

The Link

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
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Volume 36 No. 16

God is Still Speaking,

August 26, 2014

Special Back to School Book Drive

Dear Church Family,

As the new school year begins, we have a unique opportunity to help 10th graders at Hockinson High School. By helping them, we will also be helping their new English teacher, Greg Saum! This coming year Greg will be teaching English for the first time. Part of Greg's job will be to challenge and inspire his students with the goal of every student reading at least 40 books over the course of the year. An invaluable resource for teachers in motivating their students to achieve such a goal is a small classroom library of books from which students can borrow. Schools do not provide books for such libraries. Teachers must provide the books themselves. As a church, we can embody the spirit of loving charity and service for our neighbors by stocking Greg's shelves with books that will excite his students and encourage them to read. When you come to worship on September 7th, you are invited to donate one or more books by the authors listed below. If you are unable to attend worship with us on September 7th, you can drop off your donation in the main office before the 7th. Call first to make sure someone is in the office. Your generous support of Greg's students will be greatly appreciated!

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

Sherman Alexie
Isaac Asimov
Natalie Babbitt
Ray Bradbury
Stephen Chbosky
Suzanne Collins (Hunger Games trilogy)
Joseph Conrad
Charles Dickens
F. Scott Fitzgerald
William Goldman
John Green
Nathaniel Hawthorne
Joseph Heller
Frank Herbert
Ernest Hemingway
S.E. Hinton
C.S. Lewis

Jack London
Lois Lowry
Herman Melville
John Kennett
George Orwell
Ayn Rand
Veronica Roth
J. K. Rowling
J.D. Salinger
Mary Shelley
John Steinbeck
J.R.R. Tolkien
Mark Twain
Kurt Vonnegut
H.G. Wells
Walt Whitman
Markus Zuzack

WORSHIP IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

August 31, 2014

Summer of Gratitude: Deacons and Prayer Shawl Group

10 a.m. Worship Service. Pulpit Guest, preaching.
Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Laurie and Gary Parafinczuk
Worship Leader: Leslie Chapman
Ushers: John Hannon and John Bradley

SEPTEMBER

September 7, 2014 Communion

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

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Connie Oppel and Ruth Hammer
Worship Leader: Sue Benson
Ushers: Trent Corey and Rory Martindale
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

September 14, 2014 CE Kick-off Sunday

10 AM Worship Service, Kristina Martin, preaching.
Infant and Toddler Care available. Kick-off
Luncheon following worship.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters:
Worship Leader: Jean Beary Stolle
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

September 21, 2014

10 AM 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:
Worship Leader: Laurie Parafinczuk
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone
Mike King

September 28, 2014

10 AM 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:
Worship Leader: Dwight Chapman
Ushers: 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
Gloria Ross

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

September 7, 2014
September 9, 2014

Birthdays in September

September 5	Woody Woodworth
September 8	Dwight Chapman
September 8	Clarice Fossen
September 9	Pat Degerstedt
September 13	Becky Andrews
September 14	Leslie Wu
September 16	Darrell Brandenburg
September 16	John Priel
September 17	Ruth Hammer
September 17	Helen Shell
September 18	Molly Wilson
September 20	Carter Ralph
September 26	Joan Barber
September 29	Diane Ullom
September 29	Sabrina Mauke-Wiswall





Saturday, September 13th
Esther Short Park
9 am to 5 pm ~ free!

SAVE THE DATE! Activities include music, poetry, vendors, and children's activities. Food of all kinds is available next door at the Farmer's Market.

Our church is again sponsoring a table and we would love to have your help in telling the community about how we are involved in peace, justice, and trying to make our world a better place. Join us in the park for a fun day!

To volunteer for our table, call Karen at 991-5774 or email at: lk.kulm@gmail.com. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex.

New Spanish Language Children's Choir

Our church is excited to announce a new Spanish language children's choir that will begin practice on September 21st. The choir will be led by church member Dr. Kit Stowell. Kit has the perfect background and ability for this choir. In terms of Spanish, Kit has taught Spanish and Latin American Studies as a college professor.

The choir will practice before Sunday worship from 9:30 to 9:50 on Sundays starting September 21st. Practices will go until a Christmas performance in worship on December 21st. If you have a child that you would like to have join the choir, let us know by calling (360)693-1476.

KICK-OFF is September 14th!

