

# ***THE LINK***

## **September 30, 2016**

**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ**

**Temporary Location for Worship:**

**Luepke Community Room**

**1009 E McLoughlin Blvd.**

**Vancouver, WA 98663**

**[www.vanucc.org](http://www.vanucc.org)**

**Office Location:**

**1220 NE 68th Street**

**Vancouver, WA 98665**

**360-693-1476**



### **HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY TO...**

**REMEMBERING  
OUR FAMILY  
IN PRAYER**

Prayer requests for:

Joan Blair  
Harriet Anani  
Opal Chapman  
Mary Lou Duvall  
L. Marilyn Ross  
Opal Chapman

October 02  
October 02  
October 11  
October 12  
October 16  
October 17  
October 17  
October 17  
October 18  
October 23  
October 26  
October 27

David Slocum  
Gina Marquardt  
Virginia Ebersole  
Amelia Martin  
Phyllis Corbin  
Kristina Martin  
Irene Edwards  
Dashel Wilson  
John Greenauer  
Ray Jones  
David Everist  
Fred Wilson

## ***From Our Pastor***



**In July, I attended the UCC's National Youth Event (NYE) – four days of worship, workshops service and fellowship. One of my favorite parts of the week was receiving communion together at the end of our closing worship. While rock music played, communion servers moved among the couple thousand young people, offering tiny cups that contained a swig of grape juice sealed under a thin wafer.**

**As the communion service went on, it became more and more chaotic in the worship space - youth hugged new friends goodbye, or loudly exchanged numbers, or grabbed suitcases from under chairs and ran to catch flights. Some people were singing along with the music, some were taking group selfies and some were trying to figure out how to get their little cups of juice unwrapped. It was not like any communion I had ever attended, but after I got over my initial sense of confusion and entered into the energy of the moment, I found it beautiful. It was cacophony around the table, a chaotic celebration of the feast of the chaotic people of God.**

**You can get music at a concert hall, something hot to drink at a coffee shop, and someone to talk to on pretty much any city bus, I thought later. But this was a great experience for the youth, because it reminded them that the church offers something that the concert hall or coffee shop or city bus does not, and that is ritual. Rituals are more than just repeated actions. They are repeated actions with the intention of connecting to the Divine. They are as ancient and as necessary as eating and drinking together. And they are as fresh and new as this year's new song.**

**This weekend, Kristina and I are gathering with our amazing confirmation class and talking about two important church rituals – the sacraments of baptism and communion. Then on Sunday, the youth will lead us in communion as we join with Christians from many corners of the globe in celebrating world communion Sunday. As we celebrate worship and receive communion in a temporary space, our rituals may have a different feeling. We may not hear or see the same things, our movements may not be as smooth as we are used to. Like my experience at NYE, the chaos can be a little jarring. But pay attention, because it can be beautiful too. The cacophony reflecting the complex beauty of God's amazing creation.**

**We live for the Bounties of Fall  
But, the Harvest of Friendship is  
Blessed Above All**



**There is so much to be thankful for in our congregation. We celebrate one year of leadership with Pastor Jennifer, and what a year it has been! We are also thankful for every member of our church and all of the friends, both old and new, that have come together as we work through the challenges of reconstructing our church building.**

**Please bring your favorite fall salad, side or main dish to share among friends. Dessert will be provided.**

**Congregational  
Meeting Scheduled  
For October 9<sup>th</sup>.**

We will gather following  
Worship on Sunday,  
October 9th for the latest  
news on from our  
Reimagining Task Force.  
Included in the meeting  
will be an evaluation of  
the information gathered  
at the break-away group  
meetings on  
September 18th.

