

November 2015

Christian Caller

November 2015

Volume 188

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Turkeys and Volunteers Needed For the Soup Kitchen Thanksgiving Dinner Wednesday, November 25

If you have been wanting to help the Soup Kitchen in some way, now is your chance . Thanksgiving dinner will be served on Wednesday, November 25 and turkeys and volunteers are needed to make that day special and successful. If you can supply a turkey or two and/or if you are able to help in any way, contact the Soup Kitchen manager, Sean Casey at 541-409-6648 or 541-451-7667.



Marciel Gilmore 7th
Van Johnson 7th
Tom Thompson 28th
Nancy Van Vleet 30th

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
170 E. Grant St.
Lebanon, Oregon 97355

Pastor: (Searching)
Office Hours: Monday— Thursday 9:30 am—1:30 pm
Church E-Mail: lebanonfcc@comcast.net
Website: www.fcclebanon.org

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As the year draws to a close there are many things I need to say to you. The first and most important is I need you to know how proud I am of each of you. Second I need to update you on how our search is going for a new pastor. Third what do I see for the future of the church and lastly is how scary this all seems, at least to me. I write this after we, the church, did a memorial service for the family of Evelyn Robinson. Some of us baked using Evelyn's recipes, some of us took care of setting up the audio and video equipment, and some of us provided music. We all pitched in to make it a wonderful celebration, and the family saw that. The church deserves the praise, well done. We are so few in numbers, but each week you make me proud. Each Sunday someone will ask me about our search for a new pastor, and each week I change the subject. I can say we are nearing a crossroad, putting our faith in the Lord and seeing what doors may open. I can say by the first of the year our goal is to have a new leader for this congregation. So what does my future of the church look like? We may all see the future with different eyes and visions. My future vision includes retaining what we do so well while opening ourselves to change as I believe that is paramount to survival: **Embrace what is important to the church today. This includes music, food, and fellowship. *Continuing the bond we currently are blessed with, the love we feel for each other. *Find the path to reach younger families and children, grow the congregation. *Show the community the First Christian Church of Lebanon is alive and thriving.* Change, while at times uncomfortable, can be dynamic. As we embrace our heritage and look to the changes of the future, let God guide us to embrace the positive and let go of doubts.

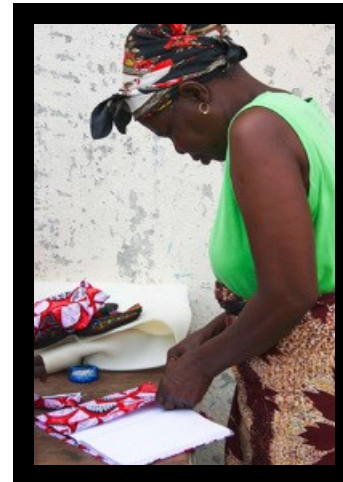
Lastly, let me talk about scary. We have been very blessed by the pastors who have filled in on Sunday. They have kept us afloat, but without our own pastor we are only treading water. It is not all bad but I am not a good swimmer. I'm challenged to swim across a pool, and if I get to the other side I'm exhausted. I'm scared of treading water. When we started our search for a new pastor, we went into it wanting to find that perfect match. What we found out very soon was that we were very gun shy. Maybe like that divorced person who still remembers the pain of that failure. Remembering the pain and not wanting to feel that way again. So afraid of more hurt that they focus on people's faults, not their good characteristics. We found that when looking at ministerial profiles we spent more time finding fault with people than looking at the good they had to offer. That made me anxious and scared. As we have continued with the search process, my fears have changed. I believe God has opened my eyes and shown me that I need to have faith and move forward. I fear we look to a Pastor to come in and fix it all. I believe we are the church, not the Pastor. A Pastor is God's gift to us to help guide us through His work. They all have strengths, they all have weaknesses. I pray that we all put faith in God to embrace the person he brings to us for what strengths they bring, and not compare them to that "10" we dream of. Psalm 23 says "Yea though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me." That takes faith, and I ask all of you to join me in this journey, even when it's scary.

In Christ's Love
Jon

First Christian Church of Lebanon Church office: 541-258-5911 Email: lebanonfcc@comcast.net
Office Hours: Monday— Thursday 9:30 am—1:30 pm Website: www.fcclebanon.org

The Frees in Mozambique

One of the phrases that Erik and I learned when we moved to Mozambique was "Pouco Pouco". You have to say it fast and in a singsong voice to get the meaning across. When we are asked how work is going here in Mozambique, I really want to say "pouco pouco" or slowly and steadily we are progressing. The end of September brought about the start of the new agriculture program and as we wait to implement phase two, we are back in Beira working on our transportation issues and a few other church projects.



Erik is hoping to continue his work fixing some of the pastor's motorcycles and in the process, teaching them basic motorcycle maintenance and repair. I have been visiting a group of widows from our community who were able to begin a sewing program that is providing them with supplementary income for their families. In the past, many churches have tried to start similar sewing programs and for many different reasons, they broke down before reaching their goals of sustainability. This group is different and their plan to start small and reach for sustainable goals has made their project successful, even in these early stages. Their first project was making journal covers and then selling them. As their sewing skills improve, they will start making more complicated projects, keeping in mind where their market is. Doing their research paid off and right



away the women were getting orders for their journal covers. In fact, they received so many orders that their first project will create enough profit that the women will be able to buy their own sewing machines when it is completed. Soon they will begin sewing tote/grocery bags as they graduate to the next level and a new group of widows can be added. Right now the group is small as the church only has 2 hand-crank sewing machines. The women are very excited because soon they will buy more machines, and more women will be able to join their group. Our supporting church partners in the Oregon/Idaho region have purchased some of these journal covers in order to sell them and raise money for the Goi Goi agriculture project. We ask you to continue to pray for the political climate to return to normal here in Mozambique as the two main parties are still in conflict with each other and further discussions between them have halted. Goi Goi is in an area that is greatly divided along political lines and violence can escalate quickly. Faithfully,
Kim

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Tom & Sharon Campbell 26th



Life Line Screening will be at our church November 19, 2015. Cost to church members only is \$139 for 5 screenings. Pick up a flyer in the office. The drawing for 2 free Screening and 2 partial screenings has already taken place.



Come Join the Fun!
Sunday, Nov. 1, 2015
Church Sandwiches & New Songs
SING-A-LONG

CHURCH EVENTS

Men's Bible Study
Every other Sunday at sanctuary table.
9:00 AM
Meetings for November: 1, 15 & 29

Sunday Morning Bible Study
9:00 AM Fireside Room
Led by Nancey West

Martha Group
Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00 PM
Colene Macklin's

Church Board & Elders Meetings
Tuesday, November 17
6:30 PM Elders 7:00 PM Church Board

Wild Bunch for Lunch
Thursday, November 19 at 11:30 PM
At Sum Yan—across from Rite Aid

Life Line Screening
Thursday, November 19, 9:00 –4:00

You can be a part of F.I.S.H.

If you would like to answer phones, greet and help shoppers in the pantry, stock food shelves, pick up and deliver food, help out with events, write newsletters and releases, keep the pantry clean, or any of the dozens of other things our volunteers do, give FISH of Lebanon a call at 541-259-3200.

You can also help by donating money. Send tax-deductible donations to FISH of Lebanon, PO Box 2477, Lebanon, OR

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Millie Patterson & family	John & Patricia Morgan
Jim & Donna Beamer	Ruth Moss
Myke Eggert	Robinson Family
Kathryn & Claude Robertson	Arlene Breckel
Nancy & Curt Prosa	Mary Manifold
Natalie Ward	Delbert Gilbert
Mary Lee Howell	Lisa Bass
Ron Johnson	Shawn Gourley
Doris Smith	August Fleishman
Jesse LeSeur	Lewelling Family
Vila Adkins	Dorothy Love
Bob Macklin	David Brokaw
Penny Sealy	Melissa Appelo
	Marjorie Morgan
	Dennis Stover
	Marilyn Lenfesty

ALSO IN OUR PRAYERS:

Service People: SP4 Coury Gagne, CPT Pete Brawn, CPT Gabriel Manning, SGT Scot Noss, CPT Tory Petersen, 1LT Kellen Peterson, CSM David Puig, SGT Ethan Spurr and SGT Daniel Campbell

Pray for our Church; the Soup Kitchen; Kim and Erik Free and their ministry; and our Regional Ministers.

If you know of any updates or corrections to this list, please let the office know in writing or by email.