



## **SPECIAL CONCERNS**

Joan Blair  
Harriet Anani  
Mary Lou Duvall  
Cordelia McBride  
Eric Sander

## **HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY TO:**

May 01 Kristin Martindale  
May 05 Isaac Martin  
May 06 Janet Melton  
May 07 Jim Crossman  
May 07 Alona Steinke  
May 13  
Stephanie Pykonnen  
May 21 Laela Brittain  
May 21 Jean Matthews  
May 25 Ruby Frank  
May 29 Kathy Woolley  
May 31 Boean Marquardt



# **THE LINK**

## **May 1, 2017**

**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ**

**Temporary Location for Worship:**  
**Luepke Community Center**  
**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**

**From  
Our  
Pastor**



Dear Ones,

Recently in confirmation we were talking about rites of passage. Rites of passage, we learned, are markers. But unlike regular markers like birthdays, rites of passage are events that come only seldom in a lifetime, celebrating the passing from one stage of life to another. This month, we will celebrate two notable rites of passage in our church.

The first is CONFIRMATION on May 7, 2017 during worship. At that time, we will honor the six young people who have been studying, learning and engaging in mission work during this year together. Confirmation is not a graduation - like all of us, they are not done learning and growing in their faith by any means! Instead, this rite of passage celebrates this moment in their lives when they move from childhood to young adulthood.

When I asked them what “confirm” means, one student said it means “the authority to say ‘this is true.’” I think that’s a good a definition of confirmation as I’ve ever heard. These young people now have a new authority, a new ability to lead as well as follow, to teach as well as learn, and to express what they know to be true at this moment in their lives. Along with confirmation (which affirms the vows made at baptism and welcomes into the church universal), they also have the opportunity to choose to become members of our congregation on that day. Thank you for your support of the confirmation class this year and for welcoming them into this stage of life.

The second rite of passage will be May 25, 2017 at 6:15 pm, on the one year anniversary of the fire in our sanctuary. As we gather near the site of the fire, we will honor this moment in our church’s life together. Like the young people we will confirm earlier in the month, we as a congregation are on the cusp of a new thing. No longer what we were, we are not yet we are going to become. And yet, like the confirmands, there is much to celebrate and to state with authority about who we are in this moment.

I hope you will join with your community at both of these special events. Rites of passage don’t come around very often, and when they do, they call for sacred celebrations such as these.

Peaceful blessings,  
Jennifer

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

A follow-up Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for May 21st, immediately following worship to meet with the Architects.

Your input is welcome, so come and have a say in our future.



## **SPIRITUALITY GROUP**

Special tea for the Spirituality Group at Michele's on the 5th Monday of May (May 29th, Memorial Day) at 2pm. Bring finger food to share

## **Mary Jo Ebel Circle – Wednesday, May 17th, 1:00 p.m., at**

Judy Walter's,  
4700 NE 25<sup>th</sup> Ct.  
Vancouver WA 98660  
360-693-0393

David B. Avison, Director of Gift Planning for the Central Pacific Conference, UCC, will be our guest speaker together with Jeff Osborne. The topic will be supporting our church through endowments, bequests and gifts. Time doesn't allow for a lengthy program, but we will cover the basics; that is, the difference between endowments and bequests and how to set them up.

All women of the church are invited. Please join us for an informative program and social time.

FOUR TIMES THREE:  
4 short classes for curious Christians

**Sundays 11:45-12:30**

All ages. Come to one, a few or all. No prep or homework. Bring a bag lunch if you like.

