

The Link

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
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Volume 36 No. 14

God is Still Speaking,

July 22, 2014

Dear Church Family,

My appreciation of summer as an adult is different from when I was a child. Back in my youth, summer conversations typically focused on counting down the number of days until school resumed. Now that I'm a parent, I'm still counting down the days until summer is officially over but not because I want my kids to hurry back to school. I'm counting how many more days I have to enjoy being with my kids!

One of my favorite things about summer is how more likely it is for my friends and family to find ways to have fun together. I'm not suggesting that summer is more fun than the other seasons, but it certainly seems to inspire folks to find opportunities to have fun. As an opportunity to have a fun time together, the Christian Education ministry is hoping the church community will plan on attending this year's Vacation Bible School. The curriculum, Workshop of Wonders (WOW), has lots of fun activities for grown-ups and kids alike, so even if you don't have small children in your life, please come and have a great night with us!

On Thursday, August 7, we will be gathering at 6 pm for a potluck in Bradford hall. Bring a side dish and grab a tasty hot dog before completing a fun project. The next morning at 9 am the children will return for a full day of crafts and activities based on the WOW curriculum.

It is the CE ministry's hope that when this summer fades into fall, the laughter and great memories we had together at VBS will stay with each and every one of us for many months to come.

Blessings to each of you!

Kristina Martin
CE Coordinator/Youth Director

WORSHIP IN JULY AND AUGUST

July 27, 2014

Gratitude for our Communications Ministry

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

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Leslie, Opal and Dwight Chapman
Worship Leader: Harriet Anani
Ushers: David Macko and David Harrington
Tom Renner

AUGUST

August 3, 2014 Communion

Gratitude for Our Christian Education Ministry

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

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Natalie Cantrell and Lucie Murchison
Worship Leader: Susan Ross
Ushers: Trent Corey and Rory Martindale
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

August 10, 2014

Gratitude for Our Pastoral Relations Committee

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

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Don and Judy Walter
Worship Leader: Jerry Mathis
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

August 17, 2014

Gratitude for Our Parish Life Ministry

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

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: David Macko and David Harrington
Worship Leader: David Macko
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone
Mike King and Duke Charpentier

August 24, 2014 Outdoor Service and Blessing of
the Animals on the Labyrinth

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

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Alicia, Mike, Annalin and Samuel King
Worship Leader: Opal Chapman
Ushers: David Macko and David Harrington
Tom Renner

August 31, 2014

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

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Laurie and Gary Parafinczuk
Worship Leader: Dorothy Mathews
Ushers: John Hannon and John Bradley

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

Thank You

Thank you so much to my friends and church family for their kind thoughts, cards and prayers during my recent heart surgery. I am so blessed to have you in my life.
Virginia Ebersole

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

<u>Link Deadline</u>	<u>August 10, 2014</u>
<u>Link Mailed</u>	<u>August 12, 2014</u>

Birthdays in August

August 10	Rachel Corey
August 10	Scott Jones
August 11	Rowan McLaughlin
August 12	Sharon Sollenburger
August 14	Pat Finley
August 18	Susan Ross
August 24	Marilynn Jones
August 26	Brooks Berndt
August 26	Shelby Allensworth
August 28	Bev Boydston
August 30	Josiah Renner



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 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!**

Join the Fun...

Contributed by Susan Ross

...at our Annual Summer Picnic following services on July 27th at Hazel Dell Park. We'll have good fellowship, good food, and good fun plus games for the young and young at heart. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share.



Mission & Outreach Special Offering for August – Our Church Garden

Our community garden contributes almost 2000 lbs of fresh produce each year to the local food distribution centers. The garden is sustained through the generous gifts of church members who give their time and money to till the soil, provide plants and seed, plant, cultivate, weed and pick. It is a significant and satisfying outreach ministry of our church which helps provide basic necessities for life to people in our community who are in need.

There is no line-item in the church budget for this important ministry and there is always a need for funds for plants, seed, fertilizer, and tools. Your gifts to a garden fund will help to underwrite our continuing success in this ministry. **To contribute: make your check out to our church with "Church Garden" in the memo line**

Mission & Outreach Special Offering For Today 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.

Service Scheduled for Peggy Hilliard

A **Celebration of Life for Peggy Hilliard** will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, 2014, at the Portland Golf Club. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the American Cancer Society.



UCC Response to Crisis of Unaccompanied Minors

We are facing an escalating humanitarian crisis as a growing number of children flee escalating violence in Central America. So far in FY 2014 alone 47,000 children have sought refuge at our borders. It is from dire circumstances that a child chooses to migrate thousands of miles. As people of faith we have an ethical obligation to care for the most vulnerable among us. The root causes of these changing migration patterns are extreme poverty, violence, and rising homicide rates in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, from which most of the children are arriving.

One way to help is by giving. Your financial contribution is multiplied by joining with others to increase the capacity of the UCC to address humanitarian needs and to shape the future. To provide food, water, safe places, a listening pastoral ear, religious services, and legal assistance that provides access to the U.S. legal system to tell stories for official documentation. **Donations noting "Unaccompanied Child Refugees"** can be sent to Wider Church Ministries, Financial Services - 6th Floor, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.

To learn more about the factors which precipitated this crisis read this [article](#) and more at the UCC national website: [Worth The Risk?](#)

Bible Adventures This Summer

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. Thank you.

Central Pacific Conference Annual Assembly Call for Art!



Create ART for Display During Annual Meeting

The theme for this year is: *"Time to Lead: Call to Action in Climate Crisis,"*

Suggested approaches you could take...

- Original art reflecting the beautiful natural world we live in, e.g., paintings, fiber art, something beautiful to brighten our meeting space.
- ART created from recycled items, e.g., jewelry from old silverware, planters from shoes, boots, clothing from anything no longer useful.

Be creative!

Take something that might otherwise be discarded and make something beautiful, thought-provoking and/or amusing and bring it along. The intention is for this to be a creative fun/serious activity. We will have a glorious show-and-tell on Friday evening. (Please...no full sized robots made from defunct tractors as there are no sherpas on site; you are the one transporting it!) For more information and encouragement, contact Carole Jeffers at 503-360 4897 or carolejeffers@gmail.com

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.

August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Gratitude- Christian Education 10:00 Worship SAN 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	4 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	5 9:00 WW 9:30 Bible Study PLY 6:30 CE CL2	6 10:30 Staff PLY 4:00 WW BRD	7 5:30 Conservation Grp. Sierra Club CL2 6:00 Planned Pthd NFL 6:30 Sierra Brd. CL2 7:30 Fireside PLY	8	9 9:30 Women's Bkfst Group Inn at the Quay
10 Gratitude- Pastoral Relations 10:00 Worship SAN 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	11 7:30 Fireside PLY	12 LINK 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 5:30 Parish Life	13 10:30 Staff PLY 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 PCUsers Brd NFL	14 VBS 5-9 10:00 Prayer Shawl NFL 7:00 Membership CL2 7:30 Fireside PLY	15 VBS all day	16
17 Gratitude- Parish Life 10:00 Worship SAN 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	18 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	19 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 6:30 PC Users BRD	20 10:30 Staff PLY 4:00 WW BRD	21 7:00 Eve. Book Club NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	22	23
24 Outdoor Service Blessing of Animals 10:00 Worship SAN 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	25 7:30 Fireside PLY	26 LINK 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY	27 10:30 Staff PLY 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 P&F PLY	28 7:00 Council CL2 7:30 Fireside PLY	29	30
31 Gratitude- Diaconate and Prayer Shawl 10:00 Worship SAN 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY						