

The Link

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
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Volume 38 No. 8

God is Still Speaking,

April 26, 2016



Draft Of Safe Camping Proposal To Be Discussed At May 1 Meeting/Potluck

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." Matthew 25:35

Introduction

As people of faith, we are compelled by scripture, tradition and our own morality to welcome strangers. One of the ways we might do this is to provide a safe option for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The sudden increase in rental property costs in Clark County is creating an immediate need for those who are un-housed. People temporarily living on the streets or in their vehicles are vulnerable to violence, theft, harassment, community complaints and police intervention.

Due to emergency situations, we have already welcomed individuals and couples to our property on an informal basis. We would like to develop this informal arrangement into a formal program, which we believe will provide the most safety for overnight guests and church members as well as neighbors and others who use the property.

We propose joining other faith communities in implementing a program which offers intake through Council for the Homeless and invites a small number of persons in a transitional situation to stay temporarily on the property. This will offer protection, as well as the support of other faith communities and other local agencies including (but not limited to) Council for the Homeless and Outsiders Inn. In no case, is this intended to be a long-term solution, and our expectation is that all our overnight guests are availing themselves of other services.

We are aware that homelessness can be an indicator of many other complications including financial instability, social isolation, under-or-unemployment, lack of access to resources, mental and physical health, unsafe relationships, environmental hazards and inclement weather, among others. We are aware that these complications cannot all be addressed by this program. One of our challenges is to clearly define the limits of our project and continually keep the lines of communication open with guest, church members and neighbors.

***Program Proposal – This proposal is intended to be a starting point for conversation.
We know that much more discernment, conversation and prayer is needed.***

Who are the overnight guests?

We propose welcoming both men and women, but not children at this time. Up to one car camper (no more than two people in car, no RVs) and up to two hut campers behind the church in the fenced area. A code to unlock the fenced area will be provided to the hut campers. Car campers must have a running vehicle.

How are the guests selected?

The guests must be screened and background-checked by Council for the Homeless before they can stay on the property.

How long can they stay?

Each guest will receive a placard, indicating that they are welcome guests for up to two weeks. Each guest must renew every weeks.

What hours are they here?

These are overnight guests. They are asked to vacate the premises (including moving any cars and making sure that all belongings are secured in their huts) between 9am and 6pm each day.

Where do they go the bathroom?

The church will rent a port-a-potty from Shultz/Clearwater of Vancouver. There is a delivery fee of \$35 and a monthly fee of \$74.50, and the unit will be serviced twice a month. The port-a-potty can be locked and the guests receive the code with their welcome packet.

What other expenses are there?

Guests will be allowed to place their trash and recycling in our bins. Right now that is the only charge. In the future, we may discuss use of water and electricity.

We welcome other questions and conversations about this proposal. Please join us during worship and afterwards for a potluck and Q & A on Sunday May 1.

Overnight Guests Working Group

Ken Rowe, Dave Slocum, Sandi Mathis, Ed Martin, Shirl Zent, Diane Ullom and Jennifer Brownell



WORSHIP IN MAY

May 1, 2016 Communion

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Jennifer Brownell preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. MAZI meets at 11:30 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Jeff, Cindy, Emma & Allison and Schnabel
Worship Leader: Dwight Chapman
Ushers: Rory Martindale and Trent Corey
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

Informational Meeting and Potluck on the Homeless following worship

May 8, 2016 Mother's Day

10 a.m. Worship Service Rev. Jennifer Brownell preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 4yrs. - Grade 8.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: John, Gina, Boean and Danya Marquardt
Worship Leader: Bert Martin
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

May 15, 2016 Pentecost – Wear Red!

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Jennifer Brownell preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 4yrs. - Grade 8. MAZI meets at 11:30 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Jim and Beverly Crossman
Worship Leader: Jean Beary-Stolle
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone
Chuck Foulke and Ray Jones

Congregational Meeting for the Election of Officers Immediately Following Worship

May 22, 2016

10 a.m. Rev. Jennifer Brownell preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 4yrs. - Grade 8. No MAZI this Sunday.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Eric, Stephanie and Cameron Pykonen
Worship Leader: To be arranged
Ushers: Tom Renner, Diane Ullom, Doraine Kohler
Sue Rush

May 29, 2016

10 a.m. Worship Service.
Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 4yrs. - Grade 8. No MAZI this Sunday.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Marilyn Martinyak
Worship Leader: Leslie Chapman
Ushers: John Bradley, John Hannon
Marilyn Martinyak

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
Josiah Renner
(Deployed to Afghanistan)

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR “*The Link*”

Link Deadline

May 8, 2016

Link Mailed

May 10, 2016

Birthdays in May

May 1	Kristin Martindale
May 5	Isaac Martin
May 6	Janet Melton
May 7	Jim Crossman
May 7	Alona Steinke
May 7	Robin Hoffman
May 13	Stephanie Pykonen
May 21	Laela Brittain
May 22	Jean Matthews
May 24	Greg Ralph
May 25	Ruby Frank
May 27	Frank Koffel
May 29	Kathy Woolley
May 31	Boean Marquardt





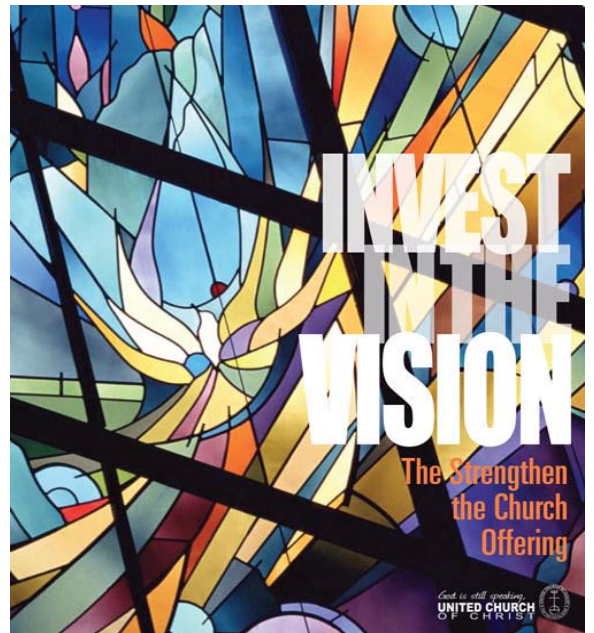
Did You Know? From Shirl Zent

Music has always had a special place in our church. Our old church on 14th and Main in downtown Vancouver had a large pipe organ. What a magnificent sound and our organist Bea Byers could make such beautiful music. There was a very small area for the choir and as we had outgrown the space, we sang from the balcony of the sanctuary. Bill Slocum was director at the time and as we 'warmed up' on Sunday mornings, we went across the street and used the chapel in the Funeral Home there. When we started building our present church, the powers that be decided it would be too expensive to move the pipe organ to the new church even though many in the congregation were not happy with the decision. At our beginnings here, we had a small electronic organ that was in a pit on the top level of the choir loft, right where the sopranos now stand. I can still remember Keith Van de Water sitting at the organ and directing the choir at the same time. The choir sat in a couple of rows of church pews that were facing the front of the sanctuary. Some Sundays we would have 1 or 2 people on a part...but we grew. Some of our Pastors sang with us; Ted Hastings, Farley Maxwell and Ed Evans to name a few and we also had a fabulous trumpeter, Dean Morgan whose day job was as a local judge. For several years, when Bob Conrad was our choir director, there was a city-wide church choral festival. Any church choir interested could perform as part of the massed choir. Individual choirs were encouraged to do an individual number during the festival and of course, we always performed. When Bill Graham was pastor, we even had two church services for a while, one at 9:00 with guitars and a traditional service at 11:00. We now have a new organ which Dr. Schindler plays beautifully and we have been blessed with some of the finest directors that have ever been. AND WE HAVE OUR FUN NIGHTS!! Music is still alive at First Congregational UCC.



With Loving Thanks

The family of Anne Kamp would like to thank you for all the love and kindness you have given us through her journey through her illnesses. Thank you for the beautiful celebration of her life, for all the food and for all your effort to make the celebration a success.
The Wayne Kamp Family



Mission & Outreach May Special Offering UCC STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the Strengthen the Church offering, they can become a reality. As God calls our congregations to be "church" in new ways, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that "God is still speaking."

Please make your check out to our church and put "Strengthen the church" in the memo line. You can also place your check in the special offering envelopes in the pews. Your offerings are directed to our Central Pacific Conference, Local Church Ministries, and The Stillspeaking Ministry

DAVE AND JUDY'S MEALS ON WHEELS

Many of you know that every Sunday Dave Slocum and Judy Enders prepare, deliver, and serve a hot meal to the homeless. His truck is truly "meals on wheels". Wouldn't it be great if, once a month our church could prepare a meal for Dave and Judy to serve? If that is something any of you would be interested in participating in please call or email Claudia Martin, 624-0038, bemcrruth@gmail.com



Updates From Your Search Committee

Contributed by Karen Kulm, Chair

Time is running out for YOU to complete your surveys! Each family unit should complete one Family Survey, and each individual adult and youth should complete an Individual Survey. Paper surveys are available in the narthex.

