

# *The Link*

First Congregational  
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*God is Still Speaking,*

August 12 , 2014

## **The Two Sides of Love**

Dear Church Family,

The famous Scottish preacher James Stewart once wrote that love would not be so difficult if one knew in advance that the other would reciprocate and act in the same way. Herein lies the rub! There is a risk in being the first to take the leap. Jesus, however, never waited to be sure of the response. He jumped right in. He took the plunge, regardless of the outcome or price.

If we are honest, we consider the risks inherent to love and realize that Christianity is a religion of vulnerability. Nevertheless, as with many parts of life, there are two sides to this denarius. With risk, there is vulnerability, but there is also adventure. In rising to the challenge of this adventure, we gain a zest for life, a passion for faith made real, and an impulse for the noble amid the ordinary. As Stewart declared, "Love's difficulty is love's glory."

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

## WORSHIP IN AUGUST

## REMEMBERING OUR FAMILY IN PRAYER

### 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. Pulpit Guest, preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

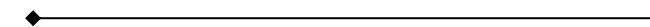
#### **Worship Volunteers:**

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



## Service Scheduled for Peggy Hilliard

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



## Many, Many Thanks

A great big THANK YOU to members of the choir and others of this wonderful community of faith who have helped us with meals, moving, support and most especially your prayers. The move is complete, but much to do in our new place. Gloria is still in the Mt. Tabor Marquis (doing better) and should be coming home shortly. You are super! New address – 18204 SE 18<sup>th</sup> St., Vancouver, WA 98683 – 306-984-5131 Thanks - Charlie, Gloria, Tammy and grandkids.

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  
Virginia Ebersole



## UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR “*The Link*”

Link Deadline  
Link Mailed

August 24, 2014  
August 26, 2014

Link Deadline  
Link Mailed

September 7, 2014  
September 9, 2014



## 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.



## 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.



## 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?](#)

## VBS 2014 - A Big Success

Many, many thank yous to the following people for helping make VBS a great success this year: Claudia Martin, Kristin Martindale, Gina Marquardt, Cindy Schnabel, and Angie Wason Hill. Each of you are wonderful gifts to both myself and the church. Thank you! ~Kristina Martin



## 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**

## Website Redesign Meeting

If you have creative, graphic, or web design experience we need your help to guide the redesign of our website. We will be having a meeting after church on Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup> in Classroom #2. Please join us and bring some of your favorite website URLs and design ideas to share. Thank you in advance for helping us improve this important communication tool. For more information contact the Communications Committee or Michael King at [mike@mkingdesign.com](mailto:mike@mkingdesign.com).

## BIBLE ADVENTURES RESUMES 9/21

Bible Adventures will resume on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Any adults interested in teaching (all grade levels are needed), please let Kristina Martin know.

## 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](mailto:kristina@vanucc.org) or phone her at (360) 635-1075.



**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.



**Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**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](mailto:lk.kulm@gmail.com). A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex later this month.

**2014 PROPHETIC ACTION**  
**FALL BOOK GROUPS –**  
**SIGN UP NOW!**

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 Tuesdays at 7 PM. 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.

## **Mark Your Calendars for:**

### **Central Pacific Conference Annual Women's Retreat Camp Adams, Molalla, Oregon October 3-5, 2014**

This year's Women's Camp will focus on how to "Do Justice" in our world. So, plan to learn some new ways of doing justice in our everyday lives and what God has to say to us about it.

Join us at Camp Adams to worship, discuss, meditate, sing, and play together. It's our chance to greet old and new friends, walk in the woods, and share our joys or sorrows as we build community among our Central Pacific Conference women.

Resource leader for the weekend will be *Patricia Rumer*. Patricia is a graduate of Occidental College with a Master's degree in political science. In addition, she has a PhD from Portland State University in urban studies and public policy. She has traveled extensively in the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. In 1969, she began working in Guatemala as a community development volunteer with the American Friends Service Committee in the rural highlands area.

Registration is due September 29<sup>th</sup>. The total retreat fee is \$105.00 with a \$65.00 non-refundable, but transferable deposit.

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## **Summer of Gratitude**

In keeping with the theme of "Gratitude" for the summer, we should acknowledge the members of our church family who have been sharing the bounty of their flower gardens to grace our altar particularly **Harriet Anani** who must have one of the most glorious gardens in the county.

Thank-you to everyone who has placed flowers on the altar dedicated to a loved one, in celebration of a special occasion, or just because. You make our Sunday worship even more meaningful.

## **OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND ANIMAL BLESSING**

On Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, we will have a special outdoor worship service on the labyrinth. Come and sing camp song favorites as we enjoy the beautiful outdoor setting! Following the worship service, we will have a blessing of the animals, so make sure you bring your doggies, kitties, and hamsters and lizards, for that matter, all pets are welcome, as we lift up the love, affection, and joy that our animals bring into our lives. In order to help keep the peace, let's keep our dogs on leash.

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## **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, and 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 [orcarolejeffers@gmail.com](mailto:orcarolejeffers@gmail.com)