



**FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL**
United Church of Christ - Portland

The Pilgrim

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“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” - Isaiah 43:19

For those of you who haven't heard it elsewhere: a new thing is definitely springing forth, and I'm as excited as anyone to see what new way the Spirit is making for us. We have just now hired a new Assistant Minister, and in time this will no doubt shape and influence every aspect of our common life together.

First – I want to offer special thanks to Al Horn, our moderator, and Larry Rossini, who chaired a special advisory committee to help me discern, interview, and select a candidate who could meet our ever changing needs. Also on this committee was Jesika Gavilanes, Autumn LaPour, Chris Phanthavong, Rachel Short, and Nancy Tangeman, who not only offered a lot of their time and good intention to getting this right, but who were also an incredible joy to work with throughout this entire process. This was truly a community effort, and one I will forever remember fondly.

Second – there were so many qualified candidates that – even while this process was joyful - it sure wasn't easy to pick just one. Even though we only did a local search, it quickly became clear that there is a world of talent right here in our back yard, and very quickly we came to realize that this wasn't just about hiring the best person, it was necessarily about hiring the right person for the job at this time. There were some very good discussions, all grounded in hope and prayer that we would do right by the wider community, but in the end I'm confident that we found the right person.

Third – and without further adieu – the news you've all been waiting for. Our New Assistant Minister will be:

Elizabeth Simson Durant

Some of you may remember Elizabeth as the ministerial intern who worked with us here last fall. In addition to preaching and leading a children's talk, she also handled some of the pastoral care work and led her own workshop. But for those of you who didn't cross paths with her, or who didn't get a chance to know her that well, Elizabeth is a queer poet-preacher, activist, and rabble-rouser who deeply loves Mama God, her family, Buffy, and Jesus (not necessarily in that order). She believes that spiritual growth and social transformation are twin sides of our calling to be church.

Most recently, Elizabeth served as solo minister at Lake Oswego United Church of Christ during their pastor's 3-month parental leave. At LOUCC, Elizabeth wrote skits and instigated impromptu liturgical drama, organized church-wide inter-generational art projects and preached God's relentless, whole-bodied love.

Elizabeth and her wife Sadie have one daughter, Ellie, and make their home in East Portland, where they are members of Parkrose Community UCC. Elizabeth was approved for ordination pending call by the Central Pacific Conference Committee on Ministry in January 2016 and currently serves as co-chair of the CPC Justice & Witness Ministry Team and leads the conference's Racial Justice Network.

I cannot tell you how excited I am to have Elizabeth as a partner in Ministry here at First Congregational. In the time I worked with her I couldn't have been more impressed by her gifts, her maturity, and (most

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importantly) her deep sense of God's call in her own life. Once she's on the ground we'll find various ways for all of you to get to know her a little better, but I have no doubt that you will all love her every bit as much as I do.

For now Elizabeth is finishing up at Lake Oswego UCC, and after that taking a much needed break with her family. Our plan is to have her start here on July 18, with her first sermon preaching to the congregation on Sunday July 24. In the meantime, let's thank God for this new addition to our family, and look forward to seeing what the Spirit has in store for us next.

In faith,

Rev. Michael Ellick

**ARTEACH GALLERY PRESENTS:
JULY 2016: SPIRITUAL FAMILY ALBUM**

Mr. and Mrs. Gene & Candy Tangren invite you to look into their Spiritual world of Nature, through paintings, photographs, and drawings. Explore the Supernatural connection we all have to The Creator, the giver of life and all his glorious wonders. Gene is Swedish and Danish, he grew up on a dairy farm in Minnesota. Candy is full blooded Indian belonging to the Pima and Navajo tribes. She grew up on the Gila River Indian Reservation in Arizona. Descendants on her Navajo side include two Medicine Men and a God fearing Christian Great Grandmother.

Opening reception is Thursday, July 7 at 5 p.m.

AUGUST 2016: FABRICATIONS

Fabrications, a Columbia FiberArts Guild exhibit, brings together fiber pieces ranging from art quilts and felted textiles to hooked wall hangings and garments. It displays a variety of fiber forms that illustrate the myriad techniques and materials that are available to today's fiber artist. The viewer will be able to discover nuances in texture, stitches, color variations in each of the fiber pieces displayed in the exhibit.

Opening reception is Thursday, August 4 at 5 p.m.

S'mores Family Camp

S'Mores Family Camp will be held at Camp Adams on August 27 and 28. Registration materials will be sent out to families soon. On Sunday August 28, we will celebrate our "Summer of Peace and Love" with an all-church service and lunch at 12:30 at Camp Adams. Tie dye, beads and anything else from the 1960's you still have in your closet are encouraged. The lunch is catered and costs \$10 per person and \$25 per family. Please RSVP to Batya Podos or Karen Horn.

