

The Link

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
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Volume 37 No.18

God is Still Speaking,

September 22, 2015

From Kristina

It's been a few weeks now that when I go out at night, taking the garbage to the curb or walking the dog that the air feels like fall. One night it felt estival and the next it felt autumnal. Time may pass smoothly, but we often notice it in fits and starts. And nothing makes us notice fall's arrival like the start of a new religious education year.

The new education year means the four year olds have moved up from the nursery and it's time to welcome them. There is something wonderful and refreshing about watching a child move around a new space, looking for the safe and the familiar. It is wonderful because we get to see our space and our traditions through their eyes. And, of course, it is refreshing because they ask the very best questions. These days our whole church is at the start of something wonderful this fall. We have a new choir director, a new interim pastor, a new curriculum—so many new things to make 1st Congregational even more wonderful. With all these changes, we are certain to have new people visit, looking for the familiar in our spaces and traditions.

However, I think we are all looking for the familiar when we come to church. We are looking in faces and places for that which makes us feel safe and welcome. Visitor, newest member, and long-time member alike, we are all hoping that we have found a place where we can be loved just as we are. Luckily for us, 1st Congregational is very good at doing just that.

Blessings!

Kristina Martin
CE Coordinator/Youth Director

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

September 27, 2015

10 AM Worship Service. Arlene Arnold, Pulpit Guest.
Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.:
Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Tom and Parry Yates
Worship Leader: Dwight Chapman
Ushers: David Macko and David Harrington
Susan Rush

OCTOBER

October 4, 2015

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Hector Lopez
preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20
a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7.
Youth Group (**MAZI**) meets at 11:15 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters:
Worship Leader: Jerry Mathis
Ushers: Trent Corey, Rory Martindale
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

October 11, 2015

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Dr. Ed Martin,
preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20
a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters:
Worship Leader: Pam Osborne
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

October 18, 2015

10 a.m. Worship Service. Natalie Becker, Pulpit Guest
Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.:
Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7.
Youth Group (**MAZI**) meets at 11:15 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters:
Worship Leader: Melanie Handshaw
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone
Ray Jones

October 25, 2015

10 a.m. Worship Service Pam Osborne, Pulpit Guest.
Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.:
Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7. .

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters:
Worship Leader: Jeff Osborne
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
Dorothy Mathews
Nita Calvert
Irma Slocum
Cordelia Rush
John Priel

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

<u>Link Deadline</u>	<u>October 11, 201</u>
<u>Link Mailed</u>	<u>October 13, 2013</u>

Birthdays in October

October 02	Dave Slocum
October 02	Gina Marquardt
October 11	Virginia Ebersole
October 12	Amelia Martin
October 16	Phyllis Corbin
October 17	Kristina Martin
October 17	Irene Edwards
October 17	Dashel Wilson
October 18	John Greenauer
October 23	Ray Jones
October 25	Jeff Osborne
October 26	David Everist
October 27	Fred Wilson
October 30	Annalin King



Women's Retreat at Camp Adams October 9-11, 2015

Join us at Camp Adams to worship, discuss, meditate, sing and play together. It's our time and chance to greet old and new friends, walk in the woods and share our joys or sorrows as we build community among the Central Pacific Conference Women.

The total retreat fee is \$105.00: pre-registration is \$65.00 which is transferable but non-refundable, and \$40.00 is due upon arrival. Rev. Anne Smith Loan/Grant forms are available in the church office. The Financial Aid deadline is September 29, and registration forms are due October 1.

Featured speaker will be Rev. Dana Morgan McBrien, Spiritual Care Coordinator at Providence Benedictine Nursing center in Mt. Angel.

Celebrate on September 27th!

Ray and Patti Jones invite you to share in the celebration of their 5th Anniversary this **Sunday, Sept. 27th** during the coffee time following worship



Martha's Pantry Invites You...

...to join them for their Annual Awards Dinner on Friday, October 2. They will have an open house with a social hour and tours of the Pantry from 5:30 until 6:30 followed by a buffet dinner. Their Volunteer Awards will be presented at 7:00.

This is a great opportunity to discover what a wonderful organization we have as our 'downstairs' neighbors.



WINTER COAT & SOCK DRIVE Help Our Neighbors Stay Warm!

Martha's Pantry, our neighbor downstairs, invites you to participate in their annual Winter Coat/Warm Sock drive. It is underway now and will last until the end of October. New or clean "gently used" men's & women's coats in a variety of sizes are needed.

Look for the clearly marked barrel near the office, in the entrance way. We'd love to have you as partners! Contact Judy Dahlen if you have questions. [360-597-8815](tel:360-597-8815).

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.



UCC SPECIAL OFFERING FOR OCTOBER

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry(CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries(JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering. **Please support this important ministry by writing a check to our church and putting "NIN" in the memo line**

THANK YOU!!!

