



# The Chronicle

Ainsworth United Church of Christ - February 2017

## Advocacy is Really Hard Work

*Luckily, Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) has a multitude of resources to help you out. If you can't find what you're looking for, contact JWM at [jwm@ucc.org](mailto:jwm@ucc.org), or call (216) 736-3700. We want you to be equipped for peace and justice work!*

**Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Defend the rights of the poor and needy.**  
—Proverbs 31:8-9

Two central themes run through the Bible concerning justice. The first is God's all-encompassing love, concern, and mercy for all human beings. The second is our responsibility to love God's earth and to care for God's people.

Churches are already doing a lot to take care of needy people directly through charity work. By one estimate, religious congregations give \$7 billion each year (about one-seventh of their total revenue) to people in need (New York Times, 1995). But Christians devote much less effort to influencing what governments do.

God, however, requires both charity and justice, and justice can often be achieved only through the mechanism of government. The view that nations,

as well as individuals, will be judged by the way they treat the weakest and most vulnerable among them is deeply embedded in the witness of prophets such as Isaiah, who said: "How terrible it will be for those who make unfair laws, and those who write laws that make life hard for people. They are not fair to the poor, and they rob my people of their rights. They allow people to steal from widows and to take from orphans what really belongs to them." (*Isaiah 10:1-2*)

Jesus criticized and disobeyed laws when they got in the way of helping people. He healed people on the sabbath, for example, even though all work was prohibited on the sabbath. Religion and government were intermixed, so Jesus was challenging the law of the land. The threat Jesus posed to both religious and political authorities led to his crucifixion. Government is not the only or always the best instrument to deal with injustice. But it is one of the institutions created by God part of God's providence for the welfare of people. Because we live in a democracy, a nation with a government "of the people," we have a special privilege and responsibility to use the power of our citizenship to promote public justice and reduce hunger. Now is our time to be heard, and help.





Today I was privileged to meet Dr. Willie Parker, MD, MPH, MSc. Dr. Parker is a courageous physician for reproductive health and a living figure of Black History. I attended a breakfast at Planned Parenthood in NE Portland where he spoke and was inspired by Dr. Parker's commitment to health care for women, for human rights, and his courage to face hatred and bigotry in his efforts to provide abortions for women who are in dire need of services.

*From an article in an article from July 30, 2014 in Esquire Magazine by John H. Richardson:*

"In Mississippi, there is only one clinic where a woman can go if she needs an abortion. The state is trying to close it down. At that clinic, there is a doctor who tends to the needs of these women, and he has to fly in from out of state to do it. There is no shutting him down." Dr. Parker flies in from New York City to provide care for these women. He says this about his ministry: "The protesters say they're opposed to abortion because they're Christian. Parker says, "It's hard for them to accept that I do abortions because I'm a Christian."

Dr. Parker grew up in Alabama, in a fundamentalist Baptist Church. His studies of theologians who wrote and preached on social justice caused him to reflect deeply on his faith. Listening to a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on "what made the Good Samaritan good", he understood that his faith compelled him to serve these desperate women who had no one else to help them. He has worked tirelessly for women's reproductive rights in Alabama, Mississippi and across the nation often in the face of threats of violence and death.

Dr. Parker called on all of us present to not be discouraged by our new national administration. Instead he called us to talk with those

who did not vote. Develop a relationship with them and encourage them not to be silent during local elections, state elections and national ones. He inspired us not to give up struggling for justice for all. It is my hope that Dr. Parker will come to Ainsworth UCC sometime in the coming year to preach, to share his compassion for women who must make the difficult decision to have abortion, and his commitment to serve "the least of these."

### ***Many Thanks!***

I want to thank the church council and the entire congregation of Ainsworth United Church of Christ, first for your generous gift of money to the staff for Christmas. It is really appreciated.

I also want to thank you all for a great congregational meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Under Traci Hodgson's organized and clear leadership, we discussed many items that are important for the life of our congregation including a budget that shines with faith. I thank you for your support of staff, including me and for your faith that, yes, we are very strong and have a great call ahead of us as a congregation.

