

# *The Link*

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
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Volume 36 No. 24

*God is Still Speaking,*

December 23 , 2014



***May Your Christmas Be Blessed***

***And may the New Year bring you Happiness and Peace.***

*Virginia Dunbar*

*Christopher Schissler*

*Kathy Woolley*

*Brooks Burnett*

*Richard Trepen*

*A Hill*

*Richard Trepen*

## WORSHIP IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

**December 28, 2014 Family Christmas Brunch**  
10:00 AM in Bradford Hall. No Bible Adventures or MAZI Youth Group this morning.

### JANUARY

**January 4, 2015 Communion**  
10 a.m. Worship Service. Pam Osborne, Preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7. No Youth this Sunday.  
**Worship Volunteers:**  
Greeters: TBA  
Worship Leader: TBA  
Ushers: Rory Martindale and Trent Corey  
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

**January 11, 2015**  
10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Carole Elizabeth, 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: TBA  
Worship Leader: Jean Beary Stolle  
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman  
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

**January 18, 2015**  
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 11:30 a.m.  
**Worship Volunteers:**  
Greeters: TBA  
Worship Leader: Pam Osborne  
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone  
Mike King

**January 25, 2015**  
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 11:30 a.m.  
**Worship Volunteers:**  
Greeters: TBA  
Worship Leader: TBA  
Ushers: David Harrington and David Macko

## 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  
Verna Myers  
Abigail Fazio

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### UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

<u>Link Deadline</u>	<u>January 11, 2015</u>
<u>Link Mailed</u>	<u>January 13, 2015</u>

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### Change of Address Reminder

**Ed and Claudia Martin**  
5309 NE 68<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661

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### Birthdays in January

January 1	Jack Corey
January 3	Ken Rowe
January 3	Alex Laskey
January 5	Allison Andrews
January 6	Cheryl Lowe
January 7	Charlie Ross
January 18	Allison Kocher
January 22	Danya Marquardt
January 24	Dorothy Mathews
January 28	Judy Dahlen
January 31	Martin Borchering



**Mission & Outreach  
Special Offering  
For January is  
Community of Welcoming  
Congregations**

The Community of Welcoming Congregations (CWC) engages in advocacy and education, providing resources to congregations & individuals. They have helped coordinate a public religious voice in support of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender (LGBT) legislation in past years and will continue this important work. Over 100 different faith communities in SW Washington and Oregon comprise the CWC and our congregation is a member.

Recent attempts by businesses to discriminate against LGBT people in the name of "religion" have shown that progressive Christians need to be more active!

**To donate to this important work, write your check out to our church, but designate "CWC" in the memo line and place in the offering plate any Sunday in January.**

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**Church Restructure**

Contributed by Sandy Mathis

Many of you reviewed a summary of a proposal to change the governance structure of our church and a Question and Answer document (still available from the church office, electronic or hard copy). A dozen people attended a meeting on November 16 to provide suggestions or learn more. It was decided that one or more UCC churches with structures similar to the one proposed will be invited to speak at our church. This will help us learn more about their experience before proceeding. We expect this will be scheduled in February. The dates/times will be published as soon as available. Thank you for your continued interest.

**Women's Breakfast Group**

All women of the church are invited to ring in the New Year and celebrate sisterhood, fellowship and friendship when the **Women's Breakfast Group** meets at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, January 10th, at the Red Lion Inn at the Quay.

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**Pastor Brooks on Vacation**

Pastor Brooks will be gone for vacation from December 26th to January 10th. On January 12th, his normal office hours will resume: Monday, 2PM – 4PM; Tuesday, 2PM – 4PM and Saturday, 3PM – 5PM. Because of occasional commitments, please call in advance to schedule an appointment



**JANUARY UPDATES**

The cold, rainy weather has kept the WHO shelters full with overflow beds. Please continue to donate men's socks, gloves, hats, thermal and underwear to the big yellow basket in the narthex.

**Sign up now for our WHO week March 1-7.**

Once again we are partnering with our friends at Kol Ami. Volunteering is easy by using Volunteer Spot.

**Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:**

1. **Click this link** to go to our invitation page on Volunteer Spot:

<http://vols.pt/cbdRWF> **Advance the calendar** to March to find the shifts available during our shared week shifts, March 1-7.

2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on Volunteer Spot)

3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots – Volunteer Spot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy! Note: Volunteer Spot does not share your email address with anyone.

If you have any questions or problems with the sign up, contact Karen Kulm at 360-991-5774.