If you are a member of this church or a regular visitor to this church, you can also go on-line to complete the surveys. Here are the links:

- Go here for the FAMILY SURVEY and complete one per household:
<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/iZDXrq>
- Go here for the INDIVIDUAL SURVEY and complete one for each adult and youth in your household:
<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/ABDX1D>

Note: complete the surveys by paper **OR** on-line. The surveys are anonymous, so please spend some time reflecting on your answers. **Your participation in the process is essential** in order for us to find the right pastor for our congregation. The surveys will close soon!

Central Pacific Conference Women's Annual Conference

**Saturday, May 14th, 2016
11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.**

at

First Congregational UCC
1220 NE 68th Street
Vancouver, WA 98665

Guest Speaker:

Linda Jaramillo

Topic: In Service to the Wider Church

Registration: 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon: 12:00 noon

Opening Worship: 1:00 p.m.

Program: Linda Jaramillo, Guest Speaker

Business Meeting: 2:45 p.m.

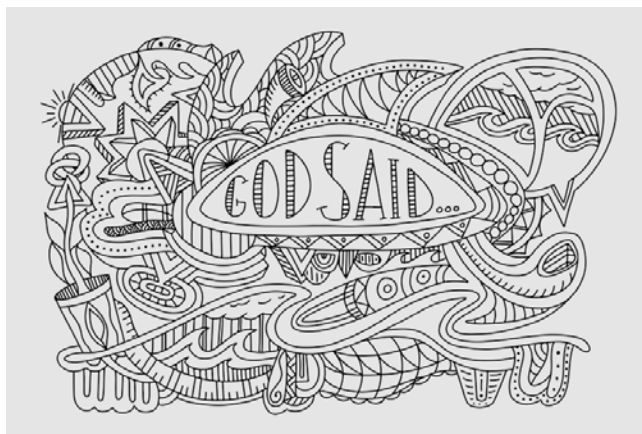
Closing and Benediction: 3:00 p.m.

Summer Worship Information

Hello church family! As you are planning your summer activities, please know that we look forward to worshipping with you as often as possible. The volunteer teachers have the summer off, so children will have two options for summer Sundays beginning in July. They may sit with their parents and participate in the worship service, or they may join Kristina out in the narthex to quietly color a worship poster that will decorate a classroom next fall. Our youth group (MAZI) donated a poster to the children of the church so that they may continue the mindful practices they started with our Lenten mandalas.

Another exciting summer worship opportunity that is being planned by Christian Education and staff is a second service on 3 Sunday nights in August. We will get more information out as plans are finalized but at this point, CE and staff are hoping to gather people for a simple supper and then have a ALL AGES service. These worship opportunities are tentatively planned for August 7, 14, and 21.

May this summer be a blessing to us all and may we all find ways to be the church to one another!



Come Together To Pray For Our Congregation.

This is a pivotal time in the life of the church. As we search for a new pastor, we also have been invited to listen to God's call about our mission - are we called as a community to welcome unhoused people as overnight guests on our property? There is no one right answer. One of our important tools in discerning God's will for the future of our church is community prayer. Let's gather **EACH TUESDAY IN MAY** at 6:15-6:45 in Nettie Fries Lounge to pray that God make clear the way for us. Questions?

jennifer@vanucc.org

Your Pastoral Search Committee

Contributed by Shirl Zent

Completing the Search Committee are Tom Yates and Reverend Jennifer Brownell. Tom will become Church Moderator on June 1 and as such, he is automatically a member of the Search Committee. He is currently working as Chaplain Team Lead at PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center. He is a retired US Army Chaplain. Tom is married to Patricia (Patty) and they have two sons, two daughters and five grandchildren. The Yates' have been a part of our church family for about four years. Tom's interests/hobbies include traveling, camping, walking, reading history, theater and music. When asked what he can give to the Search Committee, Tom replied: "As an ordained minister I have gone through the call process myself. I can offer a perspective on what a candidate for settled minister might be thinking about as he or she considers a call to come to our church."

Reverend Jennifer lists her occupation as *Intentional Interim Minister*. She came to us on November 1st and will be with us for approximately another year. She is married to Jeff and they have a son, Elijah, age 13. She says she likes to hang out with her two ridiculous puppies, going to the beach and writing. What Jennifer feels she can bring to the Search Committee process is a view of the 'other side' of the search process and the experience of serving on search committees in the past. Please be aware that Jennifer includes appropriate 'quotes' in almost everything she writes.