I also want to thank all of you and friends of Ainsworth United Church of Christ for your generous giving to our Freedom to Grow Campaign. This week we sent the LAST loan payment to the Cornerstone Fund. This Sunday, we will celebrate! If you still are giving to the Freedom to Grow Campaign and wish to continue, we welcome all gifts. As was decided on Sunday, we will put that money in a building contingency fund to pay for large emergency building and property expenses that may come up.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our congregation and the ministries to which we are called.

**Thank you, Ainsworth United Church of Christ, for your commitment to who we are and what we stand for!**

---Pastor Lynne



**The Holy Spirit is at work everywhere and anywhere. It is up to us to be open, to receive and to be filled.**

February Sundays	
FEB 5	<p><b>Sermon:</b> by Rev. Chuck Currie  <b>Scripture:</b>  <b>Liturgist:</b>  <b>Acolytes:</b> AJ Brazille                      Isaac Potter  <b>Ushers:</b> Eldon Potter, Don Parks,                      Adelina Taylor, Mabel Johnson</p>
FEB 12	<p><b>Worship &amp; Retreat at Concordia University</b>  <b>Starting at 10:30 am</b>  <b>Scripture:</b> Luke 4:16-19  <b>Liturgist:</b>  <i>en Español:</i> Ines Campoverde  <b>Acolytes:</b> Olivia Putnam                      Rhian Taylor  <b>Ushers:</b> Nick Putnam, Bruce Poinsette                      Willard Valentine, and David Lomnicki</p>
FEB 19	<p><b>Black History Celebration</b>  <b>Preacher:</b> Rev. Cecil Prescod  <b>Liturgist:</b>  <b>Acolytes:</b> Ben McHarris                      Malcolm Bunyoli  <b>Ushers:</b> Pearl Wilson, Beverly Perttu,                      Colleen Davis, and Norma Godfrey</p>
FEB 27	<p><b>Transfiguration Sunday</b>  <b>Sermon:</b> "Amazing Vision"  <b>Scripture:</b> Matthew 17:1-9  <b>Liturgist:</b>  <b>En español:</b>  <b>Ushers:</b> Carolyn Hinton, Jean Scott,                      Nadia Gutierrez, and Tim Loveless</p>



## “Hold in Your Prayers”

Sara Calvert-Kubrom	Katie Ferris
Brian Crosby-Payne	Elaine Ordal
Leland Lundgren	Salome Chimuku
Joe Craig	Anita Chimuku
Judie Pitre	Elaine Bates
Valeriana Bandua	Jessie Godfrey
Verlin Byers	Mabel Johnson
Kamil López	Miriam Robinson
Herdy Koenig	The Garry Family
Tom West	Steven Beaman
Derek Spears	Felix (Jackie’s friend)
Nichole Smouse-López	
and her children, Thomas & Hope	
Chris Yarnell (Ellen’s nephew) & his parents, Paul and Karen	

**and the UCC, in all settings**

If you want prayers said for yourself or others, feel free to call on the Prayer Chain members. E-mail Peggy West @ [jpwest@teleport.com](mailto:jpwest@teleport.com) or call her at 503-659-7922.

### February Bible Study Schedule

Feb 7 Matthew 5:21-37  
 Feb 14 Matthew 5:38-48  
 Feb 21 Matthew 17:1-9



All are welcome, as we focus on the scripture for the following Sunday. We meet for Bible Study at 10 am on Tuesdays, in Cambric Parlor.

Contact Rev Cecil at [christianed@ainsworthucc.com](mailto:christianed@ainsworthucc.com) with any questions.



### Ainsworth Directory Updates...

Got a change for the directory? Submit your change to the church office, either by phone or email. See back page contact information.

