

The Link

First Congregational
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Volume 36 No. 11

God is Still Speaking,

June 10 , 2014

Leaf Watching

Dear Church Family,

Twice in the past week I have found myself engaged in the therapeutic activity of leaf watching. If you have not tried it before, I highly recommend it. All it requires is standing at a distance from a tree as you watch and listen to the wind blow through its leaves. I at first stumbled into this rejuvenating practice of spiritual nourishment by accident. My daughter was having a marathon session on the swing at the playground, and I suddenly found myself captivated by a tree more than 50 feet in front of us. I did not want the marathon session to end. I felt as if I could stay there all day.

I have no meaningful explanation for why I find leaf watching to be such a spiritual high. I am one of those persons who can barely tell a maple from an oak. Perhaps it is because I am at such a loss for words in describing the appeal of leaves that I found myself thinking about leaf watching as I read a particular article yesterday. The article quoted Einstein as once saying that a “stranger” to mystery is “as good as dead: his eyes are closed.” I suddenly had an “ah-hah moment.” What if the appeal of leaf watching is that it immerses me into a sense of sublime mystery and awe?

Maybe leaf watching isn't for you, but I recommend finding time for such spiritual nourishment. It just might give you the boost you need to make it through the week.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

WORSHIP IN JUNE

June 15, 2014 Father's Day

Summer of Gratitude: Our Children

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt, preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: John and Nancy Fite

Worship Leader: Jean Beary Stolle

Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone
Mike King and Duke Charpentier

June 22, 2014

Summer of Gratitude: Our Officers

10 a.m. Worship Service Rev. Brooks Berndt, preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

10:20 a.m. Youth Group Meets at 11:30 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Susan Ross and Andy Allensworth

Worship Leader: Lynn Renner

Ushers: David Macko and David Harrington
Tom Renner

June 29, 2014

Summer of Gratitude: Mission and Outreach

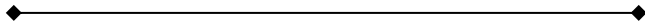
10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt, preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Cindy and Anne McNally

Worship Leader: Dorothy Mathews

Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon



Another Graduate to Celebrate

Kevin Ellis, grandson of the late **John and Mary Jo Morse** will graduate from MIT with his degree in physics. In the fall, he will begin working on his PHD in neuro-cognitive science.



LOOKING AHEAD!

Bible Adventures will be on hiatus for the summer starting on June 22nd. During the summer, children are encouraged to attend and participate in our services. Doodle pads and crayons and some books will be available in the narthex. Kick-off will be on September 7th and will include children participating in the roles of the service. If your child would like a speaking or action role in the service, please let Kristina know. You can email her with questions at kristina@vanucc.org.

REMEMBERING OUR FAMILY IN PRAYER

Prayer requests for:

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

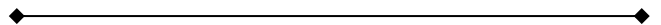
CONTINUING PRAYER
REQUESTS FOR:

Farley Maxwell

Joan Blair

Nancy Phelps

Gloria Ross



UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline

June 22, 2014

Link Mailed

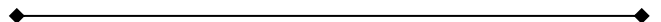
June 24, 2014

Link Deadline

July 6, 2014

Link Mailed

July 8, 2014



Dessert of the Month for June

For June's Dessert of the Month, Patty Yates will be making her famously delicious Black Forest Brownies. Get your tickets early and often -- Patty might be offering samples during ticket sales. Yum! Remember, 80% of all proceeds will go toward Camperships for our youth church members



Kids - During the Summer...

...please remember to pick up your pouches before worship begins. That way, you'll have them handy for the new token. Then, please hang them back up on the proper hook after worship.

Thanks - Kristina



HELP US CELEBRATE! June 14-15

Here is how you can participate:

- Volunteer for our UCC booth (G-3) for a two hour shift between noon to 6 PM on Saturday and/or Sunday. Our booth is on your right as you enter the Pine St. entry (next to the PFLAG booth). <http://pridenw.org/downloads/sitemafinal.pdf>
- March in the parade on Sunday and help us carry our church banner. You are also encouraged to make your own signs celebrating marriage equality.

