

# Spotlight

May 15, 2012

Newsletter of the  
Lake Oswego United  
Methodist Church



LOUMC: A Place to Connect - to God, to each other, and to the world.

## CHANGE THE WORLD



### This Sunday, May 20 One Worship Service at 9:30

Come at 9:00 for muffins and beverages

We have several ways you can be involved either at church or out in the community. There are projects for young and old, families and singles, indoors or outdoors. To be part of this event:

- Choose a project in the breezeway. Some are at church and some in the community.
- Bring garden gloves and clippers or a rake if you wish to work on nature restoration projects.
- After worship, participate in the service project for approx. 1-2 hours.

Inside this issue:

Reconciling Conversation	2
Word from Pastor Steve	3
Around the Church	4
Responding to God's Spirit	7
New Summer Schedule	10

### **Worship With Us**

**May 20, 2012**

#### **Change the World Day**

9:30 Worship in Fellowship Hall  
Music: Chancel Choir, Flipside

**May 27**

#### **Rev. Tom Whitehead**

8:30 Sunday Morning Alive!  
Music by Bob Hinson  
10:15 Sanctuary Worship  
Music: Chancel Choir,  
Diane Mead

**June 3**

8:30 Sunday Morning Alive!  
Music: Flipside  
10:15 Sanctuary Worship  
Music: Chancel Choir

#### **June 10, MusicFest**

8:30 Sunday Morning Alive!  
10:15 Sanctuary Worship  
Music: Chancel Choir,  
Flipside, Jr. Choir, Lake  
Carillon, Vesper Bells

*Nursery care at all services*

# Reconciling Conversation - Next Steps

## 1. Reconciling Forum follow-up

Our reconciling Team and Outreach Committee co-sponsored a panel presentation on April 22. The panel consisted of six persons from five Reconciling congregations in our Conference. They spoke about the congregations' reasons for taking this affirming, public stance and what it means to them today. The discussion was recorded and may be watched via your home computer by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.lakeoswegoumc.org/recpot.html>

The link is not searchable by others.

## 2. A Conversation with Pastor Steve - Thursday May 17, 7:00 pm

This Thursday Pastor Steve is providing an opportunity for everyone to be in conversation about the possibility of becoming a reconciling congregation. All questions and viewpoints are welcome as we discuss fitting ways to express being a welcoming church where "all means all" when it comes to welcoming people into our congregation. This conversation will provide valuable input for an official Ad Council meeting later this month. Please join us May 17 as we explore paths to our common future.

## 3. Administrative Council Meeting - Thursday, May 31, 7:00 pm

There will be an Ad Council meeting on May 31st where the possibility of developing an official statement of welcome will be discussed. The Ad Council could make decisions about such a statement at this meeting. This is an open, consultative process. While only Ad Council members can vote, everyone is welcome to be present to speak to the issue. If further action is needed, the Ad Council may recommend that a full church conference be called.

## 4. Potential Church Conference at a Future Date

If the Ad Council conversation feels an additional step would be helpful to this process, the Ad Council will ask the District Superintendent to call an official church conference meeting to make a decision on whether to take official action as an entire church body. Every member of the church would have a vote at such a meeting, at a date to be decided by the District Superintendent. Plenty of notice would be given for this meeting.



## New in the Library

Our church library (located across from Pastor Steve's office) holds a remarkable collection of books, DVDs, etc. to enrich your spiritual life. Two brand-new entries (just this week) include these items from the UMW Reading Program:

***Immigration and the Bible*** - a guide for radical welcome by Joan Maruskin (2012)

This study explores the Biblical and theological understandings of immigration, immigrants, and migration. Readers will examine what it is to be a sojourner and to live in the Biblical mandate of hospitality for the stranger and alien in our midst...

***Poverty*** edited by Jack Keller, Jr. (2012)

This study recognizes that faithful and effective ministry with the poor engages our hearts and heads and hands ... and our understanding, too ... and leads to action ... We are challenged to move from compassion ... to generosity and advocacy.

