



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger

May 2010

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UNCHRISTIAN

Christianity has an image problem these days. You mention the word "Christian" or the word "Church," and not everyone's first reaction is positive.

The church is supposed to represent Christ to the world. But according to the latest report card, something has gone terribly wrong. Using descriptions like "hypocritical," "insensitive," "sheltered," and "judgmental," young Americans share an impression of Christians that's nothing short of . . . unChristian.

Join us in worship during the month of May as we spend some time together talking about these issues. Using the groundbreaking book *unChristian*, by David Kinnaman, as a launching pad, we'll take a look at the image that we project and the messages we communicate.

Submitted by *Pastor Dan*

COMING UP IN WORSHIP

- May 2 Youth lead worship
- May 9 Mother's Day & Baptism of *Freya Henriksen*
- May 23 Pentecost and Reception of New Members
- May 30 Memorial Day weekend
- June 13 Guest Preacher: Missionary *Rev. Carol Seckel*

FIRST AID AND CPR

There will be a First Aid/CPR Class May 8th at 9 a.m. at the church. Let Dr. Chuck know if you are interested in attending the class.

Submitted by *Chuck Pritchard*
503-359-9540 b2c2_2@verizon.net

FIRST ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

Come one, come all to the 1st Annual Chili Cook-off May 2nd – costumes, prizes and great chili await you! Enter in advance or just bring some chili on May 2nd and plan on a fun filled lunch! The Cook-off supports church camping activities. For questions and entry information, contact Janet Hummel, 503-359-3510 or janet.hummel@verizon.net.

Submitted by *Janet Hummel*

WESLEYANS MEETING

All women are invited to the Wesleyans' regular meeting on Tuesday, May 4th, at 7:00 p.m. We'll be taking a look at the Emerald Isle! Come join us.

Submitted by *Virginia Heald*

LIKE LILACS?

We're planning a bus trip to Woodland, Washington, for a Lilac Festival on Thursday, May 6th. There you can stroll through four acres of blooming, fragrant lilacs and tour the historic 1889 Victorian farmhouse, which is open to the public only during the festival. See the restored woodshed, water tower and carriage house, and browse potted lilacs and perennials for sale. We plan to leave the church at 9:00 a.m. and have lunch before we head home. The cost for the festival is only \$2.00! To sign up, contact Marilyn Carr at 503-357-2622 or mcdgrandma@msn.com.

Submitted by *Marilyn Carr*

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

A Different Sermon Series

The Barna Group, a respected Christian survey organization, recently asked young people to identify which perceptions they most strongly associate with Christianity. The three most commonly agreed-upon were: anti-homosexual, judgmental, and hypocritical.

Barna president David Kinnaman and co-author Gabe Lyons conclude in *UnChristian* (Baker, 2007) that Christians "have become famous for what we oppose, rather than who we are for."

The authors explain that a large portion of young Christians agree, "that the unChristian message has become one of self-preservation rather than one of world restoration."

According to *UnChristian*, six negative themes infuse young people's perceptions of the modern Christian church: hypocrisy, treatment of outsiders as conversion targets, disdain & bigotry toward homosexual persons, seclusion from the real world, over-politicization, and judgmentalism.

The behaviors Kinnaman and Lyons document wrongly "brand" Christianity. Christian political activism sometimes spells, for outsiders, an interest in political power that doesn't seem matched by mercy toward the weak. It also leads some Christians to support some political candidates whose views are clearly at odds with Christianity.

In response to this state of affairs, the authors exhort Christian readers to return to the biblical messages of love and mercy toward outsiders.

As we at Forest Grove United Methodist Church live out our mission to "do justice, love kindness, [and] walk humbly with God," I invite you to join me in examining honestly our behaviors, words, and practices in light of these and other challenges that unfairly, but nevertheless can lead to some persons branding all Christians the same. We are not all the same. How we communicate who we are as Christians, what we believe, and how we act, is crucial for a faithful and authentic witness to the ways of Jesus. It's also crucial in dispelling the negative images some people have of Christians and the Church.

Join us in worship over these next few Sundays as we try to look honestly at where we, as a church, "get it wrong," and where we "get it right."

In Christ's service with you,



Pastor Dan

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

A recent on-line Upper Room mailing had this quote about compassion from a book by **Trevor Hudson** called **A Mile in My Shoes: Cultivating Compassion**: “*OUR TIMES CRY OUT for a mass movement of compassion. This urgent need coincides with the goal of the Christ-following life, for unless our faith makes us compassionate, it can hardly be called Christian. Following Jesus means moving out of our privatized, isolated, and self-enclosed worlds into a compassionate engagement with our suffering neighbor. As we open ourselves to the pilgrimage experience, ... we journey from self-centeredness to compassion. May you and I become every day pilgrims whom God can use to bring healing to our broken world.*”

I like the idea of life being on a pilgrimage where each day brings new adventures, new learning and growth in our relationship with God. It's easy, when our senses are assaulted by trouble everywhere, to close our ears and eyes and hearts to the world and be satisfied with the safety of our status quo. That's not how Jesus called us to be, however. It certainly does not fit with John Wesley's view about the world being our parish! I think that Hudson is calling us to care for every person within our most intimate circles, but also to be informed and compassionate about persons throughout the world whose plights we can barely imagine.

