

# *The Link*

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



Volume 38 No. 3

*God is Still Speaking,*

February 9, 2016

## **LENT 2016**



*Holy One, when I wander off,  
come get me, turn me around  
and bring me home.*

## WORSHIP IN

### February 10, 2016 Ash Wednesday

5:00 PM, Soup Supper in the Plymouth Room followed by Distribution of the Ashes in the Sanctuary at 6:00.

### February 14, 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. 11:00 a.m., Faith Formation in Classroom 2

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Pat Degerstedt and Connie Oppel  
Worship Leader Patty Yates  
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman  
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

### February 21, 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:**

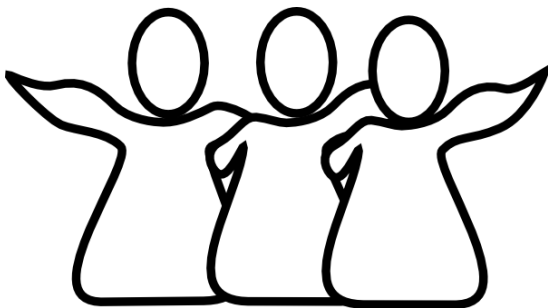
Greeters: Wayne and Doris Fletcher  
Worship Leader: Arlene Arnold  
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone  
Ray Jones

### February 28, 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. Adult Education in Bradford Hall following worship.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters Joan Blair and  
Worship Leader: Leslie Chapman  
Ushers: Susan Rush



### **Women's Breakfast Group**

Contributed by Connie Oppel

All women of the church are invited to celebrate sisterhood, fellowship and friendship when the **Women's Breakfast Group** meets at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, February 13 at the **Peachtree on Highway 99.**

## 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  
Nita Calvert  
Cordelia McBride  
Harriet Anani  
Anne Kamp  
Charlotte Warren  
Sue Benson  
Marvin Benson  
Josiah Renner  
(deployed to Afghanistan)

## UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline  
Link Mailed

February 21, 201  
February 24, 2016

## Celebration for the Life of Betty Ferner

It is with a heavy heart we announce the death of Betty Ferner. Betty and Jim joined our church family in 2003.

A Celebration of Betty's Life will be held on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM.



## Valentine's Day Celebration!

Please join us on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> after church in Bradford Hall to celebrate Valentine's Day as only First Congregational UCC Vancouver can!

Our very own Charlie Ross is going to lead us in some fun folk/square dancing and we will be making Valentines for our shut-ins. We promise, fun, fellowship and sweet treats!

## Mary Jo Ebel Circle

Contributed by Connie Oppel

The Mary Jo Ebel Circle will meet **Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>** in the Plymouth Room at 1 P.M.

Notice this is one week later than usual and this change is for February only.

Our program will include brainstorming ideas for ways to celebrate our Church' 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday all year. Our guest speaker will be Marcie Ramberg who will share with us some of what she does as a Leadership Coach for the Office of Student and School Success by consulting with schools on their Improvement Plans.

Members and friends are all welcome! You may contact Ruth Hammer, 571-7359 or **Connie Oppel, 567-5528 (new number)** for more information



## Thank You Isn't Enough

They say it takes a village to raise a child, well it took a congregation to put on John Priel's memorial service. Thank you all so much for opening your hearts, and your time and effort to make it happen so beautifully and become just what dad wanted. I would also like to personally thank those responsible for the success:

REV. JENNIFER BROWNELL- for her countless offerings of her time and services. She visited our home and was available to give counseling and comfort whenever needed. She did not know dad well but the service didn't resemble that. She was our angel that was sent by our Lord.

Kathy Woolley- Our hostess and guest book coordinator  
Will and Cheryl Lowe- for sharing their gifts of music with us  
Christopher Schindler- Always knowing just what to play and when to play his beautiful music  
Richard Trefren- For keeping the sound just right  
Nancy Fite and Laurie Parafinczuk- For coordinating the reception with decorations and food

The kitchen crew: Natalie, Lucie, Alice, Patty, Ray, Kaye, Sandy, Carole, Jeff, Diane, Connie, Virginia D. and .Ellie,

Marilyn Jones and Carole Greenauer- for creating the photo boards  
John Fite for pick up sandwiches duty  
John Greenauer and Jeff Osborne for parking lot duty  
All the members who sent fruit for the fruit salad: Pam, Claudia, Connie, Alice, Lucie, Ray, Patty, Ellie, Leslie, Carole,  
Ushers: Ken, John F., Dwight, and John H.

