

# The Link

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
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*God is Still Speaking,*

, 2014

## A Spiritual Practice for Easter

Dear Church Family,

This Easter season I invite you to undertake a spiritual practice that will add meaning to your life. More specifically, I invite you to think of ways you can bring the Spirit of Love into your life through heartfelt acts of caring regard and generous giving. If it should help generate your own thoughts and practices, I will share with you my own plan of action. For this Easter season, my spiritual practice will be to bring to life the Spirit of Love that my grandmother once modeled for me. Together with Danalyn, I will be making “Bunnies with Jelly Bean Shoes” for us to deliver as gifts. These scrumptious sweets are essentially sugar cookies made with a bunny shaped cutout and—as the name suggests—jelly beans for shoes. My grandmother made them every Easter, and now I want to pass along this tradition of caring regard and generous giving to my daughter as we use the same cookie cutter that my own mother has used in the past.

In the cookbook compiled in memory of my grandmother, there are some extra notes supplied with the entry for this cookie recipe. My grandmother was once a school teacher, and underneath the name of the cookie, a parenthetical comment reads, “Easter fun for kindergartners.” On a corresponding page, one also finds the words and music for a song called, “I Had a Little Bunny with Jelly Bean Shoes.” For those who are interested, I am including the recipe below. Photocopies of the song can be provided upon request.

This Easter I encourage you to find your own way to bring the Spirit of Love to life. Make it your opportunity to celebrate the risen Christ not just in word but also in deed.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

### Bunnies with Jelly Bean Shoes

2 sticks (1/2 lb.) margarine, softened  
1 tablespoon milk  
2 ½ cups sifted flour  
Jelly beans

1 cup powdered sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
¼ teaspoon salt

Mix margarine and sugar. Add milk and vanilla. Mix thoroughly. Combine flour and salt. Blend into mixture. Knead into smooth ball. (Dough may be refrigerated at this point.)

Roll dough out. Cut with bunny cookie cutter. Sprinkle each bunny with granulated sugar. Bake on lightly greased baking sheet at 325 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes.

After baking press ½ of a jelly bean on cookies for shoes. Remove from cookie sheet. These cookies only brown slightly on bottom.

## WORSHIP IN APRIL

### 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 Earth Care 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: Sue and Marvin Benson  
Worship Leader: Lynn Renner  
Ushers: Tom Renner  
David Macko and David Harrington

## Choir Presents *Missa Festiva*



Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday, the choir will present the cantata **MISSA FESTIVA** (Festival Mass) by John Leavitt. Soloists include Natalie Cantrell, Bert Martin, Richard Trefren and Linda Wear. Dr. Christopher Schindler plays an energetic accompaniment which ties it all together. Invite your family and friends to join you for this beautiful presentation.

## 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

## Thank You

Thank you over and over for the encouraging  
works of love and care I have received. I wish I  
could express my deep appreciation to each of  
you. You have helped me through a very bad  
time and made improvement in both my body  
and soul. My thanks, my love and God bless  
you all.

Charlotte Warren

## UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline  
Link Mailed

April 20, 2014  
April 22, 2014

Link Deadline  
Link Mailed

May 11, 2014  
May 13, 2014

## Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service, April 17

There are still a few tickets for the Maundy  
Thursday Lamb Dinner. Tickets are \$8.00 per  
person and may be purchased from members  
of the Parish Life Ministry in the narthex  
following worship. The dinner begins in  
Bradford Hall at 6 pm.

At 7 pm, a special worship service will begin in  
the sanctuary. The theme of this service is  
"Love in the Final Days." The service will  
feature music, poetry, communion, and the  
reading of the seven last words of Christ while  
seven Tenebrae candles are extinguished.

## Dessert of the Month for April

Contributed by Teresa Everist

Our Dessert of the month for April will be 6-1 pint jars of Freezer Jam made by Opal Chapman. We will be drawing 3 names, and each will receive 2-1 pint jars as their winnings.

