

THE LINK

October 28, 2016

HELLO
NOVEMBER

**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
Opal Chapman
Mary Lou Duvall
L. Marilyn Ross

From Our Pastor



Come, O Thankful People, Come...

Come, O thankful people, come...

Worship for the next five weeks will offer many opportunities for gratitude and celebration.

Come, O thankful people, come...

On Sunday, October 30, all who wish to are invited to worship in costume. During childrens time we will have an opportunity to show off the costumes that kiddos (and young at heart) are wearing and we'll talk about the surprising reason we wear costumes at this time of year. During the sermon, we will consider some ways to find God when it seems as if She is in disguise, as we give thanks for the presence of God in the world around us.

Come, O thankful people, come...

Sunday, November 6, will be a very special day to give thanks to God for those who have passed on in the last year in particular, and in previous years in general. This a moving service and the memorials group has planned a wonderful way to create a fitting memorial without our usual candles. We have made special arrangements with Luepke Center to stay afterwards for a potluck and celebration.

Come, O thankful people, come...

Sunday, November 13 we will receive communion (rather than the first Sunday of the month), as we consider the infinite promise of the future foretold by the prophet Isaiah. Today will be a day to give thanks for God's presence in the unknown but fruitful days to come in the months and years ahead.

Come, O thankful people, come...

Sunday November 20 will be a song-filled Thanksgiving service, celebrating the ingathering of our Thanksgiving basket items. Today will be a day to give thanks for God's abiding presence with us in the past year - as we consider the "seeds" we have planted and the "harvest" we have been able to gather.

Come, O thankful people, come...

Sunday, November 27 is the first Sunday of Advent! We will worship this day in the gym at Marshall Center, next door to Luepke Center while Luepke has its floors spiffed up for winter. The unique format of this service will be a surprise, so come ready to prepare for the coming season with open hearts.

Come, O thankful people, come...

These next few months can be busy ones, and we can get distracted or overwhelmed. Taking time regularly to give thanks to God can help you stay centered and calm. Think of worship this month as a weekly gratitude break. And feel free to invite visiting family and friends, as well as neighbors and others in town, to join you for any and all of these services of worship. Blessings, Jennifer

**WE LIVE FOR THE BOUNTIES OF FALL
BUT, THE HARVEST OF FRIENDSHIP
IS BLESSED ABOVE ALL**

There is so much to be thankful for in our congregation. We celebrate one year of leadership with Pastor Jennifer, and what a year it has been! We are also thankful for every member of our church and all of the friends, both old and new, that have come together as we work through the challenges of reconstructing our church building.

Please join us as we gather together to celebrate our Harvest of Friendship with a potluck lunch following worship on Sunday, *November 6th*. Please bring your favorite fall salad, side or main dish to share among friends. Dessert will be provided.

COME CELEBRATE US!



HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY TO...

November 4	Daryl DeSilva
November 16	Joanie Nelson
November 18	Opal Chapman
November 20	Shirley Brandenburg
November 29	David Harrington
November 29	Casey Besaw



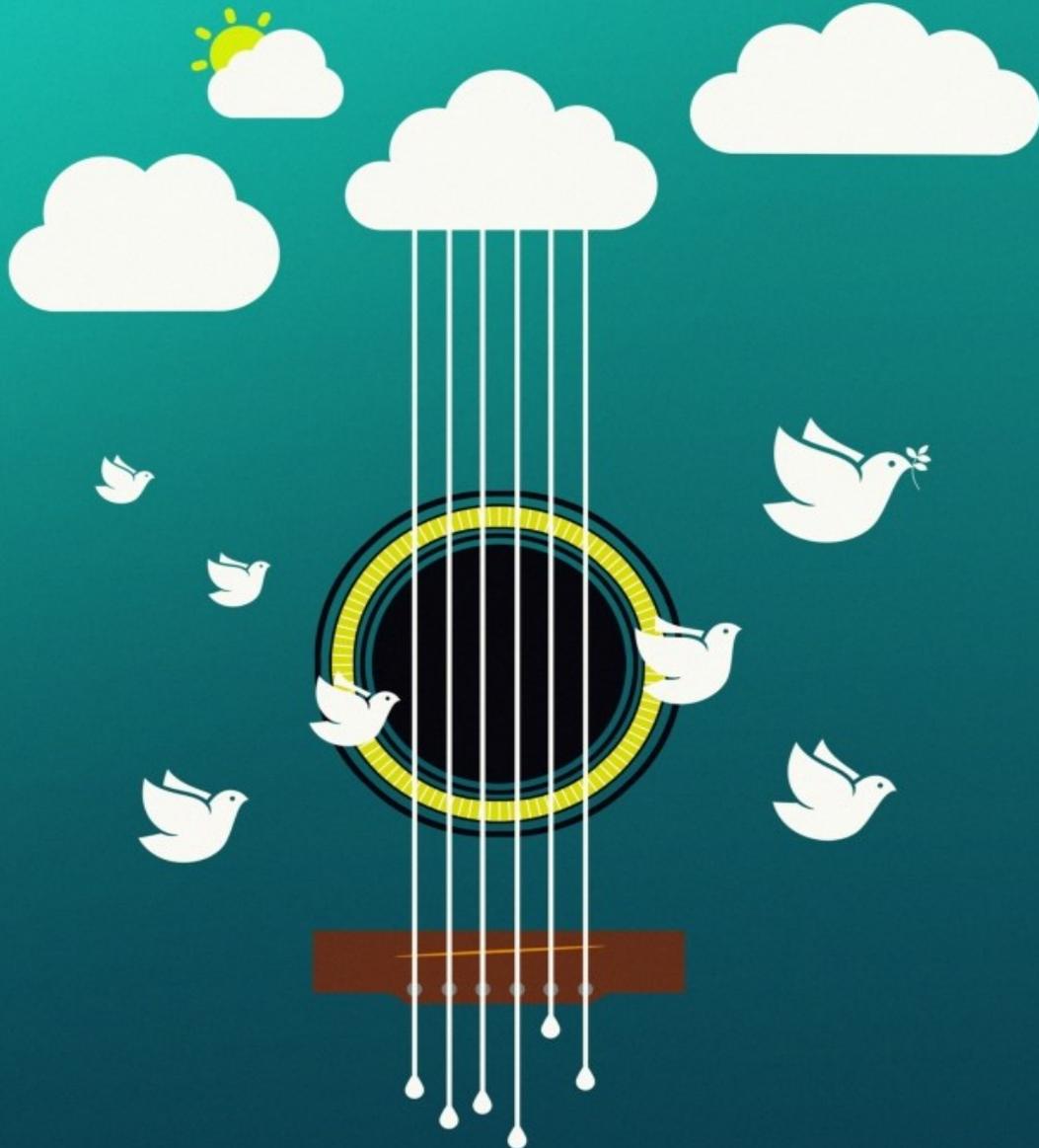
**Pastoral Relations
To Meet**

The Pastoral Relations Committee will meet Tuesday, November 1 at the home of Sue Benson. Your input is welcomed, just look for one of the following members:

Jean Stolle, Chair
Sue Benson
Charlie Ross
Natalie Cantrell
Shirl Zent and
Diane Ullom

LIFT THE LIGHT

BENEFIT FOR UCC VANCOUVER RESTORATION



FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY

MISTY MAMAS

FADIN' BY 9

DOUG SMITH & JUDY KOCH SMITH

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18TH · 7:00 PM · \$20

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4300 MAIN ST · VANCOUVER, WA 98663

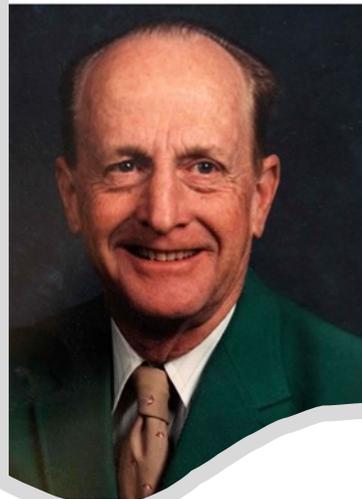
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT LIFTHELIGHT2016.EVENTBRITE.COM
OR AT OPUS SCHOOLS OF MUSIC, OSCAR'S MARKET, & AT THE DOOR

Women's Fellowship

All women of the church are invited to celebrate sisterhood, fellowship and friendship when the

Women's Breakfast Group

meets at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, November 12th at the Peachtree on Highway 99.



*Celebration of
the Life of
Al Duvall*

Saturday, Oct. 29

3:00 PM

**Vancouver Funeral
Chapel**

**110 E 12th St,
Vancouver, WA**



**This Sunday
11:15-11:45**

Let's celebrate! Everyone is invited to come to church in costume, especially the kids! After church, the children are invited to "trunk or treat" in the parking lot. Decorate your trunk or just bring a bag of small toys or treats to share. Adults will be stationed by our cars, as the children move around and fill sacks with goodies. Bring a bag for collecting the treats if you have a young one and invite friends, neighbors and grand-kids to join the fun.



Dave and I would like to thank Ed and Claudia Martin, Sandy and Jerry Mathis, Jan and Chuck Foulke, Carole and John Greenauer, and Pam and Jeff Osborne for the monthly meals you provided us to help with our street dinners for the homeless. We've been serving 100+ people each week so your help was much appreciated! If any of you have recipes for your dinner you could share with us, we're keeping a file of dinners that "go a long way". We thank you dear friends and so do a lot of hungry folks on the street.

Judy Enders and Dave Slocum

A Series About Our Church's History From Shirl Zent

Hey there! I am needing some of those memories and stories you are all thinking about but just haven't shared with me yet for this column. Call me.

Here is an adventure shred by Connie Oppel. In her own words:

We are so blessed to be a part of a faith community that gives voice to all it's members. Unlike some churches, we are not run by a hierarchy that riles us. We send representatives every two years to General Synod, where we make suggestions and set goals to guide us as we try to better discern what God intends for us.

In 1973 I was fortunate to be chosen as a representative from our conference. At that time we were a part of the Washington/N Idaho conference. Jim Halfaker from Seattle was the conference minister. I went to Minneapolis—well aware I was the “token” woman from SW Washington. The others were men from Seattle and Spokane. No problem really. We worked well together and had help from John Morse who had left our church for a while to work in Cleveland—where Brooks is now.

I believe the Greenauers and Martins have attended synod from other UCC churches but as far as I know, I am the only one elected from our church. Soon after, we opted out of the WA/N Idaho conference and became part of Central Pacific.

It was an awesome experience I will never forget. Our agenda that year included early discussions about open and affirming and early in the process of adopting inclusive language.

A highlight was worshipping with that huge congregation. How I'd love to go back, but instead we should send someone else!



On November 6, 2016, 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. Because we are now worshipping in a new space we've had to make some adjustments. It is a challenge but we hope the service will be just as meaningful as it has been in the past. We will be remembering Vicki Koffel, Jack English, John Priel, Elizabeth (Betty) Ferner, Anne Kamp, Laura Emerson, Charlotte Warren, Al Duvall, Bill Graham, Raymond Parafinczuk, and Yahriel Jamison. **If you know someone that should be remembered in the ceremony that has passed the last year, please let the Memorials Committee know and that person will be recognized at the service.**

November, 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 Choir	2 10:00 Bible 102 Salmon Cr. Methodist 7:00 Bible 102 Salmon Cr. Methodist	3 10:00 Memorials 6:30 Re- Imagining TF	4	5
6 10:00 All Saints Worship At Luepke Center 11:00 Fall Festival	7 7:00 Spirituality At First Presbyterian Church	8 Election Day 1:00 Membership at the office 7:00 Choir	9 10:00 Bible 102 Salmon Cr. Methodist 7:00 Bible 102 Salmon Cr. Methodist	10 10:00 Prayer Shawl 7:00 Parish Life	11 Veterans Day Office Closed	12 9:30 Women's Breakfast Grp At the Peachtree, Hwy 99
13 10:00 Worship At Luepke Center	14 6:30 CE at the Church office	15 7:00 Choir	16 10:00 Bible 102 Salmon Cr. Methodist 7:00 P&F 7:00 Bible102 7:00 Deacons	17 7:00 M&O	18 7:00 pm <u>LIFT</u> <u>THE</u> <u>LIGHT</u> <u>CONCERT</u> at First Presbyterian Church	19
20 10:00 Worship At Luepke Center	21 7:00 Communica- tions 7:00 Spirituality At First Presbyterian Church	22 7:00 Choir	23	24 HAPPY THANKS - GIVING Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26
27 First Sunday in Advent 10:00 Worship At Luepke Center	28	29 5:30 Advent Group 7:00 Choir	30 10:00 Bible 102 Salmon Cr. Methodist 7:00 Bible 102 Salmon Cr. Methodist			

Workshop on Grief
Saturday, October 29, from 10am to 1 pm.

The cost is only \$20, and hardship scholarships are available.

If you or someone you know is struggling with feelings of sadness or confusion, please come. We'll be exploring many losses that life can bring to us — from disappointment and remorse to divorce and death — and I'll be offering insights and tools to help participants recognize and process their grief. Here's some information that appears on the flyer:

From the Depths of Grief and Loss: A Workshop of Understanding

As humans we all experience loss but we don't always recognize grief when it comes to us. Sometimes we don't understand how losses have been mounting up for us until we start asking questions like these:

- I am so sad every day. Is this normal? How will I know if it's turned into depression?
- No one in my life has recently died, so why do I feel like I'm grieving?
- How will I ever find my way through this sadness and confusion?

