



THE LINK

October 1, 2017



HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY TO:

October 2 Dave Slocum
October 2 Gina Marquardt
October 9 Gary Roberts
October 11 Virginia Ebersole
October 12 Amelia Martin
October 17 Kristina Martin
October 17 Irene Edwards
October 17 Dashel Wilson
October 18 John Greenauer
October 20 Ellie Bradley
October 23 Ray Jones
October 25 Jeff Osborne
October 26 David Everist
October 27 Fred Wilson

SPECIAL CONCERNS

**Joan Blair
Cordelia McBride
Pam Sander
Dorothea Johnson
Opal Chapman
Connie Oppel**



First Congregational United Church of Christ

Temporary Location for Worship:

**The Luepke Center
1009 E. McLaughlin
Vancouver, WA**

Office Location:

**1220 NE 68th Street
Vancouver, WA 98665
360-693-1476**

***From
Our
Pastor***



"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you."

Luke 8:39 (NSRV)

As our long, dry summer turns to cooler, moister days we are experiencing a change in our season as well. Last year at this time we were just settling in to our nomadic time as we continued to thrive and grow, but without the comfort of our physical home. Now that time is drawing to an end and we are beginning to feel the real anticipation of being back in our own building. And, we are thankful!

As we prepare to return, let's take time to remember how much God has done for us and through us in this time. We have been fortunate to have spaces to worship at Kol Ami last summer, under the tent on the labyrinth and at the Luepke Senior Center as well as sharing services with other churches in the area. And, we are thankful!

The heart of the church, its people, have pulled together to keep the life of the church active and vibrant. We have continued our ministries such as supporting WHO and working for justice in our community, planting, raising & harvesting our garden, learning together, caring for our ill and aging, supporting our children and young families, praying together as well as gathering in various social groups to keep the community strong. And, we are thankful!

During October we will gather to consider the financial needs of the church. We will be gathering in members' homes to hear about the transition from a rebuilding year back to caring for our newly reimagined church. We'll also recap the current stated of the reimagining and rebuilding and will have the visuals from the architect's presentation on September 17th. We expect there to be many questions and felt the home meetings would be a better way to both present information and to respond to your questions.

This Sunday, October 1 there will be signup sheets after the service so you can choose a home-gathering that will fit your schedule. Please be sure to sign up and attend a meeting so you aren't left out. You can also call Jeff Osborne at 360.904.5910 to RSVP for a home-gathering after October 1st. Pledge cards will be distributed at the home gatherings and will be mailed to those who do not attend.

We are on the road home - I look forward to traveling this road with you.

Blessings,

Jennifer

Congregational Meeting Announced

Dear Members and Friends,

Following worship on Sunday, October 15, we are pleased to announce a congregational meeting, the purpose of which is to vote to call Rev. Jennifer Garrison Brownell as our pastor and teacher.

You will recall that in October 2015, Pastor Jennifer was hired as an interim for a period of eighteen months. The purpose of the interim time is to allow the congregation the time and space necessary between called pastors to prayerfully discern its next steps in calling a new pastor. Generally, interim pastors are not considered candidates for the called position to follow. With the guidance of then-conference-minister Rev. Walter John Boris, a search committee was formed to find the next called pastor.

Then, in May 2016, a fire destroyed much of the building and disrupted the life of the congregation. Over the next month, it became clear that congregation's energies would have to be directed toward rebuilding and reimagining, rather than searching. Again with the guidance of the Central Pacific Conference, the search committee recommended to the council that the pastoral search be suspended, and that Pastor Jennifer's call agreement be re-negotiated from interim to designated term pastor. Unlike interim pastors, designated term pastors may be considered for the called position to follow if, after prayerful discernment, that arrangement is found to be mutually agreeable for both the pastor and the congregation.

In the two years since our common ministry began, we have found our ministry to be even more than mutually agreeable! Both church and pastor have thrived. We believe that God has already blessed, and will continue to bless, our ministry together. The future ahead looks bright as we anticipate moving back to our church home within a few months.

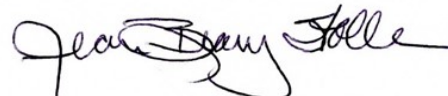
This vote may seem at first glance like it will not make much of a difference in our everyday life together. Pastor Jennifer will continue her schedule of 8/10 time, and will keep her residence in Oregon. However, by entering into this covenant we are agreeing to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit even more deeply and joyfully, and we believe that this can only have a positive impact on our common life. We look forward to the vote on October 15 as a sign and symbol of our commitment, in the name of Christ, to one another as congregation and pastor.

If you have any questions or concerns prior to this vote, please contact Moderator Tom Yates, Vice Moderator Jean Beary Stolle, or Personnel co-chairs Leslie Chapman or Shirl Zent.