Since these are new books and several may want to read them before the Schools of Christian Mission this summer, please return them to the LOUMC library within two weeks of checking them out.

Deborah Maria, Librarian

<b>Stewardship at a Glance</b>	
<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering to Budget</u>
April 1: 217	April 1: \$ 12,680.00
April 8: 443	April 8: \$ 14,172.00
April 15: 222	April 15: \$14,354.00
April 22: 204	April 22: \$ 6,470.00
April 29: 219	April 29: \$ 6,797.00

## Word from Pastor Steve

The quadrennial United Methodist General Conference session has come and gone. Once again it was a mixture of the spirit's movement and of all-too-human politics. As someone with degrees in both theology and political science, I have long said that "Wherever two or three are gathered ... there is politics." Lately I have wondered: if two or three gathered is politics, what is 500? Answer: Congress. And what is 1,000? Answer: General Conference. I'm not sure if that is a good trend line!

Once again General Conference (GC) has demonstrated how difficult it is for 1,000 people to make decisions as a group. GC continued to debate issues of homosexuality with strong emotions, harsh words, and no change. GC even rejected, by a mixed vote, a resolution saying we don't agree on this issue! On the most complex issue, restructuring the church, the body couldn't agree on any of the three proposals. When a group tried to resurrect a compromise, they succeeded – only to have it struck down as unconstitutional. Political processes are not pretty!

In the end some significant decisions were made. Structures for United Methodist Women (UMW) were strengthened. The long-standing guarantee of appointments for pastors is gone. The general church budget is reduced – along with contributions to pastors' pensions. And in the midst of it all the movement of the Spirit was experienced on occasion, especially in joyful worship and moments of personal courage and compassion. It was a reminder for us all that, although the church is far from perfect, it remains the living Body of Christ in today's world. Let's continue to pray that when people observe those of us called Christians what they see is love, compassion, and faith.



## Apply for Freepons Scholarship

Scholarships Available The Eileen Freepons Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to a student of any age who is pursuing college or technical school. To apply, write one-to-two pages about your involvement at LOUMC and your future goals. Deadline is June 30.



## Our Church Family

### Our prayers go out to:

**Marian Hodges'** memorial service will be held in our sanctuary on Friday, May 18, at 2:00 p.m.

**Susan Murray** is recovering after lumpectomy surgery last week.

**Donna Forrell** is in rehab following knee surgery. **Nan Olson, Chloe Stewart** and **Kari Bassett's** mother, Kay, are all recovering from knee surgery.

**Jack Wedding** is recovering at home from a mild heart attack.

**Pastor Steve and Lynda Sprecher** will be on vacation May 21-28. For pastoral emergencies please call Tom Whitehead, 503-652-6280.

### Congratulations to:

**Jean Northrup**, who is now a certified geriatric wellness instructor.

Welcome home to **Janusz Bogdan**, who has been serving as a civilian in Iraq and Afghanistan.

### Continued prayers for:

**Dennis Sizemore** in his continuing medical treatment.

### Letters ...

*"Our thanks to Pastor Steve and all our dear friends at LOUMC for the loving support and expressions of sympathy received on the death of son and brother, John Townsend. Jo Ann Parsons and Betsy Fontenot."*



## Congratulations to Our College Grads!

**Katy Sharman** will graduate in June from U of O with a Bachelor of Science in General Sciences from the Robert Clark Honors College.

**Lindsay Fuson** is graduating from the University of Puget Sound with a Music of Arts degree in Piano Performance.

**David Sprecher** is graduating from OSU with a Bachelors degree.

**Lauren Woody** graduated from University of Montana with a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Communications.

# Around the Church

## THANKS and



**Bryan Hungerford**, a troop 127 Eagle Scout candidate, for building a wood chip trail on the little hill behind the church complete with a sitting area and bench. He also pressure washed the back patio area.

## HUGS to...

**Robb Thompson** and some Boy Scouts for mowing the back lawn and cleaning out two surface water drains at the back of the church,

## Eagle Scout Project

Bryan Hungerford, a senior scout in Lake Oswego Boy Scout Troop 127, recently completed his Eagle Scout project in UMC's backyard. To become an Eagle Scout, the scout must design and plan a project, estimate costs and get approval of the owner of the property where the project is located, his troop leaders and regional Scout leaders. In addition, he must procure the supplies and organize a work group to build the project. Brian's project is a wood chip trail up the west side of the outcrop behind the church and a chip sitting area at the top with a very nice bench. Everyone is encouraged to visit the new trail, take along a friend or a book and enjoy a peaceful moment at the peak.



## Trustees News

An electrician made some safety related repairs to wiring and fixtures, added LED lighting over the central back door and installed a plug-in behind the metal angel so an extension cord running from the front of the building, over the roof to the angel will not be needed next Christmas. The fire alarm system has been reprogrammed and a smoke detector replaced to stop the frequent false alarms.

In the next few weeks the leaking skylight in the nursery will be replaced and additional lighting by the new name tag racks and in the CAC entryway will be installed. Although the timing is not known, the floor in the CAC will be waxed.

Trustees approved the construction of a small storage building by Boy Scout Troop 127 on the North side of church property accessed from Oak street. The troop trailer will be parked at the same site instead of just off the back parking lot. The neighbors to the North and East have all been notified and are pleased to have the overgrown brush cleared out.



## Get Ready to Dive into VBS 2012! July 23-27 from 9:00-noon.

Operation Overboard: Dare to Go Deep with God! is an interactive, energizing, Bible-based program that gives children a chance to go deep in their faith. Set in an exciting aquatic environment, this summer's VBS will offer children opportunities to go on a deep sea adventure and meet people of deep faith from both the Old and New Testaments.

In order to keep our costs down (we charge only \$15/child and a maximum of \$45 per family), we need donations from our church family. Could you dig around your homes and see if you have some of the following items to donate?

- Paper towel tubes
- Puffy paint (any color)
- Narrow, curling ribbon in white, silver or opalescent
- Old broom handles
- Row boat

- Fishing nets
- Green crepe paper streamers
- Old button-up shirts to use as smocks

Vacation Bible School is open to ALL children ages 4-entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Registration begins on May 1. We need adult leaders as well as children. If you can help, please call Stacey Bernal at 503-636-8423.

# Around the Church



go home after worship and again after the concert with no additional duties.

Thanks also to everyone who attended. You were a fun and (mostly) attentive audience.

Signed proudly by Linda Woods, Director of Music

## Concert Thanks

Kudos to everyone for their parts in making the Music a la Mode concert fun and successful:

The musicians and their directors – Chancel Choir, Chris Rust, Bob Hinson, Rev (Pastor Steve) and the Revelers, Flipside, Jeff Mattern and both handbell choirs. If the rehearsal hours were tallied, even they would be astounded.

Pam Wurtz, who did the planning, purchasing and much of the preparation of the delicious pies, along with the dozen women who helped make them and the seven men who cut and served them.

Larry Zeigler, who produced the printed program from start to finish, including doing research for the interesting program notes; Marilyn Zeigler and Mary Anne Lewis for creating the centerpieces with the beautiful geraniums grown and donated by Loren and Nan Olson and to Loren for stage preparation; and to Todd French who managed the sound system.



A special thanks to the Outreach Committee members, who did all the set-up and clean-up and will share in the evening's profits! How wonderful it was for the musicians to be able to



*A very huge thank you for another spectacular evening of music by so many talented members of our church family. From the Phantom of the Opera, Forever/Shout to the Lord, to abide with me -- it was a blessed evening of "Music a la Mode." Appreciation too to ALL who helped in staging the event. From a loyal listener, Loeta McElwee"*

# OUTREACH



Lake Oswego United Methodist Church  
CONNECTING TO THE WORLD



## FREE HOME ENERGY AUDIT

What if there were a way you could 1) improve the energy efficiency of your home, 2) help the economy by supporting living-wage jobs, and 3) contribute to improving the environment all at the same time? Did you know you are already paying to make energy efficient upgrades to homes and businesses in Oregon? Three percent of your heating and lighting bills goes to a millions of dollars fund to provide incentives to home owners and businesses.

Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good (MACG), through its research and action teams, organized a way you can benefit from this fund and support this triple objective at the same time. It begins with a free energy audit of your home and options to improve it in a number of ways. If you are interested in learning more, **contact Cecil Denney soon who is working with MACG to promote this triple bottom line, (503) 723-9134.**



## EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS

The church received many thank you notes for the Lenten Food Boxes through FISH and the West Linn Food Pantry. Here is

one letter:

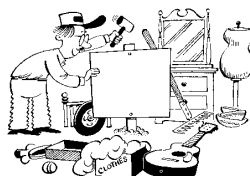
*"Thank you so much! I work 40 hours a week and after I pay for rent and daycare, there isn't much left for anything else, INCLUDING FOOD! This helps so much. Me and my children really appreciate it. Love Jamie"*

Thank you for helping to feed 135 other families like Jamie's. It is OK to feel good about being able to help people and their children who struggle to get by. Keep the food coming to the collection box in the entry. The need isn't going away any time soon.

## Congratulations Confirmands!



On April 29, we welcomed five new members into our church family. Sam Reed, Daniel Barkhuizen, Alex Fu, Samantha Willis and Julia Logue.



## Save items for UMW Rummage Sale

As you are doing your spring cleaning, please save reusable items for the United Methodist Women's Rummage Sale in August. Clothing, children's items, small furniture, kitchenware, collectables, tools and jewelry are all good sellers. Please no tires, large furniture, computers or TVs. Proceeds are used for mission projects that benefit women and children locally and globally.

## Counters Needed

We need four or five new people to join our team of offering counters. Commitment is approximately one and half hours one Sunday every six weeks on a flexible schedule. Training is provided and new volunteers will be paired with an experienced partner. Can you take a turn at this important job? Contact Rose Ann Freeman at [rosebud1944@comcast.net](mailto:rosebud1944@comcast.net)



## RESPONDING TO GOD’S SPIRIT AMONG US

When the wind of the God’s Spirit moved among the believers at Pentecost, they were so excited they wanted to do everything all at once to spread God’s good news! Soon, however, the leaders of the new church realized they couldn’t do it all by themselves. When they invited everyone to take an active part in the church, “everyone was pleased” to be asked and to have the opportunity to serve God. (Read Acts 6:1-7.)

Each of us has the opportunity to respond to God’s life-giving spirit in areas of our greatest interest and passion in the ministries of the church. Here is your chance to let us know what areas interest you and make your heart sing. Please indicate below which areas you would most like to participate in as we gear up next fall. Simply bring the form to church and place this form in the collection plate during the offering. Someone will contact you.

\_\_\_ **Worship Service Teams** – Help shape meaningful, creative services as part of a worship team. New emphases on the arts will make this a fun place to be this coming year.

8:30 Informal Worship \_\_\_ 10:15 Traditional Worship \_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Sunday Spiritual Formation and Fellowship Hour** – Help us imagine and develop this new opportunity for connecting with each other through fellowship and purposeful spiritual activities between services.

\_\_\_ **Christian Education** – Spiritual growth is crucial for adults, youth and children. Be part of a team that will shape exciting interaction with our scripture and our faith

Lead a class for: \_\_\_ children \_\_\_ youth \_\_\_ adults

\_\_\_ **Music Ministries** – Music is the language of the soul. Join one of our groups providing inspiring worship leadership – no formal training needed!

\_\_\_ **Outreach Ministries** – John Wesley said “the world is our parish.” Learn more about, and participate in, some of our many outreach projects in the community.

\_\_\_ **Nurture Ministries** – Remember how warmly you were welcomed? Help extend welcome to others and facilitate their involvement in our church family.

\_\_\_ **Care Team** – Reach out to members who need visiting and care.

\_\_\_ **Ministry Support Resources** – Help provide planning and stewardship for financial and other resources necessary to support our ministries here and abroad.

