

The Link

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
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Volume 37 No. 17

God is Still Speaking,

September 8, 2015



We Welcome Pastor Jennifer Brownell

We are pleased to announce that Pastor Jennifer Brownell is our new Interim Pastor effective November 1st. She will be in church on November 1st as a guest and will preach on November 8th.

Jennifer has been the pastor at Hillsdale Community Church UCC, Portland, for the past eight years. She and her husband Jeff have a 13 year old son, Elijah.

She also writes a monthly devotional that is published on the UCC website, http://www.ucc.org/devotionals_by_jennifer_brownell that I encourage everyone to read.

She is a recently published author of, *Swim, Ride, Run, Breathe: How I Lost a Triathlon and Caught My Breath*, published in May of this year, by Pilgrim Press.

The book, *A Million Visions of Peace: Wisdom from the Friends of Old Turtle*, which she co-edited, was a Children's Choice Award from the Children's Book Council of New York. Most recently, Brownell contributed an essay to the book *There's a Woman in the Pulpit*. You can find more of her writing at 46thpsalm.blogspot.com.

According to her bio, "She is the daughter, granddaughter, and great-granddaughter of ministers and missionaries. She has worked in a food cooperative, a museum, a school, an Independent record label, and even some churches".

The committee was very impressed with Jennifer during the interview process and are excited to have her begin working with our congregation as we move forward during the next phase of our growth.

Following church on November 1, we will have a reception for Jennifer and her family. Please be sure to attend so you can welcome her to our church family.

Ken Rowe
Moderator

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

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: Molly and Fred Wilson and the 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: Shari and Kimberly Lewis

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: Tom and Patty Yates

Worship Leader: Dwight Chapman

Ushers: David Macko and David Harrington
Susan Rush

Women's Breakfast Group

All women of the church are invited to celebrate sisterhood, fellowship and friendship when the **Women's Breakfast Group** meets at 9:30 AM Saturday, September 12, at the Red Lion Inn at the Quay.

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.

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*"

Link Deadline

September 20, 2015

Link Mailed

September 22, 2015

Mary Jo Ebel Circle Picnic at the Church Wednesday, September 16 11:00 a.m.

Please bring a sack lunch, beverage and a lawn chair. All friends are welcome! Contingency plans in effect.

Thank You Church Family

We want to thank you for all the support, cards, prayers, and love that you sent our way during our daughter Sheila's sudden illness and her passing. Your love was felt and much appreciated.
Love, Andy & Susan

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.



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.



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.

Memorials Committee to Meet

The Memorials Committee will meet on Thursday, September 17th at 10:00 in the Plymouth Room.

Choir Rehearsals Begin Wednesday!

It's time for you to start warming up those vocal cords and be here at 7:00 on the 9th to welcome our new Music Director, Sterling Roberts.

Music Ministry has long been an integral part of our worship experience here at First Congregational Vancouver and is a joy for all the participants. Come feel that joy!



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.

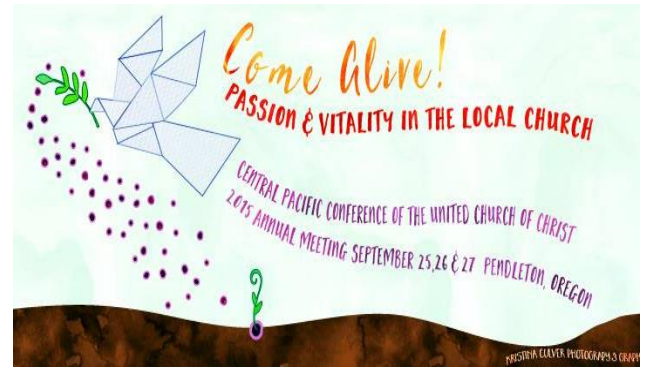
Our church voted to become a Jubilee Congregation several years ago. As part of our commitment, we take an annual offering, educate ourselves on debt issues, and conduct action campaigns.

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.

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Celebrate on September 17th!

Ray and Patti Jones invite you to share in the celebration of their 5th Anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 17th during the coffee time following worship. Plan to come, have some cake and share in their joy.



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=c1fab9f89ecab71f0d3f77c3&id=40974debbc&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

Contributed by Rev. Carole Elizabeth

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 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 contact Carole Elizabeth at 360-904-6753 or e-mail your best time/day to pastorcarolee@gmail.com.

Life isn't about waiting for the storm

to pass

it's about learning to

Dance in the Rain

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.

Directory Change

Dr. Cynthia McNally
2806 NW 105th Circle
Vancouver, WA 98686

Card/Games Social Group

All are Welcome
Potluck Salad Luncheon
12:00 p.m.
at the home of:
Laurie Parafinczuk
13615 NW 45th Ct.
Vancouver, 98685 (Felida)

This group usually meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. at a different home each month. For more information, you may contact Laurie at 360-828-7076 or at laurpara@gmail.com.

Join Us for Good Company
and Lots of Fun!