The Sunday morning adult Sunday School Class is finishing a book called **The Jesus Priorities – 8 Essential Habits** by **Christopher Maricle**. The closing chapter reviews the priorities and offers some challenges. I was struck by what the author has to say along similar lines. He challenges us to answer the question “What do people really need?” These are questions we need answers to: Is there anyone in need of shelter or food? Are there elderly who are lonely or need assistance? Are there adults who don't know how to read? Are there children who need protection? ...and many more – you get the idea. He urges Christian communities to work proactively to respond to needs in the local community among and beyond its membership.

Not long ago I read a book called **Half the Sky** by **Nicolas Kristof**, a Pulitzer Prize winning New York Times correspondent who grew up in Yamhill. “Half the Sky” refers to a Chinese proverb that says women hold up half the sky. This is an eye opening book that tells the stories of women in many places around the world who suffer unbelievable oppression. It is also a book about transformation. His conviction is that one of the most important tasks in the world is education and empowerment of women. Accomplishment of that task would go a long way toward achieving world peace. Education and empowerment of women and girls is more powerful than all the armies in the world. I urge you to do some reading of books such as this. As Christians we are called to know about the world and support work that is transforming lives.

Your Servant in Christ,
Deacon Rhoda Pittman Markus



ENJOYING OUR BREAKFAST

F. G. U. M. C. CALENDAR FOR MAY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	April		June				<div style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">1</div> Pastor's Day Off 9:30-12:30 Destination Unknown 12:30-2:30 Youth worship practice

MYSTERY DINNER FUNDRAISER

May 15th - 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Theme: Halloween

Dress in your best Halloween costume

Where: Fellowship Hall

Why: Please join us for our 4th Annual Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser as we raise money for the Youth Mission Trip this summer. The money will help support the mission team going to Glide Memorial UM Church in San Francisco, California at the end of July.

Submitted by *Emily Tabb*

SECOND SATURDAY GARDEN PARTY

We'll meet on May 8th at 8:30 AM and go home no later than noon. Bring your work gloves and garden tools. There will be a few treats to keep you going. Come and share the camaraderie!

Submitted by *Margaret Hoerber*

THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you for your prayers, concerns & cards for Dick's recent stay in the hospital from surgery for prostate cancer. He is doing well.

Dick & Sue Brenner

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Forest Grove United Methodist Women will meet on May 23, 2010, with a pot luck lunch after church and a program following. All women are very welcome to come and be a part of the Mission Outreach of this great organization of the church.

We have plans to visit the United Methodist Retirement Home in Salem on June 3, for their regular birthday party. We will furnish the refreshments and will spend time with the residents for the occasion. You will be hearing more about this before the date.

Submitted by *Lela Baskins*

LOOSE CHANGE FOR HUNGER OFFERING

We're off to a good start with the "Loose Change Offering for Hunger." Keep your dollars coming. To help you reflect on the whole issue of hunger here are some ideas for the month of May:

- 5 Cinco de Mayo - Pay for each corn chip you eat
- 6 Extra food is a luxury - Put in some money for each leftover in the refrigerator.
- 8 Eat seasonally - Put in for every out-of-season food you enjoyed.
- 9 Mother's Day - Make a contribution in honor of your mother.
- 11 Make a contribution for each source of protein in your freezer or cupboard
- 12 Add a coin for every can in your cupboard
- 15 Did you eat out this week? - Match your tip with a contribution
- 16 Empty your pockets, purse or wallet of all change
- 17 Prepared food costs more - How many packages do you have? Pay up
- 21 School will soon be out. Add a coin for each year of education you received

Your past gifts have made you partners in ministries throughout the conference that are:

- feeding children on days when school is not in session
- providing fresh, healthy produce through community gardens
- teaching cooking and nutrition classes
- helping struggling families and senior citizens stretch their budgets with food boxes
- feeding homeless teens
- making jam for area food pantries

Watch next month's newsletter for more food ministries supported by this offering.

Rhoda Pittman Markus revrpm@verizon.net

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

Last Day of Sunday School is **May 23 – Pentecost Sunday**

Day Camp dates: Week of **August 8 - 13**

Submitted by *Rhoda Pittman Markus*

YOUTH VIEWS

Dan has recently started a sermon series based on the book *UnChristian*, which takes a look at how Christians are viewed. In order to lead the congregation in worship on May 2nd, the youth needed to do their own reflecting on the topic of “unChristian”. We began by looking at how we see ourselves and whether the youth believed they were Christian. After that, I asked them to answer these four questions in their journals:

1. Name 4 friends that know you’re a Christian.
2. If you were the only Christian those friends knew, what would their view of Christians be?
3. (Sr. High) How did your actions on prom night portray you as a Christian?
4. (Jr. High) How do your actions toward substitutes in school portray you as a Christian?
5. Describe yourself in 3 words as a Christian.

