

THE LINK

January 3, 2017



**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**

Temporary Location for Worship:

Luepke Community Room

1009 E McLoughlin Blvd.

Vancouver, WA 98663

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**

***From
Our
Pastor***



Do you make New Year's resolutions?

I'm always on the fence about this. On the one hand, I don't want to make resolutions only to set myself up for failure. On the other hand, the New Year DOES seem to be an auspicious time for a fresh start.

A few years ago, I heard the idea of choosing a single guiding word for the year rather than a list of resolutions. Rather than a specific action, I heard, following a guiding word is a way to recalibrate, to return to God's path and your true self. Even better, according to those who instructed me, was to let a word choose YOU, at random.

This seemed like a good idea, so I plucked a word from a pile, and received "kindness." Immediately I wanted to put the word back to see if I get a more exciting one. I wanted an action word! Something bold and brave! Something less, well, milquetoast than simple "kindness." But, I kept with it and in the next twelve months "kindness" surprised me. That year turned out to be a doozy in a number of ways, both personally and professionally. Again and again, I tuned into "kindness" - looking for it in God, in others and in myself. Again and again, it was plain old boring kindness that brought me back to my center, back to community, back to God. By the end of the year, I would not have traded kindness for any other word.

Will you join me this year in letting a word choose you? We will have this opportunity on Sunday, January 8 during worship as we celebrate Epiphany and the Wise One's persistence in following the star.

I can't predict much about the year to come, but I do know it will require a constant calibrating and re-tuning to God's call for us as a nation, as a congregation and as individuals. I look forward to being intentional about listening for that call as we each learn our guiding words for 2017.

Happy New Year!

Jennifer



***To Our Friends at
First Congregational, UCC
We are so grateful for all the prayers
and love we have received from our
friends, Jennifer, the Deacons and the
choir.***

***We ask for God's abundant love be
yours during this wonderful Holiday
season.***

***We are blessed to be a part of our won-
derful church.***

Love, Dwight and Opal Chapman

PRAYER REQUESTS

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.

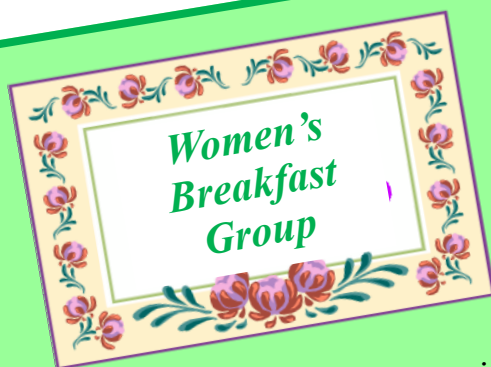
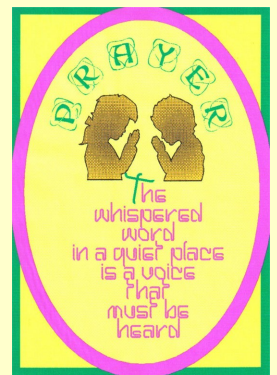
Most of our contacts are made by email; however, if you would

prefer a phone call that option is available.

Ellie Bradley, Deacon Chair

360-944-7838

ellie28@gmail.com



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, January 14th at the Peachtree on Highway 99.



**"Tailgate Party for
Souper Bowl,
2017!"**

**Support your
favorite team,
Wear the colors and
load up Kristina's
Van with food and
cash donations
Vancouver UCC**

**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 5,
2017**

January 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|--|-----------|---|
| 1 Brunch | 2 Office Closed | 3 2:30 Sanctuary Sub-Com At church Office 7:00 Choir | 4 10:00 Bible 102 Salmon Cr. Methodist Church 7:00 Bible 102 Salmon Cr. Methodist | 5 5:30 Reimagining Meeting with Architects Offsite | 6 | 7 |
| 8 10:00 Worship with Communion At Luepke Center | 9 7:00 CE at church Office | 10 1:00 Member- ship at the Church Office | 11 10:00 Bible 102 2:00 Communi- cations in Office 6:30 Reimagining in Office | 12 10:00 Prayer Shawl Group in Office 1:00 Memorials in Office 2:30 San/Narthex Sub at Greenau- | 13 | 14 9:30 Women's Breakfast Group At The Peachtree |
| 15 10:00 Worship at Luepke Center | 16 Office Closed 7:00 Spirituality Group | 17 7:00 Choir | 18 10:00 Bible 102 6:00 Property and Finance in office 7:00 Bible 102 | 19 7:00 Mission and Outreach at Carole and Adina's | 20 | 21 |
| 22 10:00 Worship at Luepke Center | 23 | 24 7:00 Choir | 25 10:00 Bible 102 7:00 Bible 102 | 26 7:00 Council in the Office | 27 | 28 |
| 29 10:00 Worship at Luepke Center 11:00 Congregation- al Meeting | 30 | 31 7:00 Choir | | | | |



Social Groups

For the next few Links, we would like to highlight some of the Social Groups here at First Congregational UCC. All of these groups are open to everyone, all you have to do is choose one that interests you. Here are the groups for this month:

Let Your Talents Shine!!!

