying Through Grief. They are written by Richard Hauck, the founder of Stephen Ministries; and are excellent. We have a supply here at Christ’s Church and can easily share them with you, or your friend. Jo Ann King, 503-838-6603.(Stephen Ministry Leader)

Lenten Soup, Bread, & Study 2014

Christ's Church and St. Hilda's at St. Hilda's

6 Wednesdays in Lent - Starts March 5th

Study based on "*Embracing Emergence Christianity*" by Phyllis Tickle

Author, historian and keen cultural observer Phyllis Tickle invites us to join her in examining the changing face of Christianity and culture. Phyllis surveys 2000 years of Western history, identifying the great upheavals that occur in Western culture and Christianity every 500 years. The was the Great Reformation of the 1500's; the next happening now. What are the implications of this "Great Emergence," both culturally and spiritually? What are the key questions and issues that need to be addressed? Where might we be headed next? And, perhaps most importantly, where are you at this moment? Might you be an emergence Christian?



Schedule

March 5 - 5:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service :: Emergence 101 - 5:30 pm

March 12 - 7:40 pm :: Where Now Is the Authority?

March 19 - 7:40 pm :: 20th Century & Emergence

March 26 - 7:40 pm :: Gifts from Other Times

April 2 - 7:40 pm :: How Then Shall We Live?

April 6 - 7:40 pm :: Hallmarks of Emergence

Special Fund Gifts Requested

Christ's Church is part of both the United Methodist and Presbyterian denominations. Both of these denominations request churches in their jurisdiction to help cover the costs of the denomination congregational support and mission work done on behalf of the denominations within the United States and worldwide. These monies are called apportionments or per capita. It would greatly help Christ's Church general fund if the active members of our church family would donate \$28 to help cover that budget cost. Thank you so much in your generosity and faithfulness.

Starts March 9th

Seminar on Prayer

An adult study on Prayer is being offered at 9:30 am beginning Sunday March 9th. The study will continue through Lent and is being taught by Linda Grund-Clampit. It will be a conversation between participants to explore prayer together and considering God's gift of prayer to us.

No expertise necessary

You Are Invited to Come & Explore



Gail Saxowsky would like to make available a couple sessions for people to learn or brush up on their skills of CPR -- A session is 2 hours. Date and time to be arranged.

Interested: call the church office 503.838.1724; give your name, phone number and what days are best for you to attend.

Polk Community Free Clinic News

The Polk Community Free Clinic remains active and open, helping those individuals without access to health care. We have seen many of our patients change from our system to have coverage and now have become part of a regular primary care provider clinic. This gives them access to health care like most of us have enjoyed, the ability to make an appointment when we need it and not have to wait 2-3 weeks. We also understand that less than half of the uninsured people have made this leap to have health care coverage so now we need to reach those people who still need our services.

This past year the Polk Community Free Clinic has served 424 persons with 454 appointment times with a provider. This has included medical care, mental health care, patient education and prayer. The prayer team also gave out 75 prayer shawls. Appreciation goes out to everyone who has helped keep this ministry going. The recipients cuddle those shawls and feel your warmth and prayers.



A huge THANK YOU goes out to many members of our Christ's Church family who donate their time and talents to help make the PCFC function.

Special Guest Musician Spotlight

Kuan Jiang started guitar playing at age 17. He played rock and pop songs with friends who were in a same band, and played gigs in and outside school. He was also a science major in high school back in his hometown of Nan Ning, China. In 2006, He came to United States for a bachelor degree in accounting originally, but only few weeks after Kuan arrived at school, he consulted professors in the music department and changed his major to music. Since then, Kuan has been very into studying music. He has been studying a variety of guitar playing styles such as jazz, latin, and rock with guitarists Christopher Voitach and John Stowell. Later on, Kuan broadened his interests to the composition/arranging area, as well as jazz piano. He studied composition techniques with Dr. Kevin M. Walczyk, Dr. Keller Coker, jazz pianist Gordon Lee and Percussionist/Composer Adam Bates for years, after that he taught himself mostly to strengthen his piano techniques. Right after graduation, Kuan produced his first album with his musician friends' help; most of the pieces were written originally for music scholars as the materials for a graduate program.



In the years when Kuan resided and schooled in Oregon, he performed with many great local players like Tom Bergeron, Keller Coker, Louis Pain, and Mel Brown. In 2011, Kuan went home to China . Having been soaking in music for some time, he decided to find a job and restart his new life with small and practical things. By teaching himself and consulting his friend who is a art-designer, he learned to use software to design advertisements and soon became an ad designer in a firm. As a musician, he occasionally worked as a part-time pianist in cafés, as well as a free-lancing guitarist/keyboardist/composer/arranger and has been active in Nan Ning City in China. The most important teaching experience to him is being a full/part-time music teacher for two and a half years in China. In 2013, Kuan came to United States for his master degree in music.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for the following:

- Water indoor plants
- Learn how to run sound room and video camera during worship service
- Learn to run slides for worship service
- Help with Newsletter

If interested leave your name with the office Administrator

About our Church

Contact Information

Christ's Church Methodist & Presbyterian United
412 Clay St. W., Monmouth, OR 97361
Telephone: 503.838.1724

Pastor Dave Bean

Worship Service: A mix of traditional and contemporary; with choir, hand bells, or dance; plus guest musicians.
11:00 am Sunday

For information about discussion groups, Sunday School (Adult & Youth), and our outreach programs call the church office.