Following this personal reflection, I told the youth to call or text one of their friends from question #1 and ask them these questions:

1. What’s the first thing you think of when you hear the word “Christian”?
2. Describe Christians in 3 words.
3. What is one thing you think every Christian should know?
4. How are Christians different than those who are not Christian?

The answers ranged from positive and uplifting to not sure how to answer. More important than the answers, were the conversations the youth were having with their friends and each other. It was awesome to hear the youth reflecting on what their friends had to say and to hear how they viewed themselves as Christians. This has been one of my favorite Youth Sundays to plan for because of the very meaningful conversations we’ve had. I hope this is represented in the service the youth plan for you!

Submitted by *Emily Tabb*

SOME OF THE WORKERS! (Easter breakfast, 2010)



ATTENTION MAGRUDER FAMILY CAMPERS!

Family camp is fast approaching! May 29-31 is the weekend this year, so plan now for a fun-filled, lazy week-end at the beach – no cooking or yard work, just fun-fun-fun. Final sign-up and payment are due by May 2. Fees are \$75 for adults, \$45 for youth 10-15, \$10 for ages 6-9, and free for children under six. Scholarships are available – see Janet Hummel or Sue Brenner, 503-357-5409. See you there!

Submitted by *Janet Hummel*
503-359-3510;
janet.hummel@verizon.net

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NRSV)

Easter Floral Cross



BIRTHDAYS

Carolyn Judah	May 2 nd
Merrill Ludlam	May 4 th
Lela Baskins	May 4 th
Loretta Evans	May 9 th
Carolyn Mechling	May 11 th
Donna Berget	May 13 th
Dulce Gonzalez	May 14 th
Sarah Hampton	May 15 th
Chad Pritchard	May 17 th
Janet Hummel	May 18 th
Sarah Tunall	May 24 th
Fran Todd	May 25 th
Lynn Anderson	May 27 th
Cal Clayton	May 29 th
Eunice Gustafson	May 31 st

ANNIVERSARIES

Lefty & Barbara Schultz May 9th

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Please be sure that the church office has your new address as soon as possible. Thank you.

Liz Swenson
Church Administrative Assistant

SERVING IN MAY

Liturgist	Max Wilson-Fey
Altar Guild	Linda Raycraft
Bus Coordinator	Lois Oakberg, 503-357-8129
Bus Drivers	TBA
Ushers & Greeters	Hospitality Team
Coffee Coordinator	Janet Hummel
Fellowship Time	
May 2 nd	The Hummels
May 9 th	Laurie & Nancy Bond
May 16 th	The Hamptons
May 23 rd	Volunteers needed
May 30 th	Volunteers needed
Nursery Attendant & Childcare Coord.	Adrienne Dionne
Web Master	Jenny LaCombe
Kitchen Elves	Ella Collins & Pat Gilman
Sound and Media	Steven Wong
Parish Nurse	Patti Rose

MISSION STATEMENT

Do justice.
Love kindness.
Walk humbly with God.

EDUCATION CORNER – IAN RICE

Growing up in southern Oregon, Ian was confirmed in the Ashland UMC, where he was active in the Youth Group, including a mission trip to Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco. He earned his B.S. in Managerial Accounting at Southern Oregon University.

Ian & Christie married in 2007 and moved to Forest Grove near the end of 2008. Commuting into Portland via MAX to work in the Executive Compensation Dept. at U.S. Bank, he avoids most of the traffic clogs because his work hours are 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Spare time activities include camping, bowling and fishing; last spring he learned golf, and he works on his game with Bobby Tabb at Sunset Golf Course. Christie keeps him busy taking little trips around Oregon to “see the sights.”

Christie and Ian joined FGUMC about a year ago; Ian teaches the 4th-6th graders in Sunday School and is especially active with the Youth. He has recently started the Youth Band, APOSTLIPS, for 7th-12th graders; they practice for an hour on Sundays after church, in room 7A.

In his commitment to be the second adult in the Sr. High group, he has found joy as well as the opportunity to participate in many of the monthly Destination Unknowns. Coming full circle, Ian plans to chaperon the FGUMY on their mission trip to Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco this summer.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

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Rhoda Markus	503-357-3998	Deacon
Emily Tabb	503-707-4971	Youth Pastor
Liz Swenson	503-357-2689	Administrative Assistant

Church Office Hours, Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Patty Davie	503-357-3185	Messenger Editor
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Bless you for getting your articles to me
by the 18th of each month!

e-mail: plc2fd@verizon.net