

# Cross Current

A Publication of College United Methodist Church  
January/February 2018

## Special Interest Items

- Weekly Prayer Session
- Congregational Survey
- February Visitors

## Individual Highlights:

<b>Soup Kitchen</b>	<b>p. 2</b>
<b>Prayer Group Begins</b>	<b>p. 3</b>
<b>Handerpants!</b>	<b>p. 3</b>
<b>Michael's Message</b>	<b>p. 5</b>
<b>Photos</b>	<b>p. 6</b>

## Meet Jonah Browning

by Joan Extrom & Jonah Browning

Jonah Browning is one of our newest attendees. He began coming to church just before Pastor Bill left. Now he's a familiar face in the Fireside Sunday School class and helping Rod Marrs pick up the sanctuary after the worship service.

Jonah is a native of Philomath, having been born at home on September 17th, 1981, at the family residence on 15th and College Streets. His mother, Roberta, was the Clinic Manager at Ark Animal Hospital in Philomath for many years before becoming the office manager of Peak Sports in Corvallis. She recently retired. Jonah's father, Garry, was a reference librarian at Oregon State University, and now owns and operates an adult foster home in Lebanon.



As for siblings, Jonah says, "I am the youngest (but by far the biggest) of three boys. My much shorter, and smaller, older brothers always enjoyed introducing me as their baby brother. Both of my brothers live in Ithaca, NY. My oldest brother, Josh, works in the restaurant industry and my middle brother, Jake, is a tattoo artist and is co-owner of The Hand of Fate Tattoo Parlor."

Jonah attended Philomath Elementary School before moving to Alsea in the fifth grade. He graduated from Alsea High School in 2000 as Salutatorian. He then attended Northwest Christian College (now Northwest Christian University) in Eugene for one year before returning to Corvallis and attending Oregon State University. "As much as I enjoyed grade, middle, and high school, I did not enjoy college and left before graduating."

Jonah has lived in two places in Philomath, one each in Alsea and Eugene, and four places in Corvallis, "never very far away, despite what most people believe, based on some accent I must have!"

Jonah attended several different churches growing up, but the one he attended most regularly was the Kings Circle Assembly of God in Corvallis. In high school he attended the Bellfountain Community Church.

*Continued on page 2*

**2017 Omelet Dinner Earnings**

- January - \$434.71**
- February - \$514.47**
- March - 565.07**
- April - 564.10**
- May - 716.36**
- June - \$406.65**

**No dinners in July/August**

- September - \$324.28**
- October - \$509.31**
- November - \$526.51**
- December - 432.86**

**Thanks to each and everyone of you who helped make these dinners a success, whether you came to eat, donated desserts or most precious of all, your time.**

**Lost & Found**

- bright pink stocking cap
- water bottle (Pioneer)
- Man's gray hat
- NRA membership card

**Items not claimed by February 28th will be donated or discarded.**

“I ended up at College UMC because of Rod and Cyndi Marrs. I have been friends with them for several years, knowing them from the Benton County Fair and attending Corvallis Knights baseball games in the summer. They had invited me to go to church with them several times over the years. I’m not sure why I didn’t accept their offer any sooner, but a recent life event finally made me accept it. I attended for the first time just six or seven months ago but have very much enjoyed it here. I felt very welcomed by many people in the congregation immediately, something I had not experienced at other churches I had dropped into from time to time.”

As for work, “I am the Programs Manager of The Arc of Benton County. Most people are familiar with our thrift stores in Philomath and Corvallis. Fewer people know that the sales and purchases of these donated items directly fund many different enriching activities and programs for people who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities. Working mainly with teens and young adults, we offer activities such as a drama club that puts on two performances a year and is now recognized as a resident company of the Majestic Theatre; art instruction in which the participants’ work is featured every October at Imagine Coffee and in The Arc’s own InSight Gallery [both located in Corvallis]; two separate music classes; poetry writing; Lego building; and various other crafts. In addition, we also offer community activities such as Tai Chi; bowling; dinner and a movie; game nights; dances; and day trips. As Programs Manager, I get to oversee it all. I have one of the best jobs ever.”

