

The Link

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
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Volume 36 No. 12

God is Still Speaking,

June 24 , 2014

Modern Day Prophets

Dear Church Family,

Last week a group of us convened to select three books on modern day environmental prophets. In the fall, we will form book groups to read these exciting autobiographical and biographical works. Sign up sheets will be the narthex this summer. Here you will find a summary of each book:

Unbowed: A Memoir by Wangari Maathai

Born in a rural Kenyan village in 1940, the Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai was already an iconoclast as a child, determined to get an education even though most African girls then were uneducated. This is an inspiring autobiography with many compelling parts. There is the story of her education as she became the first woman both to earn a PhD and to head a university department in Kenya. There is also the story of her numerous run-ins with the brutal government of Daniel arap Moi. Finally, there is the story of her establishing the Green Belt Movement, which helps restore indigenous forests while assisting rural women by paying them to plant trees in their villages.

Reason for Hope: A Spiritual Journey by Jane Goodall and Philip Berman

In this book, the world's most famous, and perhaps most beloved, female scientist reveals her inner journey. Goodall, who's 65, covers her entire life here, from her earliest years in England to her years in Gombe, Nigeria where she became the foremost expert in the world on chimpanzees. The book additionally covers her more recent work as an activist for environmental causes and animal rights. The book is viscerally as well as morally thrilling. Goodall has nurtured a fundamental understanding that goodness can prevail with each person's help.

Rachel Carson and Her Sisters: Extraordinary Women Who Have Shaped America's Environment by Robert Musil

This book redefines the achievements and legacy of environmental pioneer and scientist Rachel Carson by linking her work to a wide network of American women activists and writers. Rachel Carson was the first American to combine two longstanding, but separate strands of American environmentalism—the love of nature and a concern for human health. Widely known for her 1962 best-seller, *Silent Spring*, Carson is today often perceived as a solitary “great woman,” whose work single-handedly launched a modern environmental movement. But as Musil demonstrates, Carson's life's work drew upon and was supported by already existing movements, many led by women, in conservation and public health.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

WORSHIP IN JUNE AND JULY

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

JULY

July 6, 2014 **Communion**

Summer of Gratitude : Membership

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

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Sandy and Jerry Mathis

Worship Leader:

Ushers: Rory Martindale and Trent Corey
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

July 13, 2014

Summer of Gratitude: Property and Finance

10 a.m. Worship Service. Andy Allensworth, Jerry Mathis, Cheryl Lowe and Jeff Schnabel speaking. Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Virginia Dunbar and Joanie Nelson

Worship Leader: David Harrington

Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

July 20, 2014

Summer of Gratitude : Pastoral Relations

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. John Boonstra, preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Kaye Kipp and Dorothy Mathews

Worship Leader: Sue Benson

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

July 27, 2014

Summer of Gratitude : Communications

10 a.m. Worship Service.
Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Leslie, Dwight and Opal Chapman

Worship Leader: Harriet Anani

Ushers: David Macko and David Harrington
Tom Renner

All Church Picnic at Hazel Dell Park
Immediately following worship

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

Virginia Ebersole

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

July 6, 2014
July 8, 2014

LOOKING AHEAD!

Please remember that after the Children's Sermon, children should return to their seats and sit with their parents or guardians. The nursery is still available for children from birth until age 4. If you have books appropriate for small children, please feel free to donate them to the basket under the table 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.

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



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.

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, July 12th, at the Red Lion Inn at the Quay.



SATURDAY IN THE PARK – JULY 12TH

VANCOUVER PRIDE CELEBRATION

Esther Short Park
11 AM – 5 PM

Saturday In the Park, Vancouver’s annual Pride celebration will take place on July 12th and is celebrating it’s 20th anniversary! Our church will once again have an informational booth at the event. A sign up sheet for volunteers will be available in the narthex or you can contact Karen Kulm at 360-991-5774 or lk.kulm@gmail.com.

This is a fun, family friendly day in the park with entertainment, music and plenty of room for picnics with foods chosen from the adjacent Farmer’s Market. This is another chance to be a witness in our community for LGBT rights and for equality. Although we are grateful for the freedom to marry in Washington, and now Oregon, there is still much work to be done.



