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PRESS RELEASE

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Tenth Anniversary Celebration of That's My Farmer!

Tuesday, April 21st 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

First United Methodist Church at 13th and Olive

Cost: \$5 - \$10 donation (all proceeds go to local food for low-income households)
6:30 mingling with farmers, 7:30 program begins, 8:30 homemade ice cream

A unique partnership between sixteen faith communities and thirteen local farmers, **That's My Farmer!** has been the catalyst for hundreds of households choosing to support local farmers, reduce their carbon footprint, eat fresh, healthy food, and keep their food dollars in Lane County. Each year, for ten years, faith communities have increased their purchase of CSAs.

What's CSA?

It is Community Supported Agriculture. CSA is people buying directly from local farmers. Households pay at the beginning of the season, sharing the economic risk with farm families. Farmers get much needed cash to start the season without going into debt. Households receive a weekly box of fresh fruit and vegetables through the growing season of the farmer they choose. Some farms even offer chicken, bread, honey, eggs, pork, or flowers! When selecting a CSA farm, consumers are encouraged to learn what types of fruit, vegetables, flowers, meat or eggs the farm offers so that they can get what they like to eat.

That's My Farmer

This event, in its 10th year, is an opportunity to learn more about CSAs, meet local farmers, and thank them for their contributions to our food system. This fun evening attracted more than 400 people last year, from the elderly to the very young. **That's My Farmer!** sprung from the faith communities' call for justice and care of Mother Earth and is now organized by a network of 16 faith communities.

Ever Increasing Participation

In addition to fun, food, and education, **That's My Farmer!** is also about getting results. In addition to promoting CSA membership, the churches sell specially designed "Farmer's Bucks" redeemable at the Farmer's Market stands of participating farms. CSA boxes don't work for everyone but going to the local Farmer's Markets throughout the week is another solid form of support. Bucks sold but not redeemed are used for the low-income fund.

Why Do This?

Our food travels on average 1,500 miles from farm to table. Food frequent flier miles are not a recipe for freshness, flavor, or environmental stewardship. Half of the world's food is controlled by a few companies—an unjust distribution of wealth and power. CSA aligns with the teachings of faith to honor the earth and achieve justice.

That's My Farmer! is a community celebration of local farms, featuring:

- § Live music and the **That's My Farmer!** sing-a-long (with words provided).
- § Visual images of all the farms in the height of the growing season.
- § A chance to meet the farmers who grow our food—and hear some of their wisdom and perspectives on our food system.
- § Door prizes: a case of strawberry jam, composting worms, a dozen eggs a week all summer, \$50 to \$200 off a CSA share, and more...
- § Homemade ice cream.
- § Informational tables from each farm.
- § An opportunity to alleviate hunger locally: in 2008 \$6,300 was distributed to support low income households of that \$1,600 worth of TMF bucks were distributed to 35 families in Huerto de Familia.
- § The opportunity to ask questions of the farmers.
- § Receive a new directory with information on local CSA farms.

Short video, music CD, and photos available on That's My Farmer

Supporting Congregations:

Center for Spiritual Living
Central Presbyterian Church
Central Lutheran
Emmaus Lutheran Church
Eugene Friend's Meeting
Eugene Mennonite Church
First Christian Church
First Congregational Church

First United Methodist Church
Peace Presbyterian Church
St. Jude Catholic Parish
St. Thomas More Catholic Church
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Temple Beth Israel
United Lutheran Church
Unitarian Universalist Church

Participating Farmers:

Brice Creek Croft
Deck Family Farm
Food for Lane County's Youth Farm
Good Food Easy
Grateful Harvest Farm
Groundwork Organic Farm

Laughing Stock Farm
Laurel Valley Educational Farm
Lost Creek Organics
Ruby and Ambers'
Slo Farm
Up and Down Farm
Wintergreen Farm