If you feel artsy-craftsy then we have just the group for you. The Arts and Crafts group will begin meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month beginning in January. They will be meeting at Ed and Claudia's home, 5309 NE 68th St. from 1:00 - 3:00ish. You bring your own projects and supplies and work on them. Some ideas are carving, beading, painting, sewing or misc. crafts. All are welcome so come let your creative juices flow and have some fun fellowship. Call Marilyn Jones at 574-0653 if you have any questions.

Eat, Drink and be Merry!

That's what you'll do when you meet on the 3rd Sunday after church for the Brunch Group organized by Doraine Kohler. They meet at different restaurants each month decided on by Doraine. It is a fun group of between 10-14 people so come along and join in the fellowship. Everyone is welcome so don't eat alone. Contact Doraine at 694-3510 for more information.

Mary Jo Ebel Circle

Mary Jo Ebel Circle meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 2:00 PM. Meetings are held at someone's home or at the church office conference room. A short program is presented on a topic of interest to the group and refreshments are served. A small collection is taken each month and is given to a local charity at the end of the year. This year, the collection was given to Dave Slocum and Judy Enders for their ministry in feeding the homeless. All women of the church are welcome to attend the Circle. The contact persons for this group are Beverly Crossman, 694-3837 and Ellie Bradley, 944-7838.

Greeters

Did you ever think: "How can I be a smiling face for our church?" Be a Greeter! It is a great way to extend the love of God to others. Choose a Sunday that works for you or your family and contact Jan Foulke or the church office. Jan Foulke jfoulke@sbcglobal.net 414-308-3788

How to Reach Me

As we head into a New Year together, just a note about how and when to reach me.

My hours in Vancouver are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10(ish) to 8(ish). I am also available on Sundays after church.

I have meetings in a variety of locations while we rebuild, so I am not always on site in our temporary modular offices on the church property, but I am always happy to arrange a face-to-face meeting with you. To set up a meeting, call 360-693-1476 (our temporary phone system may sound weird at first, giving you music instead of rings, but stick with it and you'll get me) or email jennifer@vanucc.org. If you have a pastoral emergency, feel free to call or text me cell phone 971-340-6316.

As I started this, I thought it would be fairly straightforward, but I see it is more complex than I thought - there are so many ways to communicate now! The main thing is, stay in touch, however it works for you. I look forward to hearing from you.

~Pastor Jennifer



Secret Shopper Sunday

Sunday, February 19 is Secret Shopper Sunday. We will not be worshipping together that day. Instead, you are invited to visit another faith community - maybe one that is nearby or one that you have always been curious about. You will be provided with a short questionnaire to fill out about your "secret shopper" impressions of the church you visited. Check the February Link and the announcements table in worship for more information.



**New Address for
Tina Wright**

**15204 27th Ave S.W.
Burien WA 98611
206-248-0338**

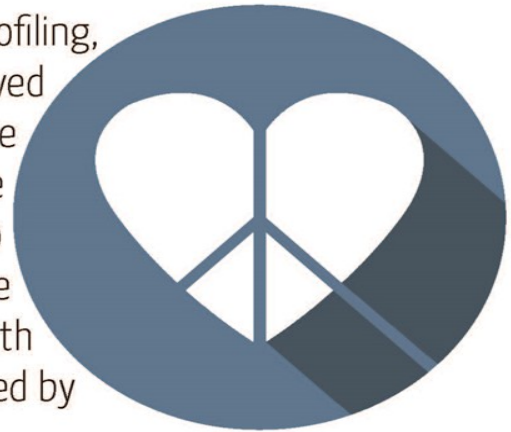


HEALING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

Silent Prayer and Meditation in the Public Square

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22ND, 2017

In an era of hate speech, hate crimes, and racial profiling, Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of "the Beloved Community" is more important than ever. The interfaith community of Portland is therefore calling on all people who believe in this dream to gather on **Sunday, January 22**, two days after the Presidential inauguration, to stand in solidarity with all those who stand to be marginalized and silenced by the incoming administration.



We will meet at Congregation Beth Israel at 3:30p, hear from Steve Wax of the Oregon Justice Resource Center about resources for those who have experienced a hate crime, followed by a special liturgy and silent march to Pioneer Square. **Then, starting at 4:30pm, we will practice silent prayer and meditation for one hour in the name of Peace, Justice, and the Integrity of All Creation.** Some parking is available at Congregation Beth Israel and nearby Trinity Church, but as we will be marching down to Pioneer Square afterwards, make your own best decision as to where you'll want your vehicle to be. If you're able, please bring a battery-powered candle that can endure the elements and keep shining out as we pray together.

Please spread the word as you are able, and help us on the actual day by observing total silence as we invoke the Beloved Community together. RSVP on Facebook at:

tinyurl.com/healingthebelovedcommunity

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| 3:30PM | MEET AT CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL (1972 NW FLANDERS STREET) |
| 4:30PM | SILENT MARCH TO PIONEER SQUARE |
| 5:00PM | SILENT PRAYER & MEDITATION IN PIONEER SQUARE |
| 6:00PM | CLOSING PRAYER & DEPARTURE |