



THE LINK

August 30, 2016

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**

Temporary Location for Worship:

Luepke Community Room

1009 E McLoughlin Blvd.

Vancouver, WA 98663

www.vanucc.org

Office Location:

1220 NE 68th Street

Vancouver, WA 98665

360-693-1476



**REMEMBERING
OUR FAMILY
IN PRAYER**

Prayer requests for:

Joan Blair
Harriet Anani
Josiah Renner

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY TO...

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| September 3 | Barbara Ahola |
| September 5 | Woody Woodworth |
| September 8 | Dwight Chapman |
| September 10 | Wayne Fletcher |
| September 13 | Becky Slocum |
| September 14 | Leslie Wu |
| September 16 | Darrell Brandenburg |
| September 17 | Ruth Hammer |
| September 18 | Molly Wilson |
| September 24 | Mary Alice Carter |
| September 26 | Joan Barber |
| September 29 | Sabrina Mauke-Wiswall |
| September 29 | Diane Ullom |

Overnight Guests Working Group

The “Overnight Guests Working Group” was formed earlier this year to address the fact that our church had already informally allowed (due to emergency situations) homeless individuals to camp on our property. We allowed this before setting guidelines and developing resources similar to those used successfully by other faith communities to provide temporary refuge to those experiencing homelessness. Our experience with informal camping has now ended due to reconstruction because of the fire, etc. Our experience was complicated and disappointing, yet we know we provided refuge to these guests for a time and we learned a lot in the process.

Many within our church may have mixed feelings about our experience. We may be relieved to know we will no longer be responsible for campers on the property, yet frustrated because we know Christ calls us to help others. The number of homeless people continues to grow; desperate brothers and sisters in Christ with few options. There are many places in our community where you can help such as Share, FISH, Friends of the Carpenter, and others. Many of you already help at these organizations and we encourage you to continue to be involved. In addition, David Slocum, his wife, Judy Enders, and other faithful go to downtown Vancouver and Hayden Island every Sunday evening to feed meals to homeless people. Often they feed 100 to 125 people. Some of you already help by providing food and money via Dave to support this effort.

The working group has been discontinued for now, but the need continues and grows. The group suggests three specific, close-to-home ways you can help the homeless in our community:

1. People from our church provide food for the meals Dave and Judy provide once per month, but more is needed on that Sunday and every Sunday. Claudia Martin coordinates the monthly effort. You may contact Claudia or Dave Slocum to help in this way.
2. You may contribute financially to help pay for the meals provided by this group. You may do this by writing a check to the church and noting “Homeless Meals” in memo line.
3. Join Dave’s group on Sundays to assist. Contact Dave to help in this way.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to serve others.

Overnight Guests Working Group

Ken Rowe, Dave Slocum, Sandy Mathis, Ed Martin, Shirl Zent



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10,

9 AM- 4PM

ESTHER SHORT PARK

The **Vancouver Peace and Justice Fair** at Esther Short Park will showcase the hard work and creative spirit of individuals, social justice groups, peace organizations, faith communities, performers, artists, businesses, and environmental activists who are making the world a better place.

Once again, our church is one of the community sponsors. Sign up to volunteer at our table or make sure to stop by during the day for activities, music and inspiration – for free! Grab a picnic lunch at the adjacent Farmer's Market and enjoy the park all day.

Mary Jo Ebel Circle

The Mary Jo Ebel Women's Circle will begin meeting at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, September 21 for their annual Kick-Off Picnic.

Where? At our church by the garden and the Tony Ageter Memorial.

What? Bring a sack lunch and a lawn chair.

Who? All are invited!

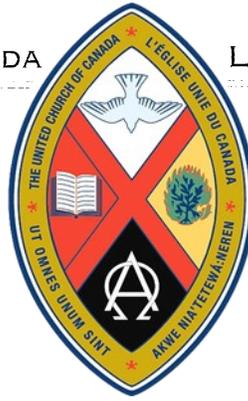
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

“Women: Take a Breath!”