\_\_\_ **Support Services** – How does our property keep looking so good? And how do these bulletins get in our hands every week? Many dedicated volunteers, that’s how! Join us!

Property Maintenance \_\_\_ Office Help \_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Other** – Share skills (design, electrical, etc.) or passions (golf, knitting) in another area \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_



It's hard to imagine that another school year is just about over. It's harder to imagine that we will be losing another group of seniors as they venture off to college, jobs, or just figuring out what direction God is leading them. I feel lots of different emotions; excited for the graduating seniors, happy for all the adventures that summer vacation holds for the children and youth, and appreciative of parents who support their children and youth by getting them to Sunday festivities like church and youth group.

Lastly, I feel grateful. Grateful for our Sunday evening leaders who show up each ready to minister to the young people of our church. Kari Bassett, Jean Northrup and Paula Vogel have fun with the 4th and 5th graders twice a month. Mark Bernal and Wendé Milner relate with our junior high group every Sunday, as well as teach them on Sunday mornings. Dale and Jenny Cook, Kirk Johnson and Alison Stiven hang out with senior high youth. Sadly, Alison will not be returning to us next year. Although it was a tough decision for her, she feels she needs to focus on a couple of other passions she has. We will miss her but wish her luck, and maybe she'll be available to take a mission trip with us in the near future.

Yes, this team of leaders plan activities, games, food, etc., but more importantly these dedicated adults are there each Sunday evening to talk with, listen to, and learn from the young people. Their commitment to the youth program at LOUMC is unbelievable. Simply said, "thank you, and I know that there is a special place in heaven for each of you."

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

*May 20: Change the World—Junior and Senior high youth groups will participate in a West Linn ivy pull from 10:30-1:30 this Sunday. (This is a required activity if you are going on mission trip this summer.) Lunch included!*

*May 27: Memorial Day Weekend—No youth groups*

*June 3: End-of-the-year parties for all three*



## MISSION TRIP

### Mission Trip 2012 Update!

Let the countdown begin! In seven weeks 25 youth and 7 adults depart for Whidbey Island, WA. Lots of hard and important work awaits us! The Pacific Rim Institute will keep the group busy as they scrape and paint old pheasant coops, cultivate native plants, and spend time on the nature preserve. Painting, distributing food to the less fortunate, hanging out with the kids at the Boys and Girls Club of Coupeville, as well as other jobs are sure to make the experience on Whidbey Island memorable! The trip is from Saturday, July 7-Saturday, July 14. Join us for the commissioning of the mission team on Sunday, July 1.



**The Barkhuizen** family for organizing and delivering food to Janus this month.

**Evie Fuson, Arline Miller, Maria Reed, and Karen Zurcher** for helping with the Amazing Race around Lake Oswego youth event.

**John Milner, Emma and Gail Anderson, Kristen and Karen Locke, Emily and Pam Martin, and Melissa, Eric, Maiya and Jacob Schulz** for

# Activities



## Pentecost is May 27

Wear something RED to church!  
Rev. Tom Whitehead will preach.

## Office Closed on Memorial Day, May 28

## Education & Youth Volunteer Recognition Sunday



Please join us on Sunday, June 3, as we honor and recognize all those involved in our education and spiritual growth programs.

This includes teachers, leaders of children, youth, and adults; junior and senior high UMYF leaders; Education Committee members, confirmation mentors and superintendents. Recognition takes place at both worship services. A reception honoring them will follow each service. This is a wonderful opportunity to thank all who touch the lives of our "educated!"



## Graduating Seniors

Senior Recognition Sunday, when the Lake Oswego United Methodist Women honor our graduating high school students and present their annual Senior Recognition Award, will be Sunday, June 3, during the 10:15 worship service. A reception in the Fellowship Hall will immediately follow that service. Be sure to mark this date on your family calendar. UMW scholarship applications have been mailed and seniors should have received theirs by now. Seniors: if you have not received an application, please contact the church office. Please note, the deadline for returning the applications to the church office is Sunday, May 20.