I thank the Lord every day for my church family!!!  
Bless you all,  
Norma Lee Priel, Joan Blair and our families

---

## Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Service

This Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be observing the start of the Lenten season with a light soup supper in the Plymouth Room at 5:45 followed by a brief service and Distribution of Ashes in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.

---

## Confirmation Informational Meeting

The Christian Education Ministry will hold an informational meeting about confirmation on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 1PM until 2PM following the Lenten Series.

---

## Help Wanted!

There are openings for ushers currently available. The commitment is ONE Sunday a month. If you are a member of the church including youth, the following openings are available:

**Week 3 of the month—one position open**

**Week 4 of the month—two positions open**

Please contact Ken Rowe, [kenerowe@msn.com](mailto:kenerowe@msn.com)

or phone 360-989-0642 (cell) for more information. A training session will be scheduled for later



## News from Your Search Committee

The Pastoral Search Committee was voted in and commissioned at our Congregational Meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The members of the Committee are: Carole Greenauer, Karen Kulm, Kimberly Lewis, Gina Marquardt, Janet Melton, Laurie Parafinczuk, Tom Renner, Jeff Schnabel, and Dave Slocum. We had our first meeting last week with our Conference Minister, Dr. Walter John Boris. We received instructions on how to proceed. Search Committee members engage in a 4-Way Covenant – a Covenant with our prospective pastor, the congregation, the Conference and the Holy Spirit.

The next steps will be to complete a Congregational Profile. The whole congregation will be invited to participate in this process of describing the hopes and challenges of our church. We will do this through congregational activities, surveys and conversations.

All Search Committee members have made a commitment to confidentiality. Members must not share the names of individuals under consideration. Even to speak in generalities about location or experience or gender can risk folks guessing at whom candidates are and this could jeopardize candidate's current jobs. The Committee *will*, however, always keep you posted about where we are in the process.

How long will all of this take? Our Conference Minister said, "The relationship between pastor and congregations is a trust covenant, like a marriage. You are not looking for someone to fill a job; you are searching for a partner in ministry." We look forward to working with you in this process!

## MISSION & OUTREACH FEBRUARY SPECIAL OFFERING is WINTER HOSPITALITY OVERFLOW SHELTER (WHO)

In 2003, Council for the Homeless and Share partnered with the Greater Vancouver Interfaith Association to create the Winter Hospitality Overflow (WHO), a program committed to providing safe shelter during the winter months to families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

Our church will volunteer to staff the shelter March 6-13<sup>th</sup> (see related article). Even though WHO is a volunteer-driven program, the WHO incurs expenses for utilities, groceries, volunteer training materials, and salaries for professional case management staff.

**Please consider giving generously to support this example of love in action by writing a check out to our church any Sunday in February and noting "WHO" in the memo line.**

---



**Sign up now for our WHO week March 6-13.** Once again we are partnering with our friends at Kol Ami. Volunteering is easy 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> **Make sure the calendar is on March** to find the shifts available during our shared week shifts, March 6-13..

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.

You can view the shift details and description before you sign up, but **sign up early** to get your preferred shift!

# ***GO ON A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY***

**JOIN PASTOR BROWNELL AND THE  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
FOR THE 2016 LENTEN SERIES  
FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>—MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**THIS YEAR WE WILL BE  
*EXPLORING*  
IN SMALL GROUPS**

**FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>**

***SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN OUR  
CHURCH'S HISTORY***

**MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>**

***EXPLORING THE DEEPEST HUN-  
GERS IN OUR COMMUNITY***

**FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>**

***HOW WE DESCRIBE OURSELVES IN  
THE PRESENT***

**MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>**

***CONNECTING IT ALL TOGETHER***

**MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup>**

***DISCOVERING OUR DEEPEST  
PASSIONS***

**DON'T WORRY IF YOU MISS A SESSION!  
A REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK  
WILL BE COVERED AT THE BEGINNING  
OF EACH NEW SESSION.**