

The Link

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
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Volume 35 No. 19

God is Still Speaking,

October 8, 2013

A Book Made Possible by You

Dear Church Family,

I am delighted to announce that the people and ministries of our church have made it possible for a new book to be published. On the cover of this book, I am listed as a coauthor along with the Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., but the truth is that each member of our church was a coauthor because the book is largely about our social justice ministries. The title of the book is *Sounding the Trumpet: How Churches Can Answer God's Call to Justice*. Thanks largely to the connections of my coauthor, a number of public figures have read the book and given it an early endorsement. Below you will find three brief endorsements of the book. More can be found on the book's website at: www.soundingthetrumpet.org. Each endorsement of the book is truly praise for our congregation which has been so extraordinary in its undertakings. Thank you for all that you have done!

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

"J. Alfred Smith—my intellectual Godfather in the ministry—and Brooks Berndt—his prophetic student and interlocutor—have produced a masterpiece. It is full of deep spiritual truths and genuine Christian wrestling with our prophetic vocation in this difficult moment. Smith is a great chocolate giant and Berndt is a grand vanilla witness—both true to the tradition of Howard Thurman and William Sloan Coffin and, most importantly, the gospel of Jesus Christ."

—Cornel West, Professor of Philosophy and Christian Practice, Union Theological Seminary

"Based on their hard fought struggles to help the hurting and helpless, Pastors Smith and Berndt have written with wisdom and spiritual depth about the imperative of justice."

—Barbara Lee, Congresswoman

"A book to read, and re-read, and cherish, and pass on."

—Allan Boesak, The Desmond Tutu Chair of Peace, Global Justice, and Reconciliation at Christian Theological Seminary and Butler University

(Copies of the book are available for sale in the main office of the church.)

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

October 13, 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 11:15 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Sue and Marvin Benson
Worship Leader:
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

October 20, 2013

10 a.m. Worship Service. Pulpit Guest. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: John and Mary Ellis Hannon
Worship Leader:
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone
Mike King and Duke Charpentier

October 27, 2013 All Saints 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. Youth Group Meets at 11:15 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Ed and Ruby Frank
Worship Leader:
Ushers: Tom and Josiah Renner
David Harrington and David Macko

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
Joan Blair

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

October 20, 2013
October 22, 2013

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

November 10, 2013
November 12, 2013

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

November 24, 2013
November 26, 2013

Garden News

As autumn approaches it is once again time to think about putting the church garden to bed. We've supplied FISH with hundreds of pounds of fresh produce for needy families who can't supplement their meals with vegetables, as well as a very generous offering of greens and tomatoes picked and set at our front door for our congregation to take each Sunday.

We'd like to thank Ed and Claudia Martin, Sandi Mathis, Kit Stowell, David Macko and David Harrington, Pam and Jeff Osborne, Nancy Fite, and Dave Slocum for their hard work in maintaining this beautiful garden again this year.

Mary Jo Ebel Circle October 16, 2013, 10:30 a.m., at

Where:

Judy Walter's,
4700 NE 25th Ct.
Vancouver WA 98660
360-693-0393

The program will be a surprise!

Co-hosted by Judy and Virginia Ebersole.
Parking is limited, carpool if you can.

Chemo Caps

Contributed by Joanie Nelson

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is now making 'chemo caps' or 'Head Huggers' for anyone going through Chemotherapy or other medically related concerns. One of our members has already received a cap made by Mary Ellis Hannon. If you know of anyone who would benefit from such a head covering, please notify a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. A soft, warm cap can bring comfort to heads as well as souls, knowing others are caring about them during a difficult time.

We also have a good supply of prayer shawls which can be given to celebrate the joys in life as well as comfort and care during trying times.

Countdown to Doug Smith/Three Together Concert:

Have you bought your concert tickets yet? Here are the important facts:

When: Saturday, October 12, 2013

Where: First Congregational Church, Vancouver

Time: 7p.m.

