

The Link

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
1220 NE 68th Street
Vancouver, WA 98665-0508
360.693.1476
Website: www.vancouverucc.org



Volume 36 No. 21

God is Still Speaking,

November 12, 2014

Our Community: Life-Nurturing and Faith-Sustaining

Dear Church Family,

On October 26th, we again witnessed the creation of a small island of gently flickering flames in front of our sanctuary as one member after another lit a candle in memory of a loved one who had died. For the 20th consecutive year, our church gave public expression to some of the deepest sentiments one can hold. Twenty years ago Connie Oppel had brought the idea of an All Saints candle lighting ceremony to the Rev. Farley Maxwell who in turn helped establish it as one of the most meaningful events in the life of our congregation every year.



The enduring traditions of our church have a power. They connect us to what matters most, to what resides at the core of our being. Often, they connect us to deep currents of love that we might have difficulty accessing if it were not for the caring and nurturing community around us.

When I baptized Jack Corey on that same Sunday, I recognized that it was through these traditions and our community that he would come to know the living expression of Christianity, the Body of Christ. This recognition made me realize all the more how sacred, how profound, how vital our life together is.

This upcoming Sunday we will be submitting our pledges in worship. Your contributions are part of what make our church the life-nurturing and faith-sustaining place that it is. I am deeply grateful to each of you for your support.



Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Brooks

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

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. Roger Fuchs preaching. Rev. Brooks Berndt will do the Children's Sermon. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters:
Worship Leader: TBA
Ushers: John Hannon and John Bradley

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.

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
Gloria Ross

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

<u>Link Deadline</u>	November 23, 2014
<u>Link Mailed</u>	November 25, 2014

Changes for Your Directory

Agnes Alexander

Nicole's Care Home
4808 NE 20th Ave
Vancouver, WA 98963
360-597-4636

Ed and Claudia Martin

5309 NE 68th St.
Vancouver, WA 98661
Same phone numbers.

Celebration of Life Service Scheduled for Larry Mauke

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of longtime member, **Larry Mauke** on Thursday, November 6th. A Celebration of Life service will be held in the Sanctuary on Friday, November 14th at 1:00 p.m.

Church Restructure

Contributed by Sandy Mathis

A proposal to change the governance structure of our church was presented to the Church Council on October 23. More detailed information and more opportunities for suggestions were requested before a vote. Therefore, a summary of the proposal and a Question and Answer document is now available from the church office (electronic or hard copy) and will also be available after the worship service on November 9. In addition, there will be a meeting after the worship service on November 16 for everyone interested in providing suggestions or learning more. Suggestions may be incorporated into the proposal as appropriate. It is expected Council will vote on the proposal November 20 and, if approved, the Congregation will vote on it November 23. The proposal reduces the number of current Ministries and Committees from 12 to 3 and elected positions from 88 to 28. The Ministries are: 1) Finance and Business; 2) Worship and Witness; and 3) Care and Hospitality. If approved, a period to plan for the transition to the new Ministries will occur early in 2015 and the Ministries will take effect on June 1, 2015. Periodic evaluations (and adjustments as practical) are planned during the first year. You are invited to obtain a copy of the written material mentioned above and to attend the meeting after worship on November 16.

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!

Prayer Chain Information

Our church has a prayer chain that is maintained and operated by the Deacons. It is activated through Pastor Brooks when a serious illness, extreme stress, or a death occurs in the congregation. If you would like to be added to the prayer chain, please contact Pam Osborne, Deacon Chair, at 360-750-1353 or posborne430@gmail.com.

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.



The Mission and Outreach Ministry team is again offering you an opportunity to provide Thanksgiving baskets for members of our church community. A table has been set up with sign up lists for items for each of the baskets.

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 23rd**. The baskets will be prepared & delivered to the recipients on the 23rd. Thank you for your generous support of our community members.



Happy Thanksgiving

1st Congregational UCC kids in grades 6-12,
Please join us on the 16th for a Thanksgiving
“feast” – bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish
to church on the 16th and we’ll create a
Thanksgiving meal to eat together. It’ll be just
like the 27th but without any aunts pinching you!

Call Kristina (360) 635-1075

if you have questions.

**WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOU AND YOUR
PRESENCE!**



**Annual “Adopt A Family”
Gifts Due December 7th**

We have “adopted” a family through SHARE and will be collecting gifts as requested by the family. We will also give them grocery store gift cards so that they can have a nice holiday meal. **All gifts must be new and must be unwrapped.**

Look for the Giving Tree in the narthex with gift tags. Take a tag, purchase your gift or gift card, tape your tag to the **un-wrapped** gift and return it to church by the 7th. We will then take your gifts to SHARE where they will be wrapped and distributed to the family. December 7th is the absolute cut-off date per SHARE.

Questions? Contact Karen Kulm at 360-991-5774 or lk.kulm@gmail.com.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Our church is honored to be hosting the Transgender Day of Remembrance on Sunday, November 16th at 4 pm. This service brings expression to the memory of transgender persons who have been killed as a result of hate crimes. All are invited to come.



Our church just hosted a very successful social justice revival sponsored jointly by the UCC national Justice & Witness Ministries, the Central Pacific Conference UCC, and the Pacific Northwest Conference UCC.

Months of preparation, planning and hard work helped make it a success. I want to thank the team leads: Joan Blair, Laurie Parafinczuk, Ellie Bradley, Nancy Fite, Ed Martin, Marilyn Jones, Richard Trefren, and Pastor Brooks.

I also want to thank the many people who baked, served, cleaned, moved furniture, sang, shared their hospitality, or helped in any other way! I also thank all who participated in our oil terminal protest, especially our ambulance driver, Tom Renner.

I am also grateful to our community partners who came to help us commission our Emergency Response Unit. It truly did take a village and we have an amazing group of volunteers. ~
Karen Kulm



Advent Festival to be Held, Sunday, December 7

Please come to the Advent Festival and Hanging of the Greens on December 7th, **immediately following the service. The Advent Festival will be a potluck this year** and will incorporate some of our favorite "old" traditions while adding a "new" twist - decorating the narthex/sanctuary for Christmas by "hanging the greens." Potluck items may be left in Bradford prior to the service. We will gather in Bradford for lunch and then do some crafts, followed by hanging and decorating the greens. Everyone is welcome because **THE MORE THE MERRIER!** If you have questions, please contact Kristina Martin at (360) 635-1075. Let's have a very Merry Christmastime and start it by celebrating together at the Advent Festival.

Many, Many Thanks to MCC and Martha's Pantry

Over the past months, volunteers from MCC and Martha's Pantry have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Thanks to all those who religiously trim hedges, sweep walkways, pull weeds and diligently keep the entrance to the building looking clean and neat. There's even been window-washing involved.

Thank you for your care of our (collective) facility.

Ken Rowe, Moderator
John Greenauer, Property and Finance Chairman

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.

Berndt Family Poem

With joy more than duress,
Come May flowers and rain
Our nights will be sleepless
We'll change diapers again!

Missing Birthdays

If your birthday has been missing on the monthly lists, please let me know. The printed list comes from our data base and the many of you joined before the Membership Questionnaire was implemented. Just let me know the month and day, no year unless you want, I'll update the base and you'll be included. You can e-mail me at kathy@vanucc.org.

Thanks
Kathy

The Art of Janet Essley

This Sunday will be the last Sunday that you will be able to appreciate the art of Janet Essley that graces the wall of our Sanctuary.

If you would like to learn more about Janet and her work you may go to
www.gorge.net/essmoy

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