

The Link

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



Volume 37 No. 6

God is Still Speaking,

March 24, 2015

A Book for the Whole Church

Dear Church Family,

I have read books that have changed my life. These books have played an important role in my becoming who I am today. As I think of the power that a single book can have on my life, it occurs to me that a book could similarly have an enormous impact on the life of our congregation. Our Mission and Outreach Ministry is creating such an opportunity. This Spring our congregation will select a book for an "all-church book read." Below you will find summaries of the four options they are presenting to us for our vote. In April, you will have the opportunity to hear about each of these books in worship from someone who has already read one of them. In May, you will then be able to vote for the book you think our church should read and discuss in the coming Fall. This vote will be part of a larger survey about adult education programming at our church.

Please read the options below as you consider how you will cast your vote. Think of which book could have a transformative impact on your life and the life of our church.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church by Kenda Creasy. In this 197-page book, the author investigates why American teenagers are at once so positive about Christianity and at the same time so apathetic about genuine religious practice. The book invites churches to both critical self-reflection and an inspired sense of mission.

Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces that Keep Us Apart by Christena Cleveland. The author writes this 220-page award winning book with a personal touch and the trained eye of a social psychologist. Cleveland brings to bear the latest studies and research on the unseen dynamics at work that tend to separate us from others. Learn why Christians who have a heart for unity have such a hard time actually uniting.

Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World by Tracy Kidder. This 332-page Pulitzer Prize winner is about a Harvard-trained doctor whose life's calling is to cure infectious diseases and to bring the lifesaving tools of modern medicine to those who need them most in the poor countries of the world.

The Radical King edited by Cornel West. This 320-page book includes 23 selections from Martin Luther King, Jr., that are introduced by Cornel West. The book focuses on the King often not seen in the mainstream media. It considers his revolutionary vision, his identification with the poor, his opposition to the Vietnam War, and his stand against imperialism.

Thanks to contributions made in memory of **Cliff Boydston** one can find each of these books in our church library.

WORSHIP IN MARCH AND APRIL

March 29, 2015 Palm Sunday

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.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: TBA

Worship Leader: Lynn Renner

Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon

APRIL

April 5, 2015 Easter Sunday

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m. Youth Group Meets at 11:30 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters:

Worship Leader: Laurie Parafinczuk

Ushers: Rory Martindale and Trent Corey
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

April 12, 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. **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: TBA

Worship Leader: Jean Beary Stolle

Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

April 19, 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. **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Barbara Ahola and Doraine Kohler

Worship Leader: Dwight Chapman

Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone
Mike King

April 26, 2015

10 a.m. Worship Service. Special Choir Service. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Doris and Wayne Fletcher

Worship Leader: Harriet Anani

Ushers: Susan Rush
David Macko and David Harrington

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
Ken Kerr
Gloria Ross
Verna Myers
Betty Ferner
Jean Mathews

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

April 12, 2015
April 14, 2015

Support the Campership!

Contributed by Kristina Martin

For the month of **April**, Mission and Outreach will collect a special offering to support our Campership fund. The Campership fund helps the families of 1st Congregational UCC send their children to Camp Adams. The current cost for a week of outdoor ministry at Camp Adams is \$365.

With your support, we are sending more and more children from our church to Camp Adams. As one of the few remaining conferences with an outdoor ministry camp, we are very fortunate indeed. (If you are also interested in supporting Camp Adams directly, please go to their website: www.campadams.org for more information.)

Reminder...

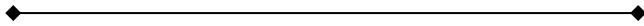
Copies of the minutes of the monthly Council meetings are available on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Easter Sunday Memorials

Today is the last Sunday to turn in your form to honor or remember your loved ones with an insert in the Easter Sunday bulletin. We are suggesting a minimum donation of \$5.00 for each name on your list.

Please place your requests in one of the white envelopes and leave it in the basket. Proceeds will benefit street children in India through the **Gandhi Worldwide Education Institute** founded by Arun Gandhi.

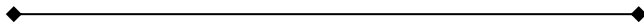
You may call or bring in your request tomorrow, March 30th but that is the last day I can accept submissions.



Palm Sunday Procession!

Mark the date, Palm Sunday, March 29th, and put a real "*Hosanna!*" into the service with **Lewis River Dixie**. This wonderful group will be adding a New Orleans style Dixieland swing into our worship. The band's members include:

Will Lewis - Trumpet
Jeff Kennedy - Clarinet
Roger Castro - Trombone
Robin Ruzek - Sousaphone
Carol Domench - Keyboard
Mark Staub - Drums



Maundy Thursday Lamb Dinner

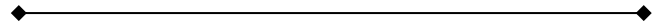
Be sure to pick up your tickets for the Maundy Thursday Lamb Dinner prepared by Jeff and Pam Osborne and John and Carole Greenauer.

Tickets are \$8.00 per person and may be purchased from members of the Parish Life Ministry in the narthex following worship on Sundays through March 29th. Only 80 tickets will be sold, so get yours soon.

Following the dinner, we will gather in the sanctuary for the Tenebrae Service at 7:00.

Birthdays in April

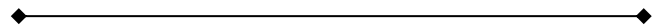
April 3	Trent Corey
April 5	Patti Jones
April 13	Shirl Zent
April 19	Leslie Chapman
April 22	Anne McNally
April 30	Megan Bowen



Information Meeting after Worship On April 19th

Contributed by Sandy Mathis

The Leadership Team of the next capital fundraising phase invites you to attend an information meeting to hear about ways we will be "Honoring Our Past, Securing Our Future". Written material will be provided and there will be time to answer questions you may have. This meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, April 19th.