This is the theme for the Camp Adams' Women's Retreat to be held October 7-9. The featured Resource Leader this year is our very own Rev. Jennifer Brownell. Information is available at worship this Sunday and in the church office.

June 10, 2016

Rev. John C. Dorhauer,
General Minister and President,
The United Church of Christ,
700 Prospect Avenue,
Cleveland, Ohio
44115



Dear John:

I was very saddened to read about the fire at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Vancouver, Washington state. If this was the work of an arsonist, as suspected, I'm appalled to think that such a senseless act has deprived that congregation, and many community organizations, of a valued space to worship and gather.

While my heart goes out to those people in this time of loss, I am encouraged by the attitude of interim pastor Rev. Jennifer Brownell, who says she and her fellow congregation members are determined to make the best of difficult circumstances. Her words—"We may have been burned down, but we are not burned out"—are very inspirational, and I applaud her determination to rebuild and start fresh.

While the fire may have badly damaged the physical building, the church itself is still alive and well in the hearts and minds of First Congregational members as they work together to rebuild. As Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans: "And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering brings about endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."

I am very happy to hear that other faith groups in the Vancouver area are pitching in to help, specifically the Kol Ami Jewish Synagogue, as it shares its worship space with First Congregational members all summer. This pooling of resources can only benefit the entire community, as people of different faiths put aside their differences to help each other in a time of need.

Be assured that The United Church of Canada stands firmly with the United Church of Christ—specifically with that congregation—in this difficult time. Know that my prayers, and the prayers of The United Church of Canada, are with you.

May God continue to bless and strengthen First Congregational's rebuilding efforts.

Your sister in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jordan Cantwell".

The Right Rev. Jordan Cantwell
Moderator/Moderatrice
The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada

✓cc: First Congregational, United Church of Christ

Do You Know?
A Series About Our Church's History
by Shirl Zent



August was the month for the Clark County Fair! Do you know we had a food booth at the fair for quite a few years? Our specialty was Spaghetti, made by Oral Thompson with his recipe that had secret ingredients! It was delicious! The first year we tried this we had a small tent down a sidewalk away from anything else and surrounded by other tents that were commercial advertising things. We did not do well, but persevered. Within a year or two we landed a booth in the concession area! Picture this, a large building for regular displays etc. and on the outside, booths, built against the wall, 8 or 10 of them. Then was a covered area full of picnic tables and then more food booths lined up. The north and south ends were open...to the weather!

We had a small kitchen area and then an area where we served the public. And we served our spaghetti and hamburgers and sometimes other incidental things...Oral made the spaghetti and supervised the kitchen area. I mostly organized the rest of the booth. Kept the supplies in order, signed up the church people for the shifts they worked. Shifts were usually 4 to 6 hours long and 4 to a shift. Families and friends would sign up and many worked several times during each fair run. Several of the women in the church, under the direction of Agnes Alexander, would meet at the church kitchen EARLY each day and make pies...many pies...that would be delivered to our booth by about 10 or 11 to be sold that day at the fair. Who could resist homemade pie? The fair opened about 10am and closed around 11pm, so we had lots of hours to fill. Oral got the idea that we should be open about 6am, so we could feed breakfast to the carnival and the other people who worked at the fair early! His wife Thelma and her parents were out breakfast cooks, usually bacon, eggs, toast, the regular breakfast stuff. And so I was the a.m. Waitress...My usual group was Brenda Fletcher, Fred New, Gary Farland and me. We had little in common but loved to work together and had a great time together. We usually worked several times throughout the fair. Oral was a teacher at Columbia River High School and hired some of his students to come in and do some of the cooking ie burgers, etc. One particularly HOT day (about 100 outside) we had no one to cook...so, yeah, you got it right! I learned quickly that I could do 12 burgers at the same time! I was pretty much a grease ball by dinnertime! A big benefit was that I could usually take a daily break and walk to the grandstand and see the show. Most were outstanding and I was really lucky. However, there was one that I thought was SO BAD that I went to the grandstand and walked back and I was only gone about 10 minutes. Never will forget that one! We also had rainy times. And the rain would blow into the picnic table area, not so much fun. One night it rained BIG TIME and when I got ready to leave about 1 a.m. I found that my car was stuck in the mud. Well, remember those carnival workers we had been feeding breakfast to for days? They gathered together and pushed me out of the mud so fast you couldn't believe it!!! I can't remember any other undertaking we had at the church that had so much people participation and created so much fellowship and fun and so many good vibes in our church. And we made some money too! It was a disappointment to many of us when we sold our booth.

