

The Link

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
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Volume 36 No. 20

God is Still Speaking,

October 14, 2014

Get Fired Up!

Dear Church Family,

The delight of savoring a single spoonful of chili is that it stimulates an array of taste bud excitement. One spoonful of chili can contain a plethora of flavors that are at once spicy and sweet, soothing and stimulating. While no analogy is perfect, we might think of our church as the spiritual equivalent of a zesty, delicious chili. There is so much in the life of our church that one can savor, appreciate, and celebrate. Like good comfort food, our church can warm the soul amid a bleak winter. Yet, like flavorful southwestern cuisine, our church can also awaken and arouse the senses. It can propel us back into the world with renewed energy and power.

As our church embarks upon our annual period of stewardship discernment, we invite you to savor the many flavors and textures that make us who we are. Think of our ministries and the people who make these ministries happen. Think of how these ministries and persons embody a spirit of love. Think of how your own time, talent, and money might support and further the actualization of this love in the year to come.

It has been said that "love in its essence is spiritual fire." We hope that this period of discernment will fan the flames of your own fire. To help spark the excitement, we will kick off our time of spiritual discernment with a Chili Cook Off after worship in Bradford Hall on Sunday, October 26th. Four judges will award a special prize for the Best Darn Chili This Side of the Mississippi. Members will also taste the offerings and cast votes for the People's Choice Award. There will additionally be enough chili and cornbread for a hearty meal. To bring chili or cornbread, sign up in the narthex on Sunday or call the church office.

At the Cook Off, you will receive a packet with further information and details about this year's stewardship pledge process. Our goal is to make this year's discernment period both fun and reflective as we engage in the important work of collectively tending to our life together as a community of faith.

We look forward to seeing you at the Chili Cook Off! Get fired up!

Sincerely,

Ken Rowe, Moderator

Rev. Brooks Berndt, Pastor

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

October 19, 2014 Crafts

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

Recital by Christopher Schindler 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

October 26, 2014 Chili Cook-off & Stewardship

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

Church Restructure

Contributed by Sandy Mathis

A proposal to change the governance structure of our church to better answer our individual and community spiritual call and better fulfill our mission will be presented to the Church Council in October. The proposal reduces the number of current Ministries and Committees from 12 to 3 and elected positions from 88 to 28. We will continue to rely on volunteers to accomplish the work we are called to do, but with less rigidity and formalization than typical of the current structure. Volunteers will be matched to short or long-term work that fits their availability and passion (their spiritual call). The proposed three ministries include: 1) finance and business aspects (Finance and Business); 2) worship, mission, outreach and education aspects (Worship and Witness); and 3) inner life aspects (Care and Hospitality). All are welcome to attend Council meetings, so attend the meeting on October 23rd to see the presentation. If approved by Council, the change will be presented to the Congregation for a vote on November 23rd. More information will be provided as we progress on this journey.

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
Agnes Alexander

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline

October 26, 2014

Link Mailed:

October 28, 2014



MAZI's Great Pumpkin Decorating Party!

All 1st Congregational youth in grades 6 -12 – please come to MAZI's Great Pumpkin

decorating party on October 19th. Bring a pumpkin to decorate and a snack to share. We'll have sub sandwiches and apple cider to drink. But the party will be more fun if you come!

Questions? Call Kristina at (360) 635-1075.



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 8th 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 lk.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.



Create and Share-Do

Crafters, carvers, painters, beaders, quilters; artists of all kinds (we are all artists!) Join us on the 4th Thursday of each month in the Plymouth Room from 1:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

We gather together to inspire, share skills, ideas, projects and to enjoy good company.

Questions? Call Marilyn Jones, 360-574-2653 or her cell at 360-601-6263

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
Shirl Zent

Judy Walter
Virginia Ebersole

Carol Pendergraft



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. Also, join us Saturday, Oct. 25th at 9:30 AM at the church for Yes on I-594 get-out-the-vote canvassing. RSVP to Karen Kulm lk.kulm@gmail.com or 360-991-5774 for any of these important events.

Woodcarvers and Wood-be Carvers Come Join the Fun

Contributed by Ed Frank

Our woodcarving group will begin the new season at 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., October 23rd in Classroom 2 on the upper level. At least two additional people have said they want to join in the fun and reward that comes from woodcarving and I am sure there are others, young and old, who will find much satisfaction in this hobby. I will be happy to share my 25 years of experience as needed. Santas, gnomes, birds, even old shoes come to life in your hands. It's an absorbing experience. The cost for a minimum number of quality carving tools is relatively small considering they serve you for a long time.

Please call me, Ed Frank, at 573-3848 in you are interested.

A Bluegrass Foot Stomper

At 7:30: pm on November 15th, a local bluegrass band called **Fadin' by 9** will be shaking our house with its foot stomping music. Donations for tickets will go to support our church. Get your tickets in the narthex after worship.

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 Hockak 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!

Intergenerational Craft After Worship Today

After worship this Sunday, we will be having an intergenerational craft project in Bradford Hall. We will be creating a giant tree by applying paint to actual leaves and then pressing them against the paper. The tree will help bring to life a scripture verse that celebrates being "rooted in love." The entire craft project is expected to take 30 to 40 minutes, so you can join us before heading out for lunch. (In a change of plans, no hammers will be required or used. All materials will be provided at no cost.)

Thinking About Becoming A Member?

If you have decided that we are the church family for you, you can attend this two-hour orientation class and light brunch after worship on Sunday, November 2nd. If you are interested in attending, let Pastor Brooks know as you leave the sanctuary today. Childcare provided upon request.

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.



Christopher Schindler Pianist

Our very own Dr. Christopher Schindler will be presenting a recital this Sunday, October 19th, 4:00 PM in the sanctuary.

The program will include:

Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue J.S. Bach
Sonata No. 21, Op. 53 "Waldstein" Beethoven
Four Ballades Chopin

Admission by free-will offering and/or
non-perishable food item

October 2014

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