Contributed by Kristina Martin

Thank you for all your support of the youth group at the Kick-Off luncheon on September 13th! Your generous donations will support the youth group's service trip this summer. It wouldn't have been possible without the help of Parish Life and Christian Education. Thank you for being so wonderful and believing in our youth group!

Youth Group (MAZI) News

The following is our schedule through December. 1st and 3rd Sundays aren't the same without you! So see you there!

October 4, 2015
October 18, 2015

November 1, 2015
November 15, 2015

December 6, 2015 (Advent Festival)
December 20, 2015

Honor Garden

The Honor Garden Committee has been working over the summer to install the side wall and patio, grass berm and a Japanese Red Maple tree. Now that all the names for individual bricks nominating honorees have been submitted, the bricks will soon be engraved and set along the walk. The committee is also in need of additional funds to complete the plan. Items such as benches, an arbor and additional plantings range in cost from \$50 to \$200 and may be suitable a memorial or honorary purposes. Contact Ed Martin or John Greenauer for details.

Stewardship News

Contributed by John Greenauer



The Stewardship campaign this fall will be featuring a Family Photo Album of our members at work, play, worship and service. Any photos you may have of church activities or groups of members please send to Bert Martin at bkmar1192@gmail.com.

*"Even if something is left undone,
everyone must take time to sit still
and watch the leaves turn."*

Elizabeth Lawrence

October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 1:30 Woodwkg PLY 4:00 Pantry 6:00 Planned Pthd NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	2 10:00 Pantry 5:30 Pantry Volunteer Awards Celebration BRD	3 1:00—4:00 Leadership Retreat
4 Rev. Hector Lopez Communion 10:00 Worship SAN 11:15 MAZI TRI 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	5 6:30 VANUSA 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	6 9:00 WW 10:45 Staff TRI 5:30 Conservation PLY 6:30 Sierra Board PLY	7 10:00 Bible 101 PLY 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 Choir SAN	8 10:00 Prayer Shawl 9-12 Food Bank Mtg PLY 4:00 Pantry 7:30 Fireside PLY	9 10:00 Pantry	10 8:00 Samoan Church 9:30 Women's Bkfst Group at the Quay
11 Rev. Ed Martin 10:00 Worship SAN 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	12 6:30 VANUSA 7:30 Fireside PLY	13 9:00 WW 10:45 Staff 6:30 CE 6:30 Parish Life NFL	14 10:00 Bible 101 PLY 11:30 Sierra Data PLY 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 Choir SAN 7:00 Coal Free PLY	15 1:00 Art Groups PLY 4:00 Pantry 7:30 Fireside PLY	16 10:00 Pantry	17 8:00 Samoan Church
18 Natalie Becker 10:00 Worship SAN 11:15 MAZI TRI 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	19 6:30 VANUSA B/O Classrooms 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	20 9:00 WW 10:45 Staff	21 10:00 Bible 101 PLY 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 P&F PLY 6:00 M&O NFL 7:00 Choir SAN	22 4:00 Pantry 7:00 Council CL2 7:30 Fireside PLY	23 10:00 Pantry	24 8:00 Samoan Church
25 Pam Osborne 10:00 Worship SAN 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	26 6:30 VANUSA 7:30 Fireside PLY	27 9:00 WW 10:45 Staff	28 10:00 Bible 101 PLY 11:30 Sierra Data PLY 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 Choir SAN	29 4:00 Pantry 7:30 Fireside PLY	30	31

Save the Date! October 3, 2015

On this date, Church Council is sponsoring a Half-Day Retreat Leadership Conference. The council felt it is important to develop members to continue the work of the church in a manner that is consistent with the work of members who have come before us, and who have devoted time and energy to make this church operate at the highest level.

In the future, this retreat will be held in late May or early June, closer to the church business calendar and to coincide with newly elected officers and elected members of ministries and committees.

Agenda:

Half-Day Retreat Leadership Conference October 3, 2015, 1:00--4:00 PM

Attendees: Council officers, members of Council, including all ministry and committees chairman, first-time members to ministries and committees and any member of the church, recent or long-time, interested in being involved as a leader..

- Welcome and Icebreaker Exercise—10 minutes
- Develop 2015-2016 All Church Calendar—60 Minutes
- Review responsibilities and job descriptions of Council, Ministry and Committee Chairs—20 minutes
- Question & Answer session—15 minutes
- Ways to Develop Leadership, from committee member to chairman—20 minutes
- Discussion of how we want to make best use of this time of transition—Comments, then Question & Answer—30 minutes
- Discuss selection process of members of search committee for Settled Pastor.
- Review Council To-Do-List—20 minutes
- Adjourn

Coffee and tea will be provided. You are welcome to bring snacks to share.