“I would have to say that my biggest hobby is Lego building – not playing, building. I have an extensive collection; some people who visit my apartment tell me that I live in my own personal Lego museum. I would not go that far...yet. Hopefully one day, though! My other big hobby is baseball. I love the game. I will watch it in any form, from T-ball to Professional, and everywhere in between. I played through high school and umpired for several years after that. I am also a huge fan of card, board, and dice games.”

When asked to name one thing he would most like to do, Jonah says, “The one thing I would most like to do is open my own Lego store. It has always been a dream of mine, but the feeling has been cemented recently from all of the positive feedback I have received from making the Lego Christmas display in the Starbucks building [in downtown Corvallis]. [editor’s note: it was fabulous, with a running train and an Eiffel Tower, all built from Legos!]. I have sat back and watched kids and adults alike delight in the display.”

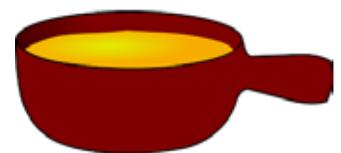
When asked to name one thing most people don’t know about him, Jonah replied, “Most people don’t know how funny I am – or at least how funny I think I am. I am shy, quiet, and very much an introvert until you really get to know me and I am comfortable around you.”

Jonah, we very much look forward to getting to know you that well!



**Neighbor to Neighbor Soup Kitchen**

**by Glenda Plant**



We served 3,267 meals in 2017 with volunteers putting in 1,092 volunteer hours!

Thanks to all who are so committed to serving others.



**Let's Pray About It!**  
by John McGee

John and Kay McGee are inviting anyone who is interested to come to weekly prayer sessions at 7:00 pm, Thursday evenings at College UMC, beginning on January 4, 2018. Evidence suggests that God has been trying to persuade us (individually and together) to take praying-together-as-a-group seriously for over a year. We can explain more about that sometime, if you are interested.

While John and Kay admit that they are not experts in prayer, the Holy Spirit who lives in us, is an expert. James 1: 5 "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." They feel God has been calling us to actively listen for His guidance for ourselves and our community.

Don't feel like you have to pray out loud. Silent prayers are welcome. Our goal is to come closer to God, not put anyone on the spot. Matt 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

We hope to see other Christ-followers next Thursday. Pastor Mike has another commitment on January 4th, but we look forward to his guidance in future sessions.



**White Elephant Strikes Again!**  
by Joan Extrom

Attendance at the annual White Elephant Party on December 10 was smaller than normal due to illness and vacations. Around 20 people, as opposed to the usual 40, gathered in the Social Hall for a finger food potluck followed by the famed event. But a fine time was had by all. The hit gift this year was a pair of Handerpants that nobody dared steal from Jessie Morgan. Atli Thurman got a 3-ft long box of cookies. Jonah Brown got a selfie stick that doesn't work with his cell phone. Cyndi Marrs got the little plastic female pig dressed in black leather and carrying a machine gun (Cyndi didn't go home with it). And the infamous Banjo Fish, who has been in circulation for at least 15 years, made his appearance again.



We missed the usual commentary by Bill Mayer and Larry Sleeman, who were not able to attend, but look forward to their observations at next year's party. *(More images on back page)*



**Please Pray For:**

- Opal Arbuckle
- Sally Beattie
- Shari Beattie
- Lucile Berger
- Myrtle Bond
- Adeline Collins
- Jane Corbin
- Barbara Crouse
- Johanna Dorr
- Teri Greene
- Charlie Hall
- Julie Haymart
- Betty Johnson
- Patsy & Jim McPherson
- Brandon Nelson
- Bud & Ruth Post
- Roger Traylor
- Warren Witham

Hope NW  
*(formerly Teen Challenge)*

One Another



Are you interested in getting together here at College UMC to sew or work on a craft? We held our first event in October and the next one is set for January 20th in the Social Hall (9:00 am until 3:00 pm). Come for all day or part of a day — you decide!

Bring your own machine and a project to work on. It's an opportunity to start or finish projects and learn from others.

For more information, contact Linda Doig.

## Results of Congregational Worship Survey, October 2017

In October, the SPRC solicited your opinions to help guide us in our decisions regarding hiring a worship leader. Although the survey wasn't set up for the responses to fit a tabular format, I've tried to make the summary as clear as possible. Below are the results.

Tabulations from 32 completed surveys.

