

# *The Link*

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
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*God is Still Speaking,*

July 28, 2015

## **Farewell and Good-bye**

Dear Church Family,

Centuries ago it was customary to say “farewell” to a departing person who would then say “good-bye” in response. In just those few words, people signaled their positive wishes, hopes, and feelings for the other. In writing to the Corinthians, Paul finishes his second letter to them with such sentiments. He begins, “Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell.” Translations vary with what comes next, but I like how the Message puts it, “Keep things in good repair. Keep your spirits up. Think in harmony. Do all that, and the God of love and peace will be with you for sure.”

As I enjoyed the food and company of our Cheese Fest on Sunday, I at times felt overwhelmed by tremendous love of our church family. I am so deeply grateful for the framed photos, the cards, and all of the kind words. I could not have been happier with my last hurrah!

In talking with many of you that day, I repeatedly found myself at a loss for words. All of them seemed inadequate and trivial for the occasion. In the end, this may be an instance in which simple, yet sincere, is best. As I write this final newsletter, I want each of you to know that I have the highest regard and the deepest affections for you. I wish, hope, and pray that glorious times await you in your future. God bless you! Farewell and good-bye!

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

## WORSHIP IN AUGUST

### August 2, 2015 Communion

10 a.m. Worship Service. Presiding Minister, Tom Yates, Slim Moon, preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Jerry and Sandy Mathis

Worship Leader: Leslie Chapman

Ushers: Trent Corey and Rory Martindale  
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

### August 9, 2015 Communion

10 a.m. Worship Service Presiding Minister, Tom Yates, Audrey deCoursey, preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Ken and Alice Rowe

Worship Leader: Jerry Mathis

Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman  
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

### August 16, 2015

10 a.m. Worship Service. Presiding Minister, Tom Yates, Slim Moon, preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Doraine Kohler and Barbara Ahola

Worship Leader: Lynn Renner

Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone  
Mike King and Duke Charpentier

### August 23, 2015

10 a.m. Worship Service. Presiding Minister, Tom Yates, Rev. Ken Kerr, preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Linda Wear and Rachel Fully

Worship Leader: Dwight Chapman

Ushers: David Macko and David Harrington  
Tom Renner

### August 30, 2015 Outdoor Service and Blessing of the Animals on the Labyrinth

10 a.m. Worship Service. Presiding Minister, Tom Yates, Slim Moon, preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Joy Gerlitz

Worship Leader: Dwight Chapman

Ushers: John Hannon and John Bradley

## 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  
Betty Ferner  
Jean Matthews  
Dorothy Mathews  
Anne Kamp  
Cordelia McBride

## UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR “*The Link*”

Link Deadline  
Link Mailed

August 9, 2015  
August 11, 2015

## Birthdays in August

August 02	Doris Fletcher
August 10	Rachel Corey
August 10	Scott Jones
August 11	Rowan McLaughlin
August 12	Sharon Sollenberger
August 14	Pat Finley
August 16	Angie Hill
August 18	Susan Ross
August 23	Richard Edwards
August 24	Marilynn Jones
August 26	Brooks Berndt
August 26	Shelby Allensworth
August 28	Bev Boydston
August 30	Josiah Renner

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!**

## Welcome New Members:

### Eric and Stephanie Pykonen

8115 NE 91<sup>st</sup> St  
Vancouver, WA 98662  
Eric Cell: 360-953-4033  
[eric@pykonen.com](mailto:eric@pykonen.com)  
Stephanie Cell: 503-459-7298  
[stephanie@pykonen.com](mailto:stephanie@pykonen.com)

### Frank and Vicky Koffel

9302 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave  
Vancouver, WA 98665  
360-836-9477  
[vek1945@comcast.net](mailto:vek1945@comcast.net)

### Barbara Ahola

1701 NW 62<sup>nd</sup> St  
Vancouver, WA 98663  
360-695-1042  
Cell: 360-606-4318  
[bnahola@comcast.net](mailto:bnahola@comcast.net)

### Robin Hoffman

8815 NE 15<sup>th</sup> Ave Apt. B  
Vancouver, WA 98665  
360-723-2386  
[rdsbonfireindrial@gmail.com](mailto:rdsbonfireindrial@gmail.com)

## Invitation to "Never Again" Hiroshima Exhibit on August 6th

Over the past year, Pastor Brooks has served on the board of directors for the Wholistic Peace Institute. This organization led by Gary and Nancy Spanovich helped bring Arun Gandhi to our church. It is now sponsoring the "Never Again" Hiroshima Exhibit at Concordia University. This exhibit from the Hiroshima Ground Zero Museum in Japan commemorates the 70th anniversary since the bombing of Hiroshima. The opening of the exhibit will take place on August 6th from 11 am- 2 pm. The event will begin with prayers for peace followed by a luncheon with a keynote speech by atomic bomb survivor Mr. Ed Kawasaki. The event will be at Concordian's George R. White Library and Learning Center (2900 NE Library Street, Portland). For more information about the Wholistic Peace Institute, visit its website at: [www.wholisticpeaceinstitute.com](http://www.wholisticpeaceinstitute.com)

## All-Church Book Read

The book chosen for the All-Church Book Read is: *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.

## HONOR GARDEN BRICKS Capital Campaign and Other Bits of Confusion

If you made a pledge or a contribution to the third phase of our Capital Campaign, you have the privilege of selecting bricks for our Honor Garden. You may write a paragraph to highlight the generosity of the person or persons you have chosen to honor with a brick. You are not required to write anything. Write-ups will be included in a remembrance book compiled by Lynn Renner.

Most of you who made a pledge or contribution have identified someone to honor with an engraved brick. We currently have names for 75 bricks. However, over 20 contributors have not identified anyone. Additionally, there are several members of the congregation who have indicated they intend to participate in Phase 3 of our Capital Campaign and want to honor someone with a brick.

If you want to honor someone in our Honor Garden, we need to know the name of that person/persons. You cannot honor someone if you do not make a pledge or contribution to the current capital campaign.

At the direction of the church council, **Sunday, September 20, 2015 is the deadline** for all submissions for the Honor Garden. No requests will be accepted after that date.

Submitted by John Fite for the Capital Campaign Team.

## The Amazing Irma!

On behalf of the entire Slocum family we would like to thank our church family for all the wonderful support during Irma's recent hospitalization and rehab due to her broken hip. The cards, calls, emails and visits were greatly appreciated. Irma is thrilled to be home now and continues to make steady progress toward full recovery. She hopes to be back in church soon and can't wait to greet one and all.

Many thanks,  
The Slocums

## Office Hours Change

The church office will now be open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. every day.

## Pastoral Care

Rev. Richard Trefren will be providing Pastoral Care until our Interim Pastor is in place. He will be working with Ellie Bradley, Chair of the Deacons, in coordinating needs during that time.

You may reach Richard at 360-910-1513 or through e-mail: [richard@vanucc.org](mailto:richard@vanucc.org) or [tefren@comcast.net](mailto:tefren@comcast.net) or Ellie at [ellie28@gmail.com](mailto:ellie28@gmail.com).

## KICK-OFF is September 13<sup>th</sup>!

All children of the church (ages preschool thru high school) are invited to take part in the Kick-off Service on September 13<sup>th</sup>. If your child would like to participate, please let Kristina know; [kristina@vanucc.org](mailto:kristina@vanucc.org), so she can begin assigning roles (worship leader, for example).


This will be an exciting beginning to a great year of Christian Education. You won't want to miss this!

## Birdhouse Raffle

Pastor Brooks had donated a wonderfully unique birdhouse to raffle off this summer. The house, crafted by Paul Miller, is our church with plenty of places for the birds to feed.

You may purchase tickets, \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 before or after worship during the month of August.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity for this one-of-a-kind birdhouse.



*May the Lord bless you  
and keep you.  
May the Lord make his  
face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you.  
May the Lord lift up his  
countenance upon you,  
and give you peace.*

# August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2 Slim Moon Communion</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>3</b> 10:00 Membership PLY 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>4</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 10:30 Staff PLY 5:30 Conservation PLY 6:30 Sierra Board PLY	<b>5</b> 4:00 WW BRD	<b>6</b> 4:00 Pantry 6:30 Pl Pthd NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>7</b> 10:00 Pantry	<b>8</b> Samoan Adventist Church SAN
<b>9 Audrey de Coursey</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>10</b> 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>11 LINK</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 10:45 Staff PLY 6:30 Parish Life & CE At Claudia Martin home	<b>12</b> 7:00 L-735 training BRD 4:00 WW BRD	<b>13</b> 10:00 Prayer Shawl NFL 4:00 Pantry 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>14</b> 10:00 Pantry	<b>15</b> Samoan Adventist Church SAN 9:30 Women's Bkfst Quay
<b>16 Slim Moon</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>17</b> 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>18</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 10:45 Staff PLY	<b>19</b> 4:00 WW BRD	<b>20</b> 4:00 Pantry 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>21</b> 10:00 Pantry	<b>22</b> Samoan Adventist Church SAN
<b>23</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>24</b> 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>25 LINK</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 10:45 Staff PLY	<b>26</b> 4:00 WW BRD	<b>27</b> 1:00 Arts and Wood PLY 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>28</b> 10:00 Pantry	<b>29</b> Samoan Adventist Church SAN
<b>30 Slim Moon Outdoor Service and Animal Blessing</b> 10:00 Worship LAB 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>31</b> 7:30 Fireside PLY					