

# *The Link*

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
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Volume 36 No. 18

*God is Still Speaking,*

September 26, 2014

## **Church to Host First UCC Social Justice Revival!**

Brothers and sisters! A revival is coming to our church! If you've been looking for a spark to ignite your life or if you've been looking for an opportunity to share your fire with someone else, this is your chance! A few months ago my own flame of excitement was lit when I received a phone call from the Rev. Linda Jaramillo. Many of you know her as a former intern at our church, and many of you also know that she is now the Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries for our denomination. When Linda called, she wanted to know if our church would host the first UCC social justice revival ever. UCC churches from throughout the UCC would be invited to attend a revival at our church on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. To host this denominational event is a tremendous honor, and while a lot of factors led to our being asked to serve as hosts, one of the factors is our own church's reputation for social justice advocacy.

The theme of the revival is "Stoking the Fires of Justice: A Revival for Social Change." The revival will provide a time of inspiring worship, preaching, and training. All of it designed to fan the flames of justice in the Northwest. Our guest preacher for the day will be the Rev. Thea Mateu, who is on the Board of Directors for the UCC and is the Young Adult Ministry Coordinator for the UCC's Southern California-Nevada Conference. Music for the revival will feature the Highland Christian Center Choir, the Ainsworth UCC Choir, and our very own choir!

The hospitality of our members will be a big part of this event's success. We have already formed a task force to organize ourselves for this purpose. Because people will be traveling from places throughout the Northwest, one immediate need is to find members who would be willing to host an out of town guest in their home. If you can help in this regard, please be in touch with Ellie Bradley at (360) 944-7838 or [ellie28 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:ellie28@gmail.com). Other volunteer opportunities include: preparing our building and grounds, food preparation, event hospitality and registration table, and clean up after the event. Please contact Karen Kulm at 360-991-5774 or [lk.kulm @gmail.com](mailto:lk.kulm@gmail.com) with questions or to volunteer.

Our members are also invited to attend the revival! You can learn more about the revival and register at: [www.ucc.org/justice/events/stoking-the-fires-of-justice.html](http://www.ucc.org/justice/events/stoking-the-fires-of-justice.html).

Catch the fire and pass it on!

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

## WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

### September 28, 2014

10 AM Worship Service. Rev. Tom Yates, 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: Jim and Beverly Crossman  
Worship Leader: Dwight Chapman  
Ushers: David Macko and David Harrington

## OCTOBER

### October 5, 2014

10 a.m. 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: Laura Parafinczuk  
Ushers: Trent Corey, Rory Martindale  
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

### October 12, 2014

10 a.m. 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 11:15 a.m.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

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

### October 19, 2014

10 a.m. Worship Service. Pulpit Guest . Infant and  
Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian  
Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters:  
Worship Leader: Dwight Chapman  
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone  
Mike King

### October 26, 2014 All Saints Sunday

10 a.m. 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 11:15 a.m.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters:  
Worship Leader: Harriet Anani  
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

## Welcome Penelope Jane

A new member has been added to the **Slocum**  
tribe: Little Penelope Jane Robinson has joined  
us! Her father is Owen Robinson and mother,  
Sarah McKay Robinson. Owen is the son of  
Julie Slocum Robinson.

## UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline:

Link Mailed:

October 12, 2014

October 14, 2014

Link Deadline

Link Mailed:

October 26, 2014

October 28, 2014

## Birthdays in October

October 02  
October 02  
October 02  
October 07  
October 11  
October 12  
October 16  
October 17  
October 17  
October 18  
October 25  
October 26  
October 27  
October 30

Danalyn Berndt  
David Slocum  
Gina Marquardt  
Gloria Ross  
Virginia Ebersole  
Amelia Martin  
Phyllis Corbin  
Kristina Martin  
Dashel Wilson  
John Greenauer  
Jeff Osborne  
David Everist  
Fred Wilson  
Annalin King



## Mission & Outreach Special Offering for October is UCC Neighbors in Need

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive through the month of October, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S. To support NIN, write your check out to the church and include "NIN" in the memo line. Thank you!