Step off time for the parade is 11 AM. Our slot in the parade is #38 with line up near NW Everett & NW Park.

<http://pridenw.org/downloads/paradesetup.pdf>

The parade route is here:

<http://pridenw.org/downloads/paraderoute.pdf>

Remember, many of the streets near the parade will be blocked off early Sunday morning. **To volunteer:** contact Karen Kulm at 360-991-5774 or lk.kulm@gmail.com.

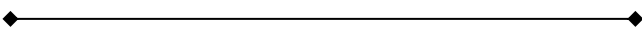
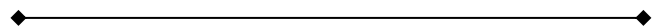
Mission & Outreach Special Offering for June



Friends of the Carpenter (FOC) is a ministry of relationships. Their mission is to build positive and productive relationships between homeless persons and sincere, stable volunteers from communities of faith. The goal is to empower persons, both those who are poor and those who have means and the desire to help, to find ways to build relational bridges of trust, hope, support, encouragement, and accountability. The desired result is that the poor who sincerely wish to can improve their stability, self-respect and interdependency in a community of integrity.

Many of you have purchased the hand-crafted wood items made by the men at the day shelter, or shopped at the Second Chance Thrift Store on 3414 A NE 52nd St., where proceeds benefit FOC. If you are interested in volunteering at FOC, you can call 360-750-4752 or check their website at: <http://www.friendsofthecarpenter.org/index.htm>

To support FOC, please make your check out to our church and put "Friends of the Carpenter" in the memo line.



CAMP ADAMS CAMBERSHIP FORMS

Due to some confusion, the campership forms are hanging in the narthex. Please turn part 1 to the office by July 1. If you have questions, please email Kristina at kristina@vanucc.org.

Book by Pastor Brooks Now Available on Kindle

The Kindle edition of *Sounding the Trumpet* by Pastor Brooks and the Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr. is now available on Amazon. For a few days, it was the bestselling book on Amazon in the category of liberation theology. You can find the book here:

www.amazon.com/Sounding-Trumpet-Churches-Answer-Justice-ebook/dp/B00F6NK060

Kind reviews are appreciated!

Faith Action Network Summit Report

This past Sunday the Faith Action Network held its regional summit for Southwest Washington in our church. In addition to hearing updates on a variety of legislative issues, a vote was taken to determine where local advocates would like to place their energies in the next year. Here is the breakdown of the voting results:

- 1) Environmental concerns such as global warming, oil trains, and clean energy led the way receiving 36% of the votes.
- 2) Economic inequality issues such as the minimum wage and wage theft received 18% of the votes.
- 3) Addressing gun violence received 13% of the votes.
- 4) Concern for school class sizes and concern for homelessness tied for fourth place with each receiving 11% of the votes.
- 5) Mental health received 9% of the votes.
- 6) Food issues such as supporting local agriculture and making healthy foods accessible received 2%.

Our summit was the fourth of four regional FAN summits in the state of Washington. Seattle listed climate change as its number one concern, while the Yakima summit listed immigration and the Spokane summit listed criminal justice reform. As an organization, FAN is already committed to continuing its past struggles against gun violence and wage theft.

Women's Breakfast Group

All women of the church are invited to celebrate sisterhood, fellowship and friendship when the **Women's Breakfast Group** meets at 9:30 a.m. this Saturday, June 14th, at the Red Lion Inn at the Quay.

2014 PROPHETIC ACTION

On June 2nd, the Vancouver City Council passed a resolution opposing the proposed Vancouver oil terminal. You can read the 8 page document here:

http://www.cityofvancouver.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/city_council/page/14754/res._m-3821_-

[opposition_to_tesoro_savage_oil_terminal_06.02.14.pdf](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/city_council/page/14754/res._m-3821_-opposition_to_tesoro_savage_oil_terminal_06.02.14.pdf) .

