

# **THE LINK**

**December 2, 2016**

*May the light of hope fill  
your hearts and lives today  
and for all your tomorrows.*

*With love from the staff of*

**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**

## REMEMBERING OUR FAMILY IN PRAYER

Prayer requests for:

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

## PRAYER REQUESTS

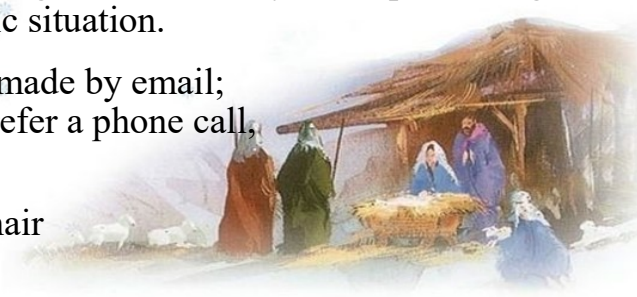
Crossmap  
www.crossmap.co.kr

The church deacons are responsible for contacting members of our congregation when we are asked to activate the prayer chain.

If you would like to be on the contact list, please let me know by email or phone. It's not an actual "prayer chain" because we don't ask you to contact others. You would be asked to pray for a person and/or family in our congregation when they are experiencing a health crisis or a traumatic situation.

Most of our contacts are made by email; however, if you would prefer a phone call, that option is available.

Ellie Bradley, Deacon Chair  
360-944-7838  
ellie28@gmail.com



## HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

December 02	Nancy Woodworth
December 3	Carol Fish
December 04	Christina Kenoski
December 06	Norma Priel
December 08	Olivia Martindale
December 11	Chloie Christer-Brittain
December 11	Jennifer Brownell
December 13	Judy Walter
December 13	Jack Melton
December 14	Will Lowe
December 15	Jan Foulke
December 17	Chuck Foulke



## 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,  
December 10th at the Peachtree  
on Highway 99.



## From the Stewardship Committee

Contributed by John Greenauer

When we consider our many gifts at this time of year, we don't always think of the gifts that our church has given us. Gifts like fellowship, laughter, prayers, safe harbor, love, and inspiration don't come in wrapped boxes once a year, instead they come to us all year round from our church community.

Once a year we have the opportunity to give back. This is called the stewardship campaign. This year's Stewardship Campaign - **Our Church's Gifts to Us** will begin on Sunday, December 18th and conclude on January 15th. This canvas for pledges to fund our 2017 operating expense is the major source of income for our church.

We will again use a Family Album to tell the story of our commitment to God, outreach to the Community and support of our Congregation. The album, including blank pledge cards; will be passed from home to home along designated routes. Each route will be supervised by a volunteer route manager to insure every family receives it and answer any questions or concerns.

Pledges are your indication of financial support for 2017 and are not legally binding or used in any other way than to calculate our estimated income from pledges. Your pledge when completed can be returned to John Fite, Financial Secretary or Arlene Arnold, Asst. Financial Secretary in the mail, at the church office or in the Sunday offering plate. John and Arlene guard and maintain our confidential information and provide only totals to be used in budgeting expected income for 2017. On December 11th, after church at a Congregational meeting you will be asked to approve a draft 2017 budget.

The Stewardship Committee for this year includes Ed Frank, Richard Trefren, Jeff Osborne, Ken Rowe and John Greenauer. Special thanks to John Bradley and Joan Blair for their work to develop the routes and check the addresses.



## Share Holiday Cheer Program



Hello everyone! Diane Ullom is playing Santa's elf this year by helping out with the Share Holiday Cheer Program. If you have purchased a gift for the Share Holiday Cheer Program, and are unable to take the gift to Share, then please bring the gift with you to church through December 18<sup>th</sup>, and Diane will drive the gift to Share for you. If you are unable to get to a store, Diane would be more than happy to provide transportation services, or even do some shopping for you (I could purchase a gift card, and I will bring you back the receipt). The Christmas gift must be new, and unwrapped. The wish list includes everything from toiletries, to socks, to toys, to pots and pans. Please call Diane if you have any questions: 360-994-9033. Thank you in advance! Cheers!

### Calling All Church Women!

The Mary Jo Ebel Circle will have their December meeting on

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>**

at the (relatively) new *Savor the Moment Tea House*, 619 E. 1st St. in Battleground.

