

The Link

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
1220 NE 68th Street
Vancouver, WA 98665-0508
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Volume 35 No.12

God is Still Speaking,

June 25, 2013

Wrapped in Love and Cradled in Peace

The prayer shawl ministry started as a grass roots movement in 1998, but has now become worldwide. We began our group 3 1/2 years ago and have presented over 175 shawls to church members, relatives and friends.

Our purpose is to share God's love with those in need of comfort when suffering from pain or grief, as well as those celebrating the joyful times of life.

Some of the comments expressed by those receiving prayer shawls include the following:



I know God and my church are with me

The prayer shawl and your hug bring joy to my spirit.

It brings much healing to my body as well as my soul.

Those involved in making the prayer shawls all agree that they are touched and enriched by the power of love involved in making and giving a visible sign of God's love. In addition, many are appreciated who have donated money to purchase more yarn.

We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month (including summer) at 10 AM and all are welcome - knitting and crocheting not required. Each shawl is blessed by the pastor and members of the prayer shawl ministry. If you, a family member, or friend would like to receive a shawl, please contact any member of the prayer shawl ministry.

Wrapped in my shawl, I feel comforted and cared for.

My shawl is so soft and cuddly - it gives me strength

Shirley Brandenburg
Nita Calvert
Beverly Crossman
Mary Ellis Hannon
Kaye Kipp
Doraine Kohler
Claudia Martin

Joanie Nelson
Connie Oppel
Lou Orthmeyer
Kit Stowell
Judy Walter
Charlotte Warren
Kathleen Williams

WORSHIP IN JUNE AND JULY

REMEMBERING OUR FAMILY IN PRAYER

June 30, 2013

10 a.m. Worship Service. Patty Yates speaking.
Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Linda Wear and Kaye Kipp
Worship Leader: Alice Rowe
Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon
Tom and Josiah Renner

JULY

July 7, 2013 Communion

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Carole Elizabeth preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Sandy and Jerry Mathis
Worship Leader: Leslie Chapman
Ushers: Rory Martindale
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

July 14, 2013

10 a.m. Worship Service.
Karen Kulm and Andy Allensworth speaking.
Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Charlie and Gloria Ross
Worship Leader: Claudia Martin
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

July 21, 2013

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Tom Yates preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Andy Allensworth and Susan Ross
Worship Leader: Sue Benson
Ushers: Ken Rowe, Cory Saum-Blystone
Mike King, Duke Charpentier

July 28, 2013

10 a.m. Worship Service. Jerry Mathis speaking..
Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: John and Ellie Bradley
Worship Leader: Virginia Dunbar
Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon

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 Bev Boydston
Clarice Fossen

Polka Dot Sunday!

Contributed by Alicia King

July 14th the membership committee will be having a themed Sunday! There will be positive polka dots everywhere! Members are encouraged to wear anything polka dotted! Any color! Bring your positive thoughts and be ready to have some fun with polka dots! Special snacks and good company guaranteed!

Birthdays in July

July 1	Ethyn McLaughlin
July 1	Ken Boydston
July 2	Joan Blair
July 4	Richard Trefren
July 7	Launa Schriock
July 8	Tom Yates
July 11	Jeff McNally
July 12	Kim McNally
July 12	Janessa Ortwine
July 15	Daniel Harrigan
July 15	Tom Renner
July 18	Teresa Everist
July 24	Jayden Marshall
July 26	Russ Schriock
July 28	Sam King

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

July 7, 2013
July 9, 2013

Happy Birthday!

Church Picnic July 28, 2013

Contributed by Alice Rowe

How long has it been since you've been to a picnic? In my case it has been much too long. Please mark your calendars and bring your family to the old-fashioned picnic planned for July 28th. We will be gathering right after church at Hazel Dell Park, just east of the church on 68th Street.

We are asking those whose names begin A – M to bring salads; N-Z to bring a dessert to share. We will provide hot dogs, buns, condiments, chips, drinks, plates, napkins and silverware.

.We will have the covered shelter reserved in case of rain. Expect games such as a three-legged race and raw egg/spoon race, and prizes for everyone. Be sure to sign up in the narthex after worship. For all those out of town or on vacation, you will miss a wonderful time.



Vancouver's Saturday In The Park JULY 13, 2013 – Esther Short Park

Saturday In The Park is Vancouver's annual Pride celebration. Our church will once again have an informational booth at the event. A sign up sheet will be available in the narthex or you can contact Karen Kulm at lk.kulm@gmail.com.

This is a fun, family friendly day in the park with entertainment, free music and plenty of room for picnics with foods chosen from the adjacent Farmer's Market. We will be celebrating six months of Marriage Equality in Washington State!

Women's Breakfast Group

The Women's Breakfast Group will continue to meet on the second Saturday of the month during the summer at 9:30 a.m. at the Inn at the Quay.

All women of the church are invited to celebrate sisterhood, fellowship, friendship and family.

VBS 2013

Contributed by Kristina Martin

Please sign up your children for VBS this summer! The theme is "Everywhere Fun Fair!" and is Wednesday - Friday, August 14-16th from 9 am - noon. The cost is \$15 and the on-line registration is easy. Don't miss out on this fun opportunity! Go to <http://2013.cokesburyvbs.com/firstcongregationaluccvancouver> to register your child or grandchild today!