The resolution reads in part: "...requesting the Port of Vancouver to terminate its lease with Tesoro Savage; urging EFSEC to recommend against the siting of the oil terminal; urging the Governor to not approve a site certification agreement; and urging Congress, the Legislature and regulators to adopt laws to increase the safety of the transportation of crude oil." Nearly 700 attended the meeting, and over a hundred people testified. 99% of the people who testified were against the terminal and had grave concerns about the environmental impact of the terminal.

The city council also passed a resolution authorizing the City Attorney's Office to seek the permission of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) to intervene in the proceedings related to the permitting of the oil terminal. This will give the city legal standing to file an appeal if the oil terminal is approved.

FEMININE FAITH FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP

With summer schedules so busy, we will be on hiatus for the summer. If you want to join us then, please let Kristina know. Our book to discuss in September is Glennon Doyle Melton's *Carry On Warrior: Thoughts on Life Unarmed*. You can contact Kristina at kristina@vanucc.org or leave a message in the office.



We Read Summer Books *2014 Prophetic Action*

Our Prophetic Action task force is recommending two books for your summer reading pleasure. One is a recent best seller, and the other is a classic.

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver. In what may be the first novel to realistically imagine the near-term impact of “global weirding,” Barbara Kingsolver sets her latest story in rural Appalachia. In fictional Feathertown, Tennessee, Dellarobia Turnbow--on the run from her stifling life--charges up the mountain above her husband’s family farm and stumbles onto a “valley of fire” filled with millions of monarch butterflies. This vision is deemed miraculous by the town’s parishioners, then the international media. But when Ovid, a scientist who studies monarch behavior, sets up a lab on the Turnbow farm, he learns that the butterflies’ presence signals systemic disorder--and Dellarobia's in-laws’ logging plans won’t help. This book gracefully, urgently contributes to the dialogue of survival on this swiftly tilting planet. Available at your local bookstore or Amazon print or Kindle.

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson. This book was first published in September 1962, and the outcry that followed its publication forced the banning of DDT and spurred revolutionary changes in the laws affecting our air, land, and water. Carson’s passionate concern for the future of our planet reverberated powerfully throughout the world, and her eloquent book was instrumental in launching the environmental movement. It is without question one of the landmark books of the twentieth century. Available at your local bookstore or Amazon print or Kindle.

VBS AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC - AUGUST 7 & 8

The CE VBS task force is really excited to offer a different approach to VBS this year. We will have a 2 day VBS program starting on August 7th from 6-8 pm with a potluck and family activities. The children will come back on Friday from 9 - 4. Please get this on your calendar now! Registration and additional information will be coming in the next LINK and posted in the narthex. See you there!!!

Disaster Relief: Bearing One Another’s Burdens

The following is an excerpt from an article by W. Evan Golder in the UCC’s Still Speaking magazine:

On Sunday morning of Dec. 26, 2004, by the time morning worship services were underway in the United States, a huge tsunami had already hit half-a-day-earlier on the other side of the globe. As news of the tsunami spread, pastors quickly added prayers for persons in tsunami-affected areas and alerted members of the need for special offerings. It was the largest tsunami in recorded history and eventually killed around 230,000 persons in more than a dozen countries.

By the next morning, the first payments of \$50,000 and \$20,000 sped on their way from the United Church of Christ to Church World Service (CWS) and Action by Churches Together (ACT). What made this immediate response possible? The 3 million dollars contributed by UCC members the previous year to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

“Because of the UCC’s global alliances through membership in ACT and CWS as well as our partner relationships, the UCC was able to respond across the vast tsunami-affected area from Indonesia to Somalia,” says Susan M. Sanders, UCC Minister for Global Sharing of Resources at the time. Over the next few months, UCC members and churches contributed \$4.7 million in special offerings for tsunami victims.

This was not an isolated response. UCC members and congregations have responded to disasters with time, talent and resources for generations.