

# The Link

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
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Volume 35 No. 7

God is Still Speaking,

April 9, 2013

## A Tremendous Opportunity for Interfaith Dialogue

Dear Church Family,

As a church located only 300 yards away from a mosque, we have a tremendous opportunity for interfaith dialogue and interaction. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, we will begin to cultivate a stronger relationship with our neighbors when members of the Islamic Society of Southwest Washington come to our church after worship for a panel on "A Portrait of Islam in Vancouver." Ideally, the documentary shown last Sunday and the one shown on April 21<sup>st</sup> will have given us an introduction to Islam that will have helped to prepare us for this event.

During my vacation, I read one of the best bite-size introductions to Islam that I have encountered. I read it Manning Marable's Pulitzer Prize winning book *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*. I am providing an excerpt of it here as a further resource to prepare ourselves for our visit from our neighbors:

"Islam was established in what is today Saudi Arabia in the early seventh century CE by a man known as the Prophet Muhammad. Over the course of more than two decades, from roughly 610 CE to 632 CE, hundreds of beautiful verses were revealed to Muhammad and passed on by poetic recitations, just like Homer's stories or the love songs of the troubadours. These verses became known as the *Qur'an*, and Islam's enduring power as a religion rests, in part, on its elegance and simplicity. At its core is the metaphor of the five pillars. The first pillar is the profession of faith, or *shahada*: 'There is no god but God, and Muhammad is God's Messenger.' The other four are acts a devout Muslim must perform: daily prayers (*salat*); tithing, or alms to those less fortunate (*zakat*); fasting during the month of Ramadan; and making a pilgrimage to Mecca (*hajj*). Many Muslims characterize jihad, meaning 'striving' or 'struggle,' as a sixth pillar, separating it into two types: the 'greater jihad' that refers to a believer's internal struggle to adhere to Islam's creed, and the 'lesser jihad,' the struggle against those who oppose Muhammad's message."

"In the Prophet's day, Islam was an embracing, not excluding, religion that drew on the practices of other contemporaries. Muhammad had taught that both Jews and Christians were *ahl al-Kitab* (People of the Book), and that the Torah, the Gospels, and the Holy Qur'an were all a single divine scripture. Early Islamic rituals drew directly upon Jewish traditions. At first, Muslims prayed in the direction of Jerusalem, not Mecca. The Prophet's mandatory fast was initiated each year on the tenth day (*Ashura*) of the first month of the Jewish calendar, the day more commonly known as Yom Kippur. Muhammad also adopted many Jewish dietary laws and purity requirements, and encouraged his followers to marry Jews, as he himself did. Second only to the Qur'an, and also central to Islam, is the *Sunna*, the collective traditions associated with Muhammad, which include thousands of stories, or *hadith*, all roughly based on the actions or words of the Prophet or those of his closest disciples."

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

## WORSHIP IN APRIL

### April 14, 2013

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt and Cager Clabaugh preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7. Youth Group Meets at 11:30 a.m.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Judith Dahlen and Connie Opel  
Worship Leader: Tom Yates  
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman  
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

### April 21, 2013

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. Youth Group Meets at 11:30 a.m.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Michael, Alicia, Annalin and Sam King  
Worship Leader: Rory Martindale  
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone  
Mike King and Duke Charpentier

### April 28 2013

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. Youth Group Meets at 11:30 a.m.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Virginia Ebersole and Clarice Fossen  
Worship Leader: Jerry Mathis  
Ushers: John and Joe Eckroth

## SPRING SALE

WHEN: Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>  
TIME: 9:00AM – 3:00PM  
WHERE: The Plymouth Room & Outside  
FOR SALE: Plants  
Paperback Books  
Baked Items  
Jewelry

Donations would be very much appreciated!  
If you want to bring plant starts and paperback books to the church ahead of time, they can be stored until the sale.

Please bring baked items to the Plymouth Room on Saturday before 9:00 or on Friday between 9:00 and 1:00.

