

The Link

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
1220 NE 68th Street
Vancouver, WA 98665-0508
360.693.1476
Website: www.vancouverucc.org



Volume 35 No. 5

God is Still Speaking,

March 12, 2013

Reenacting Holy Week

As many of you know, Holy Week is a week in which we seek to remember, and to a certain extent, reenact the final days of Jesus' life as we head toward the climactic moment of resurrection. We begin on Palm Sunday as our children wave palm branches to reenact Jesus' procession into Jerusalem. On Maundy Thursday, we reenact Jesus' final meal with the disciples. On Easter...well...how do we reenact the resurrection? We are already fortunate that we don't reenact the crucifixion on Good Friday. I was stumped as I tried to figure out how we could do more to bring Holy Week to life, and then it occurred to me that we can indeed reenact certain aspects for the crucifixion and resurrection.

We should first remember that for Holy Week what we seek to reenact is not the role of Jesus. It is the role of Jesus' followers. Practical reasons aside, that is why our children wave palm branches and do not ride into the sanctuary on donkeys (but can't you imagine how fun that would be!) With the realization of our true role in mind, it became clear to me how to properly reenact Good Friday and Easter. On Good Friday, we will have the opportunity to consciously turn our attention to the violence and suffering of the present world, to the crucifixions of our own time. With the grief and heartache of Jesus' followers, we will let the night side of humanity's existence pervade our consciousness. Awareness of the bad news is after all what makes the good news of Easter all the more meaningful and joyful.

Then, on Easter morning, a number of us will have the chance to do what Mary Magdalene and Peter did that same morning. We will run. In John 20:2, Mary Magdalene runs from the empty tomb to get Peter. In Luke 24:12, we learn that Peter and the beloved disciple then ran to the tomb to see for themselves what had happened. In short, a lot of running took place on the original Easter morning. So it is, that members of our church are invited to run or walk their way into the glory of Easter. In the coming weeks, we will announce the exact details as we work with Vancouver Parks and Recreation, but for now, let me sketch the basic plan: Around 6 am on Easter morning, those who wish to join us will meet at the beginning of the Salmon Creek trail. The runners will then begin a six-mile run, while the walkers begin a three-mile walk. At this point, it will still be dark. Participants are encouraged to wear headlamps or use flashlights to light their way. As the runners and walkers make their way along the course, dawn will slowly begin to break, so that they will greet the rising Easter sun as they finish.

At the end, we will have orange juice, hot cross buns, cinnamon rolls, jelly beans, or whatever people choose to bring. It will be a spontaneous Easter potluck! I am certain that is how the original Easter morning would have happened. (There has even been talk of hiding chocolate Easter eggs along the trail, but I am not sure the Peter or Mary had those on their path.)

After the bleakness of Good Friday and Holy Saturday, I can think of nothing more fitting than to literally run from the darkness of a sad and somber night to the brightness of a new and glorious day. Please join us for what promises to be a meaningful and memorable event.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

WORSHIP IN MARCH

March 17, 2013 Fifth Sunday in Lent

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Joan Blair and Ruth Hammer
Worship Leader: Jean Beary Stolle
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone
Mike King and Duke Charpentier

Lenten Lunch Series and Potato Feed

March 24, 2013 Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast to benefit Youth
10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Carol Elizabeth and Adina Tarpley
Worship Leader: John Fite
Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon
Tom and Josiah Renner

March 28, 2013 Maundy Thursday

**6:00 Lamb Dinner in Bradford Hall followed by
Worship at 7:00 in the Sanctuary.**

March 31, 2013 Easter Sunday

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Jeff and Kimberly McNally
Worship Leader: Harriet Anani
Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon

One Great Hour of Sharing

March is the month set aside by U.C.C. to highlight the good works of many throughout the world.

We ask for whatever financial assistance you can provide. Millions of people in this world survive from day to day without proper food, shelter or clean water. They have nothing left over from their meager incomes to rebuild a house after war or a natural calamity.

One great hour of sharing provides both disaster relief and education to help people be able to provide more abundantly for their families.

Thank you for your support.

Alice Rowe
Mission & Outreach Committee

REMEMBERING OUR FAMILY IN PRAYER

Prayer requests for:

Our sons and daughters overseas, and the people of the Middle East;

CONTINUING PRAYER
REQUESTS FOR:

Kathleen New	Mary Craford
Farley Maxwell	Yahriel Harrigan
Bev Boydston	Jean Matthews

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

March 24, 2013
March 26, 2013

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

April 7, 2013
April 9, 2013

Easter Sunday Bulletin

Once again we will honor and remember loved ones in a special insert in the Easter Sunday bulletin. We are suggesting a minimum donation of \$5.00 per name on your list. All proceeds will go to Good Samaritan Ministries/Zambia and to our church interior improvements.

If you would like your loved ones honored or remembered please fill out a form in the narthex, place the form and your donation in one of the white envelopes, and place in the basket on the sideboard.

The deadline for names for the insert is Palm Sunday March 24th.

Calendar Information

It's really easy to keep up with what's happening at First Congregational, Vancouver. We have a virtual calendar on the website.

To view the calendar, go to www.vancouverucc.org and click on the church calendar link. From the list version you may then click on Google Calendar and view the next few months.

Mary Jo Ebel Circle to Meet

The Mary Jo Ebel Circle will meet Wednesday, March 20th at 10:30 a.m. in Bradford Hall here at the church.

Our very own Harriet Anani will be the featured speaker, so plan to have a wonderful, informative time with this fascinating woman.

All women of the church are invited to attend.