If you have asked yourself such questions, join us for insights, answers, and hope.

The workshop will be held at:

The Northwest Catholic Counseling Center
8383 NE Sandy Blvd, Ste 205
Portland, OR 97220

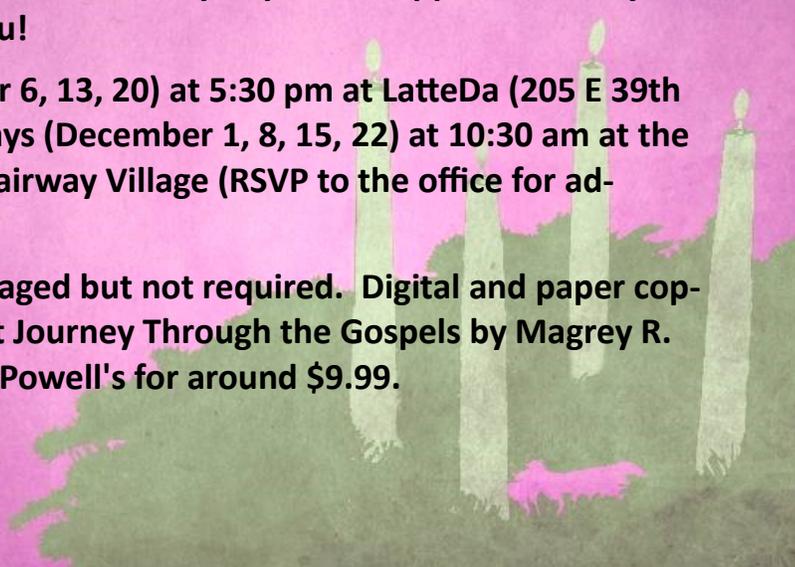
Advent Study

Awaiting the Already: An Advent Journey Through the Gospels

You are invited to deepen your Advent experience! Read along with Pastor Jennifer and others as we explore *Awaiting the Already: An Advent Journey Through the Gospels*. Explore how and why each of the four Gospels tell the story of the birth of Christ, and uncover how each gospel has a special meaning for us today. The book is less than 100 pages long, so is perfect for these busy days. Two opportunities - join the one that is most convenient for you!

Tuesdays (November 29 and December 6, 13, 20) at 5:30 pm at LatteDa (205 E 39th St, Vancouver, WA 98663) and Thursdays (December 1, 8, 15, 22) at 10:30 am at the home of Sharon and Gary Roberts in Fairway Village (RSVP to the office for address).

Attendance to all four weeks is encouraged but not required. Digital and paper copies of *Awaiting the Already: An Advent Journey Through the Gospels* by Magrey R. deVega is available at Amazon.com or Powell's for around \$9.99.





Social Groups

For the next few Links, we would like to highlight some of the Social Groups here at First Congregational UCC. All of these groups are open to everyone, all you have to do is choose one that interests you. Here are the groups for this month:

The Movie Group - Rotating hosts invite participants to a local movie, play or concert each month, normally on a Friday or Saturday evening. An optional invitation to gather after the event for food/drinks at a restaurant or home is usually included. For more information contact Sandy Mathis, 360-574-6052

Daytime Card Group - Are you looking for fun with fellowship, and more fun then look no further! We are offering a social club that gives you all that and more. The daytime card group meets on the third Tuesday of the month in different member's homes. The cards or games we play are the choice of the host and varies each month. We come at 1:00 and laugh and eat together and leave around 3:30. The host serves a light dessert and some snacks. What a great way to get to know each other socially in a fun relaxed atmosphere, We welcome everyone. Call Joan Blair for more information- 573-6505

Book Club – The evening Book Club has changed to the Morning Book club. We meet at Elmer's Restaurant off Andresen and 40th at 10:00 AM on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

We currently have 5 loyal members who enjoy a late breakfast and lively discussion about the book of the month. We have both men and women members which is most enjoyable. For men who might like to join, we read a variety of non-fiction as well as fiction.

On November 17th, we will be discussing the book *The Toughest Indian in the World* by

Sherman Alexie. Please join us for a good breakfast and interesting discussion. Call Alice Rowe, 360-576-0490 for more information.

Along the same theme...a missive from Jan Foulke:

Greeters

Did you ever think: "How can I be a smiling face for our church?" Be a Greeter! It is a great way to extend the love of God to others. Choose a Sunday that works for you or your family and contact Jan Foulke or the church office.

Jan Foulke jfoulke@sbcglobal.net 414-308-3788