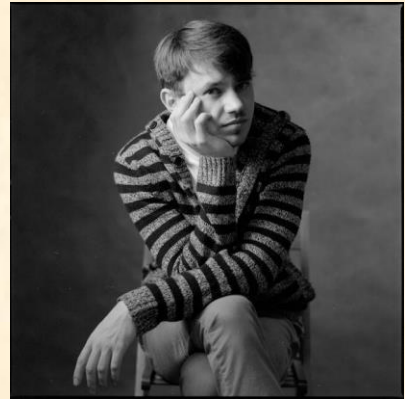


Dear **People** of the *Transfiguration*!

Yes! **This Sunday marks the end of Epiphany** as we head into Lent and Ash Wednesday Feb. 10 (wasn't Christmas like yesterday?). There is a lot happening, so fasten your activity seatbelts:

Tomorrow! **Saturday (Feb. 6, 3pm)**, be sure to come and hear ***An Afternoon of Romantic Piano Music*** with Russian pianist Andrei Andreev, a masters student at the University of Oregon. Andrei, who was in worship with us two weeks ago, was born in Kok-Jangack, Kyrgyzstan.



This is our **last Sunday before Lent**. It will be the last Sunday to *sing, say, write, and see* the word ***Alleluia***. The custom of omitting ***alleluia*** during Lent goes back at least to the fifth century in the western church; a time to both live without, wait, and anticipate the joy of Easter when the *alleluias* will return full force. On the first Sunday of Lent, our children will actually lead us in another old custom of ***burying the alleluias***. So this Sunday's service will have lots of *farewell alleluias*, including a beautiful piece sung by the women during Holy Communion.

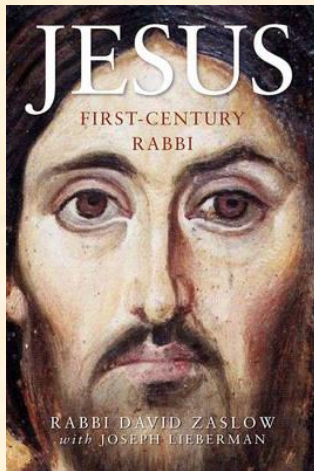
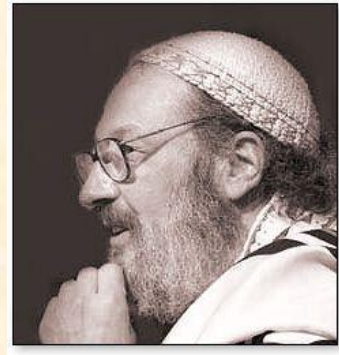
Pastor Adam has a very special (**and not-to-miss**) **children's message** (the suspense is killing me!). And since we have just passed the ***Feast of St. Brigid*** on Feb. 1 (my favorite saint), our hymns and responses will have an Irish bent. I will be making **St. Brigid's bread** for our Holy Communion. This week I also try my hand at baking the gluten-free communion bread.



This last service in our Epiphany series *Where Do We Go From Here*, is ***Moving Out from our Comfort Zones***, using **Luke 5: 1-11** (where Jesus tells the not-catching-any-fish disciples to cast their nets on ***the other side*** of the boat). What is the *other side of the boat* for us? What is there for us in plain sight, but because we've never done it that way, seems totally foreign?

We will begin the habit of sharing **our Sunday prayers** a bit differently. In the bulletin you will see a weekly listing of current joys and concerns to which the office has been alerted during the week. I encourage these printed prayers for your worship reflection and to be able to take home with you. For immediate prayers there will be a basket in the Lobby for your written prayers, which will be given to the pastors before worship begins.