#### Jean Bucciarelli

new: [jeaniegrace39@gmail.com](mailto:jeaniegrace39@gmail.com)

#### Sue Sutton

new: [sjmsutton@gmail.com](mailto:sjmsutton@gmail.com)

#### Jubilee Oregon

For latest updates on Jubilee Oregon:  
<http://jubileeoregon.org/>



***Aging and Spirituality Discussion Group...***

A blessing of growing older is to realize that our memories of both the sad and the happy, the exciting and the secure, the successes and the failures of life, are meant to guide us down these last roads with acceptance, confidence, humor, and meaning.

But there is no template or model for aging consciously so each of us must find our own unique spiritual expression that gives age its own fullness. And sadly there are no structures or places in our culture where we can be nurtured and supported as we explore topics like aging and spirituality, finding new perspectives, and losing/gaining our sense of self as we age?

So let's start right here at Ainsworth UCC!

We are looking for people who are interested in having on-going regular conversations about these and other topics related to the spiritual aspects of growing older.

There will be an informal meeting at David Rozell's home on Sunday evening, Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 7:30 pm to explore interest. Friends and family invited, too. No age limitation, just an open attitude and the desire to listen deeply and share your wisdom. Please RSVP to David at [dkrozell@comcast.net](mailto:dkrozell@comcast.net) or call 503-504- 0124.

***February Birthdays...***

- 2 India Hodgson Rockey
- 5 Denise Millhollen, Beth Poteet
- 6 Aman Kubrom
- 7 Jennifer Singleton, Avery Welch,  
and Terri Houston
- 8 Chuck Currie, Sandra Valentine
- 9 Ann Dueltgen, Carol Halvorson,  
and Nick Putnam
- 10 Rev. Catherine Rolling
- 11 Jessica Paul
- 12 Elijah Chimuku
- 13 Judy Loen
- 15 Holly Mulcahey, Suzanne Gunderson
- 16 Anna Perttu
- 17 Lynda Bigler, Lynne Smouse López
- 18 Joe Craig, Grant Sherer
- 19 Elvira Hudson
- 22 Isaac Potter
- 23 Elaine Bates
- 25 Lessie Williams, Jacquelyn Harris
- 28 Robert Dueltgen, Simone Bell,  
and Darilis Garcia-McMillian

**Thursday Fellowship & Service****Spaghetti Dinner  
Sunday, 26 February**

As many of you know, our organization has been sponsoring fundraisers to make many of the upgrades to the church. In later years, Gordon Branstator joined us and helped with some major projects. Our famous fish fries were part of his generous gifts—traveling to Tennessee each year to catch the fish and then on the day, frying up several kinds for us to enjoy along with the sides provided with the rest of the members. With his guidance, and your support, we have raised funds to remodel the pantry of Michel Hall kitchen, purchase both stoves for the kitchen, purchase all the tables and most of the chairs in the hall, purchase dishes and utensils for 200 people. Money also went to carpet the Narthex, library and Cambric Parlor, and a lot more.

When Gordon died, he left AUCC Thursday Fellowship and Organization money to remodel Cambric Parlor kitchen so that it is more usable. The money he left is a down payment on the cost. We need to raise additional funds to complete the project.

So, we will have a spaghetti fund-raiser dinner on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$13, but \$5 for those under 12 years of age. We will have spaghetti (meaty and meatless), noodles and garlic bread (regular and gluten-free), salad and dessert.

**Please support our fundraiser for Gordon's Kitchen!**

***Inclement Winter Weather and Church...***

Ainsworth UCC will try to remain open during icy and inclement winter weather. Do not attempt the trip to church if you feel that conditions are unsafe.

National Weather Service: [weather.gov/Portland](http://weather.gov/Portland)  
You also call (503) 261-9246 or (360) 694-6136.



## Justice Commission

### Sanctuary Cohorts

Why this? Why now?

If ever there were a time to heed the ancient call towards the prophetic action of sanctuary, that time is now. Anti-immigrant, racist, Islamophobic, and xenophobic violence and rhetoric were reaching a fever pitch even before election night. We don't know exactly what will happen in the coming year with the new administration. But we do know that President Trump has promised to deport millions of undocumented immigrants, "build the wall", reinstate a Muslim registry, and further criminalize the global movement of people.

