

CONTACT

May, 2011

Congregational Church of Chico / United Church of Christ
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OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION IS MAY OUTREACH OFFERING

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) is the way our United Church of Christ supports the ministries of the UCC beyond the local church.

Giving to OCWM is part of our covenant with our conference, our association, and national and international ministries of our denomination. Our gifts to OCWM are shared between the conference and association (80%) and the national setting (20%).

OCWM supports 125 missionaries working in international settings.

OCWM supports new church starts and church revitalization work in the United States.

OCWM supports justice and witness ministries in the United States, including the Washington, DC office of the United Church of Christ.

OCWM supports the general ministries of our denomination, including communications, administration, and church-wide leadership.

OCWM supports our General Synod, the national decision-making assembly of our church. It meets every other year – this year's Synod is in Tampa.

OCWM supports development and distribution of Christian education materials, evangelism, and guides for engaging in justice initiatives.

OCWM supports the search and call process we use for matching ministers to congregations, and it supports the accountability systems we have for authorized ministers. (OCWM does not support seminary education.)

OCWM supports the God Is Still Speaking campaign.

Please make a generous gift to Our Church's Wider Mission!

DISPOSABLE DIAPERS, TOO!

In May, we are continuing to collect both adult and children's disposable diapers for the North State Diaper Bank. Diapers are not covered by public or private health insurance. The Diaper Bank provides diapers to low income persons and families who need them. Bring a bag or two of disposable diapers – any size, any color, any brand, any style – on Sunday during May for the North State Diaper Bank.

Worship at CCC, UCC in May, 2011

May 1, 2011 – Second Sunday of Easter

Communion

Bible Readings: Acts 2: 14a, 22 – 32; Psalm 16; I Peter 1: 3 – 9; John 20: 19 - 31

Sermon: The First Breakfast – The sermon will be drawn from John 21: 1 -14

May 8, 2011 – Third Sunday of Easter / Mother's Day

Rosie Potestio is planning and leading this morning's service while our pastor is on vacation.

Bible Readings: Acts 2: 14a, 36 – 41; Psalm 116: 1 – 4, 12 – 19; I Peter 1: 17 – 23;

Luke 24: 13 - 35

May 15, 2011 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Bible Readings: Acts 8: 26 – 40; Psalm 22: 25 – 31; I John 4: 7 – 21; John 15: 1 - 8

Sermon: The Expanding Circle of Grace

May 22, 2011 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Lynn Haskell and others are planning and leading this morning's service while our pastor is attending the Northern California Nevada Conference annual gathering in Redwood City.

Bible Readings: Acts 7: 55 – 60; Psalm 31: 1 – 5, 15 – 16; I Peter 2: 2 – 10; John 14: 1 – 14

May 29, 2011 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Bible Readings: Acts 17: 16 – 34; Psalm 66: 8 – 20; I Peter 3: 13 – 22; John 14: 15 – 21

Sermon: Something Old, Something New

Worship and Hospitality Schedule

	<u>Worship Asst</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Hospitality</u>
May 1	Warren Haskell	RJ Muhlheim / Pravda McCroskey	Klaus and Linda Luck
May 8	Lynn Haskell	Richard and Margaret VanLaanMartin	Joyce Mann / Lee Bonneau
May 15	Lorna Bengé	Bruce and Debbie Grelle	OPEN
May 22	OPEN	Lee and Martha Atkins	Rosemarie Landry
May 29	Bob Ropp	Betsy and Julian Lorenz	OPEN

The staff is working on a new system for choosing Worship Assistants and Ushers. We will be calling individuals about serving in June, then implementing the new system in July.

Please call the church office if would like to serve or cannot serve on the date listed – 342-4913.

JUNE SIGN UP SHEETS FOR HOSPITALITY HOST ARE NOW UP ON THE RED BULLETIN BOARD AT THE CHURCH – OR CALL THE OFFICE.

JUNE 5 SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP

In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, the members and friends of the Congregational Church of Chico, United Church of Christ, are called to a Special Meeting of the Congregation. This meeting will be held on Sunday, June 5, beginning approximately 12:00 noon following the morning worship service.

Two agenda items have been set by the Church Council:

- Consideration of an amendment to Article VII – Governing Body of the Constitution and Bylaws to establish a minimum number of members to constitute a quorum at business meetings of the church. The Council is in the process of finalizing the language of this amendment.
- Consideration of the alternative future scenarios for the church and its building. These alternatives were presented at both the November 2010 and the February 2011 congregational meetings. The Council believes it is time to make a decision about which of the six will be pursued.

The Council is developing written materials about these agenda items. They will be mailed to members by regular mail prior to the meeting.

We are planning a potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to share and your own eating utensils and dishes. Beverages will be provided.

