

THE LINK

December 1, 2017

AS

Kathy Woolley

"The light of the Christmas star to you,

The warmth of home and hearth to you,

The cheer and good will of friends to you,

The hope of a childlike heart to you,

The joy of a thousand angels to you,

The love of the Son,

And God's peace to you."

~Old Irish Blessing

Esther

Esther and Kent

Angela

Brunna

Christopher Schwallen



SILENT PRAYER IN ACTION

Dear Friends,

We all know that gun violence represents a kind of political insanity and deep spiritual sickness in our country. But while effective change often seems out of reach on the national level, hope is very much in sight on the state-level. In partnership with Ceasefire Oregon, we're calling on all people of faith in the common good to stand up for comprehensive gun controls laws here in Oregon. While the national conversation stagnates, real reform is possible closer to home, and this strategic action will also include information on how to move the conversation forward with our elected officials.

Save the date for this Silent "Action" on December 17 from 4-6 pm.

Please RSVP on our Facebook Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/362109854249369/> and share it with your communities.

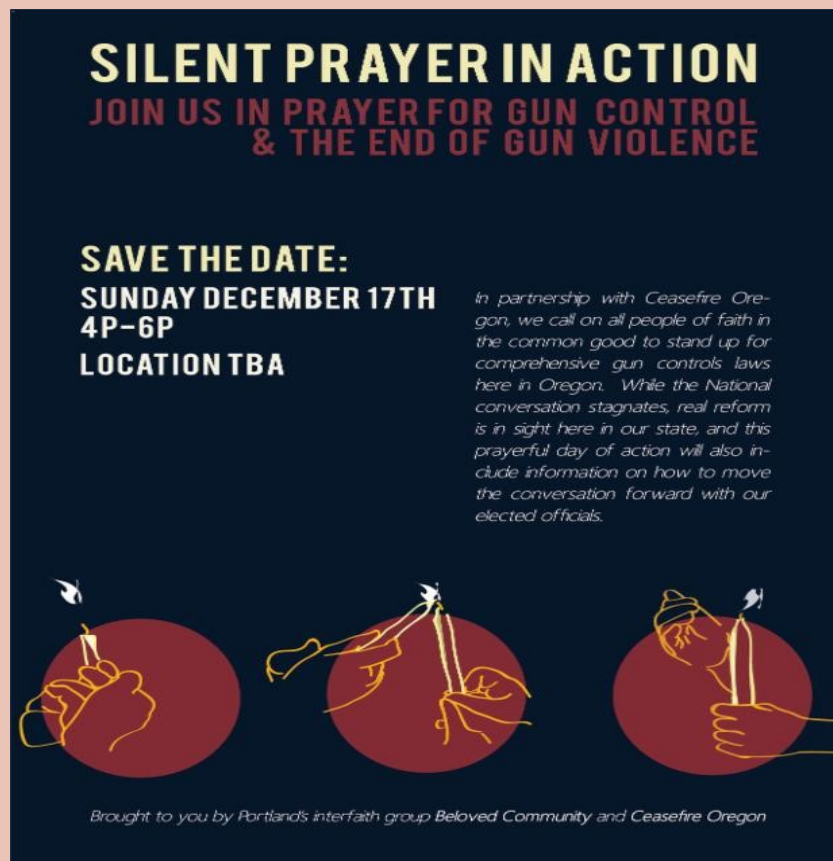
We will update this page with more information as the event nears.

In faith,

Rev. Michael Ellick

Senior Minister

First Congregational United Church of Christ





Ed Martin will have a showing of eight of his paintings at the Hall Building, 10000 NE 7th Ave, Vancouver, today and through the end of the year.



December 02	Nancy Woodworth
December 06	Norma Priel
December 08	Olivia Martindale
December 11	Chloie Chronister-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
December 22	Tracey Flynn



Advent Festival

Begin your Christmas Season with a fun filled family oriented activity immediately following worship on Sunday December 3rd. We will hold our annual Advent Festival and you will not want to miss out on all the joy. We will be making paper snowflakes, fabric butterflies, pinecone bird feeders, hospitality bags for the homeless, the kid's favorite decorating and eating of cookies, plus Pastor Jennifer will lead us in making reverse Advent calendars. Please plan on joining us after worship on the 3rd, at Luepke Center. Coffee and some treats provided by Mission and Outreach will be available during coffee hour too.



Friends of the Carpenter

Holiday Product Sale

Friday, December 8

10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

1600 W 20th St, Vancouver.

A great place to finish or begin

Your holiday shopping.