And, in the face of these threats, we know we need each other. Oregon's immigrant and refugee communities need our faith communities to move beyond our fears - to step up and to show up in new and more profound ways. But we can't act alone and in isolation. We need community, connection, spirit, heart, imagination. We need the collective power that comes from translating our faith into strategic action in service of social justice.

For the next six months, IMIrJ's new Sanctuary Cohort initiative will convene volunteer leadership teams from Oregon faith communities to build our inter-and intra-congregational capacity to offer radical welcome and take committed and coordinated action for immigrant justice. Together, we will go deep: exploring what it means to build, be and offer sanctuary, and supporting one another as we take the steps to make it happen. Ultimately, this initiative will create leadership in our congregations to advance the creation of spaces of sanctuary, both within and beyond our faith communities - spaces where immigrants and all people are able to live in safety and freedom.

For more information about the Sanctuary Cohort program, contact, Sarah Loose, IMIrJ Sanctuary Organizer, at: [sanctuarycohort@gmail.com](mailto:sanctuarycohort@gmail.com)



### Ainsworth Visioning Process Journey Toward Jubilee

As many of you know, we are embarking on an exciting journey of dreaming what our future as a church can be! Ainsworth United Church of Christ celebrated its 30th Anniversary as a congregation in 2015. Our congregation came together in 1985 through the unifying of St. Andrews United Church of Christ and Second United Church of Christ.

Jubilee is a time for thoughtful reflection and inspired possibility thinking. Ainsworth is poised to launch into a visioning process that will open doors that lead us into the future through prayerful deliberation, collective discussion, and communal discernment. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we embark upon the 31st year – on a Journey Toward Jubilee – our 50th year.

To kick off our visioning process, we have planned for an all church Gathering to take place on Sunday, February 12th from 10:30-3:00 at Concordia University. We will worship together, break bread together, and have multiple opportunities to be in dialogue and dream with each other.

We are looking for folks who would be willing to serve as a small group facilitator for the Gathering, and potentially beyond. We will provide facilitator training prior to the Gathering for all those who are interested. The role of facilitator will be to do some light note taking and making sure that everyone has a chance to share (including the facilitator!). We want groups of 6-8 people, which means that we need A LOT of facilitators. We think that you would be a great facilitator! Can you join us?

We ask that the facilitators attend one of these trainings at the church:

Sunday, February 5th from 12:00-1:00

Wednesday, February 8th from 6:30-7:30

If you would like to serve as a facilitator, please RSVP to Beth Poteet and indicate which training session you will attend.

Even if you are unable to serve as a small group facilitator, we hope that you can join us on the 12th. We want your voice included in the creation of our collective vision about what our community of faith is being called towards!

*Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice:*

<http://www.imirj.org>

...Because Love knows no borders.

## Moderator's Moment

At the January 22, 2017 Congregational meeting, the congregation celebrated the paying off the Cornerstone Loan, which occurred January 24. Seven people volunteered to be a part of a Special Committee to explore the possibility of providing building space for at-risk families as a part of the church's commitment to the New Sanctuary Movement as well as for use as a warming shelter during winter weather.

In addition, the congregation made the following important decisions:

**A.) That the Mike Woodruff Bequest money be dedicated to replacing the church roof. If additional money is required to complete the work it will be drawn from the church checking account.**

- We anticipate the roofing cost to be approximately \$45,000. We anticipate the amount of the Woodruff Bequest to be approximately \$38,000.
- The Church Council will monitor the project. If the additional amount required exceeds \$7000, the Church Council will reconsider funding options for congregational consideration.
- The Congregation expressed the wish that more than one bid be solicited for the project.
- The Congregation also expressed the wish that we get a bid for a 50-year roof in addition to a 30-year roof.
- The Congregation also expressed the wish that local businesses and minority-owned businesses be especially approached to complete the work.