Doug Smith Concert:

Please put this date on your calendar: **October 12, 2013 (Saturday night)**

Yes, we are having Doug Smith return to give us a concert which is a big fund-raiser for First Congregational. This time Doug will be joined by Don Mitchell on guitar and Judy Koch Smith on vocals and flute. The trio is called Three Together. They are wonderful musicians and very entertaining, especially with Don Mitchell's humor thrown in the mix. You will hear more about this concert as time goes on, so please mark your calendars so you won't miss out on this fabulous concert.

--Jean Beary Stolle and Nancy Fite
(concert co-chairs)

New Post Office Box Information

Due to an incident during which our mailbox was broken in to last winter, First Congregational has rented a post office box for mail containing funds.

The address is:

**First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 65694
Vancouver, WA 98665**

While this incident was singular in nature, you might feel more secure sending your mail to this PO Box address. You may, however, continue to use the street address. The PO box will also be checked daily.



Mission & Outreach July Special Offering The Community of Welcoming Congregations (CWC)

The CWC is an Oregon and SW Washington interfaith ministry and advocacy organization working toward full inclusion and equality for transgender, lesbian, bisexual, gay and questioning persons. Their work brings together people of faith who believe in the inherent dignity and worth of every person. They have grown from a handful of people to over 100 congregations in OR and SW WA.

CWC worked with WA United for Marriage last year to bring the freedom to marry to all Washingtonians, and are now a founding partner of Oregon United for Marriage to win marriage equality in Oregon in 2014.

You can help support this important work by placing a check marked "CWC" in the memo line in the Sunday offering during July.

Camp Adams Campership Forms Available

Contributed by Kristina Martin

Through the fundraising of the Mission and Outreach Ministry, there is a fund available to help offset the cost of Camp Adams for the children of our church. Applications are available in the narthex and the office.

Thank You

I would like to thank my church family for the overwhelming number of calls, cares, flowers and visits. I am feeling better, but it will be a slow recovery.

Your thoughts and prayers have been felt.

God Bless You,
Norma Priel

We Honor And Thank Dwight Chapman

Our long-time member, Dwight Chapman, is stepping down as Financial Secretary, a position which he has held for the past 9 years. Since he stepped through our doors over twenty five years ago, he has been on a committee or ministry every year. From Moderator to chairing Property and Finance and many more in between, he has given unselfishly to the good of our church. Dwight will continue to serve as the church librarian, parliamentarian and Link folder.

Thank you Dwight for your dedication and devotion to do God's work. You are a perfect example for all to follow as a servant of the Lord.

Teaching Opportunities!

Contributed by Kristina Martin

We are always in need of additional teachers for Bible Adventures. There are four teaching teams (preschool, primary, intermediate, and middle school) and we will have new curriculum for next fall. If you are interested in becoming part of the Bible Adventures teaching team, please contact Kristina Martin at (360) 695-4545 or email her at Kristina@vanucc.org.

Save the Date

The UCC Northwest Regional Women's Conference

NOVEMBER 1, 2 and 3, 2013

At Kah-Nee-Ta in Warm Springs, Oregon

Theme: **Celebrate the Joyful Journey**
Keynote Speaker: Rev. DaVita McAlister
A variety of workshops will be offered.

Go to nrwr.wordpress.com for workshop descriptions, price and online registration or contact the registrar at 541-554-8501 (nwrregistrar@gmail.com). Forms are also available in the narthex and the church office.

Vancouver UCC Women's Fellowship has three scholarships available of \$75 each. For more information, contact Beverly Crossman 694-3837 or Ellie Bradley 944-7838.

July 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Brooks on Sabbatical until Sept 3 2:00 Scrabble PLY 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:00 CRC SAN 7:30 Fireside PLY	1 2:00 Scrabble PLY 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:00 CRC SAN 7:30 Fireside PLY	2 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY	3 4-8 WW BRD 6:00 ESW CL2 6:00 Bible St. NFL	4 Office Closed 6:00 Planned Pthd NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	5	6
7 10:00 Worship 11:00 MCC Mass PLY 1:00 MCC Worship PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	8 2:00 Scrabble PLY 7:00 CRC SAN 7:30 Fireside PLY	9 LINK 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY	10 4-8 WW BRD 6:00 PC Users Board NFL 7:00 Sierra Club PLY 6:00 Bible St. CL2	11 10:00 Prayer Shawl NFL 7:30 Fireside AA PLY	12	13 9:30 Women's Breakfast Grp Inn at the Quay Saturday in the Park Esther Short Park
14 Polka Dot Sunday 10:00 Worship 11:00 MCC Mass PLY 1:00 MCC Worship PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	15 2:00 Scrabble PLY 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:00 CRC SAN 7:30 Fireside PLY	16 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 6:30 PC Users BRD	17 4-8 WW BRD 6:00 Bible St. NFL	18 7:30 Fireside AA PLY	19	20
21 10:00 Worship 11:00 MCC Mass PLY 1:00 MCC Worship PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	22 2:00 Scrabble PLY 5:00PM M&O BRD 7:00 CRC SAN 7:30 Fireside PLY	23 LINK 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY	24 4-8 WW BRD 6:00 P&F (tent) PLY 6:00 Bible St. NFL	25 1:00 Art Group PLY 7:00 Council CL2 7:30 Fireside AA PLY	26	27
28 10:00 Worship 11:15 Church Picnic Hazel Dell Park 11:00 MCC Mass PLY 1:00 MCC Worship PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	29 2:00 Scrabble PLY 7:00 CRC SAN 7:30 Fireside PLY	30 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY	31 4-8 WW BRD 6:00 Bible St. NFL			