SEPTEMBER 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 10:00 Worship On the Labyrinth | 5 Labor Day Office Closed 7:00 Spirituality at Karen Owen's Home | 6 | 7 7:00 Choir at the Pythian Home | 8 10:00 Prayer Shawls at the Church 7:00 Parish Life at the church | 9 | 10 |
| 11 10:00 Worship At Luepke Center | 12 6:30 CE at the church | 13 1:00 Membership at the church 7:00 Choir at School for the Blind | 14 | 15 7:00 Mission and Outreach At Carol and Adina's home | 16 Confirmation Retreat 3:00 Memorials at the home of Judy Walter | 17 |
| 18 10:00 Worship At Luepke Center | 19 7:00 Spirituality at Karen Owen's Home 7:00 Communica- tions | 20 7:00 Choir at School for the Blind | 21 6:00 P&F at the church | 22 7:00 Council at the church. | 23 CPC Annual | 24 Assembly |
| 25 CPC Assembly | 26 | 27 7:00 Choir at School for the Blind | 28 | 29 | 30 | |



**Northwest Regional Woman's Retreat
at Kah-Nee-Ta**

November 4th - 6th, 2016

Get more information and register at www.nrwr.us

The registration deadline is October 1st.

Keynote Speaker - Jane Kirkpatrick

Jane is internationally recognized for her lively presentations and well-researched stories that encourage and inspire. Her works have appeared in more than 50 publications. She is the author of over 25 books, including many historical novels. Many of her titles are based on the lives of real people or incidents set authentically in the American West. When asked which books she would recommend for women who want to get an idea about her work, she recommended the books *Where Lilacs Still Bloom* and *A Light in the Wilderness*. This is truly going to be an amazing retreat!

Bible 102 Starts September 14th!

Bible 102 is just around the corner and it looks very exciting. Here's a taste of what we have in store!!!!

We'll spend our first quarter in the Hebrew Bible when we explore ten Genesis narratives in some very different ways. We'll also learn a new model for interfaith dialogue and for Bible reading.

During second quarter, we'll explore recent archaeological discoveries in Israel, both in text and tel. Like archaeologists of the Bible, we'll learn how to excavate a text. As we pair these two disciplines, the world of Jesus opens up in a new way.

Third quarter we'll look at the development of early Christianity and the diversity of thought in the 1st two centuries. We'll also spend some time looking at parables as time permits. Those early Christians will be our teachers.

How can we understand our future as a congregation if we don't know who we are? How can we know who we are if we don't know who we've been?

Our year in Bible 102 promises to introduce new information to all of us, lead us to live out our faith and guide us into a much richer Christian life.

We begin on Sept 14th at Salmon Creek Methodist Church. We'll have two classes with the same basic information. We're including more discussion this year, so that will be different in each class:

Wed 10am-12

Wed 7-9pm

Carole Elizabeth and Adina Tarpley will team teach using power point, imagery and videos as well as lectures and discussions. You may sign up on Sept 4th or 11th at church or get your name in earlier by writing to pastorcarolee@gmail.com. **Class size may be limited due to space.**

Services Pending for Al Duvall

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the death of longtime member, Al Duvall. Al passed peacefully on August 26th with his family by his side. Al and Mary Lou have been members since 1986 and he will be missed.



Come Worship on the Labyrinth Sunday, September 4th

Special music provided by
Claudia Martin and the Ukeladies.
Please bring your own chairs
(and any extras you might have)



Come...

**Make a Joyful Noise
Sunday, September 18**

**Christian Education
Kick-Off Sunday!**

**Our Confirmation Class of 2016
will be participating in the
Service. Come wish them
God Speed.**