Price: \$15 per ticket

Why: It's a benefit concert: one-third of ticket sales to WHO, one-third to church interior improvements, one-third to the skylight/roof repair project. And we all benefit from an evening of beautiful, finger-pickin' guitar (w/flute) music. Invite your friends and neighbors. It's a FUN-Fundraiser for sure!! Contact Jean Stolle or Nancy Fite, 360:696-0380 for tickets or buy them at the door that evening.

Let's Get Social

Are you interested in ways to get to know your fellow church members outside of church? Consider signing up for one of our many fun social groups. We are having our annual sign ups for social groups for the next two weeks after church. Come by and say hi to Rachel Corey in the narthex and see what groups are available. We will be set up on the following dates:, October 13th and October 20th.

A Taste of Britain and France

After worship on October 13th, we will be having a potluck as Pastor Brooks presents a slide show of his family's month long trip to London, Cornwall, Paris, and Nice. While it is not a requirement, members are invited to bring a favorite British or French dish, if they have one.

Coal Terminal Hearing Oct 9 at the Clark County Fairgrounds

The environmental coalition we support, encourages us to attend the scoping hearing for the Longview coal terminal.

They are asking Governor Inslee and his Department of Ecology to study all the impacts including Climate Change. The Governor will do that if there is enough public support.

The main hearing will be at 5pm, preceded by a rally at 4pm. There will be shuttle service from the 99th street transit center on the bottom of every hour, 12:30-5:30.

The environmental coalition turned out 1800 people to the Sept 17 hearing in Longview and is hoping we can help build their numbers Oct 9. For more information, contact new member Don Steinke, crVancouverUSA@gmail.com

Second Annual Bowling Night

Come Young! Come Old! To our church's second annual bowling night on Saturday, November 2nd at 5:00 PM at Big Al's Vancouver Bowling, 16615 SE 18th St. Vancouver, WA 98683. We had lots of fun last year, and this year is bound to be a great time! Please RSVP to Alice Rowe at 360-5760490 or at alicemrowe@gmail.com.

All Church Retreat

What is our church about? What can we do today to make our church grow in the next decade and beyond? Everyone in our congregation is invited to join in the discussions and activities that will help us move forward with a collective vision as a church. It will begin Friday evening on October 18th at 7:00 PM in preparation for a day of presentations and discussions on the 19th from 10 AM until 4 PM at First Presbyterian Church, located at 45th and Main St, across from Kiggins Bowl. RSVP Trent Corey at trentcorey@yahoo.com or 360-600-1086. The retreat is free, but donations will be accepted to help defray the costs.

Key Note Speaker for All Church Retreat

Our key note speaker on Friday, October 18th at 7 pm will be Hollis Bredeweg. Bredeweg is a lifetime member of the UCC and the son of a UCC Conference Minister. As an ordained minister, he has served congregations in Indiana, Wisconsin, Colorado, Kansas, and Washington. He has additionally served as the associate conference minister for the Nebraska Conference. Outside of his church work, Bredeweg has additionally served as the development director for a community mental health agency, the executive director of the Humane Society of Whatcom County, the executive director of Big Brothers—Big Sisters of Skagit County, and the development associate for the United Way of Skagit County. Those planning the retreat have found Bredeweg to be both highly skilled at leading conversations and extremely knowledgeable about effective church ministries.

Kathleen New's Art

We have all enjoyed the beautiful art work of Kathleen New and the church would like to honor her talent by putting up a display of her work at the church. Many of you have some of her work and it would be great if you would consider loaning it for the exhibit. Contact Claudia Martin or Marilyn Jones if you have something to donate.

WHO Needs Your Help

November 1st, WHO shelters will open for their eleventh season. Our church will once again share a week of service at the St. Paul Men's Shelter with our friends from Congregation Kol Ami **March 16-22. Please save the date** for our week of service.

WHO needs your help right now by donating socks, underwear, thermals, hats and gloves. Place them in the big yellow container in the narthex.

Queen top sheets are needed for a sewing project to reconfigure the shelter bed mats. You can bring gently used donations to the Housing Solutions Center at 2306 NE Andresen from 9am-5pm Monday –Friday.

Save the date for the Nov. 8th Night of Song and Praise Concert 7pm at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

Warm Coat Drive



Sponsored by Martha's Pantry

**Saturday, November 9th
10:00 AM until 4:00 PM**

at

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
1220 NE 68th Street
Vancouver, WA 98665**

We will be accepting new and gently used coats for all ages.

Christian Education News

Feminine Faith Formation & Fellowship

Are you looking for a group where you can further your faith and experience the fellowship that accompanies that pursuit? If so, please join a group of interested folks who want to further their faith formation through books and dialogue. Utilizing the unique aspects of a feminist lens, we will read and discuss books that further our faith formation. This group is open to anyone interested in attending, but is focused on the lives, issues, and perspectives of women in their "younger years" (definitions may vary). We will meet at interested member's homes at 7pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month to start, but we may add a second meeting per month if the group decides that is a better fit. If you have questions, please contact Kristina Martin at kristina@vanucc.org.

INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT WITH MAZI AT COLUMBIA SPRINGS

Members of all ages are invited to join our youth for a day of community service at Columbia Springs, a 100-acre natural area that contains the historic Vancouver trout hatchery. We are volunteering as a church on Saturday, November 9th, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Typical service work at Columbia Springs includes removal of invasive plant species, restoration of education stations, maintenance of trails, and many other fun physical activities. Snacks, coffee, tools, and gloves will be provided as we work. Afterwards, we will drive to Leonardo's Pizzeria (just north of the Mill Plain & 164th intersection in east Vancouver) for lunch. **If you want to volunteer, please put your name on the sign up sheet in the narthex. On the sign up sheet, mark whether you will join us for lunch so we can give the restaurant an estimate of how many to expect. Please sign up by November 3rd.**

This event was initiated and planned by the MAZI teen service group at First Congregational UCC Vancouver. If you would like to help this valuable part of our community and get your hands dirty with the teens of our church, please join us! More information about volunteering at Columbia Springs can be found on their website (<http://www.columbiasprings.org/get-involved/volunteer-at-columbia-springs/stewardship-saturdays/>).

Mazi Organization Meeting For Teens And Their Families

MAZI has a big year coming up with several service projects and available activities. If you are the parent or guardian of a teen in grades 7 - 12, please come to an organizational meeting on October 20th after church in Bradford Hall. We will work on our year's calendar and things we want to accomplish for the year. One thing we will do is get an accurate headcount of the teens and/or parents who will be doing the first service project of the year at Columbia Springs on 11/9. I hope to see you all there. The teens and I are very excited about this year and the great things we will be doing to be in service to our community!

Adult Ed: Who Is The UCC?

On November 17th, the CE Ministry is thrilled to host the Rev. Kelly Burd from the national offices of the UCC in Cleveland for a CE sponsored Adult Ed session on who we are as members of the United Church of Christ. We will be learning more about what the national UCC is working on today and how those projects reflect who we are as a church. Please come on the 17th to hear Rev. Burd - she is a passionate leader in our national church. A light soup luncheon will be served. Please contact Kristina Martin for additional information on this wonderful opportunity.

*Besides the autumn poets sing,
A few prosaic days
A little this side of the snow
and that side of the haze...
Grant me, O Lord, a sunny mind,
Thy windy will to obey.*

~Emily Dickenson, "November"



JUBILEE Special Offering & Action is Sunday, October 20th

Jubilee USA Network is an alliance of churches, labor, environmental, and community organizations. In the late 1990s, people across the map joined together to form the global Jubilee movement to call for debt cancellation for impoverished countries and for just economic policies. From this, Jubilee USA was born. Since then, we have won critical global financial reforms and more than \$130 billion in debt relief for the world's poorest people.

Our church voted to become a Jubilee Congregation several years ago. As part of our commitment, we take an annual offering, educate ourselves on debt issues, and conduct action campaigns.

After church on October 20th we will stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world by joining hands. Supporters across the country will be sending Jubilee USA pictures of them holding cutout hands declaring why they join in Jubilee. We are using the symbol of the open hand to illustrate our engagement with our global partners on debt cancellation and solidarity with those most affected by debt crises.

More information about the critically important work of Jubilee Network can be found here:

<http://www.jubileeusa.org/home.html>