We have made tentative reservations for up to 20 (the more the merrier) and we will need an exact count by Wednesday, December 14th

We will enjoy their Christmas Tea/Luncheon at 1:00 p.m. after meeting at the church at 12:15 to carpool. The cost is \$20.00 plus gratuity (very tasty, very filling and very warm vintage).

Please let Connie, 573-8997, or Ruthie, 574-7359 know if you plan to attend. We welcome all women to come even if you don't join us even if you don't join us regularly.

**Call as soon as possible to save your "spot"!!!**





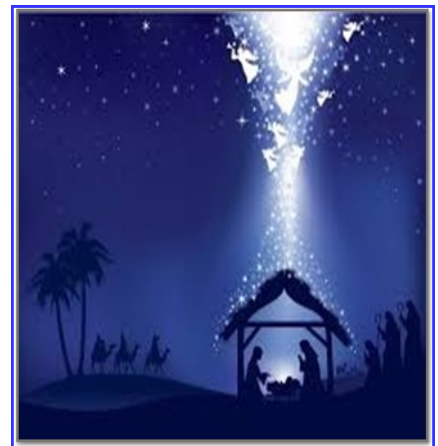
Please join us for worship on Dec. 4, as the choir adds to the Children's Service a traditional Zambian folk song dedicated to the spirit of Jim Oppel (1955-1970) with many thanks to Connie Oppel. This upbeat anthem arranged by Andrew Fischer, Bonse Aba, translates as "all that sing have the right to be called the children of God." It will feature vocal solos from both Emma Schnabel and Jack Melton and Amelia Martin on percussion.

## Dec. 18th Music & Worship Service with the Choir

The choir is currently preparing for our Dec. 18th Music & Worship Service at 10 a.m. in the Luepke Senior Center. We invite you to especially join us as we embark upon a "Lessons and Carols" service provided by accomplished composer and arranger John Leavitt through his work titled

*What Sweeter Music*, which was premiered in Carnegie Hall just this past Thanksgiving weekend.

Accompanied by our beloved Dr. Christopher Schindler on piano, this work explores an array of carols from around the world, including some favorites as "Veni, Veni Emmanuel", "Il est né, le divin Enfant (The Divine Christ Child)" and a medley that includes "Fum, Fum, Fum", "Pat-A-Pan" and "Sing We Now of Christmas".



# December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 10:30 a.m. <b>Advent Study</b>  7:00 p.m. <b>Council</b> at office	<b>2</b> <b>Confirmation</b> <b>Retreat</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 Worship</b> 10:00 Children's Program	<b>5</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Spirituality</b> <b>Group</b>	<b>6</b> 5:30 p.m. <b>Advent Study</b>  7:00 p.m. <b>Choir</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible 102  7:00 p.m. Bible 102	<b>8</b> 10:30 a.m. <b>Advent Study</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship with a special guest 11:00 a.m. Congregation- al Meeting	<b>12</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>CE</b>	<b>13</b> 5:30 p.m. <b>Advent Study</b>  7:00 p.m. <b>Choir</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible 102  7:00 p.m. Bible 102	<b>15</b> 10:30 a.m. <b>Advent Study</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Spirituality</b> <b>Group</b>	<b>20</b> 5:30 p.m. <b>Advent Study</b>  7:00 p.m.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:30 a.m. <b>Advent Study</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

**Worship:** **Luepke Community Center** 1009 E McLoughlin Blvd,  
**Spirituality Group:** **First Presbyterian Church**, 4300 Main St, Vancouver  
**Tuesday Advent Study:** **Latte Da**, 205 E 39th St, Vancouver  
**Bible 102:** **Salmon Creek United Methodist Church**, 12217 NE Hwy 99  
**Thursday Advent Study:** **Home of Gary and Sharon Roberts** 3118 SE152nd Ave Vancouver  
**Christmas Eve Service:** **Trinity Lutheran Church ( ELCA)**, 309 W 39th St, Vancouver  
All other Ministry and Committee meetings will be in the Office Module

### Advent note:

We've had questions about our Advent candle stand.

The good news:

The beautiful stand lovingly constructed by Jim Crossman survived the fire! It has been cleaned and safely stored by Belfor.

We have decided that trying to move it many times via the trailer during the 2016 Advent season would jeopardize the stand. We will be using a simple candle grouping and new banner, made by Jan Foulke, while worshipping this season. We can look forward to many future Advent seasons with this special piece once we are "back home".