Regards,



Tom Yates, Moderator



Jean Beary Stolle, Vice Moderator



Leslie Chapman, Personnel Co-Chair



Shirl Zent, Personnel Co-chair



UCC SPECIAL OFFERING FOR OCTOBER

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. **Please support this important ministry by writing a check to our church and putting "NIN" in the memo line.**

WHEN:
OCTOBER 29TH

WHERE:
PARKING LOT
AFTER CHURCH

WHO:
ANYONE CAN DRESS UP
ANYONE CAN DECORATE A
TRUNK

WHAT:
KIDS COLLECT
CANDY FROM
CHURCH ATTENDEES'
TRUNKS

*** TROPHY AWARDED FOR THE BEST**
TRUNK DECOR



Sad News

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the death of **Eric Sander**. Eric is the son-in-law of **Cordelia McBride** and brother-in-law of **Sue Rush**.

The Sander family were long time members of our church family



I Love You, So Make Me Happy: Insecurities, God, and How Non-Monogamy Changed My Life

Non-monogamy is not new but it is becoming increasingly visible.

Individuals choose to move away from traditional monogamous relationships for a variety of reasons. For some, this arrangement sounds exhilarating and freeing. For others, it sounds like the end of ethics, commitment, and fidelity.

Polyamory is definitely not for everyone, but is there something we can learn from people who are actively reconstructing what it means to be in intimate relationships with others? How can thinking about things like expectations, consent and power increase your relationship happiness?

And... How does our theology shape our relationships?

Join Grant Helbley as we explore some of the common myths about relationships, the ethics and theology behind polyamorous relationships, and some ways to make your current relationships more intentional. intimate and fulfilling regardless of how they are organized. Please RSVP by email to office@bridgeportucc.org and consider bringing a dish to share.

Bridgeport Hosting Workshop & Potluck

621 NE 76th Ave, Portland, OR 97213

Saturday, October 7, from 2:00-6:00 PM

October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 Worship at Luepke 12:00 Leadership	2 10:30 Spirituality Group	3	4 10:00 Bible 103 7:00 Bible 103	5 7:00 Choir	6	7
8 10:00 Worship at Luepke 11:00 Youth Hike	9 7:00 CE	10 1:00 Membership In office	11 10:00 Bible 103 10:00 Communica- tions in office	12 10:00 Prayer Shawl In office 7:00 M&O 7:00 Choir	13	14 9:30 Women's Breakfast Group at the Peachtree
15 10:00 Worship at Luepke 11:30 Worship Committee	16 10:30 Spirituality Group	17	18 10:00 Bible 103 1:00 Ebel Circle 6:00 P&F in office	19 7:00 Choir	20	21
22 10:00 Worship at Luepke	23	24 7:00 Council in office	25 10:00 Bible 103 7:00 Bible 103	26 11:00 Memorials in office 7:00 Choir	27	28
29 10:00 Worship at Luepke 11:00 Trunk or Treat in the Parking Lot	30	31 	Offsite Meetings: Worship: Luepke Community Center 1009 E McLoughlin Spirituality: Salmon Creek United Methodist Church M&O 7210 NE 14th Ct. 98665 Choir: Washington State School for the Blind Bible 103: Salmon Creek United Methodist Church			



**Food Drive for
Martha's Pantry
Sunday, Oct. 29th**

The United Church of Christ is urging all congregations to take part in a 2 year initiative called

Three Great Loves:

Love of Neighbor,

Love of Children, and

Love of Creation.

In October, one way we will celebrate Love of Neighbor, is by having a food drive for Martha's Pantry. We will do this in conjunction with our Trunk or Treat Sunday on Oct. 29th. So bring your non-perishable food item and "trade" them for a treat!

**A Wedding Shower for
Brian Fick and Randy Franklin**

When: Sunday afternoon,
October 29, 2017, at 2:30 pm

Where: Friends of the Carpenter
1600 W 20th Street
Vancouver, Washington 98660

You are welcome to **bring gifts for the new church kitchen**, gift wrapped or not. A suggested gift list/registry will be available. Please RSVP to Sandy Mathis, sanjermathis@msn.com, or phone 360-574-6052



**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 14th at the Peachtree
on Highway 99.**

**Celebration of Life
For
Mary Alice Carter**

There will be a Celebration of Life for Mary Alice Carter on
September 30, 2017, 3:00 PM at the **Schurman Iron Ranch, 23100
NE 10th Ave, Ridgefield, WA.**

Please Update Your Directory

Lynn Renner (and Sidney Chan)
13720 NE 245th Ave.
Brush Prairie, WA. 98606



Thank You Ron!

Ron MacKenzie, an experienced gardener, and an OSU Extension Service Master Gardener, who has been working on the landscape at First Congregational-Vancouver, is available to clean up your residential or business property. You can reach him at ron.w.mackenzie@gmail.com, or 971-998-9330.



The Spirituality Group has re-formed and is meeting on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at Vancouver Heights United Methodist Church . We always welcome new people on their Spiritual journey. For more information contact Ray Jones at 360-601-3773 or

olenrel@comcast.net .

Thank you,
Jan Foulke

