

# *The Link*

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

November 10, 2015

## **Broken Places**

When the doctor brought out the boot he told me I would be wearing for “at least two weeks” because of a mostly undetectable but definitely uncomfortable stress fracture, I have to admit I gulped a little. Wearing a big black cast on my left foot was not how I planned to greet you on our first day of worship together. But we don't always get to choose which of our little bumps and bruises show, and which ones are hidden, so I strapped the approximately gajillion little Velcro closures on the boot and headed to church. It turns out I was not the only one in worship wearing the exact same boot that day! There were a small crowd of us, in fact, and when I noticed that, felt much more relaxed.

I will never love the boot, but I am grateful to it now. Not only for the healing it is providing my foot, but also for this reminder. AS much as we would prefer to hide them, sometimes it's our broken places that actually bring us together. The broken places in our hearts and souls can be just as painful as any broken bone. One step on the road to healing is recognizing how much we share – in our sorrows as well as our joys, our hurts as well as our hopes.

I look forward to sharing more with you, as we take the first steps on the road (some of us limping a little!) that will lead to your permanently called pastor. Give me a call at the church office or drop me a line at [jennifer@vanucc.org](mailto:jennifer@vanucc.org). If you'd rather stop by, you'll find me in the office on most Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. In addition, I will be hosting Community Office Hours at the Hazel Dell Panera by Fred Meyer every Wednesday from 4:30-6:45ish. Feel free to drop by for a cup of coffee, a cookie or conversation whether you are just out and about or on your way to Bible 101 or choir rehearsal.

*Blessings,*

*Pastor Jennifer*

## WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

### November 15, 2015

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Jennifer Brownell , preaching.. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7. Youth Group meets at 11:15 a.m. in the Triangle Room

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Doraine Kohler and Barbara Ahola  
Worship Leader: David Harrington  
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone  
Ray Jones

***Dr. Christopher Schindler Recital  
3:00 PM in the Sanctuary***

### November 22, 2015

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

**Stewardship Thanksgiving Dinner  
following worship.**

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Tom and Patty Yates  
Worship Leader: Jerry Mathis  
Ushers: David Harrington and David Macko  
Susan Rush

### November 29, First Sunday of Advent

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

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Daryl DeSilva and  
Worship Leader: Dwight Chapman  
Ushers: John Hannon and John Bradley

## All In Giving Thanks!

Contributed by Leslie Chapman



On Sunday November 22<sup>nd</sup> we will be celebrating our church and the conclusion of our 2016 Stewardship Drive. We will gather together after church in Bradford Hall and have a church family dinner. We will provide the turkey, ham, potatoes, gravy and bread. We are asking you to bring your favorite Thanksgiving side dish or dessert. There will be entertainment, fun and great fellowship, so you won't want to miss it.

## 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  
Harriet Anani

## UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

<u>Link Deadline</u>	<u>November 22, 2015</u>
<u>Link Mailed</u>	<u>November 24, 2015</u>

## Dr. Schindler in Recital

On Sunday, November 15, Christopher will perform a piano recital at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. His program will feature the solo version of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue". There will also be music by Bach, Chopin, Debussy and Janáček.

Admission is \$ 10 at the door or \$ 5 plus non-perishable food item.

## Name Tag November

Contributed by the Membership Ministry

We are officially making the month of November name tag month because our new interim minister wants to know us by our first names. If we have mistakenly overlooked yours please let Joan Blair or Kathy in the office know and we'll make you one immediately. Let's all join in to get to know each other better and have Rev. Brownell call us by our names. Walk in, put on your name tag and wear it proudly!!

**Mary Jo Ebel Circle**  
**Wednesday, November 18, 2014,**  
**1:00 p.m., at**

Judy Walter's,  
4700 NE 25<sup>th</sup> Ct.  
Vancouver WA 98660  
360-693-0393

The program will be a continuation of last year's program on travel.

Co-hosted by Judy Walter  
and Virginia Ebersole.

Parking is limited, car-pool if you can.



The Mission and Outreach Ministry team is again offering you an opportunity to provide Thanksgiving baskets for members of our church community. A table will be set up with sign up lists for items for each of the baskets beginning Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Non-perishable items can be dropped off any time. Gift cards should be given to Karen Kulm, or given to Kathy during office hours. **All items are due on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.** The baskets will be prepared & delivered to the recipients on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you for your generous support of our community members.

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## Help Needed in the Nursery

Contributed by Kristina Martin

It is with great sadness that we need to look for a new Nursery Attendant. Angie Hill has a conflict on Sundays that requires her to resign. If you know anyone who might want a part-time position and who loves small children, please have them contact either Jennifer Brownell or Kristina Martin. Until the position is filled, Kristina needs people to volunteer to fill in. PLEASE consider volunteering in the nursery. If you can volunteer, please call Kristina at (360) 635-1075.