### Regarding music, specifically:

19 expressed general liking/approval of the blend of hymns and praise music. (4 specified hymns alone, 2 specified contemporary only)

11 responses positively called out piano and organ or requested more piano/organ.

7 responses identified long standing times during singing (*hymns or praise*) as negative.

There was a smattering of other observations, emphasizing live music (3) and wishing for choir/ensembles (4) and for Peter Finn (1), specifically.

2 specifically recommended avoiding obscure old hymns.

1 response disliked the projection screen, 1 response felt it was critically important.

**Regarding worship in general**, there were no negative responses, and positive response or request were made for:

- 13 – congregational prayers
- 13 – creeds and other responsive readings
- 10 – sharing and testimonies
- 7 – more Scripture passages
- 8 – call to worship
- 3 – liturgical calendar
- 3 – benediction
- 1 – generally more formal and traditional

We thank you for your considered, loving responses! And, please continue to pray for the SPRC and for our church as we work through this time!

— *Bill Keese*



### Hope NW to Visit by Gail Mayer

Hope NW men will be here to participate in our Worship Service on February 11th.

There will be a meet n' greet pizza and salad bar lunch provided after the Worship Service. Come and enjoy!

Wear your black Hope NW t-shirt to Church that day and show your support!



## Michael's Message

**The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people.  
Titus 2:11**



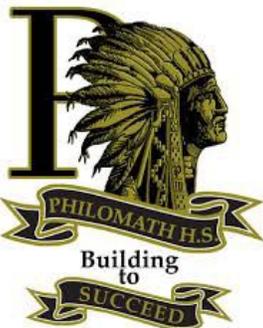
I'm very excited for 2018. It's a new opportunity for all of us as Tennyson once wrote in a poem, *"Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky. The flying cloud, the frosty light; The year is dying in the night; Ring out, wild bells, and let him die. Ring out the old, ring in the new..."* Let our divisions and squabbles die, let our indulgent lives and pettiness die, let our self-centeredness and ignorance die. Ring in the new.

The letter of Paul to Titus speaks of the grace of God who has appeared as the infant Jesus, Emmanuel who has come to bring salvation to all. Jesus is raising us up and training us to let the old die and to take on the new. Paul writes, *"training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self controlled, upright, and godly."*

We live in a nation divided these days. Divided by ideologies and political affiliations. Separated by those who want to exploit and those who want to conserve, caught up in the sin of greed either as a perpetrator or a victim, ignoring the precepts of Christ and the teachings of the scriptures. For example, Jesus taught us to turn our backs on godless, indulgent living but instead we face it with arms wide open!

We need to come to prayer and seek direction. We need to admit to God that we cannot do it alone, that we need God's grace and love. We need to resist sin in all of its forms and live for Christ. We need to live more simply, so that we can simply live. This life starts now, on a new day in a new year — a new beginning! Happy New Year!

Many Blessings — Mike



### Upcoming PHS Girls Basketball Games

- Jan 9, Tues, 7:00 pm @ Philomath vs. Scappoose**
- Jan 12, Fri, 6:00 pm @ Tillamook**
- Jan 19, Fri, 7:00 pm @ Newport**
- Jan 30, Tues, 7:00 pm @ Yamhill-Carlton**

**Youth Groups**

*High School*  
**Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 pm**  
**Uprise Community Youth Group at The Hanger**

*Middle School*  
**Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm**  
**College UMC**

**Pizza Lunch @ PHS sponsored by PACE (Philomath Area Christian Entrepreneurs)**

**SALT (PHS), Wednesdays at lunch**

**U-TURN (PMS, Tuesdays at lunch)**

**Youth Pastor: Mat Phelps  
909.801.1060**

Cross Currents is published by  
College United Methodist  
Church,  
1123 Main Street,  
Philomath, OR 97370

Send address changes to:  
Cross Currents  
PO Box 670  
Philomath, OR 97370

Phone:  
541.929.2412

E-mail:  
collegeumc@gmail.com  
Web:  
<http://www.collegeumc.com>



**College United  
Methodist Church**

**Mike Gregor, Pastor  
1123 Main Street  
PO Box 670  
Philomath, OR 97370**



### **White Elephant Christmas Party 2017**

Banjo Fish (who's  
been with us for  
over 10 years),  
Gail, Cyndi &  
Becky with their  
special friends!