We do not know what kind we are going to have, but you can bet they will be great. You can use them for toppings on ice cream, English muffins, toast and many other wonderful uses.

Get your tickets and the drawing will be the last Sunday of the month which will be April 27<sup>th</sup> right after church.

We still need some sign-ups for desserts for the months of July, through December, please contact me to get these months filled in.

Thanks to all of you for your support,  
Teresa Everist  
360-921-0611  
Teresa@nw4sale.com

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## Easter Sunday Memorials

Sunday is the last day to submit your requests to honor and remember loved ones in a special insert in the Easter Sunday bulletin. We are suggesting a minimum donation of \$5.00 per name on your list. If you would like your loved ones honored or remembered please fill out a form, place the form and your donation in one of the white envelopes and place it in the basket on the welcome table. Proceeds will go to Friends of the Carpenter.

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## EASTER FLOWERS

We know spring has been a little late this year, but start looking around now and bring spring flowers from your garden, (or your neighbors) to church on Easter Sunday to decorate the cross. Please bring your flowers by 9:45 AM. This is a wonderful tradition!!

## Change in New Member Info

My apologies to Sharon for the incorrect street number in the last Link. The information is correct in the new directory. -K

### Sharon Kenoski

1819 NE 66<sup>th</sup> St

Vancouver, WA 98665

360-737-8986

Sharon Cell: 360-901-0093

Sharon e-mail: [kelly4593@comcast.net](mailto:kelly4593@comcast.net)

Husband: Glen A. Kenoski

Daughter:

Christina J. Kenoski Age: 16

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## 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 this Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

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## Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast Fund-Raiser

Palm Sunday is this coming Sunday, 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 13<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't signed up, don't despair. You will not be turned away.

Suggested donations are \$5 per person, \$20 per family.

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## Congregational Meeting

The annual Congregational Meeting for the election of new officers and members of ministries and committees will be held immediately following worship of **Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** in the sanctuary.



## Mission & Outreach April Special Offering CAMP ADAMS CAMPERSHIPS

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!

## Spring Outdoor Cleanup Scheduled

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Mary Jo Ebel Circle

Contributed by Joanie Nelson

It's "Show and Tell" time with Mary Maxwell who will share her experiences from a recent trip to Myanmar/Burma.

All women are invited to hear her fascinating stories. We will meet at Joanie Nelson's home on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM. Address: 2839 SE Village Loop Vancouver, WA 98683. Please call if you need directions.

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Sign up in the narthex to join us or email Pastor Brooks ([brooks@vanucc.org](mailto:brooks@vanucc.org)).



*A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act.*

*~Mahatma Gandhi*



## 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](mailto: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 26-28<sup>th</sup> in Pendleton, Oregon

## Do You Volunteer in our Community? Then We Want You!

The CE ministry is looking for people in this church to come forward and share with us the many ways they are involved in the community by taking part in our **Activism Expo on May 18th!** During this past year, we have looked at who we are as a national church, how we function as a church in our conference, and now we want to highlight the big part of who we are as a local church - folks doing works of justice and compassion in the community. Participants are asked to bring pamphlets, display boards, etc. to set up in Bradford Hall. A "portable" lunch will be served by CE. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please email Kristina ([kristina@vanucc.org](mailto:kristina@vanucc.org)).

## Cookies Wanted

CE is asking for cookie donations for the last CE Adult Ed session for this year, THE UCC: WHO WE ARE ACTIVISM EXPO on May 18th. If you can donate a plate of cookies (or other portable dessert) please bring them to Bradford Hall before church on May 18th. Thank you!!!!

## Feminine Faith Formation & Fellowship for April

Due to conflicts with spring break as well as other issues, Feminine Faith Formation & Fellowship will not be meeting for the month of April. We will meet again on May 8th to discuss the first 5 chapters of *The Feminine Face of God*. Anyone interested in attending is welcome, regardless of how much of the book they have read. Email Kristina for location in May. ([Kristina@vanucc.org](mailto:Kristina@vanucc.org)).

*Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.*

*~Pope John Paul II*