Eloheh Farm Dates

We have many opportunities this summer to head out to Eloheh Farm, a great resource for learning more about indigenous values and earth keeping philosophy. Here is a full list of scheduled events through mid-September:

- **July 16** — Sweatlodge and Potluck
- **July 23** — Randy's Birthday Party
- **August 6** — Eloheh Work Day
- **August 20** — Sweat and Potluck (This is possibly just a women's sweat depending on response— but men are still welcome to hang around and help serve the women. Women, make a commitment to Edith that you will be there if you want a women's sweat in August (el.woodley@gmail.com))
- **September 10** — Eloheh Work Day and Sweatlodge/potluck
- **September 18** — Big Eloheh Fundraiser Concert & Party

July 2016 Moderator's Moment

Dear Friends,

Here are a few things that have been going on in the Church Council recently:

Church Safety: Business Manager Cara Rothe and I, along with 10 other church members and staff, attended a very informative Q & A with 3 Portland Police officers on June 1. The officers commented that, in general, our approach to people with disruptive behaviors is sound. They offered several helpful tips which we will begin implementing [such as using radios for communication among staff members].

The Church Council approved the formation of a Church Safety Team. Tom Brunig, Dean Sigler, Julie Blanchard, Cara Rothe, and I have agreed to serve on this team. I want to thank these people for taking on this project.

Church safety is a huge area, including things like dealing with fire, earthquake, and medical emergencies. To avoid the Team getting bogged down trying to do too much at once, the Team will **focus first on People Problems** - such as disruptive protesters and worse.

One goal for the team is to **create written protocols** for dealing with these problems. But protocols won't help if nobody knows them. So, I've asked that the team also **plan ways to educate** church members and staff about these safety protocols.

To further these goals, we have invited ushers, Council members, and a few others to a meeting soon where they can begin to learn more about church safety. This won't be an all church forum - yet. The safety protocols are still in draft form, but the Council and Safety Team feel it's better to begin educating people now, rather than waiting until we have a final comprehensive plan.

I have already received helpful information and ideas from several members. If you would like to contribute to this effort or just have questions, please contact me.

Budget Development

Committee: The Church Council has appointed the 2017 Budget Development Committee. Members are Bill Sweeney [Secretary-Treasurer and chair of the committee], Peace Young [Asst. Moderator], Rev. Michael Ellick [Senior Minister], Cara Rothe [Business Manager], and Grant Helbley [Member-at-Large]. In addition to creating the budget for 2017, this group has been asked by the Council to work on a long range budget plan involving paying for large building maintenance projects and strategic use of our Reserve Fund.

Lift Replacement Expenses:

This year the church has had to replace both the Fellowship Hall lift and the basement lift (elevator) at a combined cost of about \$57,000. It was expected that these lift replacements would be

needed in the next few years, and there is sufficient money in the Reserve Fund to cover them. But, we were not expecting to have to pay for both repairs in one year. As a result, we will soon be over budget in the Repairs-Major category by about \$31,000. To help deal with this problem, the Council voted to scale back the scheduled and already funded exterior wall cleaning/repair project and apply the resulting \$14,000 savings to the over-budget amount. This shift of funds reduces the over-budget amount to about \$17,000. The Council also recognized that there will be unavoidable major repairs later in the year totaling up to \$10,000. Based on this discussion, the Council voted to approve up to \$27,000 in over budget spending in the Repairs-Major category and to transfer money from the Reserve Fund as needed to cover these expenses.

As always, if you have any questions or comments about the activities of the Church Council, please let me know.

Al Horn, Moderator

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Our thoughts and prayers are with:

Roger Walcker; Gladys Smalberger; Pat Kerwin; Jan & Ray Velez; Jan Gibson; Katherine Brumbaugh; Anne Lemar; Nora (Auseklis) Moolenkamp; Blair Kimball; and Logan Hlavacka.

July & August 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 3 10:25 Worship 11:45 Fellowship 1:00 Potluck in the Park	4 Independence Day Church Closed	5 12:00 Spiritual Path Group 1:00 SA	6 7:00 AA 1:00 SA	7 5:00 ArtReach Reception	8 12:00 Weight Watchers 1:15 Senior Yoga	9 11:00 Molly's Fund 6:30 Goose Hollow Family Shelter
10 10:25 Worship 11:45 Fellowship 1:00 Potluck in the Park	11 12:00 SA 1:15 Senior Yoga 6:00 Way of the Rose	12 12:00 Spiritual Path Group 1:00 SA	13 7:00 AA 1:00 SA 4:00 Healing Through Yoga	14 12:00 SA	15 12:00 Weight Watchers 1:15 Senior Yoga	16
17 10:25 Worship 11:45 Fellowship 1:00 Potluck in the Park	18 12:00 SA 1:15 Senior Yoga 6:00 Way of the Rose	19 12:00 Spiritual Path Group 1:00 SA 5:00 Church Council	20 7:00 AA 1:00 SA	21 12:00 SA	22 12:00 Weight Watchers 1:15 Senior Yoga	23 10:00 Eves Circle
24 10:25 Worship (Jazz Sunday) 11:45 Fellowship 1:00 Potluck in the Park	25 12:00 SA 1:15 Senior Yoga 6:00 Way of the Rose	26 12:00 Spiritual Path Group 1:00 SA	27 7:00 AA 1:00 SA 4:00 Healing Through Yoga	28 12:00 SA	29 12:00 Weight Watchers 1:15 Senior Yoga	30
31 10:25 Worship 11:45 Fellowship 1:00 Potluck in the Park	August 1 12:00 SA 1:15 Senior Yoga 6:00 Way of the Rose	2 12:00 Spiritual Path Group 1:00 SA 7:00 OHS Lecture	3 7:00 AA 1:00 SA	4 12:00 SA 5:00 ArtReach Reception	5 12:00 Weight Watchers 1:15 Senior Yoga	6
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