

The Link

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
1220 NE 68th Street
Vancouver, WA 98665-0508
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Volume 36 No. 6

God is Still Speaking,

March 25 , 2014

The Magic of Stories

Dear Church Family,

Almost every week either Eunita or I will exchange ten or more children's books at the library for a new batch. Our selections are made quickly, occasionally without a discerning eye. At times, this leads to the selection of a real dud, but at other times, it leads to the discovery of a true treasure. Such was the case with Aaron Becker's *Journey*.

Admittedly, during my first reading of the book, my main thought was that the imagery and fantasy nature of the story were more appropriate for kids older than Danalyn. To my surprise, however, Danalyn immediately asked that I "read" the book again. I put "read" in quotation marks because the book actually has no words. Instead, the pictures by themselves tell the story. The story is of a young girl whose family is too busy to spend time with her and whose magic red crayon is capable of bringing whole objects and worlds into existence. The first object that she draws is a door on the wall of her bedroom that then enters into a fantastical universe with a giant fortress and space ships directed by men wearing clothes reminiscent of ancient Egypt. An adventure ensues.

The book quickly grew on me. I now consider it a work of a creative and imaginative genius. I marvel at how a mind could come up with such a story. Moreover, I delight in discovering new details in the pictures every time I "read" the book. The details are what make it easy to read over and over again.

It occurred to me that my appreciation of this book is a fitting metaphor for my feelings toward liturgical seasons and events like Lent and Holy Week. Sure, we have read the stories before, but I never seem to tire of them, especially if I focus on the details. I am always amazed at how much richness and relevance there is in the scriptures. This Holy Week I invite you to pay attention to the details. Let them work their magic on both your heart and mind.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

PS: Aaron Becker's *Journey* was a 2014 Caldecott Honors book and has a website worth exploring: www.storybreathing.com.

WORSHIP IN MARCH AND APRIL

March 30, 2014

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.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Adina Tarpley and Carole Elizabeth
Worship Leader: Sue Benson
Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon

APRIL

April 6, 2014

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: Judith Dahlen and June Lasher
Worship Leader: Harriet Anani
Ushers: Rory Martindale and Trent Corey
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

April 13, 2014 Palm Sunday

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

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Wayne and Doris Fletcher
Worship Leader: Jerry Mathis
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

April 20, 2014 Easter 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.

Worship Volunteers:

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

April 27 2014

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.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Sue and Marvin Benson
Worship Leader: Lynn Renner
Ushers: Tom Renner
David Macko and David Harrington

REMEMBERING OUR FAMILY IN PRAYER

Prayer requests for:

Our sons and daughters overseas, and the people of the Middle East;

CONTINUING PRAYER
REQUESTS FOR:

Farley Maxwell
Joan Blair
Yahriel Harrigan
Nancy Phelps
Charlotte Warren
Gloria Ross

Elaine Clawson Gear died on Thursday, March 13th. Her funeral service will be in Eugene, Oregon. Elaine was the **sister of Bev Boydston**. Elaine grew up in the church and was a member for many years. Her husband Ed is a survivor and was once a member of our church as well.

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

<u>Link Deadline</u>	<u>April 6, 2014</u>
<u>Link Mailed</u>	<u>April 8, 2014</u>

<u>Link Deadline</u>	<u>April 20, 2014</u>
<u>Link Mailed</u>	<u>April 22, 2014</u>

Maundy Thursday Dinner

Be sure to pick up your tickets for the Maundy Thursday Lamb Dinner prepared by Jeff and Pam Osborne and John and Carole Greenauer.

Tickets are \$8.00 per person and may be purchased from members of the Parish Life Ministry in the narthex following worship on Sundays through April 6th. Only 80 tickets will be sold, so get yours soon.

Remember: **Maundy Thursday Lamb Dinner
6:00 Thursday, April 17th
Bradford Hall**

Dessert of the Month for March

Contributed by Teresa Everist

Leslie Chapman is doing dessert of the month for March and it is Fancy Pound Cake. Thank you to Connie Opal for making 2 Cherry Delights for our February Dessert of the month.