## MAZI Annual Thanksgiving Celebration

Contributed by Kristina Martin

Don't forget that our annual Thanksgiving celebration is November 15th from 11:15 until 1pm. Bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish to help create our Thanksgiving meal. Kristina will bring pumpkin pie. If you have questions, call Kristina.

## Sock It to Need, Sock It to Winter

Contributed by Kristina Martin, CE Director

As a way of living our FAITH PRACTICE of *hospitality* and *community*, the children of Vancouver UCC will collect socks throughout November. On November 29<sup>th</sup>, all socks collected will be "paired" and delivered to Martha's Pantry for their clients in need. **Please bring socks and help our kids help our community.**

## Honor Garden

We are making progress on the Honor Garden and front entrance landscaping. Thanks to John Greenauer and his team including Ken Rowe, Scott Jones, Tom Renner, and Ed Martin the patio and brick lined walk will be completed soon. We still need the following landscaping items to be donated. Each of these items can be given in honor or in memory of someone.

- Three benches: \$500 each. \$600 with engraving.
- Water feature: \$500. \$550 with engraved plaque.
- Two ornamental trees: \$100 each. \$150 with engraved plaque.
- Garden entry arbor: \$300. \$350 with engraved plaque.

We also need funds for general landscaping and maintenance of the garden. You may donate any amount for this, or if you wish to make it in honor or memory of someone, a gift of \$150 or more will include an engraved walkway brick.

Please see Ed Martin if you wish to donate one of the above items.

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## 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, November 14<sup>th</sup> at

**Elmer's,**  
**7105 NE 40<sup>th</sup> St. 98661**

(next to US Bank on 40<sup>th</sup> and Andresen).

Call Connie Oppel at 360-573-8997 for more information.

## Tuesday Lectionary Bible Study:

With a large and enthusiastic group enjoying Bible 101, we are wondering if it's the right time to take a break from the Tuesday Bible study. I'll be here at 9:30 on Tuesday mornings for the next couple of weeks, so stop by and let me know if you would like to continue this offering. Otherwise, we will plan to go on hiatus for now.

Thanks! -Pastor Jennifer



## ADVENT 2015: An Edible Advent and Cookie Exchange

Contributed by Kristina Martin

The Advent Festival Potluck will be December 6th and you don't want to miss it. Bring a potluck item and an appetite for your holiday spirit.

After we eat lunch together, we will decorate and bake cookies as well as some other activities. When you go home, you'll take a plate of cookies and a great start to your Christmas season.

If you'd like to donate your favorite Christmas cookie to the cookie exchange, please let Kristina know. You can call her or Kathy in the office with your cookie donations.



In recognition of National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week (Nov. 15-21) Share presents: **'Hungry & Homeless in Clark County: Get the Facts' Tuesday, Nov. 17, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Vancouver Community Library, Columbia Room Event is free to attend and open to the public Register on-line at [sharevancouver.org](http://sharevancouver.org)

This year's brown-bag lecture event features a panel of speakers to discuss affordable housing including: Mayor Tim Leavitt, representing the City Council's Affordable Housing Task Force; Andy Silver, Executive Director of Council for the Homeless; Dee Sanders, Director of Share ASPIRE; Ricki Anaya, Share's Alternative Housing & Education Coordinator.

A question and answer session will follow the speakers.

*"We encourage community members to recognize that affordable housing impacts us all, from employment opportunities to a thriving business community to quality education in our schools to vibrant and healthy neighborhoods in which to raise our families," - Diane McWithey, Executive Director of Share.*



## Welcome Baby Woodson

We welcome to our church family **Woodson Tucker Burnett**, brand new son of **Rachel Fully and Sibley Burnett**. Woodson made his appearance Tuesday night and weighed in at 11 lbs. 6 oz.



## Annual "Adopt A Family" Gifts Due December 6<sup>th</sup>

We have "adopted" a family through SHARE and will be collecting gifts as requested by the family. We will also give them grocery store gift cards so that they can have a nice holiday meal. **All gifts must be new and must be unwrapped.**

Look for the Giving Tree in the narthex with gift tags. Take a tag, purchase your gift or gift card, tape your tag to the **un-wrapped** gift and return it to church by the 6<sup>th</sup>. We will then take your gifts to SHARE where they will be wrapped and distributed to the family. December 6<sup>th</sup> is the absolute cut-off date per SHARE.

Questions? Contact Karen Kulm at 360-991-5774 or [lk.kulm@gmail.com](mailto:lk.kulm@gmail.com).

## New Pinochle Social Group

A new pinochle group is being formed. We need 3-4 players to have enough for two tables. and we have people available to instruct anyone who would like to learn to play.

The group will determine when and how often to play. Normally, the members of the group would take turns hosting ensuing meetings. Substitutes are available for the times when conflicts arise.. This can be a lot of fun, so give some thought to getting involved.

If you are interested in playing call Darrell Brandenburg at 360 693 7981.