**B.) That the Freedom to Grow Capital Campaign account be transformed into the Building Contingency Fund, and that all future Capital Campaign donations to the Freedom to Grow campaign be dedicated to this fund.**

- The Church Moderator will explore account options and open up a new account if there is a possibility of earning a higher interest rate while maintaining account liquidity.
- The Church Council will designate the appropriate check signers for this account
- The Church Council will establish a protocol so that this account will not be used for day-to-

day maintenance costs, but rather held as a nest egg to be used only for large projects. Unexpected and unbudgeted emergency needs will also be able to pull from this fund.

- The Church Office Administrator will transfer approximately \$1275 into this fund which had previously been dedicated to a Building Contingency Fund through the budgeting process.
- The Congregation expressed the wish that this fund be used for all building owned by the church, including the Burnham House.

**C.) That the Revised Pastoral Call to Pastor Lynne Smouse Lopez be approved with three minor changes.** This includes providing up to 7 days of personal leave per incident, not to exceed 14 days per 12 months. This is instead of the original proposal for up to 5 days of leave not to exceed 10 days. The other minor change was removing the last sentence from the "Conference, Association and Wider Church Meetings" section which was inaccurate.

**D.) That the 2017 Church Budget be approved.**

It was approved without amendment. Because of the payoff of the Cornerstone Loan as mentioned below, this is a balanced budget. This is because the budgeted \$2000 expense to pay off the loan won't be needed.

---Traci Hodgson

## Service Commission

**Ainsworth and the NE Food Bank...**

Ainsworth UCC is very involved with the NE "Food Bank." There is a blue box in the narthex for the collection of donations. The need is for different foods, especially tuna and peanut butter. Also, paper and plastic bags, and egg cartons are useful. Toiletry items, like shampoo and even diapers are greatly appreciated. Even clothing, bed linens, and towels are needed.

Also, they welcome warm clothing. This would include blankets, gloves, hats, sweaters and even warm new or good-condition coats.

Questions? Contact Joene Pike (503) 644-9504, or her email at cheetah212@frontier.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Abbreviations</b> CP Cambric Parlor MH Michel Hall S Sanctuary		<h1>February 2017</h1>				
			<b>1</b> 6:30 pm Lesbian Choir (MH)	<b>2</b> 6:30-8 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 10 am Worship  Cambric Bake Sale  Noon Jubilee Team Training (CP)  Noon Commissions Meet	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm Jubilee Meeting	<b>7</b> 9 am Interfaith Advocacy Day <i>(in Salem)</i>  10 am Bible Study  7 pm Women's Support Group  7 pm Cub Scouts	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Lesbian Choir (MH)  6:30 pm Jubilee Training (CP)	<b>9</b> 11 am Thursday Fellowship and Service (CP)  6:30-8 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 10:30 am Worship and Retreat (at Concordia Univ)	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting (GL)	<b>14</b> 10 am Bible Study  7 pm Cub Scouts  7 pm Women's Support Group	<b>15</b> 6:30 pm Lesbian Choir (MH)	<b>16</b> 6:30-8 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10 am Worship	<b>20</b> 2 pm Brueder Memorial Service  <b>Presidents                      Day</b> <i>church office                      closed</i>	<b>21</b> 10 am Bible Study  7 pm Cub Scouts  7 pm Women's Support Group	<b>22</b> 6:30 pm Lesbian Choir (MH)	<b>23</b> 6:30-8 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10 am Worship  <b>Spaghetti                      Fundraiser                      (Thur F/S)</b>  <b>3-7 pm                      Nonviolent                      Training                      Fierce Love</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b> 10 am Bible Study  11:15 am MWOA  7 pm Cub Scouts  7 pm Women's Support Group				

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**The Chronicle** is a publication of Ainsworth United Church of Christ, a multiracial, multicultural, open & affirming congregation.

**Mark your Calendars.  
Next Submission Deadline:**

**Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Submission is easy!**

Place in the **Chronicle box** in Gooding Library.

e-mail to Clinton at: **crockey629@gmail.com**

*Please include your name and phone number on all submissions.*

**Remember to support Ainsworth in your will. Consider a bequest to ‘Ainsworth United Church of Christ.’**



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**Feb 3**