Plants: Gertie Hettman 608-8009  
Baked Goods: Carol Pendergraft 993-0483  
Books: Shirl Zent 694-3989  
General: Beverly Crossman 694-3837  
or Ellie Bradley 944-7838

## 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	Barbara Harlan

## UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR “*The Link*”

Link Deadline  
Link Mailed

April 21, 2013  
April 23, 2013

## Indoor Spring Cleaning Scheduled

Contributed by Shirl Zent

We have scheduled a work day to clean the interior of the church on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until ????. Everyone is invited/urged to participate as jobs will be available for all. If there is an area in the church that you consider ‘yours’ i.e. a church school classroom and you would prefer to clean it yourself please let me know right away so that I will not include that area in my plans. Also, if you and some of your friends would like to choose an area and clean it...for instance the kitchen, I would be most happy to accommodate you in that endeavor!!

If you wish, you may bring your own cleaning supplies but we do have access to some here.

Come in and sign up that Saturday a.m. for the job you want to do and stay as long can.

Many thanks in advance. Questions? Call Shirl at 694-3989 or e-mail me at [baseballblondie@g.com](mailto:baseballblondie@g.com).

## Time To Celebrate Our Graduates!

If you have a graduate you would like recognized at our Graduates and Teacher Appreciation service in June, please submit to the office his/her names and graduation information.

## Mission and Outreach Focus for April



### Mission & Outreach April Special Offering CAMP ADAMS CAMPERSHIPS

Camp Adams is a 210-acre, forested recreational retreat center located 35 miles south of Portland near Molalla. Camp Adams provides a spiritual haven from the hectic pace of everyday life. Many of you may have fond memories of summers spent at church camp, or at the wonderful all-church camp we had two summers ago. In addition to Youth & Family Camps, the facilities can be used for confirmation camps, group retreats, day camps, weddings, etc.

Summer camp applications are now open, so please help our youth get to camp! You can contribute to our campership fund by writing your check out to our church and designating "Camp Adams Campership" in the memo line. Thank you for helping to build memories and spiritual connections that will last a lifetime!

### Proposed Constitutional Changes

Section 2-6-4 Job description-Treasurer

Present wording:

Term: One Year

Limitation: No limit

Proposed wording:

Limitation: **THREE**  
successive terms

Section 2-6-5 Job description-Financial Secretary

Term: One Year

Limitation: No Limit

Limitation: **THREE**  
successive terms.

**To be voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for April 28**

### Mary Jo Ebel Circle to Meet

Mary Jo Ebel Circle will meet Wednesday, April 17th at 10:30 AM at the home of Harriet Anani, 1704 NW 75th St.

Please call her to confirm that you plan to attend. Her number is 693-1222.

## First Congregational Choir End-of-Year Concert June 2, 2013 at 7:00pm

Mark your calendars for a night of music and fun! The First Congregational Choir will be hosting the annual end-of-year concert on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. This year's concert will be based around an old-time radio show, featuring songs from many decades past. The concert will feature many ensemble and solo performances, with many songs never having been performed before by our choir! Bring your family and friends and prepare for a show that will make you laugh and have a grand time! The show will be preceded with a potluck at 6:00pm in Bradford Hall.

### Natalie Becker to Give Mission Moment April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Natalie and her husband Bob are the Co-Directors of Outdoor Ministries and resident camp managers for the Central Pacific Conference at Camp Adams outside of Molalla, Oregon. Natalie brought her background as a classroom teacher and educational researcher to the position that she and her husband assumed in January of 2012. Deeply interested in and committed to science education and its intersection with religion, Natalie is currently working to weave together a professional written forest stewardship plan for Camp Adams with the UCC's Eco-Justice initiatives and a curriculum that she is developing for Camp Adams that focuses on reconnecting youth with nature and their place in the vital and fragile ecosystems of our earth.