## Worship Leader Orientation and Training

If you would like to serve as worship leader in 2015, please sign up in the narthex to attend a worship leader orientation and training after worship on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Next year Parish Life would like for all our worship leaders to have participated in this 20-minute orientation.

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## End of Year Brunch and Worship

On Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, we will gather downstairs in Bradford Hall for our annual post-Christmas Brunch. Please bring a breakfast dish to share and come join us in the last service for 2014. We will also need volunteers to help clean up after the service.

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## Love in Las Vegas!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>! After worship, we will be doing things Vegas style! Before Valentine's Day, we will celebrate love in its many forms—from the budding love of new sweethearts to the enduring love of those long united in holy matrimony. Like Vegas, we will have a fabulous buffet. Like Vegas, we will have high stakes excitement in the form of bunco. And, finally, like Vegas, we will have Elvis! Elvis will be present to bless and renew vows. You won't want to miss it.

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## New Photo Book of Prayers by Pastor Brooks

Pastor Brooks just published a new book entitled *Gratitude for a Daughter: **Fifty Pictures and Fifty Prayers of Thanksgiving***. The book can be viewed in the narthex at the Welcome Table. The book can be ordered for \$33. Payment is to be made upon ordering. Proceeds go to the church.

## Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve Service will be at 8:00 pm. The theme of this year's service is "*Christmas Lullabies and Dreams*." Reflections and meditations will be interspersed with selections by the choir and congregational carol singing. The service will end with the candlelight singing of Silent Night. The congregation will then gather in the Narthex for wassail and cookies.

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## Arun Gandhi, Grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, to Speak at Church

Arun Gandhi is an internationally renowned nonviolent activist and scholar. On Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, he will visit our church as we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr's birthday. During our 10 am worship, Arun Gandhi will join Pastor Brooks in a dialogue sermon that focuses on the nonviolent philosophies and practices of Mahatma Gandhi and King. From 11 am to 11:30 am, we will transition to a presentation by Arun Gandhi by having refreshments and breakfast breads in our fellowship hall. At 11:30 am, Arun Gandhi will speak on the subject "Stories About My Grandfather Mahatma Gandhi and Educating for Peace." At the end of his presentation, he will sign copies of his books, including his new children's book *Grandfather Gandhi* and his autobiographical *Legacy of Love: My Education in the Path of Nonviolence*. To attend the presentation, a \$15 donation is requested of adults. Children are free. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

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## Invitation to Bring Cookies on Christmas Eve

Everyone is encouraged to bring a plate of their favorite Christmas cookies to share after the Christmas Eve service.

## January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 4:00 Pantry 6:00 Planned Pthd NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	2	3
4 Communion 10:00 Worship SAN 11:20 Bible Adv CL 11:15 MAZI TRI 11&1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	5 6:00 VANUSA BRD 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	6 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 6:30 CE CL2	7 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 Choir SAN	8 10:00 Prayer Shawl NFL 4:00 Pantry PLY 7:30 Fireside PLY	9	10 9:30 Women's Bkfst Group Quay
11 10:00 Worship SAN 11:20 Bible Adv CL 11&1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	12 1:00 Membership PLY 6:00 VANUSA BRD 7:00 Pastoral Relations CL2 7:30 Fireside PLY	13 LINK 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 10:45 Staff PLY 12:00 Martha's Pantry 6:30 Parish Life NFL	14 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 CoalFree PLY 7:00 PC Board NFL 7:00 Choir SAN	15 10:00 Memorials PLY 4:00 Pantry 7:00 Book Club NFL 7:00 Council CL2 7:30 Fireside PLY	16	17
18 10:00 Worship SAN 11:20 Bible Adv CL 11:15 MAZI TRI 11:00 Gandhi Recept. Bradford Hall 11&1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	19 6:00 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside PLY	20 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	21 10:30 Ebel Cir offsite 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 M&O CL2 6:00 P&F PLY 7:00 Choir SAN	22 1:00 Arts and Crafts Woodworking PLY 7:00 Council CL2 7:30 Fireside PLY	23	24 9:30 CCMTA Meeting and Workshop NFL & SAN
25 10:00 Worship SAN 11:20 Bible Adv CL 11&1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	26 6:00 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside PLY	27 LINK 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 10:45 Staff PLY 12:00 Martha's Pantry 7:00 Communications	28 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 Choir SAN	29 4:00 Pantry 7:30 Fireside PLY	30	31