If you have questions about the meeting, please contact the Moderator, Rosie Potestio at 589-4765, or Pastor Jim Peck before May 15. The Council will be meeting that day to finalize plans for the meeting.

We collected \$783 for Chico's 2011 CROPWALK, the second largest amount from any congregation! The total for the CROPWALK as of April 13 was over \$4800!

Morning Worship on May 22: Celebrating Our Creative Potential

Our worship together May 22 will explore creativity. We are ourselves creations of God. What better way to have an experience of the divine than that of being creative. There will be an opportunity during our worship time to explore your own personal creativity. You are also invited to bring a work of art to church that day so that we can have our own gallery art show. The art work can be a painting, sculpture, pottery, woodcarving, photograph – any medium, and it does not have to be something you created yourself! Something from your collection will be welcome. It will be a fun and energizing service you won't want to miss.

Lynn Haskell will be the worship leader of the day as Jim Peck will be at the Conference annual gathering.

*We must accept that this creative pulse
within us is God's creative pulse itself.*

Joseph Chilton Pearce

*It is the creative potential itself in human
beings that is the image of God.*

Mary Daly

COMMUNITY GARDEN STATUS: WE NEED HELP!

The Community Garden is now the responsibility of the church. Our lease agreement with Independent Living Services of Northern California was canceled as of April 15. The decision was amicable.

WE NEED HELP turning the garden from a winter garden to a summer one! The winter crops have been as harvested as they are going to be at this point. Those plants need to be removed and composted and new ones planted. Please call Jim Peck at the church if you would be willing to take responsibility for one of the eight raised beds (just one, not all of them). Or just come by one day and get to work on one of them. It would be sad if these good raised beds were not used at all.

The April Church Council meeting did not have a quorum for action. Discussion was held about the June 5 congregational meeting and publicity ideas for the church. Since no action was taken due to lack of a quorum, details will be reported next month.

SHALOM FREE CLINIC LUNCH – SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

The church provides lunch for the Shalom Free Clinic on the second Sunday of every month. It is a simple lunch – sandwiches, vegetable tray, fruit tray, and fruit juices. Other beverages are provided by the Clinic volunteers. A cake is also provided by other Clinic volunteers. There is a sign-up sheet on the red bulletin board in the church for this ministry. You can also call the church office. Dianne West and Barb Smith are the coordinators. May 8 is the next Clinic Lunch day.

SHALOM FREE CLINIC RUMMAGE SALE JUNE 4 **START COLLECTING ITEMS NOW!** **BEGINNING MAY 22 YOU CAN BRING THEM TO THE CHURCH**

NOW is the time to start searching your closets and cupboards, garages and attics for items to donate. The Shalom Free Clinic is organizing a rummage sale to benefit the church. The sale will be held on Saturday, June 4. Clean clothing in good condition, household items, linens, books, and kitchenware are all needed. Bring your items to the church beginning May 22. Clinic volunteers are organizing this sale, but church volunteers will be needed to help set-up, sell, and take-down. Sign-up sheets will be up on May 22. Search high and low for items to donate!

Would someone from the church be willing to organize a bake sale or refreshments (one or the other, not both)? If so, call Nancy Morgans-Ferguson at the church office, 342-4913.

SHALOM FREE CLINIC DIABETES AND NUTRITION FAIR SET FOR MAY 7

The Clinic is hosting this program on Saturday, May 7, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on the lawn in front of the education building. The Center for Nutrition and Activity Promotion at Chico State will be staffing a diabetes management and nutrition fair. Information about diabetes management, good nutrition for people with diabetes, blood pressure checks, and blood sugar level checks will be offered. The event is free and open to all.

Fundraiser Luncheon To Support Rosie Potestio – May 8

Rosie Potestio, a long-time member of and leader in our church, is currently a candidate for commissioned ministry in the United Church of Christ. She is required to complete a series of vocational and psychological assessments as part of the candidacy process. Those assessments cost \$900. Rosie is paying \$300. The Sacramento Valley Association is contributing \$300. Her home church (that's us) is being asked to contribute the remaining \$300.

Following worship, there is a lunch fundraiser for our portion of the cost of these assessments. Tickets are \$10.00 – pay that day. Can't make it to lunch that day? Then make a check payable to the church with "Rosie Potestio" in the memo line. Drop it in the offering plate or mail it.

Just to be clear, none of the funds go directly to Rosie. The assessments have already been completed through the Interfaith Counseling Center in Berkeley. All candidates for ministry in the UCC must take these or similar assessments – Rosie is not being singled out. A commissioned minister in the United Church of Christ serves in some specialized form of ministry, such as spiritual direction, which is Rosie's ministry.