Feminine Faith Formation & Fellowship

Our reading group is off for the summer. However, we’d love to have you join us in September when we reconvene. We meet on the second Thursday of each month. Our next book to discuss is "Carry On, Warrior: Thoughts on Life Unarmed" by Glennon Doyle Melton. We will discuss the first 133 pages of the book in September. Please contact Kristina Martin if you have questions. Her number is (360) 635-1075.

Mission & Outreach Special Offering For July is



The Community of
Welcoming Congregations
Providing a Voice for LGBTQ & Allied People of Faith

The Community of Welcoming Congregations (CWC) engages in advocacy and education, providing resources to congregations & individuals. They have helped coordinate a public religious voice in support of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender (LGBT) legislation in past years and will continue this important work. Over 100 different faith communities in SW Washington and Oregon comprise the CWC and our congregation is a member. CWC helped coordinate churches across Oregon during the campaign to win the freedom to marry and helped with our efforts in SW Washington in 2012.

To donate to this important work, write your check out to our church, but **designate "CWC" in the memo line** and place in the offering plate any Sunday in July.

The Organ Has Arrived

Submitted by Jeff Osborne, Chair, Organ Committee



Our new 3-keyboard Opus 370 organ has arrived from the Johannus factory in The Netherlands and will be unpacked and installed in the sanctuary next week.

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

July Birthdays

July 01	Ken Boysdtun
July 01	Ethan McLaughlin
July 02	Joan Blair
July 04	Richard Trefren
July 07	Launa Schriock
July 08	Tom Yates
July 11	Jeff McNally
July 12	Kimberly McNally
July 12	Janessa Ortwine
July 15	Tom Renner
July 18	Teresa Everist
July 24	Jayden Marshall
July 26	Russ Schriock
July 28	Samuel King

Happy Birthday!

VBS

AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

We are super excited to offer the VBS "Workshop of Wonders" in a new format this year. VBS starts on Thursday night with an intergenerational dinner, and then on Friday the children return for a full day of VBS.

- **Thursday Night: 6 pm -8 pm.** Intergenerational supper and activities. Bring a side-dish. (We are providing hot dogs.) Donations accepted to offset cost of hot dogs.
- **Friday: 9 am-4 pm.** Children in grades Kindergarten thru 8th. Bring a sack lunch and a water bottle. \$15 VBS fee.
- Please register for both days. **Please register** at <http://2014.cokesburyvbs.com/firstcongregationaluccvancouver> so we know who to expect for what is sure to be a fun event! If you have questions, please call Kristina at (360) 635-1075 or email her at kristina@vanucc.org. Thanks!

July 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 6:30 CE	1 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 6:30 CE	2 10:30 Staff PLY 4:00 WW BRD	3 5:30 Conservation Grp. Sierra Club CL2 6:00 Planned Phd NFL	4 5
6 10:00 Worship SAN 11 & 1 MCC PLY	7 Brooks Vacation 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside	8 LINK 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY	8 LINK 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY	9 10:30 Staff PLY 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 PCUsers Brd NFL 7:00 CoalFree PLY	10 10:00 Prayer Shawl NFL 7:00 Membership CL2	11 12 9:30 Women's Bkfst Group Inn at the Quay
13 10:00 Worship SAN 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside	14 Brooks Study leave 7:30 Fireside	15 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 6:30 PC Users	15 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 6:30 PC Users	16 10:30 Staff PLY 4:00 WW BRD	17 7:00 Eve. Book Club NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	18 19
20 10:00 Worship SAN 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside	21 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	22 Brooks Back LINK 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY	22 Brooks Back LINK 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY	23 Kathy Vacation 10:30 Staff PLY 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 P&F PLY 7:30 Fireside	24 1:00 Art Group PLY 7:00 Council CL2 7:30 Fireside	25 26 Wedding— Labyrinth
27 All Church Picnic 10:00 Worship SAN 11:00 11 & 1 MCC PLY	28 7:30 Fireside PLY	29 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY	29 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY	30 10:30 Staff PLY 4:00 WW BRD	31 7:30 Fireside PLY	