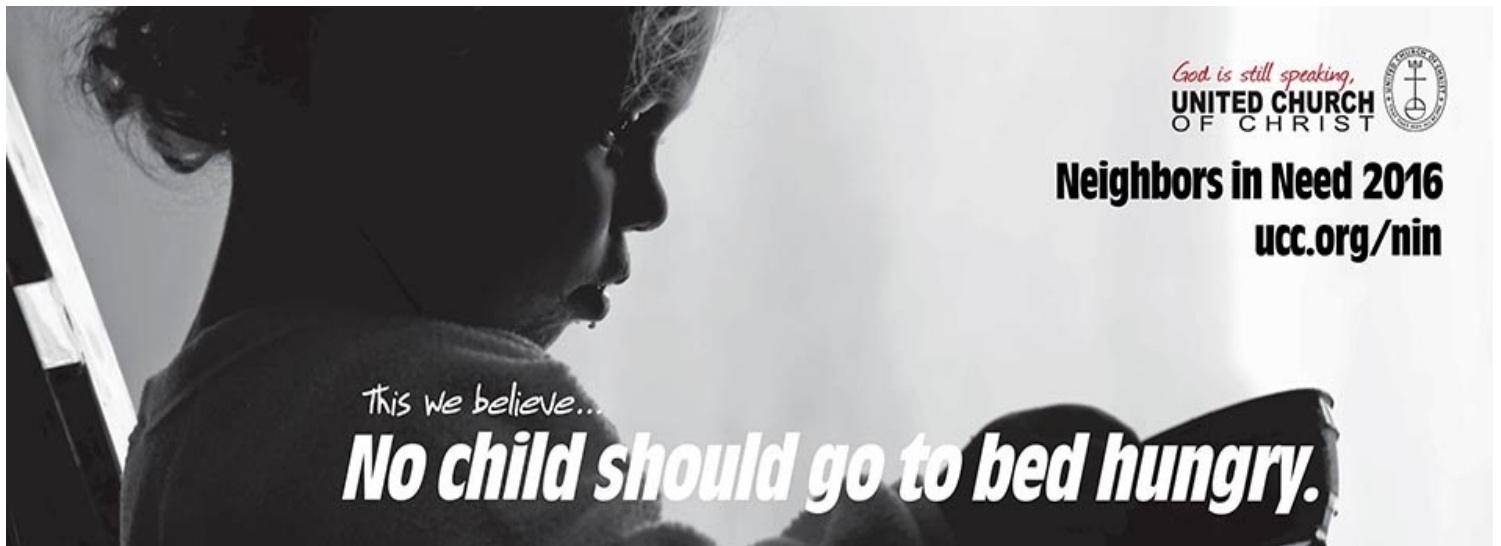
**Leadership Retreat Sunday October 23 12:15-4:00**

**At St Andrews Lutheran Church**

**5607 NE Gher Rd, Vancouver, WA 98662**

All elected leaders of the congregation are invited to a leadership retreat as we plan for the year ahead and hear from others who have rebuilt. Come and be inspired as we meet in a church that rebuilt from a fire and re-ignited their mission in the process. Lunch will be provided.





**Neighbors in Need (NIN)** is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering. Several projects here in our Central Pacific Conference have been funded through NIN grants.

**You can donate to NIN any Sunday in October by making your check out to our church and writing “NIN” in the memo line. Thank you for your support!**

## 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 a.m., Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Peachtree on Hazel Dell Ave.



## Trunk or Treat October 30 11:15-11:45

Let's celebrate! Everyone is invited to come to church in costume, especially the kids! After church, the children are invited to "trunk or treat" in the parking lot. Decorate your trunk or just bring a bag of small toys or treats to share. Adults will be stationed by our cars, as the children move around and fill sacks with goodies. Bring a bag for collecting the treats if you have a young one and invite friends, neighbors and grandkids to join the fun.



# Do You Know?



## A Series About Our Church's History Straight From the Pen of Shirl Zent

This week I am going to write about the case of the disappearing Jesus! I came to choir rehearsal on a Wednesday night in the spring of 2006. A choir member called to me to look at what was new in the sanctuary, I walked in and looked at the chancel and was completely dumb-founded. On the wall, near the pulpit, was a large carving of Jesus. (I found out later it is called intarsia.) It was especially a surprise because I was on the interiors committee at the time and we were supposed to approve anything that was added to the church and I knew nothing about this. Subsequently I learned a couple of committee members approved this addition. It was a donation from the Steve and Rhoda Page family.

The piece of art stirred up quite a bit of discussion. It was an exquisite work of art BUT, the majority of the congregation did not like the way the eyes seemed to follow them around. I knew that was not the case because I knew that the eyes were focused on the choir! Pastor Ed Evans retired about that time and we welcomed Reverend Carol Joyce as our Interim Minister. Carol did not care for the carving to be so close to the pulpit so we investigated other places to place it. Another choir rehearsal, another vice calling out...Shirl check out the sanctuary! No carving anywhere...Jesus had left the sanctuary. We searched, and questioned and searched some more, but no Jesus. We were assured HE was safe. I had to admit I had my nose a little out of joint because I had just become Moderator and thought if anyone knew HIS whereabouts, it should be me! Did not happen!

