

The Link

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
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Volume 37 No.24

God is Still Speaking,

December 22, 2015

Jerry Brance

Elizabeth Kent

Kathy Woolley

Christopher Schwallen

A B

Hayden

Brunna



May the spirit of Christmas bring you

PEACE

The gladness of Christmas give you

HOPE

The warmth of Christmas grant you

LOVE

WORSHIP IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

December 27, 2015 Family Christmas Brunch
10:00 AM in Bradford Hall. No Bible Adventures or MAZI Youth Group this morning.

JANUARY

January 3, 2016 Communion

10 a.m. Worship Service. Richard Trefren, Preaching.
Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.:

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Sandy Mathis and Diane Ullom
Worship Leader: TBA
Ushers: Rory Martindale and Trent Corey
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

January 10, 2016

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 11:30 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Sharon Kenoski and Jean Beary Stolle
Worship Leader:
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

January 17 2016

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 11:30 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Joy Gerlitz and Jean Matthews
Worship Leader:
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone
Mike King

January 24, 2016

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 11:30 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: June and Jonathan (Bruce) Lasher
Worship Leader:
Ushers: David Harrington and David Macko

January 31, 2016

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: Ruth Hammer and Virginia Ebersole
Worship Leader: TBA
Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon

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>January 10, 2016</u>
<u>Link Mailed</u>	<u>January 12, 2016</u>



SPECIAL OFFERING: Discretionary Fund

On Christmas Eve we will take our annual special offering that helps those in our church family and community with emergency needs. Our ability to help those in hard times is a true blessing to those who receive it.

Worship Leader Training

Have you considered being one of our worship leaders on Sunday morning? If you would like information about participating in this vital part of our worship service or would like to be a leader in 2016, you are encouraged and welcome to participate in a short training on Sunday January 10th immediately after worship.



The cold weather has kept the WHO shelters full with overflow beds. Please continue to donate men's socks, gloves, hats, thermals, and underwear to the big yellow basket in the narthex.

Sign up now for our WHO week March 6-12. Once again we are partnering with our friends at Kol Ami. Volunteering is easier than ever this year by using Volunteer Spot.

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. **Click this link** to go to our invitation page on Volunteer Spot <http://vols.pt/cbdRWF>.

Advance the calendar to March to find the shifts available during our shared week shifts, March 6-12.

2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on Volunteer Spot)

3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots – Volunteer Spot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy! Note: Volunteer Spot does not share your email address with anyone.

Please note: Kol Ami is also volunteering in December & January and has open shifts available, so please help them out if you can.



The Mission & Outreach Ministry Team thanks you all for your incredible support of our "adopted" SHARE family for our Giving Tree. All the gift needs were fulfilled including store gift cards to help the family prepare a Christmas meal.

We also wanted to thank you for your generous support of our Thanksgiving Baskets. Your gifts have helped lessen some of the stress of the holidays for these families.

The Honor Garden

We are progressing with the development of the Honor Garden and are pleased with how much it already adds to the beauty and hospitality of our main entrance. Work will pause for the winter and will resume again in the spring. We plan to add the following pieces at that time: an arbor over the entrance to the walkway, a hedge across the west end of the disability parking, three benches, and a water feature in the rock garden, additional rhododendrons, and lawn. The water feature, which has been purchased already, will symbolize baptism as entry into the Christian community.

We have memorial contributions for all of the landscape items. We have had some cash contributions to help with the overall costs of the garden and we will continue to welcome such contributions.

Engraved bricks can be added at any time for a gift of \$150. When you make your gift please indicate the person to be honored or memorialized and that it is for an engraved brick in the Honor Garden. All donations to the Honor Garden will go to the Capital Fund. Thanks to all who have contributed time and money to make this beautification project a reality.

Ed Martin

From Kristina

Many thank yous to all of the children who participated in the Children's Christmas program as well as our advent and other Christmas traditions. A church filled with the voices of children is a vibrant church indeed!

Here are some upcoming dates and tidbits that I want to make sure folks are aware of:

12/24 - Christmas Eve service will be at 8pm with candle lighting at the end. Nursery care will be available and wassail and cookies will be in the narthex afterwards.

12/27 - Christmas brunch happens in Bradford at 10am. Pastor Jennifer will be including a Christmas pageant for ALL participants so that will be a fun, new tradition to consider experiencing. Irma Slocum will be playing Christmas carols for us as well. Bring a brunch item to share as well as your friends and family!

