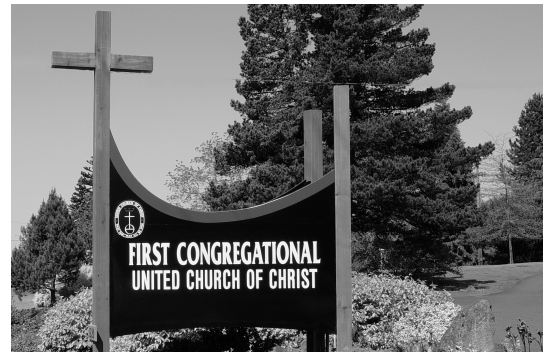


The Link

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



Volume 35 No. 14

God is Still Speaking,

July 23 , 2013



GIFTS

At 5:18p.m. on 19 Mar 2013 Esther Rose Fite was born. I remember it as 1718 on the 19th, 1718 being 5:18p.m. in military time. Esther Rose is the first and only grandchild for Nancy and me. We are very typical grandparents. We think Esther is beautiful, we think she is perfect. Each time I see her, each time I hold her I am reminded of the gift I have received through God's grace.

Last July 18th, I experienced a heart attack. One that I was fortunate to survive. I was granted the chance to participate in Esther's life by the concern and love of this community.

First, my colleagues at Clark College recognized my distress and sought help for me. Help in the form of our community's first responders and superior medical facilities was prompt and effective. Love and concern from this congregation was comforting and healing. All these gifts I received so that I might have the wonderful gift of a beautiful granddaughter.

Each day I thank God, I thank this church and I thank this community for allowing me to enjoy these gifts.

-----John Fite

WORSHIP IN JULY AND AUGUST

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

AUGUST

August 4, 2013

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Richard Trefren,
preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Nita Calvert and June Lasher
Worship Leader: Judith Dahlen
Ushers: Trent Corey and Rory Martindale
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

August 11, 2013

10 a.m. Worship Service. Lynn Renner, speaking.
Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Anne and Wayne Kamp
Worship Leader: Carole Greenauer
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

August 18, 2013 Outdoor Service on the Labyrinth

10 a.m. Worship Service. Harriet Anani, speaking.
Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg
Worship Leader: Jean Beary Stolle
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone
Mike King and Duke Charpentier

Blessing of the Animals following Worship

August 25, 2013

10 a.m. Worship Service. Pam Osborne, speaking..
Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Joanie Nelson and Connie Oppel
Worship Leader: Becky Andrews
Ushers: Tom and Josiah Renner

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	Bev Boydston
Clarice Fossen	Dwight Chapman

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

<u>August 11, 2013</u>	<u>Link Deadline</u>
<u>August 13, 2013</u>	<u>Link Mailed</u>

August Birthdays

August 10	Rachel Corey
August 10	Scott Jones
August 11	Rowan McLaughlin
August 12	Sharon Sollenberger
August 14	Pat Finley
August 18	Susan Ross
August 24	Marilynn Jones
August 26	Brooks Berndt
August 26	Shelby Allensworth
August 28	Bev Boydston
August 30	Josiah Renner

Happy Birthday!

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)

WORKER SOLIDARITY FOLK FESTIVAL SATURDAY, AUGUST 10TH 6:00 PM on the labyrinth

Join us outside on our beautiful labyrinth for an evening of music and inspiring speakers. The band Future Historians will be our featured guests and our own Kit Stowell will lead us in singing familiar folk and worker songs.

Speakers will include the Rev. Jeremy Lucas, Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, ILWU Local 4 labor leader Cager Clabaugh and others. Learn about the challenges local workers are facing and how community support of Unions keeps wages and working conditions higher for everyone.

This event is free and open to the public, so invite your friends and neighbors to this great event sponsored by Mission & Outreach and ILWU Local 4.

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.

Bible Adventures Teachers

There are always ways for you to get involved in teaching the children of our church in our Bible Adventures program. We need lead teachers, assistant teachers, and substitutes at all grade levels (preschool, primary, intermediate, and middle school). We will be having an orientation this August (date TBA) to prepare teachers to work with our new Joyful Path curriculum which is based on the 8 Points of Progressive Christianity. We have an exciting year ahead of us and we want you to be a part of it!!!

Kick-Off Sunday's Service and Luncheon

Kick-Off Sunday will be on September 15th this year and we want as many kids to be part of the service as possible. If your child is interested in reading parts of the service, please let Kristina Martin know so she can include him/her. Email Kristina at kristina@vanucc.org soon please. Also, if you are able to donate something for the annual BBQ sandwich luncheon, your donation would be gladly accepted. The menu includes shredded meat (like pulled pork or BBQ chicken), a vegetarian option, coleslaw, potato chips, buns, and cookies.

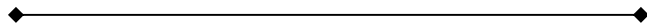
Book Club News

Contributed by Alice Rowe

The heretofore unnamed book club of First Congregational is taking two months off. We will have our next meeting on September 19th. All of our meetings will be held in the Nettie Fries Lounge on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

For the month of September, we are reading *Catherine the Great* by Raymond Massie. Please join us if you like lively discussion and the opportunity to read new and interesting books.

If you have any questions, please call Alice Rowe at 360-576-0490



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

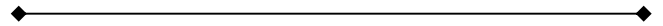
A variety of workshops will be offered.

Go to nrwr.wordpress.com for workshop descriptions, price and online registration or contact the registrar at 541-554-8501 (nrwrregistrar@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.

Bible Study Class

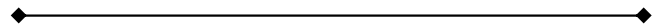
If you are interested in joining our Tuesday morning Bible Study class, please come for a cup of coffee and a friendly conversation about scripture. We meet Tuesdays at 9:30 am in the Plymouth Room. **Due to low attendance, the Wednesday night "Snacks and Scriptures" class is discontinued.**



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. The next gathering will be Saturday, August 10th.

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



Church Picnic

Come one, come all to Hazel Dell Park following worship on July 28th for our all-church picnic. We are asking those whose names begin with A-M to bring a salads; N-Z to bring a dessert to share. Hot dogs, brats, condiments and drinks will be provided.

We'll have the covered shelter reserved in case of rain and there will be games and prizes for all. Come and celebrate family, friends and fellowship.

August 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00 Planned Pthd NFL 7:30 Fireside PL	2 2:30 MPAA Concert SAN	3
4 10:00 Worship 11:00 MCC Mass PLY 1:00 MCC Worship 4:30 Fireside PLY	5 2:00 Scrabble PLY 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:00 CRC SAN 7:30 Fireside PLY	6 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY	7 4-8 WW BRD 6:00 ESW CL2	8 10:00 Prayer Shawl NFL 7:30 Fireside AA PLY	9	10 9:30 Women's Breakfast Inn at the Quay 6:00 Music Fest on the Labyrinth
11 10:00 Worship 11:00 MCC Mass PLY 1:00 MCC Worship 4:30 Fireside PLY	12 2:00 Scrabble PLY 7:00 CRC SAN 7:30 Fireside PLY	13 LINK 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY	14 4-8 WW BRD :00 PC Users Board NFL 7:00 Sierra Club PLY VBS	15 7:30 Fireside AA PLY	16	17
18 10:00 Outdoor Worship Blessing of the Animals 11:00 MCC Mass PLY 1:00 MCC Worship 4:30 Fireside PLY	19 2:00 Scrabble PLY 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:00 CRC SAN 7:30 Fireside PLY	20 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 6:30 PC Users BRD	21 4-8 WW BRD 6:00 M&O CL2	22 1:00 Art Group PLY 7:00 Council CL2 7:30 Fireside AA PLY	23	24
25 10:00 Worship 11:00 MCC Mass PLY 1:00 MCC Worship 4:30 Fireside PLY	26 2:00 Scrabble PLY 7:00 CRC SAN 7:30 Fireside PLY	27 LINK 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY	28 4-8 WW BRD	29 7:30 Fireside AA PLY	30	31