Two Meals to Support the Youth Group

Contributed by Kristina Martin

On **March 17th**, the youth of the church will be holding the annual Baked Potato Bar following worship. A suggested donation of \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 per family will be collected. **Please consider donating a dozen cookies to add to the fun.**

On **March 24th**, please come early for a Palm Sunday Vegetarian Pancake Breakfast in Bradford Hall. Gluten-free pancakes will also be available. Session 1 is from 8:30 – 9:00 and Session 2 from 9:00 until 9:30. The kitchen will close at 9:45. Again, a suggested donation of \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 per family will be collected.

PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX GOOD FOOD, FRIENDSHIP AND FUN WILL BE THE ORDER OF THE DAY.

Maundy Thursday

Be sure to pick up your tickets for the Maundy Thursday Lamb Dinner prepared by Jeff and Pam Osborne and John and Carole Greenauer.

Tickets are \$8.00 per person and may be purchased from members of the Parish Life Ministry in the narthex this Sunday following worship.

Maundy Thursday Lamb Dinner
6:00 Thursday, March 28th
Bradford Hall

Art Group

Contributed by Marilynn Jones

The Art Group will be changing our meeting times. We will **not** be meeting on Saturdays due to lack of interest and our Tuesday group will change to the **4th Thursday** each month.

Hope to see you on Thursday, March 28th from 1 until 4 in the Plymouth Room.

Thanks,
Marilynn

Dessert of the Month for March

We are doing great with this fun fundraiser, for the month of February we raised \$163.00, thanks to Nancy Fite for her Chocolate Mousse. Now for March we have our wonderful Doraine Kohler making a German Chocolate Cake. I expect ticket sales to be higher than last month, really, who does not like German Chocolate Cake??? We all do, buy your tickets and help us help others. We still need one more person to make a dessert for November, I know one of you would just love to help us continue with our great success and let us enjoy your specialty.

Please contact Teresa Everist at 360-921-0611 or Teresa@nw4sale.com

Total to date is \$274.00 which \$27.40 to Parish Life, \$24.57 to Who/Share and \$222.03 to Flooring, this funds will continue to grow with your help.

Thank You for supporting our Church.
Teresa Everist.



We Have a New Name!

You are cordially invited to the Plymouth Room **Monday afternoons at 2:00** for Word Weavers our **Scrabble Club**. Come join in the fun, fellowship and no pressure play.

For more information, call the church office: 360-693-1476 or Carole Elizabeth at 904-6753.

Hope to see you there!

Wood-Carving Class Begins

Ed Frank will conduct a beginners class in wood-carving starting Saturday, April 13th at 1:30 until 3:00 PM in the Plymouth Room of the church. Both men and women, young and older are welcome. The only thing necessary for the initial class is a pair of gloves, preferably of leather, for safety measures as you will be using knives and other carving tools on sample wood. Ed will go over the uses of various tools, safety procedures, expected costs and carving techniques.

Wood-carving is a very rewarding experience. Reasonable good work can be accomplished in a relatively short time, and the costs are mostly according to your desire for tools, as a simple knife with good steel is sufficient to do most work, although some additional tools can make the work easier,

Supplemental Pledge Drive

Contributed by Dwight Chapman, Financial Secretary

In the past two weeks we have had \$1,500 in supplemental pledges come into the church. This gives a total of 193,137. We would like to have additional pledges in by next Sunday (March 17) so we have a total for the Property and Finance meeting on March 20.

We hope that we can be close enough to what the budget approved in January shows that we will not need to make significant cuts. This will require that people honor their pledges and that the various church groups be conservative in their expenses. We are being hopeful that we can do this.

Easter Sunrise Walk and Run

Contributed by Pastor Brooks

Our running and walking group is formulating a plan to do a six-mile run and three mile walk Easter morning on the Salmon Creek trail. We would begin the run in the darkness wearing head lamps and end the run facing the rising sun. At the end, we would have orange juice, hot cross buns, cinnamon rolls, jelly beans, etc. Sunrise on Easter is 6:52 am, so we are thinking of beginning around 6 am. Finalized details will be announced in the coming weeks. Let Pastor Brooks know if you are interested in joining by walking, running, or providing food and drink at the end.

Walking, I am listening to a deeper way. Suddenly all my ancestors are behind me. Be still, they say. Watch and listen. You are the result of the love of thousands.

Linda Hogan (b. 1947)
Native American writer



2nd Annual Bunco Party!
Sunday, April 14th
11:30 AM in Bradford Hall

Contributed by Joan Blair

Come join in the most fun you'll ever have. We'll have pizza, drinks and cookies then play Bunco.

All ages, beginners to experts are welcome.
Buy your tickets after church or from Joan Blair at 360-573-6505.

Cost:

Adults: \$10.00

Child: \$5.00

Free Pizza and Free Fun!!

Easter Flowers

With Easter falling so early year, everyone needs to start encouraging their flowers to grow so we have them to decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

Please bring flowers from your own garden or wherever, that would work nicely in the big Easter wreath.

Men to Hear John Lambert

Contributed by Ed Frank

On Saturday, March 23rd, John Lambert, member of our church family and coach of La Center High School's football team will talk about the success of last season's team. John is held with wide respect for his coaching abilities as well as his emphasis on scholastics.

La Center won the district Class I title and the quarter-final game with Meridian of Whatcom County before falling in the semi-final.

The breakfast meeting at 8:30 AM in Bradford Hall will be served and attended by the youth with Tom Renner as chef and Kristina Martin supervising. Please take notice that the breakfast date for March is the 4th Saturday. This change is for March only so...

...SEE YOU ON THE 23RD!

Learn about Islam

Did you know our church is only 300 yards away from the only mosque in Clark County? We have a unique opportunity for an interfaith relationship.

With this in mind, consider attending our next adult education series which will focus on Islam. The series will take place after worship on the four Sundays of April. Stay tuned for more details as we line up engaging speakers and educational documentaries focused on how different Muslims live out their faith.