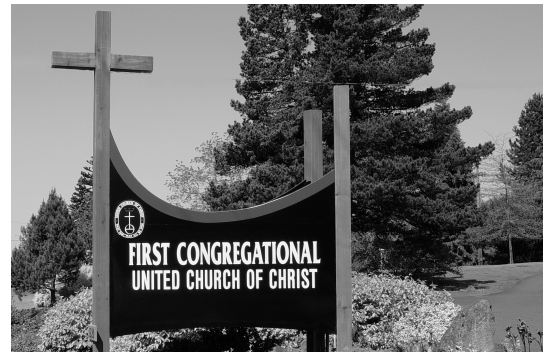


The Link

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



Volume 35 No. 13

God is Still Speaking,

July 9 , 2013

Gift of Reading

By Joy Gerlitz

A couple of weeks ago, you heard about the gifts that my Dad gave me, well, my mom's gift to me was the love of reading. I can't remember a time that I didn't have a book in hand—from childhood's "The Pokey Little Puppy" (I was so thrilled when Hallmark honored it by recreating it as a Christmas ornament) to my last book "The Sisters of the Sinai" that I read with our church's reading group. (Our next book will be "Catherine the Great" by Robert K Massie. Join us in Sept. to discuss it. Check with Ed Martin for more information) My mom was always reading and there were always books around. She introduced me to the public library as there were no libraries in schools at that time--just a few books in each classroom. I spent many a Saturday afternoon reading the Nancy Drew mysteries in a corner of the Marysville Public Library.

I was very lucky to have a 34-year media specialist career in which I could share the joy of reading with senior, junior high and middle school children. Sharing their excitement about a book that I had recommended for them always made my day, especially when they asked for another recommendation. I've had students walk in to the library full of books, saying "I don't read and there is nothing here I like" but, if you can find that one book that triggers their imagination, then they will read and discover a whole world of good books and genres they may have formerly overlooked! Making life-long learners was my goal in presenting the importance of libraries! I even got to share my joy of reading with the adults who had never learned to read and whom I have tutored in Clark College's Literacy Classes.

If you're not aware, we have a library in the Nettie Fries Lounge just down the hall from the Sanctuary. Dwight Chapman graciously organized the collection and established a do-it-yourself circulation system. If you haven't discovered the church's library, stop by sometime, maybe after Sunday services, and peruse the collection. (Donations always accepted.) Brooks, with some memorial monies, will be adding some new titles to the collection.

As Louis L'Amour said:

"For one who reads, there is no limit to the number of lives that may be lived for fiction, biography, and history offers an inexhaustible number of lives in many parts of the world, in all period of time."

WORSHIP IN JULY

REMEMBERING OUR FAMILY IN PRAYER

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
Farley Maxwell
Clarice Fossen

Mary Craford
Bev Boydston
Dwight Chapman

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

July 21, 2013
July 23, 2013

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

August 11, 2013
August 13, 2013

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

Polka Dot Sunday!

Contributed by Alicia King

This Sunday, July 14th the Membership Committee will be sponsoring the 1st Polka Dot Sunday here at First Congregational!! 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!

From Kathy

I would like to plan some time off from the 24th of July through August 2. This means I really need to find some volunteers to man the phones in the office while I'm gone. The hours are 9 until 2, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; 9 until 1 on Wednesday and 9 until noon on Friday. However, these times are not set in stone. So...if you can cover even a couple of hours in a day, it would help. The Friday time is primarily folding the bulletins for Sunday. Please let me know at 693-1476 or you may e-mail me at kathy@vanucc.org if you are available any of those days.
Thanks, Kathy

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.



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.

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)

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.

Environmental Leader Bill McKibben coming to Vancouver

Contributed by Don Steinke

One of the books chosen by the selection committee for the autumn book groups is *Eaarth* by Bill McKibben. Bill McKibben will be speaking in Gaiser Hall in Clark College on Wednesday July 17 at 7pm. Ticket prices are based on a sliding scale, \$5 and up. Tickets may be purchased on-line. Google "Portland Rising Tide" and click on events.

McKibben's last appearance in Portland was sold out. His organization is 350.org which is working to prevent extreme climate change.

WORKER SOLIDARITY



FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10TH

7:00 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.



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. You can still sign up by contacting Karen Kulm at 360-991-5774 or 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!

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.

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 this Saturday, July 13th.

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

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!!!

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.

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. Please e-mail Kristina at kristina@vanucc.org as soon as possible. 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.

Many Thanks

Many, many thanks to the Interiors Committee and the intrepid painters who updated our Bible Adventures room. It looks great and you are much appreciated!!

Gina Marquardt

It's Nearly VBS Time!

If you haven't registered your child/grandchild etc for VBS, please do so ASAP so we can have accurate numbers for planning purposes.

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!

Symptoms of Inner Peace

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experience
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy the moment
- A loss of interest in judging other people
- A loss of interest in judging self
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others
- An inability to worry (this is a very serious symptom!)
- Frequent overwhelming episodes of appreciation
- Frequent acts of smiling
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than to make them happen
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Anon