All children of the church (ages preschool thru high school) are invited to take part in the Kick-off Service on September 14th. If your child would like to participate, please let Kristina know so she can begin assigning roles (worship leader, for example). ALSO, please plan on staying after church for the CE ministry's annual Kick-Off lunch of shredded meat sandwiches (pulled pork and shredded chicken), cole slaw, and chips. This year you can also see the many things CE does throughout the year and have an opportunity to give CE feedback on those activities. If you'd like to donate any lunch items or cookies, please let Kristina know. You may email her at kristina@vanucc.org or phone her at (360) 635-1075.

Choir Returns September 7th

To prepare for our first Sunday back, singing in the service, the choir will begin rehearsing Wednesday, **September 3rd at 7 p.m.** If you are a singer, you won't want to miss this first rehearsal. You will not only have new music to learn but you will hear a recording of our Christmas cantata, "I Hear the Prophet Callin". We will be performing it, on December 14th, during the worship service. So, I'll see you in a week. Virginia

Prophetic Action Book Groups Announced

We have 3 different books related to our Prophetic Action offered as day and evening book groups. The books are: **Unbowed: A Memoir** by Wangari Maathai Thursdays at 7 PM. **Reason for Hope: A Spiritual Journey** by Jane Goodall and Philip Berman Thursdays at 1:30 PM. **Rachel Carson and Her Sisters: Extraordinary Women Who Have Shaped America's Environment** by Robert Musil. All books are available at the public library, or from Powell's or Amazon. Sign-up sheets for the book groups are in the narthex. Groups will begin in late September.



Mission & Outreach Special Offering for September is Jubilee USA

Jubilee USA Network is an alliance of churches, labor, environmental, and community organizations. In the late 1990s, people across the map joined together to form the global Jubilee movement to call for debt cancellation for impoverished countries and for just economic policies. From this, Jubilee USA was born. Since then, we have won critical global financial reforms and more than \$130 billion in debt relief for the world's poorest people.

Our church voted to become a Jubilee Congregation several years ago. As part of our commitment, we take an annual offering, educate ourselves on debt issues, and conduct action campaigns.

After church on September 14th, we will connect with "neighbors far" by participating in a Jubilee global petition drive calling on lenders to halt debt payments from the Philippines, which is paying billions more in debt than it is receiving in aid in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan. Aid should be given in the form of grants – not loans – to avoid placing an additional debt burden on future generations of Filipinos.

To support Jubilee USA financially, make your check out to our church and note "Jubilee" in the memo line.

More information about the critically important work of Jubilee Network can be found here:
<http://www.jubileeusa.org/home.html>

Last "Summer of Gratitude" Sunday , August 31

This coming Sunday, we will be recognizing The **Diaconate** and our **Prayer Shawl Ministries**.

Please join us in celebrating these two vital ministries in our church.

This Sunday: Stories of Call

For the sermon this Labor Day Weekend, four of our members will be reflecting on their sense of call within their professional and volunteer work. Notably, the Latin root of the word "vocation" is *vocare* which means "to call." Our speakers will be Trent Corey, Kimberly Lewis, Greg Saumblystone, and Dr. Kit Stowell. The title of their sermon will be "Here I Am."

A Call to Veterans: Help Send Josiah to Boot camp

If you are a veteran, help us send Josiah to boot camp. Josiah's last Sunday with us will be September 14th. On that Sunday, the veterans of our church will help compose a blessing for Josiah. Please send a one sentence contribution to the blessing to Pastor Brooks by emailing him or placing it in his mailbox at church. Begin your sentence contribution with the phrase, "May you..." For example, "May you serve your country with pride, dignity, and the highest of ideals." The deadline for submissions is September 12th. The blessing will be read during the children's sermon on September 14th.

SAVE THE DATE: September 26 -28

Central Pacific Conference UCC Annual Meeting in Pendleton, Oregon

The theme for the CPC Annual Meeting is "**Time to Lead: Call to Action on the Climate Crisis.**" How are we being called to bring forth quantum change in our world and our communities?

One of the resolutions that will be submitted for the assembly to vote on is: "Opposing the Construction of Coal, Oil and Natural Gas Export Terminals and Transport of Coal, Oil and Natural Gas through the Pacific Northwest".

We will have a keynote speaker, workshops, music, fun, reconnecting with friends from across the conference and meeting new friends. To keep up to date visit our Face Book page at: <https://www.facebook.com/CPCUCCAnnualMeeting> You can also sign up to volunteer for the event from the Face Book page or speak to Karen Kulm 360-991-5774.

