

CONTACT

July, 2011

Congregational Church of Chico / United Church of Christ
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Praying for our church . . . a responsibility of every member and friend . . .

Holy One, we are trusting you to guide us.

We have listened. We have discerned. We have decided.

We do not ask you to bless this direction because we are sure we are right.

We ask you to bless the journey we are making

because we are sure we cannot make this journey without you.

Bound together by your love, we embark on the path you are creating before us.

We are grateful there is no journey we ever would make

that we must make alone.

Amen.

POND TOUR ** July 23, 2011 ** POND TOUR **8:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**The Pond Tour is our most important fundraiser.
Here's how you can help make it a splashing success.**

Buy a ticket for yourself.

Sell tickets to other people.

Buy a ticket as a thoughtful gift for a friend.

Volunteer to host at a pond site. (Sign up at the church – a couple of slots left.)

Put up posters around the area. (Posters and tickets are available at the church)

Send people to one of our ticket outlets: (Chico: Zucchini & Vine, Christian and Johnson Florists, Shalom Free Clinic Thrift Store, The Plant Barn, Magnolia Gift & Garden, Sutherland Landscape Center, and the Congregational Church; Paradise: Mendon's Nursery; Durham: Hodges Nursery & Tree Farm)

Dianne West can answer your questions – 891-8023.

POND TOUR * POND TOUR * POND TOUR

Worship at CCC, UCC in July, 2011

July 3, 2011 – Third Sunday After Pentecost

Communion

Bible Readings: Genesis 24: 34 – 38, 42 – 49, 58 – 67; Psalm 45: 10 – 17;

Romans 7: 15 – 25a; Matthew 11: 16 – 19, 25 – 30

Sermon: Imagine What's Possible – The sermon will be drawn from Isaiah 43: 1 – 19

July 10, 2011 – Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Bible Readings: Genesis 25: 29 – 34; Psalm 119: 105 – 112; Romans 8: 1 – 11;

Matthew 13: 1 – 9, 18 – 23

Sermon: A Hundredfold Harvest

July 17, 2011 – Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Bible Readings: Genesis 28: 10 – 19a; Psalm 139: 1 – 12, 23 – 24; Romans 8: 12 – 25;

Matthew 13: 24 – 30, 36 – 43

Sermon: What Do We Do With The Weeds?

July 24, 2011 – Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Bible Readings: Genesis 29: 15 – 28; Psalm 105: 1 – 11; Romans 8: 28 – 39;

Matthew 13: 31 – 33, 44 – 52

Sermon: New Treasure, Old Treasure

July 31, 2011 – Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Bible Readings: Genesis 32: 22 – 31; Psalm 17: 1 – 7, 15; Romans 9: 1 – 5;

Matthew 14: 13 – 21

Sermon: God, Up Close and Personal

July Worship and Hospitality Schedule

	<u>Worship Asst</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Hospitality</u>
July 3	OPEN	Rosie Potestio and Mary Patton	Mark Jensen and Lorna Bengé
July 10	OPEN	Chele Landry and Maria Landry	Richard and Margaret VanLaanMartin
July 17	Kathie Leeson	Mark Jensen and Lorna Bengé	Martha and Lee Atkins
July 24	Lynn Haskell	Joyce Mann and Lee Bonneau	Mary and Gordon Patton
July 31	Lorne Bengé	Martha and Lee Atkins	Joyce Mann and Lee Bonneau

August Worship and Hospitality Schedule

August 7	Bruce Grelle	Margaret and Richard VanLaanMartin	August hospitality
August 14	Jim Peck	Julian and Betsy Lorenz	sign-up sheet is now
August 21	Dianne West	Bruce and Debbie Grelle	posted on the red bulletin
August 28	Warren Haskell	Ekaterina Landry and Dillon Landry	board – please sign up!

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

JULY AND AUGUST OUTREACH OFFERINGS:
TORRES SHELTER, BUTTE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY,
AND HYGIENE SUPPLIES FOR ZAMBIA

Our monetary outreach offering in July and August will be divided equally between two local organizations, the Torres Shelter and the Butte Chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

The **Torres Shelter** provides emergency shelter, meals, and supportive services for men, women, and families with children. Their services include case management, beds, showers, evening meals, laundry, basic personal necessities, message and mail service, storage of personal belongings, and transportation. They also provide a range of social services to help people leave homelessness. For the first three months of 2011, Torres served 248 people including 11 families. In 2010, 640 people received shelter there, including 55 children in 35 families. Our gifts this year will go directly to the Torres Shelter as general support.

The **Butte Chapter of Habitat for Humanity** mobilizes human, financial, and material resources to provide permanent housing for low-income families. They are currently working on four houses in Chico, at East 16th Street and D Street – the families have been chosen. In the Habitat model, volunteers and the families moving into the homes build the houses. Donated funds pay for the materials. At the June Interfaith Council, Habitat representatives told us that they are running short of funds to complete these houses. Our contribution will make a difference!

Our non-monetary outreach offering in July and August will be **hygiene and health supplies**. Margaret VanLaanMartin is going to Mazabuka, Zambia in November. She will be visiting an orphanage there. Here's what we are collecting for her to take:

- Bar soap – hotel size or bath size, in original wrapper
- Wash clothes – any color, new or gently used with no rips, stains, or frays.
- Adhesive bandages
- Gauze pads
- Adhesive tape
- Adult and children's pain relievers such as Tylenol, Motrin, Advil, and aspirin.

We'll collect these items through August 28. Cash contributions will be used to purchase food staples in Zambia to stock the orphanage's pantry. Make the check payable to the church and mark it "Zambia Supplies." There is a basket by the communion table for your items.

