

# *The Link*

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
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**Volume 37 No. 15**

***God is Still Speaking,***

**August 11, 2015**

## **What Do We Do Now?**

The calendar shows that we are now in the month of August. Many of you are wondering, “when are we going to decide on a new minister, how is the selection process being decided,”.....these questions and more have probably been discussed in the pews, narthex, committee and ministry meetings and the parking lot since Brooks announced his resignation and his move to Cleveland.

As moderator, many thoughts ran through my head when I read Brooks email to me announcing his intention.

Now that this news has settled in, it is time for action. The church council’s executive committee: Moderator, Vice Moderator, Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Clerk met with Walter John Boris, Central Pacific Conference Minister to go over the process and procedures for calling a minister. During this meeting the options offered by Walter John were: select an interim minister or immediately start a search for a Settled Minister. The committee voted to look for an Interim Minister first. We provided the full council with our reason for taking this step and they approved.

Walter John then provided us with four potential interim minister candidates’ profiles in late July. We met on July 20<sup>th</sup> to see the profiles for the first time, but devoted most of the meeting to discussing the selection process, planning to meet-with the full council, and deciding that we would plan to contact our top two candidates. We met again on August 6 to delve deeper into each candidate’s background and to begin preparing the questions we want to ask the candidates during an interview. From this meeting we agreed on two candidates and contacted both to determine their interest. Both expressed interest in interviewing for the position.

We will interview both candidates on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Following that meeting we will determine if we are prepared to offer one of them the position of Interim Minister.

The goal of the committee is to have our Interim Minister in place by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Both candidates are currently employed, so in fairness to them we are not prepared to announce their names at this time.

We hope to have more news to share very soon!

Respectively submitted,

Ken Rowe  
Moderator

## WORSHIP IN AUGUST

### August 16, 2015

10 a.m. Worship Service. Presiding Minister, Lynn Renner, 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  
Ray Jones

### August 23, 2015

10 a.m. Worship Service. Presiding Minister, Rev. Richard Trefren. 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  
Susan Rush

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

10 a.m. Worship Service. Presiding Minister, Rev. Dr. Ed Martin, Slim Moon, preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Joy Gerlitz

Worship Leader: Dwight Chapman

Ushers: John Hannon and John Bradley

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## DIRECTORY CORRECTION:

Please change the area code for Trent and Rachel Corey to **630**. The correct telephone number for the Corey's should be **630-947-6179**.

Thanks



## Welcome Emma

Marvin and Sue Benson are thrilled to announce the arrival of their beautiful granddaughter, Emma.

Emma is the daughter of Kristin and Blane Kunihsa and was born July 30, 2015 weighing in at 5 lbs, 11 oz, and 18" tall. She's a beauty and makes the perfect 4<sup>th</sup> leaf on their lucky clover.

## 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  
Dorothy Mathews  
Sue Benson  
Anne Kamp  
Cordelia McBride

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).

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## UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline  
Link Mailed

August 23, 2015  
August 25, 2015

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## 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.

## 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.

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**Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Esther Short Park  
9 am to 5 pm ~ free!**

**SAVE THE DATE!** Activities include music, poetry, vendors, and children's activities. Food of all kinds is available next door at the Farmer's Market.

Our church is again sponsoring a table and we would love to have your help in telling the community about how we are involved in peace, justice, and trying to make our world a better place. Join us in the park for a fun day!

To volunteer for our table, call Karen at 991-5774 or email at: [lk.kulm@gmail.com](mailto:lk.kulm@gmail.com). A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex later this month.

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## Flowers for the Altar

Contributed by Jeanne Stolle

There are openings in the schedule for flowers for our altar. Please consider sharing your garden blooms in honor of special events or "just because." You may sign up on the chart in the narthex.

Thank You,  
Parish Life

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

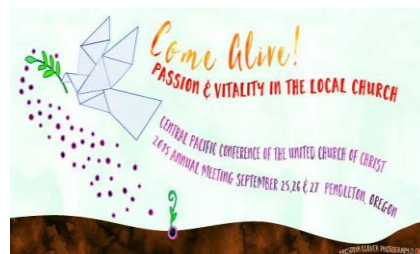
If you made a pledge or a contribution to the third phase of our Capital Campaign, you have the privilege of selecting bricks for our Honor Garden. You may write a paragraph to highlight the generosity of the person or persons you have chosen to honor with a brick. You are not required to write anything. 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. 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.

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## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CENTRAL PACIFIC CONFERENCE UCCANNUAL MEETING SEPT 25-27

Our theme is Come Alive! Passion & Vitality in the Local Church. Cameron Trimble, CEO of the Center for Progressive Renewal, is our keynote speaker and catalyst for ALIVENESS!

The Annual Meeting will be in Pendleton, OR. Everyone is invited to attend, and we need volunteers to be voting delegates from our church. If you would like to be a delegate, please let Ken Rowe or Richard Trefren know. Registration for the event will be open soon. You can learn more about it at our conference web page here (scroll down to annual meeting): <http://cpcucc.org/wp14/>

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## New Class this Fall

**Do you know everything there is to know about the Bible?** This fall, a new class comes to First Congregational UCC. It has also been called ***Bible 101: Everything You Wanted to Know about the Bible and Were Afraid to Ask.***

This class is composed of three sections: **Section I: How can we read the Bible most effectively?** We will discuss eight approaches to Bible Reading using eight books of the Bible as examples. Students will be guided to set aside a time each day to read from the Bible and/or devotional book. **Section II: How Did We Get the Bible?** Who wrote it and how do we know it? Why did these books get into the Bible and what happened to books that didn't make the cut? Who decided and when? Why do we include the Old Testament in a Christian Bible?

**Section III: What's in the Bible?** We will review types of Biblical literature with interesting examples of each. We will explore Biblical divisions and books to examine how each can be meaningful to us.

The class should give each person a comfortability with the Bible and some new understandings of how to use it. We will utilize a combination of information and discussion; questions are encouraged. Optional homework assignments will sometimes be offered.

Plan to attend an informational meeting **after church on September 20<sup>th</sup>**. Those who are interested in participating will help to set a time and day of the week. The class will meet weekly with Carole Elizabeth teaching the class.

If you are interested in attending the class but can't make the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, please Carole Elizabeth at 360-904-6753 or e-mail your best time/day to [pastorcarolee@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcarolee@gmail.com).