This Monday evening, our church is one of four sponsors for **Rabbi David Zaslow** (Ashland), who will conduct a mini-seminar on his book, ***Jesus: First Century Rabbi***. It will be held at Temple Beth Israel at 6:30 pm. The book was recently awarded “Book of the Year” by the church-Synagogue Library Association, and takes a fresh look at the historical Jesus and the Jewish roots of Christianity, which challenges both Jews and Christians to re-examine Jesus’ commitment to his



Jewish faith. He will explain how concepts like vicarious atonement, mediation, incarnation, and even the Trinity are actually rooted in classical Judaism. To get a feel for who this delightful rabbi is, check out his interview on a Christian TV station at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WiYrUqg4wrU#t=95> , and his interview with Lauren Green on Fox News at: <http://video.foxnews.com/v/3217279753001/jesus-life-as-a-jew/?#sp=show-clips>.

This Sunday, we also begin our Winter term ***Connecting Tables***. As always, the Adult Transformation Team led by Bob Granger, has done an outstanding job in setting up five different Tables on a wide range of interests. These classes last from 11:30 to 12:30 while our children and youth are in their classes. If you haven’t signed up for a Table yet, there is still room!

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday! This is the beginning of the Lenten Season that will take us through 40 days (not including Sundays), to Easter. The service Wednesday evening will be in the **Chapel at 6:30 pm**, with our choir singing, the imposition of ashes, and different prayer stations. All ages are welcome.

And also **Feb. 10**, also begins our **on-line Lenten discipline** of posting photos that have to do with a certain word each day. As you are out and about and meditating on the day’s word, what do you see that conveys that word related to your faith? Our First UMC Eugene FaceBook page (<https://www.facebook.com/First-United-Methodist-Church-Eugene-Oregon-568392779884488/?fref=ts>) has the list of words posted, and it is in our February ***Messenger***. You can post simply the photo, or a photo with thought/explanation. Feel free to comment on others’ photos and how it adds to your Lenten journey. I’m excited for this to begin! Our first word is ***gather***.

LENT photo-a-day		
february	march	
10 gather	1 witness	21 thanks
11 voice	2 found	22 steadfast
12 look	3 power	23 rejected
13 injustice	4 help	24 need
14 celebrate	5 endure	25 path
15 settle	6 celebrate	26 enter
16 go	7 spirit	27 celebrate
17 mighty	8 silence	
18 refuge	9 faithful	
19 love	10 surround	
20 live	11 world	
21 celebrate	12 listen	
22 vision	13 celebrate	
23 covenant	14 path	
24 shelter	15 remember	
25 joy	16 people	
26 see	17 restore	
27 heal	18 beloved	
28 celebrate	19 have	
29 thirst	20 celebrate	

#rethinkphoto
#rethinkchurch
RETHINK CHURCH.org

The Thursday morning bible study has almost finished their first book of this 2015-1016 season: ***Taking the Bible into Your Own Hands***. It has been a fascinating journey into reviewing some of the biblical concepts that aren't necessarily so. Now it is time to choose our next book. The two contenders are: ***Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most*** by Marcus Borg (his last life's work), and ***The Name of God is Mercy***, by Pope Francis and newly released. We'll tally the votes next week for the final decision. If you would like to join us, we meet 9:45-10:45am on Thursdays in the Library for vibrant conversation.

Exciting news is the installation of our new **hearing-assist Audio Loop**. I wish I could show you a photo, but it's all under the carpet and behind wall guards. We will be receiving more information about how to synch your hearing device to this new system. Stay tuned.

And finally some proud and thankful shout-outs to members of our congregation:

- ✦ Oh my we had a **fabulous Inside Out Sunday** last week with over 140 folks involved in ten different mission ministries involving preschoolers to nonagenarians (and yes, I had to Google that!).
- ✦ Thank you to **Duane Hilderbrand** for refinishing our narthex recycle bins. Looks lovely Duane.
- ✦ And I was able to go and see the amazing **Evyne Hollens** in her brilliant performance of *The Last Five Years*, in it's last weekend at Oregon Contemporary Theater.



Hygiene Kits for Looking Glass



Serving lunch at Occupy Medical Bus downtown Eugene.



Packaging locally sourced meals at Food for Lane County.

What a week we've had. What a week to anticipate! And it's all good. We are blessed to be a blessing to others.

I **love** being on the journey with you, **Rev. Pamela**