### Kids Fun Night

All kids of the church, grades 1-12, are invited to come to an overnight "Fun Night" on April 12<sup>th</sup>. We will gather for dinner at 6 pm, break into games and activities for several hours, and then roll out our sleeping bags for the night. After breakfast, parents can pick-up their kids at 8:30 am. More information will be mailed to families. Sorry, this is not an opportunity to bring a friend. Instead, it's an opportunity to become better friends with the kids at church. Everyone should come with a snack to share and a sleeping bag, pillow, mattress pad (if needed, clothes and toiletries. Dinner and breakfast will be provided.

## Dessert of the Month

Our Dessert of the Month is going strong, The winner for March of the German Chocolate Cake made by Doraine Kohler was Joan Blair. We raised \$148.00 in March for this lovely dessert.

Total Collected for the last 3 months is \$422.00

### FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL THE DESSERT OF THE MONTH WILL BE:

#### ***Double Espresso Death By Chocolate Brownies***

Made by Patty Yates

Don't forget to buy your tickets the drawing will be the last Sunday of the month, April 28<sup>th</sup>: \$1.00 per ticket or 6 Tickets for \$5.00, you can't win if you don't buy.

Thank you all for supporting our Church in all that we do.

Teresa Everist  
360-921-0611

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## Adult Education on Christian Meditation

On May 5th, 19th, and 26th along with June 2nd, Gary Spanovich will be leading an adult education course after worship on Christian Meditation. Gary is the husband of Nancy Olmsted, and he has taught on Christian Meditation at Marylhurst University as well as numerous retreat centers. Using simple methods that include acquiring inner quiet and actively choosing to open ourselves for a conversation with God, Gary presents ways to organize one's life and allow for a focus on hearing God's voice. Nancy will provide music to accompany the meditations Gary leads. Stay tuned for more details about this Adult Ed offering.

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## Appreciation Sunday on April 21<sup>st</sup>

On April 21st, we will have a Sunday full of appreciation! During worship, we will be recognizing all of the people who work outdoors at our church whether they are doing landscaping or tending to the community garden. After worship, we will be dedicating a new wedding cabinet in Bradford Hall as we celebrate the many years of service Anne Kamp devoted to our church as a wedding hostess. Our recognition of Anne will take place in conjunction with the salad potluck that Sunday. The salad potluck will precede the showing of a documentary for our adult education that day, but one does not need to stay for the documentary if one comes to celebrate Anne and join the potluck.

## Spring Clean Up Scheduled

Contributed by Ed Martin

Spring is in the air, and our annual spring clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, April 20. We will begin immediately following the men's breakfast at about 10:00 a. m. We have a major project this spring along with general clean-up, so we need a good group of hardy souls to pitch in and get the job done. Our big project is to rejuvenate the azaleas on the berm between the two parking lots. That means removing debris, dead azaleas, and unwanted volunteer plants, and applying fertilizer. We also want to remove the unsightly cedars in the center of the berm. The azaleas took a severe beating from pests and drought last year, and if we are to save them, they need our attention. We have had three bids to have this work done professionally and each has come out to be about \$2000. If we can do it ourselves it will mean a huge savings for our church.

I hope that you will be able to help us out. Bring any appropriate tools that you have; i.e.; rake, hoe, pruners, chainsaw, etc. We will serve a picnic lunch. If the weather is prohibitive, or if we don't finish, we will have another workday the following Saturday, April 27.

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## Documentary on the Experiences of Gay Muslims on April 21<sup>st</sup>

On Sunday, April 21st, we will be continuing our Adult Ed series on Islam with a screening of "A Jihad for Love: In the Name of Allah." This 80 minute documentary looks at the struggles of gay Muslims via the perspective of subjects from countries such as India, Iran and Turkey. Relating their compelling tales to the camera, the subjects cling to their Islamic ideals in the face of a sharia interpretation that imposes the death penalty for homosexual acts. We will gather in Bradford Hall after worship for a salad potluck before we watch the film. Please bring a favorite fruit or veggie dish to share!

