

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. 10

God is Still Speaking,

May 26, 2015



A Bundle of Love

Dear Church Family,

Recently, I began reading to Danalyn the book version of Walt Disney's *Lady and the Tramp*. Near the beginning of the story a cocker spaniel named Lady finds she is no longer the focus of love and affection among the humans who once doted over her. That focus now belongs to a newborn human baby. When Lady then encounters a stray mutt named Tramp, he derogatorily refers to the baby as "a bundle of trouble." In reading this aloud, I immediately became fearful of the negative influence Tramp's words could have on Danalyn. Only a day earlier, we had welcomed a newborn baby into our own house. I didn't want Danalyn thinking of her new baby sister as "a bundle of trouble." Upon reading Tramp's remark, the best verbal remedy I could immediately muster was the trite declaration, "That's not a nice thing to say!" After thinking about it some more, I explained to Danalyn that the baby was actually "a bundle of love."

Fortunately, Danalyn did not take Tramp's sentiment to heart. Instead, she found his words to be laughably ridiculous and an ongoing source of humor for that day and days to come. "A baby isn't a bundle of trouble," she would say shaking her head as if it was the most outlandishly silly comment ever. Unfortunately, the real world contrast of thinking of a child as "a bundle of love" rather than "a bundle of trouble" is no laughing matter when it comes to adults. Childcare guru Janet Lansbury indicates as much in her aptly titled book *No Bad Kids: Toddler Discipline without Shame*. Sadly, parents all too often treat their kids as bundles of trouble when they take child misbehavior personally, when they respond with lectures, scoldings, and punishments, when they do everything from spanking to the quiet withdrawal of love.

My interaction with Danalyn inspired me to think about what I should be doing to nurture our newborn Kylie as a bundle of love. At this moment, I think the best I can do as a parent is to perform simple acts of love myself. For me, this includes something as mundane and smelly as changing a diaper. If God is love, then this means God can indeed be present in the most unlikely and unseemly places. I find this to be remarkably inspiring news. Our daily lives are so much more meaningful and profound when we realize they are filled with a divine love that can rise above the ordinary mess and stink of existence. May we each delight in the startling bundles gifted to us by the God of abundant grace.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

WORSHIP IN MAY and JUNE

May 31, 2015

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Richard Trefren, preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 4yrs. - Grade 8. No MAZI this Sunday.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters:

Worship Leader: Rory Martindale

Ushers: John Hannon and John Bradley

11:30

**Italian Courtyard Dinner
to Celebrate our Capital Campaign.**

3:00

Celebration of the Life of Gloria Ross

JUNE

June 7, 2015 Communion

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:

Worship Leader: Leslie Chapman

Ushers: Rory Martindale and Trent Corey
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

June 14 Teacher and Graduate Recognition

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:

Worship Leader: David Harrington

Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

June 21, 2015 Father's Day

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt, preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters:

Worship Leader: Carole Greenauer

Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone
Mike King and Ray Jones

June 28, 2015

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt, preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters:

Worship Leader: Dwight Chapman

Ushers: David Macko and David Harrington
Sue Rush

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

Brad Fletcher

Betty Ferner

Jean Matthews

Cordelia McBride

Dorothea Johnson

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

June 7, 2015
June 9, 2015

Birthdays in June

June 3	Bert Martin
June 4	Elias Martin
June 7	Claude Blair
June 7	Sheila Schrieber
June 12	Virginia Dunbar
June 12	Al Duvall
June 12	Cynthia McNally
June 12	Jackie Vane
June 12	Allison Schnabel
June 14	Rory Martindale
June 14	Sharon Kenoski
June 16	Wayne Kamp
June 17	Doraine Kohler
June 18	Kimberly Lewis
June 18	Alicia King
June 19	JoAnn Kersavage
June 20	Marcie Ramberg
June 26	Lynn Renner
June 28	Haydn Chapman

Happy Birthday!

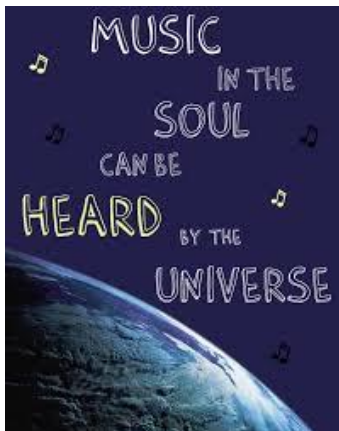
FRIENDS of the CARPENTER

Mission & Outreach June Special Offering

Friends of the Carpenter is a faith-based Day Shelter that provides safety and a sense of purpose to members of our community. It began in 1998 as a vision of simple welcome and personal interaction between volunteers from the church and those in the community who are disadvantaged. Wood devotional items are made at the shelter, but the main product is relationships--helping the disadvantaged see themselves as people of worth.

The Friendship Center is located at 1600 W 20th Street in Vancouver. It is open from 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. Volunteers are always needed to provide welcome and to help with activities, staff the reception desk, lead devotions or singing, and more. The 2nd Chance Thrift Store, located at 3414 A NE 52nd Street (52nd & St. Johns Blvd.) in Vancouver needs volunteer workers, donations, and shoppers.

The ministry is growing. The number of hours clients spent at the Friendship Center increased 60% during the first quarter of 2015 compared to the first quarters of 2012-2014. You can learn more at <http://friendsofthecarpenter.org/>. Your donation will help meet the growing needs of this wonderful ministry. **You may write a check to the church and note "Friends of the Carpenter" on the memo line.**



Thinking About Becoming A Member?

If you have decided that we are the church family for you, you can attend this two-hour orientation class and light brunch after worship on Sunday, June 14th. If you are interested in attending, let Pastor Brooks know as you leave the sanctuary today. Childcare provided upon request.



PRIDE SEASON IS ALMOST HERE HELP US CELEBRATE!

The Portland Pride Festival & Parade will be June 13-14. All of the local UCC churches are signed up to march together in the parade on June 14th. Step off time is 11:00 AM, but we will start line-up in the North Park Blocks. Exact details of our line-up location will be available in June.

We will also have a table at the festival at Waterfront Park on June 13-14. Tabling at this event is an incredible experience as we share our radical welcome and love with the public.

Please volunteer to represent our church and carry our banner in the parade. It is a joyful experience that you do not want to miss!

To volunteer for the table or the parade, please contact Karen Kulm at 360-991-5774 or email at lk.kulm@gmail.com.

CHOIR FUN-NIGHT- JUNE 7th

The choir will be presenting a Spring program on Sunday, June 7th. We will begin with a potluck at 6 p.m. followed by a program at 7 p.m. The evening will be filled with familiar music from Broadway show-tunes as well as other genres. Some songs you will enjoy are: OKLAHOMA, SUNRISE, SUNSET, DO YOU HEAR THE PEOPLE SING and many more. We will close with everyone singing, EDELWEISS, from THE SOUND OF MUSIC. Come, bring a friend, to a program that can't be missed!! V.

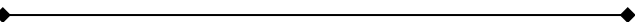


**VANCOUVER SPRING SUMMIT
MAY 31ST 1 – 4 PM at Vancouver Heights
United Methodist Church**

Come join Faith Action Network as we lay the foundation for next session's legislative agenda. Summits provide an opportunity for community members to voice the issues that they care about and help shape our legislative focuses for the following year. At this year's summit we will have **workshops** on: **Ending Homelessness, Stopping Wage Theft/Raising Minimum Wage, Stopping Human Trafficking, WAmend (ending corporate control of elections), and Environmental concerns.**

Barbecue will be provided, so bring a side dish if you can. Invite others from the community to this important event!

To RSVP please visit <http://fanwa.org/register-for-annual-regional-spring-summits/>. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Kulm at lk.kulm@gmail.com.



**Teacher and Graduate
Recognition Sunday**

If you have a graduate in your family, please let Kathy in the office know the graduate's name and plans after graduation so we can add him/her to the bulletin that day. You may drop off your announcement in the office until June 10th or email it to kathy@vanucc.org.

**Job Announcement: Opening for
Part-Time Music Director**

First Congregational United Church of Christ in Vancouver, Washington is an open and affirming church seeking a part-time Music Director who will bring musical excellence to our vibrant worship services.

The position requires professional music training with a demonstrated ability to teach and coach choral singing.

Application Deadline: May 31st, 2015.
Application requirements: Cover letter and resume.

Salary: \$10,000 for 9.5 months
Email: kenerowe@msn.com

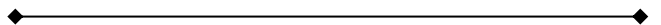
Contact Person: Ken Rowe
Further Information about Position:
www.vanucc.org/front-page/music-director-position



Cards For Virginia!

Contributed by Kristina Martin

As you know, our beloved music director is retiring after 25 years here at 1st Congregational UCC. We are collecting cards for Virginia Dunbar to show our appreciation for her musical leadership all these years. If you would like to give her a card, please bring it to church between now and June 1st and put it in the box in the narthex. (They can also be mailed to the church, c/o Kristina Martin.) They will be presented to Virginia on June 7th. Thank you!



Thank You, Thank You...

..to all of my church family for all the cards, prayers and **food!** I am blessed to be a part of this wonderful congregation.

Love,
Gertie Hettman

First Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation
1220 NE 68th Street, Vancouver, WA 98665
(360) 693-1476, Fax: (360)-693-0522
Rev. Brooks Berndt, Pastor

May 26, 2015

Dear Church Family,

Beginning with the March 17th Link Special Edition “Honoring Our Past, Securing Our Future” which announced the start of the current phase of our capital campaign, you have had opportunities to reflect on the generosity others. Two tangible ways have been suggested to honor and celebrate this generosity.

1. Have a brick engraved which will be placed in the Honor Garden to be built near the sanctuary entrance. Forms with information for the engraving should be submitted by May 31st.
2. Write a remembrance to be included in a booklet to be created after the fundraising effort. Please submit your remembrance via email to Lynn Renner (lynnrenner@earthlink.net) by June 30.

If you need the form for brick engraving or instructions for the remembrance booklet, please contact Kathy Woolley in the church office, John Fite, or Sandy Mathis.

This phase of our capital campaign is scheduled to end on May 31st. During the remaining time, continue to reflect on how our church runs on the power of generosity; the giving of time, talents, and treasures to the ministries of our church in the past and for the future. Commitment cards on which you can indicate your financial commitment, are available in the church office and the narthex. Your commitment over the next three years, along with the commitments of others in our church family, will help secure our future for years to come. You may submit your commitment card in the offering plate or submit it to the church office (mail or in person).

You are invited to a special Commitment Service at our regular worship time of 10:00 am on May 31st followed by an All Church Event – entertainment and a meal of Italian food. Commitment cards may be submitted during the worship service.

Thank you for all you do to make our church run on the power of generosity.

Sincerely,



John Fite
Capital Campaign Program Leader



June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 VANUSA 7:00 Spirituality 7:30 Fireside	2 9:00 WW 9:30 Bible St. 10:30 Staff 5:30 Conservation 6:30 Sierra Board	3 4:00 WW 6:30 Sp. Choir 7:00 Choir	4 4:00 Pantry 6:00 Plnd. Phd 7:30 Fireside	5 10:00 Pantry	6
7 10:00 Worship 11&1 MCC 11:15 MAZI 4:30 Fireside	8 1:00 Membership 6:30 VANUSA 7:30 Fireside	9 LINK 9:00 WW 9:30 Bible St. 10:45 Staff 6:30 Parish Life 6:30 CE	10 4:00 WW	11 10:00 Prayer Shawl 1:00 Wood 4:00 Pantry 7:30 Fireside	12 10:00 Pantry	13 9:30 Women's Bkfst Group Quay
14 10:00 Worship 11&1 MCC 4:30 Fireside	15 6:30 VANUSA 7:00 Spirituality 7:30 Fireside	16 9:00 WW 9:30 Bible St. 10:45 Staff	17 10:30 Ebel Circle 4:00 WW 5:30 M&O	18 4:00 Pantry 7:30 Fireside	19 10:00 Pantry 6:00 Arlene Arnold	20 8:00 Arlene Arnold PLY
21 10:00 Worship 11&1 MCC 11:15 MAZI 4:30 Fireside	22 6:30 VANUSA 7:00 Personnel 7:30 Fireside	23 LINK 9:00 WW 9:30 Bible St. 10:45 Staff	24 4:00 WW 6:00 P&F	25 10:00 Memorials 1:00 Art and Crafts 4:00 Pantry 7:00 Council 7:30 Fireside	26 10:00 Pantry	27
28 10:00 Worship 11&1 MCC 4:30 Fireside	29 6:30 VANUSA 7:30 Fireside	30 9:00 WW 9:30 Bible St. 10:45 Staff				



Come join us in the

Italian Courtyard

Sunday, May 31st.

11:30

Bradford Hall

celebration
LUNCH