

The Link

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
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March 8, 2016



As Holy Week approaches, think ahead. Can you set aside a time of prayer each day in order to enter more deeply into the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus?

Sunday, March 20 ***Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem during the festival of Passover.*** Read Matthew 21:1-11
Even as the crowds welcomed Jesus, they still continued to question who he really was. As you welcome Jesus into your heart this Holy Week, allow yourself to be surprised by your own response to the age-old question "Who is this?"

Monday, March 21 ***Jesus enters the temple and clears out the signs of commerce.*** Read Matthew 21:12-17
Jesus clears the moneylenders and sellers out of the temple and those in power are threatened by him. The common people continue to cry "Hosanna" or "save us!" What places in our own lives and world need cleansing or purifying? Who cries to Jesus for salvation?

Tuesday, March 22 ***Jesus teaches, preaches and tells wisdom stories to those gathered in Jerusalem***
Read Matthew 22:34-40 Immediately following this admonition to love is a long passage decrying the hypocrisy of those who proclaim their faith publicly, while privately benefiting from the oppression of others. In your prayer time today, ask Christ to open your eyes to the ways in which your lifestyle leads to the oppression of others. Pray for the strength and courage to change.

Wednesday, March 23

Jesus is betrayed by Judas

Read Isaiah 53:1-12

As we consider the suffering of Jesus, we remember those around the world, who because of "oppression and judgment," also suffer and sometimes die. Bring to your prayers today an urgent plea to God to open your eyes to the suffering of the world, and to be an agent of healing in those places of suffering.

Thursday, March 24

Jesus celebrates Passover with his disciples. Afterward, he is arrested and tried. Read Matthew 26: 26-28

You hear these familiar words each month as we celebrate communion together. Read them now in the Lectio Divina style - four times slowly. First, for what has your attention right now in your life. Second for a word or phrase that strikes you about this passage. Third for what the passage says about where you are, and who you are at this time. And fourth for what God invites you to do or change in your life through this passage.

Friday, March 25 ***Jesus is crucified.***

Read: Matthew 27:27-66

In his darkest hour, Jesus felt alone and abandoned. In your prayer today, speak directly to Jesus. Acknowledge and ask forgiveness for times you have turned from him or betrayed him.

Saturday, March 26 ***Jesus lies in the tomb***

Scripture says nothing about what Jesus did this day. You may want to allow yourself to consider what Jesus followers might have thought and felt, not knowing (as we do) the "end" of the story. Alternatively, during your prayer time, you may want to light a single candle, and meditate on the illumination cast by even one small flame. How has God been steadfast, even in times of seeming absence?

Sunday, March 27 ***Easter Day! On this exhilarating, although at times bewildering, day we celebrate the resurrection of the Risen Christ.***

Read Matthew 28:1-15 Although the angel's first words to the women are "do not be afraid," still the women leave the tomb, "afraid." How does the resurrection touch you with fear or awe? How does it touch you with joy?

WORSHIP IN MARCH

March 13, 2016 Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Ray and Patty Jones

Worship Leader: Tom Yates

Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

Lenten Series:

Exploring the Deepest Hungers in our Community

March 20, 2016 Palm Sunday

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

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Doraine Kohler and Barbara Ahola

Worship Leader: Laurie Parafinczuk

Ushers: Ken Rowe, Chuck Foulke, Ray Jones

Lenten Series:

Connecting It All Together

March 27, 2016 Easter Sunday

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

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Dwight, Opal and Haydn Chapman

Worship Leader: Jean Beary-Stolle

Ushers: Sue Rush, Diane Ullom and Tom Renner



Easter Sunday Memorials

Once again we will honor or remember your loved ones with an insert in the Easter Sunday bulletin and are suggesting a minimum donation of \$5.00 for each name on your list.

Please place your requests in one of the white envelopes and leave it in the basket. Proceeds will benefit **WHO** and our **Community Garden**

All requests must be received by Monday, March 21st in order to be included in the bulletin.

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

Harriet Anani

Charlotte Warren

Sue Benson

Marvin Benson

Josiah Renner

(Deployed to Afghanistan)

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR *"The Link"*

Link Deadline

March 20, 2016

Link Mailed

March 22, 2016



Join Us...

...as we celebrate the life of longtime, much loved member of our church family **Anne Kamp**.

The service will be held here at the church on Saturday, March 19th at 1:00 p.m. with a reception following in Bradford Hall.

Mission and Outreach Focus For March:

One Great Hour of Sharing

Contributed by Joy Gerlitz

What is One Great Hour of Sharing?

One Great Hour of Sharing is the special mission offering that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Just two of examples: A sand dam was built in Kenya to help provide water to a community. In Southeast Michigan, funds were given to help families rebuild homes after devastating floods hit the region. Here is the website for to explore for more information: www.ucc.org/oghs

Thank you for your support.
Mission and Outreach Ministry

Directory Changes

Please make the following change to your directory:

Connie Oppel
New Telephone #
360-567-5528

Tom Renner
761 CC St.
Woodland, WA 98674

Fred and Molly Wilson
8907 NE 74th St
Vancouver, WA 98662

Oregon Trail Concert

Contributed by Ed Frank

Salmon Creek Kiwanis is holding it's annual concert on Sunday, March 13th at Skyview High School auditorium.

The performance will be by **The Trail Band** an eight member group that plays fifteen instruments and was created by the Oregon Trail Council to celebrate the anniversary of the Oregon Trail. The band features five vocalists, including Quarterflash's Rindy Ross. A poster with more detail is posted in the Narthex.

