

# *The Link*

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
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*God is Still Speaking,*

October 14 , 2014

## **A Taste of Heaven**

Dear Church Family,

My taste buds received a literal taste of heaven today as I sampled one delicious chili after another. As your pastor, I have additionally received word from on high that we *must* expand this ministry. Yes, divine inspiration whispered into my ear, and it said, "Brooks, your church needs more food competitions, and you *must* serve as the judge." We all have a cross to bear, and after much prayer, I am willing to accept this demanding role and responsibility. It is the least I can do.

For those of you who were unable to attend, I am thrilled to announce our award winners. For the Golden Spoon Award, the judges selected the delicious and flavorful chili made by Alice Rowe. For the People's Choice Award, the members of our church selected the savory and scrumptious chili made by Gertie Hettman. While these two chilies won awards, I believe every chili pleased the palate and received votes. It was a field packed with contenders. I am still amazed by how many outstanding chilies we had in the white bean and chicken category.

As our chili cook-off demonstrated, we are a congregation full of blessings. We may come in different flavors. Some of us may be spicy and others mild, but we are all to be appreciated and celebrated for what we bring to the table. Our chili cook-off gave a fitting start to our annual period of stewardship discernment. In the weeks ahead, may we think about the many blessings of our church and how we can continue to support its ministries.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

PS: We will be submitting our stewardship pledge cards in worship on November 16<sup>th</sup>. If you have not received your pledge card yet, it should be arriving in the mail shortly.

## WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

### **November 2, 2014 Remembering Our Saints And Communion**

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. in the Triangle Room  
**New Member orientation in Nettie Fries Lounge following worship**

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Joy Gerlitz and Sandy Mathis  
Worship Leader: Susan Ross  
Ushers: Trent Corey, Rory Martindale  
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

### **November 9, 2014**

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

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

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

### **November 16, 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. in the Triangle Room

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

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

### **November 23, 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.  
**Congregational Meeting following worship.**

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters:  
Worship Leader: Sue Benson  
Ushers: David Harrington and David Macko

### **November 30, 2014 First Sunday of Advent**

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:  
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  
Agnes Alexander  
Nancy Phelps  
Gloria Ross

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### Thank You

We want to thank the church for all the prayers and concern for Jack following his surgery. The prayer shawl is nice, warm and cuddly.  
Again, Thank You  
Jack and Marj English

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### UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline  
Link Mailed

November 23, 2014  
November 25, 2014

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### Wholistic Peace Institute Educating for Peace: Dinner and Cultural Arts Gala November 20, 2014 Multnomah Athletic Club

Come join us in celebrating 14 years of the Wholistic Peace Institute and honoring it's co-founders **Rabbi Joshua Stampfer** and **Gary Alan Spanovich**. For more information go to: [www.wholisticpeaceinstitute.com](http://www.wholisticpeaceinstitute.com).

## Honoring our Saints All Saints Service November 2, 2014

On November 2, 2014, our worship service will include a special All Saint's Day commemoration to honor members and loved ones who died since our All Saint's Day service last year. We will be remembering Lynn Degerstedt, John Dugger, Carolyn Hatfield, Kathleen New, Peggy Hilliard, Brett Bowyer, and Jan Miller. Those whose friends or loved ones have died will also be invited to light a candle in remembrance. This is a service filled with heartfelt meaning.

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## Mary Jo Ebel Circle

Contributed by Charlotte Warren

On November 19 we will meet in the church parking lot at 10:00 am and carpool to the Open House Ministries for a guided tour of their facilities.

Dawn Barton, who spoke at our circle meeting last March, will be our tour guide. When I talked with her, she told me they are often short of toilet tissue and the funds to purchase it. So, let's each arrive there with a package of your choice of brand and size. After the tour, Dawn will take us to their coffee shop for dessert and beverage. If you have questions, please call Charlotte Warren, 576-8935 or Beverly Crossman, 694-3837. Hope to see many of you there.

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## Choir's Christmas Cantata

The choir is venturing forth in a folk style this Christmas Season. On December 14th, during the worship service, the choir will present the Christmas story in a fresh, new way. *'I Hear the Prophet Callin'* by Pepper Choplin is a gathering together of musical flavors: Appalachian, Irish, Latin, Cajun and Early American. I quote the composer: "It seems a natural fit to pair this authentic and sometimes earthy music with the story of the Gospel. Be sure to mark your calendar for Dec. 14th! You won't be sorry!"



## Stoking the Fires of Justice: A Revival for Social Change

November 8, 2014 | Vancouver, WA

Our denomination's first social justice revival will be here at our church Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM. To attend, please register NOW to get the early-bird discount.

<http://www.ucc.org/justice/events/stoking-the-fires-of-justice.html>

Additionally, we have many opportunities for you to help our church show an extravagant welcome to the attendees. To help with set-up, hospitality, kitchen or clean-up, please contact Karen Kulm at [k.kulm@gmail.com](mailto:k.kulm@gmail.com) or 360-991-5774. To help with home-stays for out of town guests, contact Ellie Bradley at 360-944-7838 or [ellie28@gmail.com](mailto:ellie28@gmail.com).