We made \$80.00 for February.

Our income this year will be going to our kids that attend our church and go to Camp Adams, This will help the children enjoy some of the pleasures in life of being a child, through our church and camp, and help to create wonderful memories.

We still need sign-ups for a few months in 2014 for desserts.

Thank you all for your support.

Teresa Everist

360-921-0611

Mission and Outreach

Focus for March

Contributed by Alison Kocher

We Are One. This statement is the powerful theme of our One Great Hour of Sharing. The basic premise is if any of us have a need, then ALL of us have a need. The need is greater than our neighbor down the block that needs help. This need reaches across the world. Our offering has helped the UCC in supporting disaster relief, refugee and development all over the world. Some of the projects have been assisting with the Aizu Radiation Center in Japan, Typhoon assistance in the Philippines, helping high school graduates in Haiti start businesses and much, much more. You may make out your check to First Congregational UCC and put OGHS in the memo line or use one of the OGHS envelopes in the pews.

Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast Fund-Raiser

Contributed by Kristina Martin

Palm Sunday is quickly approaching and I hope you've marked it on your calendar! The MAZI teens will be serving pancakes (gluten free too!), butter, maple syrup (sugar-free is available), juice, coffee, and a smile on Sunday, April 13th. Please sign up in the narthex for one of the time slots so we can be sure to have enough hot pancakes to start your Palm Sunday off right! Suggested donations are \$5 per person, \$20 per family.

Women's Breakfast Group

The Women's Breakfast Group continues to meet on the second Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lion Inn at the Quay. Our next gathering will be Saturday, April 12th.

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

Birthdays in April

April 3	Trent Corey
April 13	Shirl Zent
April 19	Leslie Chapman
April 20	Jane Knuth
April 22	Anne McNally
April 26	Kelli Waldo
April 29	Daniel Moscoe

Happy Birthday!

Easter Sunday Bulletin:

Be sure to sign up to honor and remember loved ones with a special insert in the Easter Sunday bulletin. We are suggesting a minimum donation of \$5.00 per name on your list. All proceeds will benefit Friends of the Carpenter.

If you would like to participate, please fill out a form in the narthex, place the form and your donation in one of the white envelopes, and place in the basket on the Welcome Table.

The deadline for names for the insert is Palm Sunday, April 13th.



Mission & Outreach
April Special Offering
CAMP ADAMS CAMBERSHIPS

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!

Spiritual Growth
Audio Book Group

The description for our next book reads, "Heavily tattooed and loud-mouthed, Nadia, a former stand-up comic, sure as hell didn't consider herself to be religious leader material-until the day she ended up leading a friend's funeral in a smoky downtown comedy club. Surrounded by fellow alcoholics, depressives, and cynics, she realized: These were her people. Maybe she was meant to be their pastor." The author of the book is Nadia Bolz-Weber, and the book is "Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint." We will meet at Tommy O's in downtown Vancouver on Wednesday, May 14th at 6 pm. Sign up in the narthex to join us or email Pastor Brooks (brooks@vanucc.org).

Welcome New Members

Christie Brittain

8709 NE 153rd Ave
Vancouver, WA 98682
Phone: 503-440-3078

E-mail: christibrittain@yahoo.com

Children:

Chloie Joyce Chronister-Brittain age: 5
Laela Sandra Brittain Age: 9 months

William and Cheryl Lowe

32803 NW 41st Ave
Ridgefield, WA 98642
Home: 360-887-0774

Will cell: 360-909-5518

Will e-mail: Quigonglmt@gmail.com

Cheryl cell: 503-515-5015

Cheryl e-mail: cherylowe9@gmail.com

Fred and Molly Wilson

14000 SE Cascade Park Dr. #3
Vancouver, WA 98683

Home: 360-936-4387

Fred cell: 360-281-7428

Fred e-mail: fredwilson@live.com

Molly e-mail: mollitov@hotmail.com

Children:

Dashell Wilson Age: 3

Willow Wilson Age: 1

Sharon Kenoski

1819 NE 56th St

Vancouver, WA 98665

360-737-8986

Sharon Cell: 360-901-0093

Sharon e-mail: kelly4593@comcast.net

Husband: Glen A. Kenoski

Daughter:

Christina J. Kenoski Age: 16

Philippe Chantreau

15004 NE 25th Ct.

Vancouver, WA 98686

Cell: 360-356-5841

e-mail: pchantreau@hotmail.com

Western Regional Youth Event, 2014

Contributed by Kristina Martin

On June 29th, all but one of our active youth group members will be traveling to Seattle University to represent 1st Congregational UCC, Vancouver at the Western Regional Youth Event. WRYE happens every four years and is another fabulous way the United Church of Christ strengthens the lives and faiths of UCC teens. For four days (June 29-July 3), teens and youth leaders will join in worship and plenary, fellowship and leadership, to learn more about their world, their faith, and their lives. As members of the CPCUCC, our teens will lead worship on Monday night and throughout the event they will be taking workshops designed to either deepen their faith or find ways of living their faith. They will also be involved in several service projects in the Seattle area.

The cost for this event is \$450 per person and each teen is responsible for half that amount. The remaining registration and transportation costs are being covered by the three fundraisers the teens do (Christmas Raffle Baskets, Baked Potato Bar, Palm Sunday Breakfast).

Your support makes such a difference in these teens' lives. If you're interested in helping raise our registration and transportation costs, please remember to note in the memo field of your check: MAZI WRYE. Thank you!

MAZI's Spring Service Project: SOLVE Beach Clean-up in Lincoln City, OR

Contributed by Kristina Martin

What a fabulous weekend we just returned from! On March 21-23, 10 teens/youth got their hands sandy picking up trash and debris on the beach at Lincoln City, Oregon. According to SOLVE, more than 4,500 people volunteered up and down the Oregon coast, removing 45,955 pounds of litter and marine debris, including 14 tires. Talk about making a difference! I am so proud that the MAZI teens chose this as their spring service project! Many thanks to Tom and Lynn Renner for accompanying us and taking part in the beach clean-up as well.

Organ News

Submitted by Jeff Osborne, Chair, Organ Committee



At the February meeting of Property & Finance the Organ Committee presented its proposal to purchase a new organ for the Sanctuary. The motion passed and was approved by Council the next night.

We have placed an order with the Johannus company in The Netherlands for a 3-keyboard Opus 370 organ. It is being built now and will be shipped first to Chicago and then to the church, arriving in 8-10 weeks. The cost is approximately **\$15,600** and includes shipping from Chicago and installation. We will use the funds contributed over the last couple years specifically for a new organ (\$5,675) plus memorial gifts to cover the cost. In the short term we will use funds from a bequest from Wilda Fries to bridge the purchase until the memorial funds can be accessed.

Please direct any questions or comments to the Organ committee through me at jeffo@vanucc.org.



Thank you to everyone who helped out at the Winter Hospitality Overflow (WHO) men's shelter last week. Many of you worked multiple shifts! Thank you to all who brought snacks, donated money or clothing, or supported us with your prayers.

Special thanks to Sue Meyer and her crew of dedicated volunteers from Kol Ami who worked with us last week. Finally, thanks to Dave Slocum and Judy Enders for volunteering every week during WHO season and making one or two meals for the men every week. Dave & Judy are love in action and an inspiration to us all!



How YOU Can Stay Connected

You can connect to church events by signing up to receive the bi-monthly church newsletter: *The Link*.

You can also "like" us on Facebook to stay up to date on events, actions, etc. Invite your friends to join too. <https://www.facebook.com/vanucc>

Our church is one of 47 churches of the Central Pacific Conference. Learn more by going to the conference website: <http://cpcucc.org>.

The conference has a monthly newsletter called *On The Way*. You can sign up to receive it by emailing the office at centralpacific@cpcucc.org. The Justice & Witness Ministry Team of the conference has a blog called *Rolling Justice*: <http://cpcjusticeandwitness.com/> and a Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/CPCUCCJusticeandWitness> .

Our denomination's website has a wealth of information at: <http://ucc.org/> . The UCC publishes a weekly e-zine called KYP – Keeping You Posted. You can sign up here: <http://www.ucc.org/news/keeping-you-eposted/>

Once a year, you can connect with people from all over the conference at our Annual Meeting. The next meeting is September 26-28th in Pendleton, Oregon

Spring Outdoor Cleanup Scheduled

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 26th for our annual outdoor clean/spruce up. We plan to get everything even more beautiful before Mother's Day. We will begin around 10:00 a.m., work until we're done and we hope that you will be able to help us out. Bring any appropriate tools that you have; i.e.; rakes, hoes, pruners, chainsaw, etc.

Watch the upcoming issues of *The Link* for more information.

Lenten Luncheon Series- What Does Lent Mean to You?

For the next three weeks, we will be offering a soup luncheon and discussion based on the game "Live Stories" as we make our way through the Lenten season. Discussions will include such topics as *What Lenten rituals to you observe?*; *What have you experienced from Lent?*; *How has Lenten practice changed you?*; and *What does the sacred Easter mean to you?*

Come on down to Bradford Hall after worship for amazing homemade soup, great fellowship and thought provoking discussion.

Maundy Thursday Service April 17, 2014

Again this year we will be observing one of the most moving days in the liturgy of our church with a Tenebrae Service at 7:00 in the sanctuary. During the service the seven last words of Christ will be read followed by the extinguishing of the lights.

The choir and soloists have been rehearsing beautiful pieces to enhance the service including *Christ is In this Place* with oboe and a special setting of the *Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)*. Vocal soloists will include Linda Wear presenting a piece with tone chimes and piano, and Natalie Cantrell.

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Teresa Everist

April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 1:30 Seeking God Osborne Home 6:30 CE CL2 7:30 Seeking God Osborne Home	2 10:30 Staff PLY 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 ESW CL2 7:00 Choir SAN	3 4:00 Martha's Pantry 6:00 Planned Pthd NFL 6:30 Sierra Board CL2 7:30 Fireside PLY	4	5
6 10:00 Worship SAN 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11:00 Lenten Lunch 11:15 MAZI TRI 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	7 2:00 Scrabble PLY 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	8 LINK 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 5:30 Parish Life NFL 7:00 Coal Free PLY 7:00 Choir SAN	9 10:30 Staff PLY 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 PCUsers Brd. NFL 7:00 Coal Free PLY 7:00 Choir SAN	10 10:00 Prayer Sh. NFL 4:00 Martha's Pantry 7:00 Membership PLY 7:30 Fireside PLY	11	12 9:30 Women's Bkfst Grp Quay
13 Palm Sunday 8:00 Pancake Bkfst BRD 10:00 Worship SAN 10:20 Bible Adv CL 4:30 Fireside PLY	14 2:00 Scrabble PLY 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside PLY	15 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 9:00 CCMTA SAN 6:30 PCUsers BRD	16 10:30 Staff PLY 10:30 Ebel Circle 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 M&O CL2 7:00 Choir SAN	17 Maundy Thursday 6:00 Maundy Thurs Lamb Dinner BRD 7:00 Tenebrae Service SAN 7:30 Fireside PLY	18	19 8:30 Men's Bkfst BRD
20 Easter Sunday 10:00 Worship San 10:20 Bible Adv CL 4:30 Fireside PLY	21 2:00 Scrabble PLY 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	22 LINK 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 6:00 Communicat. CL2	23 10:30 Staff PLY 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 P&F PLY 7:00 Choir SAN	24 1:00 Art Group PLY 4:00 Martha's Pantry 7:00 Council CL2 7:30 Fireside PLY	25 10:00 Mediation CL2	26
27 10:00 Worship San 10:20 Bible Adv CL 4:30 Fireside PLY	28 2:00 Scrabble PLY 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside PLY	29 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 7:00 Pastoral Rel.? CL2	30 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 Choir SAN			