JUNE OUTREACH OFFERING REPORT

We gave \$50 to the UCC National Disaster Ministries to support response to the spring tornadoes and floods. We will continue to receive gifts for this need.

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. July 10 is the next Clinic Lunch day.

FRIDAY, JULY 9, 9:00 a.m., Prayer Service for South Sudan, Downtown Plaza

South Sudan becomes an independent nation on July 9.

This prayer service, organized by Jim Henson and endorsed by the Chico Area Interfaith Council, is open to anyone.

Prayers for peace, hope, and continued self-determination for will be offered on this momentous day for the people of South Sudan.

SUMMER GARDEN PRODUCE SHARING

Bring your extra garden produce on Sundays to share with others in the church. Put it on the table in the back of the sanctuary. We'll continue this sharing throughout the year, enjoying the bounty of our part of the world. If you take some produce, make a contribution to our Heifer International outreach offering. A jar for donations will be on the table.

STAFF TIME AWAY IN JULY

Jim Peck will be gone twice in July. July 19 and 20 he will be on a short vacation. July 25 through 29 he will be participating in a class at Pacific School of Religion – another article describes the class. None of these days include a Sunday. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please call Nancy Morgans-Ferguson at the church 342-4913 or on her cell phone, 518-8422. She will know how to reach Jim.

Nancy Morgans-Ferguson will be away July 14 and 15 for a short vacation. The office will be open on those days. The Shalom Free Clinic will be closed on July 17.

"Skills for Leading New and Renewing Progressive Churches"

Our pastor will be taking this week-long course at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley from July 25 through 29. Led by Cameron Trimble and Michael Piazza of the Center for Progressive Renewal, the course looks at the ways theologically progressive Christian churches such as ours can be renewed and transformed. Check out the Center for Progress Renewal at www.progressiverenewal.org. Both teachers are United Church of Christ ministers with track records in leading progressive churches through the renewal process. The Church Council agreed this course is timely for our church.

PLAN AHEAD – UPCOMING EVENTS YOU SHOULD PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

- August 14 – Phil Hart, interim conference minister for our Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ, will be visiting us, and will be our preacher that morning.
- August 20 – Churchwide picnic and pool party, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Mary Gibson's home, 1845 W. Sacramento Ave, Chico. Bring a picnic dish to share and meat, fish, or vegetables to grill. Bring your own plate and utensils, too. Beverages and napkins will be provided.
- August 27 – Chico Pride Festival, Downtown Plaza. We are planning to have a table at Pride again this year. We'll need volunteers to staff it. Check your calendar and let Jim Peck know if you can help for a couple of hours.

GROUP SPIRITUAL DIRECTION **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GROUP SPIRITUAL DIRECTION?**

Dorothy Parker and Rosie Potestio would like to start a group for spiritual direction under the auspices of our church. We would meet once a month, for about 2 to 2 ½ hours. Times and dates to be decided.

Group spiritual direction is a prayerful time spent in a small, supportive group to explore an ongoing awareness of God in all of life.

Four conditions are essential to the life on the group. Members must agree to:

- Commit themselves to an honest relationship with God
- To participate wholeheartedly in the group process through prayerful listening and response
- To open their spiritual journeys for consideration by the others in the group
- Commit to Holy Listening in maintaining the confidence of the group members

If this calls to you, or if you would like more information, please speak with Dorothy Parker or Rosie Potestio.

AUGUST 28 HYMNSING SERVICE PLANNED – SUGGESTIONS NEEDED

Your suggestions are needed as we plan a HymnSing service for August 28. What songs from the New Century Hymnal would you especially like for us to sing? Write them here, tear off, and return to the church office, by mail or in the offering plate. Or email us at church@chicoucc.org.

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

CHURCH COUNCIL SUMMARY FOR JUNE

The June 12 Church Council meeting did not have a quorum for action. Discussion was held on several matters of business. The five members attending decided to poll the entire Council via email on the following action items.

- Approve vacation leave for Jim Peck of either July 12 and 13 or July 19 and 20. Approved. (Jim will be taking July 19 and 20).
- Approve continuing education leave for Jim Peck for July 25 – 29. Approved.
- Approve transferring \$753.25 from Minister's Health Insurance budget line to two other budget lines as follows: \$549.00 to Minister's Continuing Education and \$204.25 to Minister's Annuity. The Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ, which provides the health insurance, gave the church a one month credit on the premium. This credit was provided to all participants in the health insurance program, not just us. The Council discussed how to use these funds, which are already in the budget as part of the pastor's compensation package and, with the pastor's consent, decided to use a portion to pay for the course at PSR with the remainder going to annuity. This budget transfer does not change the overall 2011 budget. Approved.
- Authorize a short-term fundraising effort to raise \$2,000 to support four activities promoting the church: purchasing billboard space around Chico, underwriting a program on North State Public Radio, repairing the church's signs along East First Avenue, and paying the fees for participating in the Chico Pride Festival. Not approved.

The Council discussed "next steps" for the Reimagine / Redevelopment path the church approved on June 5.

Two task groups of 5 members each will be appointed. At least one member of each group will also be a member of the Council. The pastor will serve on each group. One group will work on the reimagining aspect, the other on the redevelopment aspect. Communication with the congregation will be a priority for each task group. The Council asked the pastor to develop work plans for each group. The plans will be reviewed at the July 17 Council meeting.

Jim Peck reported that a meeting with another potential development partner is being arranged for June 16 or 17. He will report the outcome of that meeting on July 17.

July 17 is the next meeting of the Church Council. Meetings are open to all members except when personnel matters are being discussed. They are held in the Fireside Room beginning at 12:00 noon.

Margaret VanLaanMartin begins a three-month term as Moderator on July 1.