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**Mary Jo Ebel Circle**  
– **October 15, 2014, 10:30 a.m.,**  
at

Judy Walter's,  
4700 NE 25<sup>th</sup> Ct.  
Vancouver WA 98660  
360-693-0393

The program will be about traveling and trips.  
Co-hosted by Judy and Virginia Ebersole. Parking  
is limited, car-pool if you can.

## Dates to Get on Your Calendar

As we get settled back into our fall routines, please add the following dates to your calendars:

9/26-9/28: Annual Meeting of the Central  
Pacific Conference, Pendleton, Oregon

11/30: Advent Festival

12/14: Choir Cantata at Worship

12/21: Children's Christmas Program

12/28: Family Service and Brunch in Bradford

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## Vacation Coming for Kathy

I am reprinting this since I had **no response** from the last Link:

I will be out of the office on **vacation** (!!!)  
September 29<sup>th</sup> through October 10<sup>th</sup>.

If anyone has some free time to come into the office and help during that period, it would be deeply appreciated. The office hours are:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday:

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Wednesday:

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Friday:

9:00 AM – Noon

Please let me know if you are able to help so I can arrange access to the building. You don't have to sign up for the whole day, anything will help.

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## 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., Saturday, October 11th, at the Red Lion Inn at the Quay.

## All Saints Day and News from the Memorials Committee

We continue to work with family members to make the best possible use of funds that have been donated in memory of a loved one. Recently several funds were used to help pay for the new organ. Other funds have been designated to go to building maintenance, labyrinth maintenance, sound system, books and there are a few funds that we are still working with the families on.

We would also like to remind you that all tangible memorial donations must be approved through the church's administrative committees. The Pastor and the Memorials Committee are receptive to ideas and will facilitate the approval process.

On November 2, 2014, we will hold the All Saint's Day service remembering members and loved ones that have passed since the last All Saint's Day service. This is a very meaningful service and lighting candles in memory of our loved ones is impressive. We will be remembering Lynn Degerstadt, John Dugger, Carolyn Hatfield, Kathy New, Peggy Hilliard and Jan Miller. **If you know someone that should be remembered in the candle-lighting ceremony that has passed the last year, please let the Memorials Committee know and that person will be recognized at the service.**

We welcome input and questions from you regarding the work of our committee.

The Memorials Committee,  
Ruth Hammer Judy Walter  
Shirl Zent Virginia Ebersole  
Carol Pendergraft

## New Intergenerational Spanish Language Choir

Our church is excited to announce a new Spanish language choir. The choir began rehearsals last Sunday, will not be meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>, but will resume October 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 each week before Sunday worship from 9:30 to 9:50. Practices will go until a Christmas performance in worship on December 21st. If you or your child would like to join, let us know by calling (360)693-1476.

## Update from the Financial Secretary

Submitted by Jeff Osborne

Second quarter contribution statements were distributed after church services in August; the remaining statements were mailed the following week. Please review your statement against your own records and contact me by email at [jeffo@vanucc.org](mailto:jeffo@vanucc.org) or call/text me at 360.904.5910 if you have any concerns.

This is also a good time to remind everyone about bringing pledges to the annual budget and the capital campaign up to date and to make a contribution to cover the annual per capita expense of \$13 per member.

If you write checks to the church, you can combine contributions to several accounts (annual budget, capital campaign, etc.) on a single check as long as you use the memo line to indicate how much goes to each account. This will save you some time and checks and does not make the accounting any harder at my end.

## Four C's of Community Building

There are lots of ways to build community, and we will be highlighting four of them in the month of October:

**Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>: Communion!** On **World Communion Sunday**, you are invited to bring a bread for communion that represents a particular world culture. If you are interested in contributing bread, please contact Pastor Brooks or sign up on the sheet on the welcome table.

**Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>: Coffee Cake!** During our coffee hour, we are going to have a coffee cake extravaganza. Bring your favorite coffeecake to share with you church family after worship. Nothing brings people together like food!

**Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>: Crafts!** After worship, we will have an intergenerational craft project in Bradford Hall. All are invited to participate in creating a giant tree using the impressions of real leaves and a scripture verse that celebrates being "rooted in love."

**Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>: Chili!** After worship, we will be having our first ever Chili Cook Off! Stay tuned for more details. This event will help introduce our Fall stewardship theme as we *Get Fired Up!*

## October 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>Kathy out of office through 10-10</i>		<b>1</b> 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 Choir SAN	<b>2</b> 4:00 Pantry 6:00 Planned Pthd NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5 World Communion Sunday and Quest Kick-off</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 11:15 MAZI TRI 11&1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>6</b> 6:00 VANUSA BRD 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>7</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 10:30 Staff PLY 12:00 Martha's Pantry 5:30 Conservation PLY 6:30 Sierra Board PLY	<b>8</b> 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 Coal Free PLY 7:00 PC Board NFL 7:00 Choir SAN	<b>9</b> 10:00 Prayer Shawl NFL 4:00 Pantry 7:00 Membership CL2 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:30 Women's Bkfst Group Quay
<b>12 Coffee Cake Extravaganza</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11&1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>13</b> 6:00 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>14 LINK</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 10:45 Staff PLY 12:00 Martha's Pantry 5:30 Parish Life NFL	<b>15</b> 10:30 Ebel Cir 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 M&O CL2 6:30 Brady Group PLY 7:00 Choir SAN	<b>16</b> 4:00 Pantry 7:00 Book Club NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 1-5 Young Performers CCMITA SAN
<b>19 Crafts</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11:15 MAZI TRI 11:00 Crafts BRD 11&1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>20</b> 6:00 VANUSA BRD 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>21</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 10:45 Staff PLY 12:00 Martha's Pantry 6:30 PCUsers BRD 7:00 Diaconate NFL	<b>22</b> 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 P&F PLY 7:00 Choir SAN	<b>23</b> 1:00 Offsite Art Group 4:00 Pantry 7:00 Council CL2 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26 Stewardship and Chili Cook-Off</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11&1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>27</b> 6:00 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>28 LINK</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 10:45 Staff PLY 12:00 Martha's Pantry 6:00 Communications	<b>29</b> 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 Choir SAN	<b>30</b> 4:00 Pantry 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>31</b>	

## Summer Survey Results!

Many thanks to the fifty of you who took the time to fill out and submit our end of the summer worship survey. Here are the results question by question:

- 53% of respondents indicated that they wanted a song leader to guide us from the microphone during summer worship, while 22% said we should do this occasionally in the summer and 25% said we should not do this at all.
- 40% of respondents indicated that they did not prefer large print bulletins, while 33% said they preferred them permanently and 27% said they preferred them occasionally.
- 54% of respondents indicated that they preferred occasionally beginning our worship service with a focus on gratitude, while 44% said they prefer this.
- 68% of respondents indicated that they preferred the permanent inclusion of a silent meditation near the end of worship, while 26% said they occasionally preferred it and 6% did not prefer it.

These results have led our Parish Life Committee to make the following determinations: In the three instances where a clear majority of at least 50 percent of respondents favored a particular direction, we will seek to follow the wishes of the majority in future worship services. With regard to large print bulletins, there was not a clear majority and those who preferred either the occasional use of large print bulletins or the permanent use of such bulletins had a combined total that was notably greater than those who did not prefer such bulletins. As a result, Parish Life approved of using large print color bulletins for no more than 10 Sundays a year. These Sundays would be special occasions such as Palm Sunday, Easter, Pentecost, Advent, Christmas Eve, and Kick Off Sunday.