Pastor's Time Away in May

Our pastor will be away for several days during May. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please call Nancy Morgans-Ferguson at 518-8422. She will know how to reach Jim. A local pastor is available for emergencies, too.

May 2 through May 10, he will be in Atlanta helping his mother celebrate her 90th birthday. He will be back in the office on May 11. Rosie Potestio is coordinating the worship service on Sunday, May 8.

May 19 through 22, he will be attending the Annual Gathering of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ, this year being held in Redwood City. The May 22 worship service is being coordinated by Lynn Haskell, Ken Burkhart, and others. If you are able to make a contribution towards his expenses (which are not in the budget), please make a check out to the church and mark it for "Conference Meeting" or "Pastor Travel."

MAY 15 CONCERT BY DOIN' IT JUSTICE – 7:00 P.M. – AT OUR CHURCH

"We Are The Ones: An Evening of Community in Song" will be presented in our building by Doin' It Justice, the community choir that rehearses in our building. Under the direction of Warren Haskell, Doin' It Justice will be joined by special guest Holly Taylor. Suggested donation: \$5 to \$15 (sliding scale.) Proceeds will be shared by the chorus, the church, and the Shalom Free Clinic. Invite your friends and neighbors to come.

Sponsors and Ponds Needed for July 23 POND TOUR

July 23rd only seems a long way off. The 2011 Chico Pond Tour is that day. It's our most important fundraiser. Starting early helps make it a success!

We need sponsors and businesses to advertise in the program!

We need ponds for people to "ooooh" and "aaaah" over!

Got an idea? Pass it along to Dianne West – 891-8023 – or to the church office – 342-4913.

And mark your calendar now!

We'll need help that day, and you won't want to miss the POND TOUR!

**THE DISH TOWELS
HAVE ESCAPED!
URGENT ALERT!**

All but four of the church's dish towels have gone missing! We have gently interrogated the remaining four – they know nothing. We have looked all over the kitchen – they are not hiding here.

Intelligence sources (meaning we thought about it for a while) tell us they are hiding amongst the dish towels of church members.

Church dish towels blend easily with the general dish towel population. Careful investigation may turn up church dish towels trying to hide in your kitchen. While not dangerous, we do need them back. If you have taken dish towels home to wash them, thank you. But please bring them back. Or bring some gently used ones or some new ones and store them in Drawer 14, next to the dishwasher. We are probably going to install monitoring devices to prevent future escapes!

KITCHEN ORGANIZATION PROJECT COMPLETE

The last stage of a kitchen organization project is now in place. Each drawer and cabinet in the kitchen now has a number. An index of the numbers and the kitchen items stored in that drawer or cabinet is posted on the kitchen side of the serving window doors.

If you need something, check the index to see where it is stored. If you use something, check the index to see where it should be returned. Thanks to Lynn Haskell for creating this labeling system! Following it will make life easier for everyone who uses the church kitchen.

Lynn Haskell, Marge Fredenburg, and Dorothy Parker spent a whole day a couple of months ago cleaning out all of the kitchen cabinets – even the big yellow ones! Broken items and trash were thrown away. Stray dishes were either matched with their owners or given to the Shalom Free Clinic Thrift Store. Items the church kept were grouped together. Strange or unusual items were pondered over and chuckled at. Mysteries (like why did we have a coffee can full of unopened packs of razor blades) were turned over to God. The result is a better organized kitchen with more storage space. Thank you for your hard work, and thanks, Lynn, for spearheading the project!

We have received a new font bowl, handmade out of local walnut, from local wood artist Gary Mount.

Here's how this came about. We lost an almond tree on the east end of the education building in the March 19 windstorm. It was a remnant of the almond orchard that was once on our land, so it was probably 60 – 70 years old. It caused no damage to the building or parking lot. The tree has been removed and the hole filled. Two portions of the trunk have been turned into benches at that end of the building. We retained two "slices" of the trunk just because almond wood is beautiful.

I thought it would be way cool to have a new baptismal font tooled from part of the fallen almond. Through the store "Made In Chico," I met Gary Mount, a local wood-turning artist. Almond wood is indeed beautiful, said Gary. Unfortunately, it is "uncooperative" with becoming artwork – it is very hard, difficult to tool, and tends to crack. So, he said, making a font from the fallen tree is not feasible.

However, Gary also thought it would be way cool to have a baptismal font made from local wood. So he offered to make a font bowl out of walnut as a gift to the church, in appreciation for "all Christ has done in my life." I accepted his offer. He delivered a beautiful walnut font bowl in mid-April. Our children and I dedicated it on Palm Sunday. It will be stored in my office (so it's not accidentally used for potato salad at a potluck). I think we'll start putting it on the altar-table on Communion Sundays, just to remind us of our baptisms. And, of course, we will use it for baptisms.

----- Jim Peck