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 9th at the
Peachtree
on Highway 99**



Love Your Refugee Neighbor

This December we will continue the UCC 3 Great Loves Campaign by focusing on love for our refugee neighbors. Refugees are proven victims of persecution that flee their homelands in search of hope, justice and a safe place to raise their families. The United States has historically resettled more of the world's refugees than all other countries combined and Vancouver receives between 200-400 refugees per year.

Refugees arrive to the United States with very little and they have to quickly begin their lives over again. **Restart Kits** are a significant part of us welcoming and honoring them in Vancouver. The kits are filled with essential items that give refugees the start of what they need to rebuild their lives here. The hope is that these kits would bring honor to refugees coming to Vancouver, reflect their dignity, while also meeting a very tangible need. We ask that you only collect new items for these kits, and leave the price tag on the item. (Tags will be removed before the family receives them, but the value of items must be recorded per regu-





Mission & Outreach Special Offering for December

The United Church of Christ Christmas Fund (formerly Veterans of the Cross) has been helping retired clergy and lay workers for decades. One of the unique aspects of the Christmas Fund is that the funds provide direct financial assistance to individual UCC clergy and lay church employees – the funds do not support programs or institutions, but people. With your continued generosity, more individuals will receive the support of the church in their time of need.

Our retired clergy/lay employees relied on this income supplementation for basic needs such as food, utilities, and living and medical expenses.

Christmas “thank you” gift checks were given to hundreds of retired UCC clergy/lay church employees last year. This special gift at Christmas time reminds these Veterans of the Cross that they have not been forgotten and that the Church is grateful for their service.

Please support this important UCC fund by writing a check to our church and putting “UCC Christmas Fund” in the memo line.



Mortgage Match by Jeff Osborne

We are making good progress toward raising \$36,000, to be matched 1:1, to reduce the principal on our mortgage before the loan is refinanced in January. With the November payment we included \$16,100 in gifts and another \$16,100 in matching funds to drop our balance to approximately \$320,000; our goal is \$272,000. If we receive enough gifts to use all of the matching funds we will achieve our goal of having the monthly payment for the refinanced loan at \$1,500 or less.

The current Capital Campaign continues until May 31st, 2018. If you would like to write a check to finish your pledge in December or January it will also help reduce the balance before we refinance.

Please contact me at jeffo@pacifier.com if you have any questions about the mortgage.





Christmas Eve Cookies and Wassail



One of the great traditions of our church is enjoying Christmas cookies and wassail after church on Christmas Eve. This year we will continue that tradition after the **9:00 pm worship service at Trinity Lutheran Church**. We invite you all to bring some of your favorite cookies or candies to share with the congregation. You may bring your goodies to church that evening or if you prefer, you may bring them to church with you when you come to see our wonderful children's program Christmas Eve morning at 10:00 am at Luepke Center. Parish Life will ensure that they get to the evening service. Claudia and Ed Martin will prepare the wassail. **Merry Christmas everyone.**



Rebuilding Up-Date

Rick Marye, Belfor Restoration, reports that rebuilding activity has picked up this last two weeks

- Framing has started on the new bathrooms and continues to be done in the kitchen and doorways throughout Bradford Hall.
- Rough Electrical continues with new panels being installed.
- Insulation in the Education classroom area is complete.
- The new duct work and insulation of the existing duct work is complete in the 90's classroom area.
- The dry in of the roof will be starting Monday 12/2/17
- The fire sprinkler system piping installation will begin on Monday 12/2/17.

Framing on the eyebrow window will be starting 12/2/17. The photo shows a portion of skylight being removed in preparation for the framing to begin.

The Re-Imaging Committee will meet next week to discuss what equipment will be required to go back into each room in church. The full committee will meet to continue to monitor the budget and timeline for completion. A lot more to come.

Ken Rowe

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 1st Sunday of Advent 10:00 Worship 11:00 Advent Fest	4 10:30 Spirituality	5	6 10:00 Bible 103 7:00 Bible 103	7 7:00 Choir	8	9 9:30 Women's Breakfast Group at the Peachtree
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:00 Worship	11	12 1:00 Membership in the office	13	14 10:00 Prayer Shawl 6:00 Parish Life 7:00 Choir 7:00 M&O	15	16 10:00 Choir Dress Rehearsal
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 10:00 Choir Worship	18 10:30 Spirituality	19	20 1:00 Mary Jo Ebel Circle 6:00 P&F	21 7:00 Choir	22	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent 10:00 Kids Worship 7:00 Christmas Eve Worship	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:00 Christmas Brunch Hometown Buffet		Worship: Spirituality: M&O Christmas	Luepke Community Center 1009 E McLoughlin Vancouver Heights UMC 7210 NE 14th Ct. 98665 Eve Service	Offsite Meetings: Trinity Lutheran Church		