Zen Tangles/Lenten Tangles: Good Friday, April 3 10:30am – 12:30pm or 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm In the Plymouth Room

Zen Tangles are a form of meditation in which artists and non-artists alike draw with pens. Harriet Anani will provide written instructions and help for those who come to draw. You are invited to attend one or both of the presentations

Ambulance to the Rescue! Next Stop: Kiggins Theatre

Contributed by Rev. Brooks Berndt

The Emergency Response Unit of the Faith Action Network that was commissioned at the social justice revival in November will be taking action once again! This time the ambulance will be headed to a public forum on the proposed oil terminal. The forum will feature a panel of speakers that represent a variety of organizations and concerns: the lead developer for the Vancouver waterfront, Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Vancouver City Council member, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, the Fruit Valley Neighborhood Association, and Columbia Riverkeepers. The event will be at Kiggins Theatre on Wednesday, April 1st at 6 pm. The ambulance will be parked outside to provoke thinking and laughter with a dose of street theater. This event provides a wonderful opportunity to continue a commitment our congregation made last year when we voted to encourage on going education and discussion of the oil terminal, while also affirming the right of those members who want to participate in actions in opposition to the proposed terminal. All are invited to join this occasion of enrichment and engagement as well as faithful fun!

Heifer International

Contributed by David Slocum

Our mission focus for March is **Heifer International**. Heifer is a relief organization that was started in 1948 by some Midwest farmers that shipped 17 cows to needy families in Puerto Rico. Since then Heifer has helped 22.6 million families all over the world and here in the United States. Heifer equips people with the tools, education and livestock to bring about positive transformation.

Mom, Judy and I have traveled to some of the poor countries with Heifer. We spent time in the villages and saw what an impact Heifer really makes. We have been in villages where the children could not go to school because they had no shoes until Heifer come. We have been in villages where the infant death rate was terribly high until Heifer brought in cattle and taught them how to take care of them.

This is an excellent program and I urge you to learn more about them (Heifer.org) and support them

From Your Nominations Committee

Spring has sprung and for the nominations committee that means we are actively looking for members to give prayerful consideration to serving on the council as an officer or volunteering their talents, skills and passion as a member of a ministry or committee. Whether you have been a member of this church for many years or you are a new member, you may serve your church by becoming a valued member on one of our ministries. If you would like to volunteer for a position or have questions about the work each ministry performs before making a decision please contact any member of the nominations committee. We thank you for your consideration.

Your Nominations Committee:

Lucie Murchison, John Greenauer,
Leslie Chapman, Ed Frank and Ken Rowe.

Women's Breakfast Group

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, April 11, at the Red Lion Inn at the Quay

Easter Flowers

With the spring-like weather we've been having there should be flowers from your garden to bring to church on Easter Sunday to decorate the wreath for the cross. Please bring your flowers by 9:45 AM. This is a wonderful tradition!!

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:00 WW BRD 6:30 Sp. Choir 7:00 Choir CL2 SAN	2 4:00 Pantry 6:00 Lamb Dinner 6:00 Planned Pthd 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 Fireside NFL SAN PLY	3 9:00 Meditation 10:30 and 6:00 Zen Tangles 10:00 Pantry CL2 PLY	4
5 EASTER 10:00 Worship 11:00 Bible Adv. 11:15 MAZI 4:30 Fireside SAN TRI PLY	6 6:30 VANUSA 7:00 Spirituality 7:30 Fireside AA BRD NFL PLY	7 9:00 WW 9:30 Bible St. 10:30 Staff 5:30 Conservation 6:30 CE 6:30 Sierra Board BRD PLY PLY PLY CL2 PLY	8 4:00 WW 6:30 Sp. Choir 7:00 Choir BRD CL2 SAN	9 10:00 Prayer Shawl 1:00 Woodworking 4:00 Pantry 7:30 Fireside NFL PLY PLY	10 10:00 Pantry	11 9:30 Women's Bkfst Group Quay
12 10:00 Worship 10:20 Bible Adv. 11&1 MCC 4:30 Fireside SAN CL TRI PLY	13 1:00 Membership 6:30 VANUSA 7:30 Fireside AA PLY	14 LINK 9:00 WW 9:30 Bible St. 10:45 Staff 6:30 Parish Life BRD PLY NFL	15 10:30 Mary Jo Ebel Circle 4:00 WW 6:30 Sp. Choir 7:00 Choir BRD CL2 SAN	16 9-1 Meditation 4:00 Pantry 7:00 Book Club 7:30 Fireside CL2 NFL PLY	17 9:00 Meditation 10:00 Pantry	18 All Day: VANUSA Rehearsals BRD, SAN, CL2, CC
19 10:00 Worship 10:20 Bible Adv. 11:00 Info Mtg. 11:15 MAZI 11&1 MCC 4:30 Fireside SAN CL TRI PLY	20 10:00 Cap Camp 6:30 VANUSA 7:00 Spirituality 7:30 Fireside AA Ply BRD NFL PLY	21 9:00 WW 9:30 Bible St. 10:45 Staff BRD PLY NFL	22 4:00 WW 6:00 P&F 6:30 Sp. Choir 7:00 Choir BRD PLY CL2 SAN	23 1:00 Art and Wood- working 4:00 Pantry 7:00 Council 7:30 Fireside PLY CL2 PLY	24 10:00 Pantry	25 6:00 Recent Members Dinner BRD
26 Spiritual Service 10:00 Worship 10:20 Bible Adv. 11:00 Cong. Mtg. 11&1 MCC 7:00 Dessert 4:30 Fireside SAN CL SAN TRI Offsite PLY	27 6:30 VANUSA 7:30 Fireside AA BRD PLY	28 LINK 9:00 WW 9:30 Bible St. 10:45 Staff 7:00 Communications BRD PLY PLY	29 10:00 WW 7:00 Choir BRD SAN	30 4:00 Pantry 7:30 Fireside PLY		