## Music Fest is Coming

June 10 is the annual Music Fest Sunday. You'll hear a lot of music from a variety of our music groups and your presence will honor all the folks who have provided music for the

worship services throughout the year. Invite your friends to this inspiring and always-interesting service.

## Oregon-Idaho Reconciling

**United Methodists** invite all to meet with representatives from the Oregon delegation to General Conference at Sweet Home UMC Saturday, May 19, 9:30-4:00 p.m. See flyer on the Community Board across from the office.



## No plans for Memorial Day weekend?

Come to Family Camp at Camp Magruder! Join camp Dean Jenny Cook, Dale, Camden and Keegan for a weekend of fun, faith, friends and family.

Jenny says, "I'd love to see members of my LOUMC family come and connect with us. Our schedule is relaxed and rejuvenating. All you have to do is sign up and show up! There's no better place to kick-off summer than Camp Magruder!" Dates: May 25-28. Hurry and sign up at [www.gocamping.org](http://www.gocamping.org). Questions? Catch Jenny at church or send her an email [daleandjen@comcast.net](mailto:daleandjen@comcast.net).



## Last Lunch Bunch 'Til Fall

June 17 is the last time to join the Lunch Bunch for the noon lunch before the summer hiatus. Sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall so the cooks will know you will be there, and expect to be served another of their wonderful several-course meals. Will it be a picnic? Fried chicken? Burgers? Whatever it is, it will be delicious, as always, and only \$3.50.



## Annual Conference 2012 - June 14-17 in Salem, Oregon

The yearly gathering of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference meets in mid-June. Our "official" members are Pastor Steve, Deborah Maria and Rebecca Rudawitz, but anyone can attend. Saturday June 16 will feature an incredible workshop on worship and music by Mark Miller. Mark is an extraordinary musician adept at all forms of worship. Cost of the workshop is \$25.

# Spotlight

The Spotlight is published monthly by the Lake Oswego United Methodist Church  
1855 South Shore Blvd.  
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034

*Non-profit*  
*U.S. Postage Paid*  
*at*  
*Lake Oswego, OR*  
*Permit # 39*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



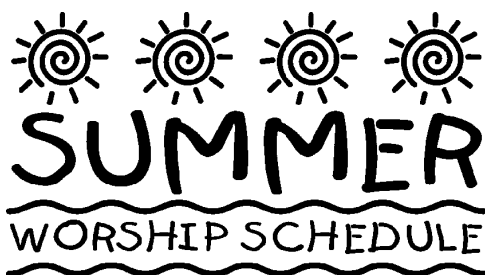
**LOUMC Staff:**

- Pastor: Rev. Steve Sprecher
- Music & Activities Director: Linda Woods
- Christian Education & Youth: Stacey Bernal
- Editor & Office Manager: Sally Blanchard
- Additional Resource Persons:
- Pastoral Visitor: Rev. Tom Whitehead
- Deacon: Rev. Danna Drum Hastings
- Health Minister: Jean Northrup
- Spiritual Director: Judi Paisley

Phone: 503-636-8423

Fax: 503-636-4682

email: [loumc@lakeoswegoumc.org](mailto:loumc@lakeoswegoumc.org)



## Simplify Summer!

This summer, during the months of July and August, we will have only one service at 9:30. This has a three-fold purpose: It unites our 8:30 and 10:15 congregations at a time that "splits the difference," the 10:15 crowd will have time to earlier get out to enjoy the hopefully summer weather, and it gives our Flipside praise band a time to refresh, as the other music groups have. Fellowship time after the service will take place on the front porch or the back lawn -- or both -- a great way to simplify summer at LOUMC.

Sunday School will be held during the 9:30 worship service.

### **SPOTLIGHT deadlines**

Please email your submissions to the editor [sblanch@lakeoswegoumc.org](mailto:sblanch@lakeoswegoumc.org) by noon of the deadline date. Articles received after the deadline may not be printed. Articles may be edited for length.

Deadline.....	Issue
June 12.....	June
July 10.....	July
August 14.....	August