January: the whole month of January we will be collecting soup and other non-perishable foods for **Souper Bowl Sunday on January 31st**. In Sunday school on the 31st, the children will be counting the ounces of food collected as well as any money donated. All food and money will go to Martha's Pantry. I encourage everyone to share the word because it can be a fun way for your family to have conversations with friends and family about the importance of being in service to others as a part of our faith.

Be well and may the peace and light of this season be within all of your hearts!

Blessings!

Kristina



From Joanie Nelson
In Sunny Florida!

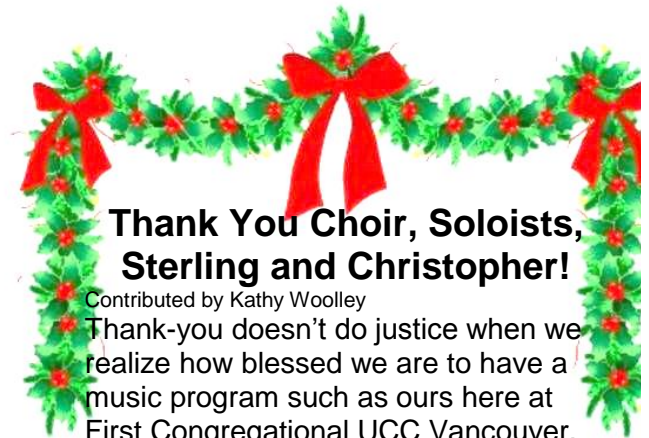
Merry Christmas to All!!
I miss everyone and all the festivities and services.

*May our hopes unite us
in a harmony of hearts.*

*May our prayers bless us with
PEACE ON EARTH.*

p.s.. They had to remove our alligator who was almost 6 feet . Too close for comfort!

Love to you all,
Joanie



Contributed by Kathy Woolley

Thank-you doesn't do justice when we realize how blessed we are to have a music program such as ours here at First Congregational UCC Vancouver. Those who missed the presentation of Saint Saëns' **Christmas Oratorio** last Sunday missed a magical combination of inspired music, splendid soloists, beautiful accompaniment by Dr. Christopher Schindler, a choir that radiated confidence and skill in their achievement and the brilliant magic man who brought it all together, Music Director, Sterling Roberts.

Thank you all so much for your dedication and 'we can do it' mantra over the last months. You are all treasures in our family.

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10:00 Pantry	2
3 Communion 10:00 Worship 11:15 MAZI 11 & 1 MCC 4:30 Fireside	4 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:00 Spirituality 7:30 Fireside	5 9:00 WW 5:30 Conservation PLY 6:30 Sierra Board	6 10:00 Bible 101 PLY 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 Choir SAN 7:00 Bible 101 PLY	7 4:00 Pantry 6:00 Planned Pthd NFL 7:30 Fireside	8 10:00 Pantry	9 9:30 Women's Bkfst Group
10 10:00 Worship 10:20 FP Sunday Sch. 11:00 Worship Leader Training SAN 11 & 1 MCC PLY	11 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside	12 9:00 WW 10:00 Membership PLY 6:30 CE CL2 6:30 Parish Life NFL	13 10:00 Bible 101 PLY 2:00 Sierra data CL2 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 Choir SAN 7:00 Bible 101 PLY	14 10:00 Prayer Shawl 4:00 Pantry 7:30 Fireside	15 10:00 Pantry	16 8:00 Samoans SAN
17 10:00 Worship 11:15 MAZI 11 & 1 MCC 4:30 Fireside	18 Office Closed for MLK Day 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:00 Spirituality 7:30 Fireside	19 9:00 WW 7:00 Diaconate NFL	20 10:00 Bible 101 10:30 Ebel Circle 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 Choir SAN 7:00 Bible 101 PLY	21 10:00 Memorials PLY 4:00 Pantry 6:00 M&O NFL 7:30 Fireside	22 10:00 Pantry	23 8:00 Samoans PLY 9:30 CCMTA Workshop SAN
24 10:00 Worship 10:20 FP Sunday Sch. 11:00 Cong. Mtg. SAN 11 & 1 MCC 4:30 Fireside	25 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside	26 9:00 WW BRD	27 10:00 Bible 101 PLY 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 P&F PLY 7:00 Choir SAN	28 1:00 Art Groups PLY 4:00 Pantry 7:00 Council CL2 7:30 Fireside	29 10:00 Pantry	30 8:00 Samoans SAN
31 10:00 Worship 10:20 FP Sunday Sch. 11 & 1 MCC 4:30 Fireside						