Teacher and Graduate Recognition Sunday

If you have a graduate in your family, please let Kathy in the office know the graduate's name and plans after graduation so we can add him/her to the bulletin for June 5th. You may drop off your announcement in the office until May 22nd or email it to kathy@vanucc.org.



Vancouver Spring Summit June 5th 1 – 4 pm

FAN's advocating faith communities across Washington State come together during our ANNUAL SPRING SUMMIT to talk about the issues we care about and to discuss our advocacy plans for the future. This year, there will be conversation about FAN's new effort to establish work groups around specific issues, such as economic justice, criminal justice, the environment, and health care, to name a few possibilities. Together, we look for new ways to be more effective at creating lasting change. Come network with others from your area at the summit!

The 2016 Vancouver Spring Summit will be held at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church on Sunday, June 5. Please register in advance (there's no charge to attend!) so we can better plan for the event. See you there!

<https://fanwa.ourpowerbase.net/civCRM/event/register?reset=1&id=58>

**Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
12513 SE Mill Plain Boulevard
Vancouver, Washington 98683**

1:00 PM-2:00 PM Food and Breakout sessions

2:00 PM-4:00 PM FAN Summit

Five breakout sessions to choose from during the 1:00 hour. Our church has been a member congregation of FAN for 5 years so please attend this interesting event and vote on which issues you would like to focus on.

Mary Jo Ebel Circle

All women of the church are invited to a luncheon on Wednesday, May 18th, 1:00 p.m. at the Grant House on Officer's Row.

Please R.S.V.P. to Joanie Nelson, 360-254-5419 or Pat Degerstedt, 360-693-5442 on or before May 12th.

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 10:00 Worship 11:15 MAZI CL 5 11:00 Potluck and Informational Mtg. 1 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	2 6:30 VANUSA BRD, 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	3 9:00 WW BRD 5:30 Conservation 6:30 Sierra Board	4 10:00 Bible 101 PLY 4:00 WW BRD 6:20 Tone Chimes CL2 7:00 Choir SAN 7:00 Bible 101 PLY	5 9:00 Meditation CL2 4:00 Pantry 6:00 Planned PthdNFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	6 10:00 Pantry	7
8 Mother's Day 10:00 Worship 10:20 Sunday Sch CL 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	9 6:30 VANUSA BRD, 7:30 Fireside PLY	10 LINK 9:00 WW BRD 1:00 Membership PLY 6:30 CE CL2 6:30 Parish Life NFL 6:30 <i>Parish Life</i> NFL	11 10:00 Bible 101 PLY 4:00 WW BRD 6:20 Tone Chimes CL2 7:00 Coal Free CLC 7:00 Choir SAN 7:00 Bible 101 PLY	12 10:00 Prayer Shawl 4:00 Pantry 7:30 Fireside PLY	13 10:00 Pantry NFL	14 8:00 Samoan SAN PLY 9:30 Women's Bkfst at the Peachtree CPC Annual Women's Conference BRD
15 10:00 Worship 10:20 Sunday Sch CL 11:00 MAZI CL 5 11 & 1 MCC PLY 1:00 CCMTA SAN 4:30 Fireside PLY	16 6:30 VANUSA BRD, 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	17 9:00 WW BRD 7:00 Diaconate NFL	18 10:00 Bible 101 PLY 1:00 Ebel Circle 4:00 WW BRD 6:20 Tone Chimes CL2 7:00 Choir SAN 7:00 Bible 101 PLY	19 4:00 Pantry 6:00 M&O 7:30 Fireside PLY	20 10:00 Pantry NFL	21 8:00 Samoan SAN PLY
22 10:00 Worship 10:20 Sunday Sch CL 11 & 1 MCC PLY 1:00 CCMTA SAN 4:30 Fireside PLY	23 6:30 VANUSA BRD, 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	24 LINK 9:00 WW BRD	25 10:00 Bible 101 PLY 4:00 WW BRD 6:20 Tone Chimes CL2 6:00 P&F PLY 7:00 Choir SAN 7:00 Bible 101 PLY	26 10:00 Memorials PLY 1:00 Art Groups PLY 4:00 Pantry 7:00 Council PLY 7:30 Fireside PLY	27 10:00 Pantry	28 8:00 Samoan SAN PLY
29 10:00 Worship 10:20 Sunday Sch CL 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	30 Office closed for Memorial Day 6:30 VANUSA BRD, 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	31 9:00 WW BRD				