After a year Carole left and Brooks Berndt came on board. There was a discussion that we should put Jesus back up...he was a memorial after all. Jesus reappeared. We all agreed that we would NOT place him up front near the pulpit and agreed to place him on the east wall of the choir area...right where he could watch over the Altos. I did find out where he had been residing for the past year, but I decided to keep that information to myself in case I might need that knowledge some day when we get back in to the church. In the meantime, HE is still in the sanctuary, keeping watch over the clean-up activities.



# October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>  <b>Confirmation Re-treat</b>
<b>2</b>  <b>10:00 Worship World Communion Sunday</b>	<b>3</b> <b>7:00</b>  <b>Spirituality</b> at the church	<b>4</b>  7:00 <b>Choir</b> at School for the Blind	<b>5</b> 10:00 <b>Bible 102</b>  7:00 <b>Bible 1102</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Women's Retreat at Camp Adams</b>	<b>8</b>  9:30 <b>Women's Breakfast Group at the Peachtree</b>
<b>9</b>  <b>10:00 Worship At Luepke Center 11:00 Cong. Meeting</b>	<b>10</b> 6:30 <b>CE</b> at the church	<b>11</b> 1:00 <b>Membership</b> at the church  7:00 <b>Choir</b> at School for the	<b>12</b> 10:00 <b>Bible 102</b>  7:00 <b>Bible 1102</b>	<b>13</b> <b>10:00</b> <b>Prayer Shawl</b>  <b>7:00</b> <b>Parish Life</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>  <b>10:00 Worship At Luepke Center</b>	<b>17</b> <b>7:00</b>  <b>Spirituality</b> at the church	<b>18</b>  7:00 <b>Choir</b> at School for the Blind	<b>19</b> 10:00 Bible 102  1:00 Ebel Circle  7:00	<b>20</b>  <b>7:00</b> <b>Mission and Outreach</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <b>10:00 Worship At Luepke Center</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00  <b>Communications</b>	<b>25</b>  7:00 <b>Choir</b> at School for the Blind	<b>26</b> <b>10:00 Bible 102</b>  6:00 <b>P&amp;F</b> at the church  7:00 Bible 102	<b>27</b>  7:00 <b>Council</b> at the church.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <b>10:00 Worship At Luepke Center</b>  <b>11:00</b> <b>Trunk or Treat</b>	<b>31</b>					

Dear Pastor Jennifer and Wonderful Congregants of UCC

It has been such a pleasure to share space with you for the summer. We would like to thank all those who sent us cards, baked us cookies and filled our building with well wishes. The staff was amazing and friendly and it has been a little lonely without them. You have such a great team.

We wish you the best in your rebuild. Please let us know if you ever need anything. We will help in any way we can and we are here for you.

Warmly,  
Rabbi Elizabeth Dunsker  
Sam Clarno, Office Administrator.

### **All SAINT'S DAY AND NEWS FROM THE MEMORIALS COMMITTEE**

**On November 6, 2016**, we will hold the All Saint's Day service remembering members and loved ones that have passed since the last All Saint's Day service. This is a very meaningful service. Because we are now worshiping in a new space we've had to make some adjustments. It is a challenge but we hope the service will be just as meaningful as it has been in the past. We will be remembering Vicki Koffel, Jack English, John Priel, Elizabeth (Betty) Ferner, Anne Kamp, Laura Emerson, Charlotte Warren, Al Duvall, Bill Graham, Raymond Parafinczuk, and Yahriel Jamison. **If you know someone that should be remembered in the ceremony that has passed the last year, please let the Memorials Committee know and that person will be recognized at the service.**

We will continue to work with family members to make the best possible use of funds that have been donated in memory of a loved one. Funds have been designated to go to the Honor Garden, Christian Education, Music and Choir and Bradford Hall refurbishing . We are currently on hold until we know what will be needed after our church is rebuilt and how the families wish to use the funds.

We would also like to remind you that all tangible memorial donations must be approved through the church's administrative committees. The Pastor and the Memorials Committee are receptive to ideas and will facilitate the approval process.

We welcome input and questions from you regarding the work of our committee.

The Memorials Committee,  
Ruth Hammer  
Judy Walter  
Shirl Zent  
Connie Oppel