Church members Ken Rowe, Darrell Brandenburg and Ed Frank urge you to join forty of our congregation who have already purchased tickets for this wonderfully entertaining afternoon. By doing so, you will also help Salmon Creek Kiwanis support over twenty programs for kids in Clark County this year.

The performance begins at 3pm and doors open at 2:15.

Tickets are \$20.00 and may be purchased in advance from Ken Rowe, 360-576-0490 or Ed Frank, 360-573-3848 following worship this Sunday.

Do You Know.....

A New Column by Shirl Zent

This column is for you to get to know about our church's last one hundred twenty-five years; how we became who we are. Please, please contact me with memories, fun facts, or just stories at baseballblondie@q.com or call me, see me in person OR contact Ruth Hammer or Connie Oppel – whatever works for you.

Here is more of the story we began on Sunday: In February of 1980, the women of the Hilma Powers circle proposed a gift to the church as a memorial to Hilma and in honor of a member of the circle, Hazel Brown, who was ill. They wanted to add living plants to our worship area. A committee contacted Kel Crafton, owner of Kel's florist, for advice and direction. Kel donated his time and expertise. He chose and delivered the plants and supervised the installation of grow lights and a watering system. Green living plants were placed on the ledge in the front half of the sanctuary and on the floor by the pulpit, lectern and altar. The plants were removed in 1988.



News from Your Search Committee

Contributed by Karen Kulm, Chair

Your Pastoral Search Committee has been meeting and we are busy completing our Congregational Profile. This is a twenty page document that will become the foundation to helping us find the right "match" for our congregation. All churches that are in the search process must complete this document and then it is placed on the UCC Search & Call website. The whole congregation will be invited to participate in this process of describing the hopes and challenges of our church. We have already started this with our Lenten lunch activities on Sundays, so please join us for the rest of this series. We will also be doing some surveys (paper and on-line) and have opportunities for one to one conversations with Search Committee members.

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 who 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.

Watch for a letter in your mailbox that explains the entire search process in more detail. We look forward to working with you in this process!

Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 14!

It's that time again to give back that extra hour we got last fall. Be sure to turn your clocks forward on Sunday and don't run the risk of missing out on the fun here at First Congregational UCC.



Palm Sunday Procession

Mark the date, Palm Sunday, March 20th, and put a real "*Hosanna!*" into the service with **Lewis River Dixie**. This wonderful group will be adding a New Orleans style Dixieland swing into our worship.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Please mark your calendar for an intergenerational Easter Egg hunt activity coming this Easter. It will be an all-ages activity so make sure to bring your best "hunting" skills on March 27, 2016 immediately following the service. If you happen to have empty egg cartons, please bring them to the office to provide homes for the eggs.

The *happiest people* I know
are not those who find their *golden ticket*;
they are those who,
while in the pursuit of worthy goals,
discover and treasure the beauty and sweetness
of the *everyday moments*.

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Your Pastoral Search Committee

Contributed by Shirl Zent

We would like you to know a little about each member of the Pastoral Search Committee. I will be dividing this info into three issues of the Link. Today, let's meet Gina Marquardt, Karen Kulm and Carole Greenauer.

Gina Marquardt grew up in this church. She is married to John and they are the parents of Boean and Danya. She is a stay-at-home Mom and volunteers in her children's activities. She enjoys hiking, camping, art and teaching in our Sunday School.

Gina stated that she wanted to be on the Search Committee to get input from people to make sure everyone has a voice and urges everyone to come to the Lenten Series so that the Search Committee can hear that voice.

Karen Kulm is a Registered Nurse employed at Providence Portland Medical Center and has been a member of our congregation for eleven years. She is married to Nathen Wu and they have four children, Howie, Matthew, Michael and Leslie.

In Karen's own words, she is a political junkie. She continues to chair the Mission and Outreach Ministry in our church and chaired the CPC Justice and Witness Ministry for eight years. While participating in these groups, she organized justice oriented activities and enjoys going to Olympia to lobby. She has been a volunteer with Planned Parenthood, Equal Rights Washington & Basic Rights Oregon and is active in her nurses' union at work. Karen loves to spend time with her three granddaughters who live in Seattle.

Karen has not served on a previous Search Committee but has observed the coming and going of Pastors in several different churches. She says she can see how crucial the role of the Search Committee is and how much commitment is needed. Karen feels that now is her time to take on this responsibility and is passionate about our church, the work of our church in the world and in finding the right pastor to continue this journey with us. Karen has been selected Chair of the Pastoral Search Committee.

Pastoral Search Committee (cont')

Carole Greenauer has been part of our church for five and one-half years along with her husband John. They both became active participants as soon as they arrived. They have a son John a daughter Megan and grandchildren Maya, 8 and Jack and Wyatt, 5. Carole is a retired psychotherapist parenting instructor. She likes to read, quilt, Zumba, interior decorating, gardening and spending time with her grandchildren. Carole wants to serve on the Pastoral Search Committee to make sure every single voice in our congregation is heard, particularly as it relates to the search for a new Pastor.



Easter Flowers

With the spring-like weather we've been having, there should be flowers from your garden to bring to church on Easter Sunday to decorate the wreath for the cross. Please bring your flowers by 9:45 AM. This is a wonderful tradition!!

"A Not-New Car"

Contributed by Ellie Bradley

Daryl DeSilva is looking to buy a used car to replace her failing car. She would like a four-door, with room in the trunk or the back seat for her walker. It can be old and not pretty, but it needs to be dependable! Daryl can make a substantial down payment, followed by monthly payments. She would be grateful for a dependable car and would offer transportation to others who are without wheels.

If anyone has a car they would like to sell, or knows someone who has a car to sell, please call Daryl at 360-750-8519.