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## Wood-Carving Class Begins

Ed Frank will conduct a beginner's class in wood-carving starting Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Central Pacific Conference Women Annual Meeting Saturday, May 4, 2013

Clackamas United Church of Christ  
15303 SE Webster Rd.  
Milwaukie, OR 97267

Tie to mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting for CPC Women at Clackamas UCC.

**Registration** 10:00 AM

**Luncheon (\$10.00)** 12:00 noon  
Please make luncheon reservations by April 26<sup>th</sup> with Clackamas UCC, 1-503-654-0741. You may pay upon arrival

**Opening Worship** 1:00 PM  
Presented by the women from Waverly Heights UCC. Includes offering for the Loan/Grand Fund. Since the Education Fund began in 1979, under the leadership of Women's Board President Rev. Anne Smith, the Scholarship Committee has given loans for seminary students. Grants were added in 1984, for continuing education. The continued support of our churches and women's group for this fund is much appreciated.

**Program:** 1:14 PM  
*Trafficking Humans:  
What does that have to do with us?*

**Business Meeting** 2:45 PM

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## Last Chance for BUNCO!!

What better way to enjoy a Pizza lunch together than play BUNCO afterwards. This coming Sunday is your opportunity to help out the Sabbatical Fund and have fun together. We need to pay for pulpit supply when Brooks is on sabbatical plus plan exciting events that might cost some money. Right after church, head on downstairs for Papa Murphy's pizza, salad, drink, cookies and Bunco with prizes. It costs \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children to play. Gluten free pizza will be available.

**Join us for FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND  
FUNDRAISING!!!!**

## 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](http://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.

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## Changes in FISH Donations

Contributed by Marnie Wright

It's with sadness that I tell you all that FISH of Vancouver will no longer be giving out clothing to our clients. We need more storage space for food.

Thank you all for your years of donating clothing. We will still be giving out toiletries, so all those bottles you collect on your travels and larger ones of things like shampoo and soap will still be appreciated.  
Marnie

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## Narthex has a New Look!

Submitted by Joan Blair

Thanks to the Interior's committee made up of Marilyn Jones, Carol Greenauer, Shirl Zent, Marnie Wright, Daryl DeSilva, Virginia Dunbar and Joan Blair, our narthex has a clean, organized look. An urn of sticks, a painting by Marilyn with words of what we stand for nationally, banners on the wall with categories Community Events, Church Activities, Christian Education, and Mission and Outreach that keep you up-dated on our church and community involvement. The project was supported by memorial funds from Norma Davis, Tim Stolle, Dee Dee Knight, Ernie Dunbar, Vi Roth, Ali Ray, Emma Holden, and Grace Brandis.

We hope you appreciate our efforts and creativity. It was enjoyable seeing our ideas come to LIFE!!

## **Summit to Decide on Social Action Focus for the Coming Year**

On Sunday, May 19th from 3 pm to 5 pm, there will be a Faith Action Network Summit for Southwest Washington. One of the core goals of the summit will be to allow for members of the Faith Action Network to vote on what they would like to see as the legislative focus for the next year. Will it be sensible gun laws, child hunger, immigrant rights, or one of many other issues? It would be wonderful if the passions of our church's members were represented at this summit so that the work of our church and the work of FAN can be mutually reinforced in the coming year. The Summit is tentatively scheduled to take place at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church (12513 SE Mill Plain Blvd.) Stay tuned for more details.

## **Speaker for Dialogue Sermon This Sunday**

Submitted by Pastor Brooks

When I arrived in Vancouver five years ago, I met a delightful young man named Cager Clabaugh. Clabaugh is a gifted local labor leader with a down-to-earth, jovial personality. He was the youngest person to ever serve as president for Local 4 of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. He was also the youngest person to serve as president for the Labor Council of Clark, Skamania, and West Killickit. I first heard Clabaugh speak publicly when he was on a panel for a Coal Free Washington Town Hall meeting. Through the telling of his own story, he excelled in helping us understand the perspective of local workers. He is a third generation Longshoreman with deep roots in our local community. I look forward to welcoming Clabaugh this Sunday as he joins me for a dialogue sermon.