### 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. Just make your check out to our church and put "Discretionary Fund" in the memo line.

### *Advent Study Awaiting the Already: An Advent Journey Through the Gospels*

You are invited to deepen your Advent experience! Read along with Pastor Jennifer and others as we explore *Awaiting the Already: An Advent Journey Through the Gospels*. Explore how and why each of the four Gospels tell the story of the birth of Christ, and uncover how each gospel has a special meaning for us today. The book is less than 100 pages long, so is perfect for these busy days. Two opportunities - join the one that is most convenient for you!

Tuesdays (November 29 and December 6, 13, 20) at 5:30 pm at LatteDa (205 E 39th St, Vancouver, WA 98663) and Thursdays (December 1, 8, 15, 22) at 10:30 am at the home of Sharon and Gary Roberts in Fairway Village (RSVP to the office for address).





## **Reimagining Committee Seeking Input from Congregation, Forming Sub-Committees After Church Service December 4**

By Bert Martin, Chairman of Reimagining Committee

As we start to dive into more details on our reimagined space, the Reimagining Committee will be asking additional help from the congregation. We are creating site working groups: Strategy, Mission, and Use; Grounds; Kitchen and Bradford Hall; Technology; Sanctuary and Narthex; and Nettie Fries and Martha's Pantry spaces. After the service on Sunday, December 4th, the members of the reimagining committee will be available to answer your questions and to begin signing people up in **THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF INTEREST:**

### **Strategy, Mission, and Use**

The Reimagining Committee Strategy, Mission and Use Workgroup will lead us in reimagining who we want to be as a congregation, exploring both how we can carry forward our mission in today's world and how we can best use our building to carry out that mission. What is God calling us to be and do as a congregation?

Co-chairs are Richard Trefren (H: 360-883-8812, C: 360-910-1513, [trefren@comcast.net](mailto:trefren@comcast.net)) and Karen Kulm (360-991-5774, [lk.kulm@gmail.com](mailto:lk.kulm@gmail.com)). Jennifer Brownell will also serve on this committee.

**Meeting at the office trailer, church parking lot, Wednesday December 7, 6:00 p.m.**

### **Grounds**

The committee will review the status of the grounds and offer possible improvement ideas following re-construction, including monitoring the replacement/ repair of the Honor Garden and other fire related damage.

Co-Chairs: John Greenauer (phone 360-608-3674) and Ken Rowe (phone 360-989-0642).

**Meeting at John Greenauer's home on Wednesday December 7 at 6:30.**

### **Kitchen/Bradford Hall**

If you CAN take the heat, join us in the kitchen. We need your help to beautify Bradford Hall and the kitchen area.

Co-chairs are Joan Blair (573-6505) and Leslie Chapman (910-0020)

**Meeting on December 7th at 6:30 pm at the home of Joan Blair...**

**805 NW 147th Way Vancouver, WA 98685**



### Technology

Lights, camera, sound, action! The technology working group will be considering sound, lighting, and audio visuals throughout the reimagined spa

Co-chairs are Bert Martin ([360-608-7460](tel:360-608-7460)) and Greg Saum

**Meeting on December 7th at 7:00 pm at the home of Bert Martin...**

**6622 NE 52nd Ave, Vancouver, WA 98661**

### Narthex and Sanctuary

Facilitated by Arlene Arnold

Join us to Reimagine a Narthex that welcomes and accommodates all in a heartfelt gathering place; and, let's reimagine a Sanctuary that is both flexible and a spiritual place of divine presence.

We will work with the architects around lighting, flooring acoustics, sound, décor, and whatever is needed.

**Committee will meet after church on December 11th**



**The Communications Committee is looking for someone in the congregation that could explain Google Analytics and how it works and how we could take advantage to track the church website activity.**  
**You may contact Ken Rowe (cell: 360-989-0642) or Richard Trefren (home: 360-883-8812).**



### **Book Club**

The Book Club will be meeting on Thursday morning December 15 at Elmer's Restaurant (Near Vancouver Mall). We will be discussing "The Little Paris Bookshop" by Nina George. The book is a fictional journey of three men in modern France. Anyone who has an interest in this book or in what a book club is like, is welcome to join us.  
Alice Rowe, 360-576-0490