The Mission and Outreach Ministry team is again offering you an opportunity to provide Thanksgiving baskets for members of our church community. A table will be set up with [sign up lists](#) for items for each of the baskets beginning Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Non-perishable items can be dropped off any time. Gift cards should be given to Karen Kulm, or given to Kathy during office hours. **All items are due on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.** The baskets will be prepared & delivered to the recipients on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you for your generous support of our community members.

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## Date Change for Advent Festival

The Advent Festival for this year has been changed to **December 7**. Please mark your calendars.

## Birthdays in November

November 4	Daryl DeSilva
November 9	Nancy Spanovich
November 15	Farley Maxwell
November 16	Joanie Nelson
November 17	Kelsey Ramberg
November 18	Opal Chapman
November 20	Shirley Brandenburg
November 27	Charlotte Warren
November 29	David Harrington
November 30	Patrick Ramberg



## This Sunday: Our Christian Life Journey

This Sunday in worship we will reflect upon our Christian life journey through three sacred rituals of our church: baptism, communion, and the lighting of candles in memory of those who have died. Baptism represents the beginning of Christian journey, and this Sunday we will have the opportunity to celebrate the baptism of Jack Corey. This Sunday we will also mark the 20th year in which our church has had a special service to honor loved ones who have died.



## “Golden Spoon” Winning Chili

Congratulations to **Alice Rowe** and her winning chili recipe. Now you can make it too:

- 2 lbs. ground beef
- 2 - 15 oz. cans tomato sauce
- 1 – 15 oz. can Kroeger diced tomatoes with jalapeño
- 1 – 15 oz. can cannellini beans- drained and rinsed
- 1 - 15 oz. can kidney beans
- 1 cup frozen corn
- 1 cup finely chopped onion
- 2 T chilipowder
- 1 t black pepper
- 1 t salt
- ½ t marjoram

Place ground beef and onions in a 12” skillet and add 1 cup water. Saute until onions are transparent and beef is completely brown, stirring often to break up the beef. Add tomato sauce and diced tomatoes with 1 can of water. Add spices, stir well and simmer for 20 min. before serving.

**ENJOY!!**



## Intergenerational Spanish Language Choir

Our new Spanish language choir takes people of all ages. We’ve got toddlers, kids, young adults, and young-at-heart adults. You can still join! The choir is led by Dr. Kit Stowell. It practices before worship from 9:30 to 9:50 am in the corner classroom on the second floor.



## Universal Background Checks Help Save Lives

Join us for phone-banking for Yes on I-594 every Monday until the election 5:30 – 8:15 PM in classroom 2. Training provided. You must bring a laptop and your cell phone. RSVP to Karen Kulm [lk.kulm@gmail.com](mailto:lk.kulm@gmail.com) or 360-991-5774.

November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2 All Saints, Baptism</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 11:20 Bible Adv CL 11:15 MAZI TRI 11:15 New Members NFL 11&1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>3</b> 5:00 Phone Bank CL2 6:00 VANUSA BRD 6:00 CE 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>4</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>5</b> 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 Choir SAN	<b>6 UCC Set Up for Revival</b> 4:00 Pantry 6:00 Planned Pthd NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>7 UCC 'Stoking the Fire' Revival</b> 9:30 Women's Bkfst Group Quay	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11:00 Mathis Book Group NFL 11&1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>10</b> 6:00 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>11 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>12</b> 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 Coal Free PLY 7:00 PC Board NFL 7:00 Choir SAN	<b>13</b> 10:00 Prayer Shawl NFL 4:00 Pantry PLY 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 8:30 CCMTA Festival SAN 7:00 Fadin' by Nine SAN
<b>16 Stewardship</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11:15 MAZI TRI 1:00 CCMTA SAN 4:00 Day of Rem. SAN 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>17</b> 6:00 VANUSA BRD 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>18</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 10:45 Staff PLY 12:00 Martha's Pantry 5:00 Phone Bank CL2 6:30 PCUsers BRD 7:00 Diaconate NFL	<b>19</b> 9:00 Mediation CL2 10:30 Ebel Cir offsite 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 M&O CL2 6:30 Brady Group PLY 7:00 Choir SAN	<b>20</b> 10:00 Memorials PLY 4:00 Pantry 7:00 Book Club NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23 Stewardship</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11:00 Cong. Mtg SAN 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>24</b> 6:00 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>25 LINK</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 10:45 Staff PLY 12:00 Martha's Pantry 7:00 Communications SAN 7:00 Choir SAN	<b>26</b> 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 P&F PLY 7:00 Choir SAN	<b>27 OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING</b> 4:00 Pantry 7:00 Council CL2	<b>27 OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30 1st Sunday of Advent</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 11:20 Bible Adv CL 11&1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY						