

The Link

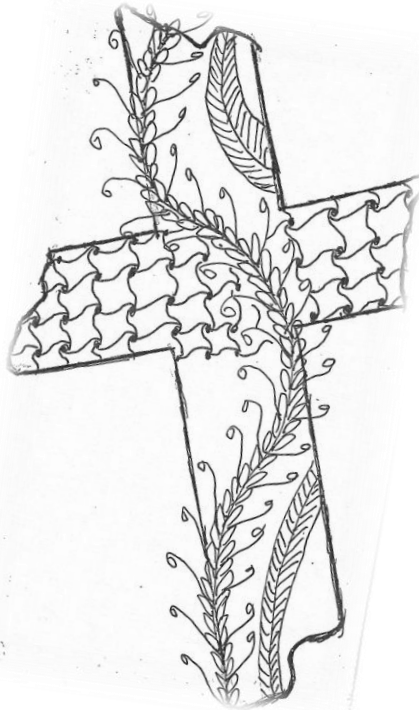
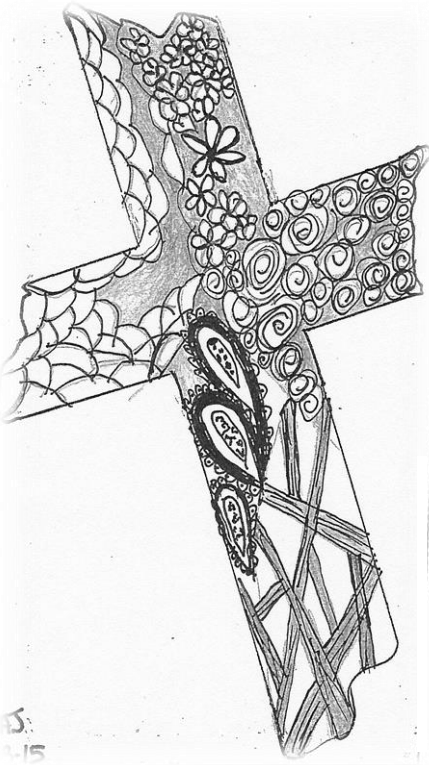
First Congregational
United Church of Christ
1220 NE 68th Street
Vancouver, WA 98665-0508
360.693.1476
Website: www.vancouverucc.org



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God is Still Speaking,

August 25, 2015



Zentangle

As a part of the Good Friday observance, Harriet Anani offered a mini-seminar in the practice of Zentangle meditation. Above are some of the creations.

The process of creating a Zentangle is a form of “artistic meditation” as one becomes completely engrossed in making each pattern, deliberately focusing on “one stroke at a time”®. The creativity options and pattern combinations are boundless. ***And anyone can do it!***

The Zentangle method “increases focus and creativity, provides artistic satisfaction along with an increased sense of personal well being. The Zentangle method is enjoyed all over this world across a wide range of skills, interests and ages.”

“One of the lovely things about Zentangle is that it isn’t supposed to BE anything. Even more, it’s SUPPOSED to NOT be a something. ... Zentangle is simply beautiful patterns playing harmoniously together. Zentangle-inspired art (ZIA) is another story; it can be Something if you want.”

WORSHIP IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

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

10 a.m. Worship Service. Ed Martin, Worship Provider, Slim Moon, Preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Joy Gerlitz

Worship Leader: Leslie Chapman

Ushers: John Hannon and John Bradley

SEPTEMBER

September 6, 2015 Communion

10 AM Worship Service. Richard Trefren, preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters:

Worship Leader: Leslie Chapman

Ushers: Trent Corey and Rory Martindale
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

September 13, 2015 CE Kick-off Sunday

10 AM Worship Service, Kristina Martin and Kids, preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. Kick-off Luncheon following Worship.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Children of the Church

Worship Leader: Jean Beary Stolle

Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

September 20, 2015

10 AM Worship Service. Rev. Carole Elizabeth, Worship Provider, preaching.. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters:

Worship Leader: Harriet Anani

Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone
Ray Jones

September 27, 2015

10 AM Worship Service. Rev. Carole Elizabeth, Worship Provider, 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: Dwight Chapman

Ushers: David Macko and David Harrington
Susan 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:

Joan Blair

Ken Kerr

Betty Ferner

Jean Matthews

Dorothy Mathews

Sue Benson

Anne Kamp

Cordelia McBride

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR “*The Link*”

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

September 6, 2015
September 8, 2015

Birthdays in September

September 03	Barbara Ahola
September 05	Woody Woodworth
September 08	Dwight Chapman
September 10	Wayne Fletcher
September 13	Becky Slocum
September 14	Leslie Wu
September 16	John Priel
September 16	Darrell Brandenburg
September 17	Ruth Hammer
September 18	Molly Wilson
September 23	Victoria Koffel
September 26	Joan Barber
September 29	Diane Ullom
September 29	Sabrina Mauke-Wiswall



Dr. Schindler At The Old Church

Christopher will perform his annual recital at Portland's Old Church on Wednesday, September 9 at noon. He will play piano music of Bach, Busoni, Chopin, Debussy and Janáček. The Old Church is located on the corner of S.W. 11th and Clay in downtown Portland.

Greetings to the Choir!

As many of you know, I am thrilled to be on board as the new music director for the church and to get the chance to work with each and every one of you. With that said, our first rehearsal back in the Sanctuary is Wednesday, Sept. 9 from 7- 8:30 pm. Come with a joyful spirit, ready to sing and make music as we prepare for an invigorating and revitalizing musical journey ahead of us.

From your music director,
Sterling Roberts

Kick-Off Service and Lunch 2015 Practicing Faith and Community!

Please join our faith community on September 13, 2015 for our annual Kick-Off Service and Lunch. The children of the church will participate in all parts of our service, ensuring it will be filled with the spirit and energy of youth and faith. The focus of the service will be on how we practice our faith as progressive Christians, and will highlight aspects of the new curriculum: *Faith Practices*.

Following the service, please join us for a BBQ sandwich lunch in Bradford Hall sponsored by Christian Education and our youth group. There will be pulled meats (pork and chicken), a vegetarian option, salad, and chips. A donation of \$5 per person or \$20 per family is suggested. All money collected will support the youth group's service projects this next year.

If your child would like to have a role in the service (greeters, ushers, worship leader, children's time, et cetera), please contact Kristina Martin.

Farley Maxwell

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the death of former Pastor and loving friend, Farley Maxwell. Farley was Pastor here at First Congregational UCC Vancouver from 1984 until 1997. He and wife Dr. Mary Maxwell also served with the UCC Global Ministries and the Disciples of Christ in Nepal for four years.

Farley's service will be Saturday, September 5th from 2:00-5:00 pm at First Congregational downtown Portland. We will meet in our church parking lot at 1:00 pm to carpool.

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.



Saturday, September 12th

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. A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex later this month.



Mission & Outreach Special Offering for September is Jubilee USA

Jubilee USA Network is an alliance of churches, labor, environmental, and community organizations. In the late 1990s, people across the map joined together to form the global Jubilee movement to call for debt cancellation for impoverished countries and for just economic policies. From this, Jubilee USA was born. Since then, we have won critical global financial reforms and more than \$130 billion in debt relief for the world's poorest people.

Our church voted to become a Jubilee Congregation several years ago. As part of our commitment, we take an annual offering, educate ourselves on debt issues, and conduct action campaigns.

Jubilee continues to work for debt relief for countries struck by Ebola, reform of international financial institutions, and protection from predatory student lending practices among others.

To support Jubilee USA financially, make your check out to our church and note "Jubilee" in the memo line.

More information about the critically important work of Jubilee Network can be found here: <http://www.jubileeusa.org/home.html>



REGISTER NOW FOR THE CENTRAL PACIFIC CONFERENCE UCC ANNUAL 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 is now open, and the early-bird discount ends September 11th**. Here is the link to register:

<https://cpcucc.wufoo.com/forms/registration-for-the-2015-cpc-annual-meeting/>

News about the keynote speaker, workshops, activities, etc is here: <http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=c1fafb9f89ecab71f0d3f77c3&iid=40974debbbc&e=f641139a54>

Our Service Project for Annual Meeting this year will be Tonya House in Pendleton. This house is a home for troubled teen girls. While most might come for 6 months, some only stay there for a few days while others could be there for three years.

We are asking each church to bring bedding and/or towels. All beds are TWIN SIZE and this is what they need: mattress pads, sheets, pillowcases, comforters, quilts, blankets, "Bed in a Bag"-twin size, or homemade quilts.

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 20th**. 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 20th meeting, please Carole Elizabeth at 360-904-6753 or e-mail your best time/day to pastorcarolee@gmail.com.

September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00 WW 5:30 Conservation PLY 6:30 Sierra Board PLY	2 4:00 WW BRD	3 9:00 Mediation CL2 1:30 Woodwkg PLY 4:00 Pantry 6:00 Planned Phd NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	4 10:00 Pantry	5
6 Rev. Richard Trefren Communion 10:00 Worship SAN 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	7 Office Closed for Labor Day 6:30 VANUSA B/O Classrooms 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	8 9:00 WW 10:45 Staff 6:30 CE 6:30 Parish Life	9 11:30 Sierra Data PLY 4:00 WW 7:00 Choir 7:00 Coal Free	10 10:00 Prayer Shawl NFL 4:00 Pantry 7:30 Fireside	11 10:00 Pantry	12 8:00 Samoan Adv. SAN/BRD 9:30 Women's Bkfst At the Quay 5:00 Kick-off set-up BRD
13 CE Kick-off 10:00 Worship SAN 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	14 9:00 Mediation CL2 6:30 VANUSA B/O Classrooms 7:30 Fireside PLY	15 9:00 WW 10:45 Staff 7:00 Diaconate	16 4:00 WW 6:00 M&O 7:00 Choir	17 4:00 Pantry 7:30 Fireside PLY	18 10:00 Pantry	19 8:00 Samoan Adv. SAN/BRD
20 10:00 Worship SAN 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	21 6:30 VANUSA B/O Classrooms 7:00 Communications 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	22 9:00 WW 10:45 Staff	23 11:30 Sierra Data PLY 4:00 WW 6:00 P & F 7:00 Choir	24 1:00 Art Group 4:00 Pantry 7:00 Council 7:30 Fireside PLY	25 10:00 Pantry	26 8:00 Samoan Adv. SAN/BRD
27 10:00 Worship SAN 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	28 6:30 VANUSA B/O Classrooms 7:00 Personnel NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	29 9:00 WW 10:45 Staff	30 4:00 WW 7:00 Choir			