One: Embodied Prayer

**May 14** Doodle Prayer

*Pray for others using pen and paper - at Luepke (1009 E McLoughlin)*

**May 21** Walk the Labyrinth

*Gather at Luepke (1009 E McLoughlin) carpool to church grounds*

**May 28** Centering Prayer

*Use your breath to center and ground yourself - at Luepke*

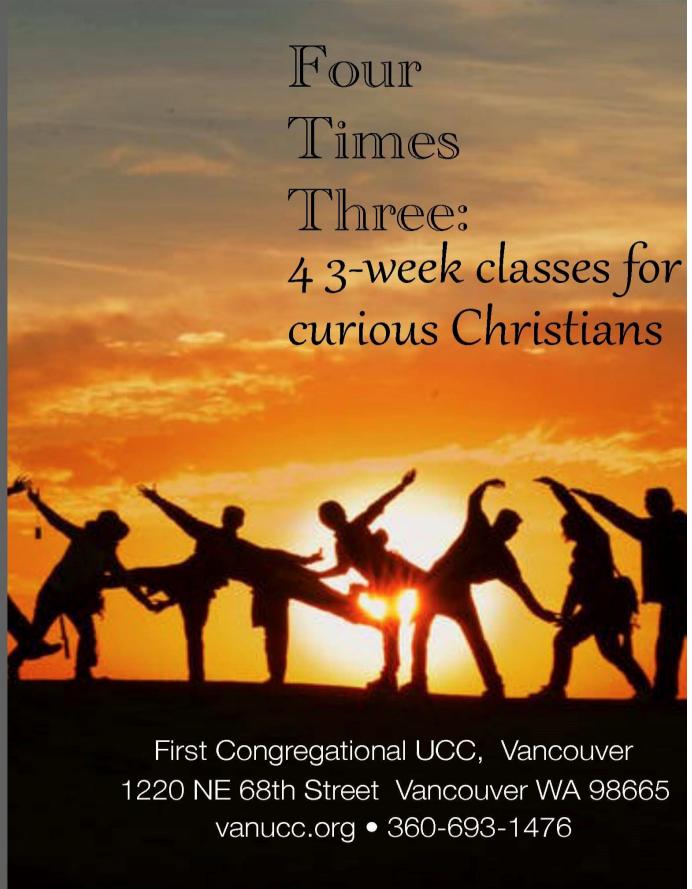
**SAVE THE DATES**

Two: Integrity and Relationship: Interactive Bible encounter with the story of Joseph — July 16, 23, 30

Three: UCC 101 — October 8, 15, 22

Four: Advent Experience — December 3, 10, 17

Four  
Times  
Three:  
4 3-week classes for  
curious Christians



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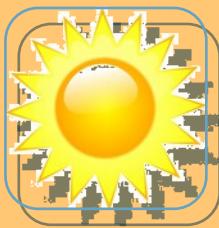


**Labyrinth Clean-up Days, May 5 & 6**

On Friday May 5, we will power wash the labyrinth and do general clean-up and maintenance. If you can bring a heavy-duty power washer, let Ed Martin know. On Saturday May 6, we will spread sand on the labyrinth and do general clean-up and maintenance.

Job-list: Clean up fallen debris on hillside, prune shrubbery, spray blackberries, trim ivy from tree trunks, relocate arbor and replant wisteria, spray azaleas for lace bugs, new bark dust on front berm and weed the parking lot median. Also, if you can provide coffee, water, and or a light lunch, let Ed Martin know.

Some of these jobs will depend on good weather, but unless it is raining heavily we will do as much as we can. If heavy rain is forecast we will postpone. You can check status each day by calling Ed at 360-852-7602.

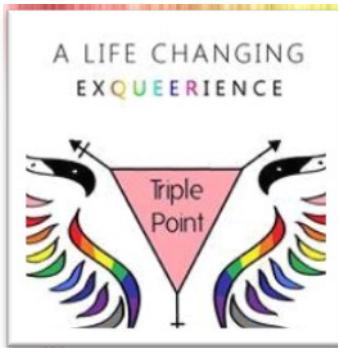


## A LITTLE SUNSHINE

On Communion Sundays, a basket is placed on the coffee table for the “Sunshine Fund” which is used to purchase flowers, gifts and cards for homebound members and for those who are ill and unable to attend church. Other uses for this fund are: roses placed on the altar to celebrate new babies, flowers for memorial services, flowering holiday plants, elements for communion and other needs that arise. These donations make it possible to brighten the day for many and help to fulfill the mission of the Diaconate Ministry.



We will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting for the Election of Officers on **Sunday, April 30th** immediately following worship.



## Mission & Outreach May Special Offering: Triple Point Youth Group

Vancouver Triple Point, a program of Children’s Home Society, is Clark County, Washington’s safe haven support group and drop-in program for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Pansexual, Queer, and Questioning people ages 11 to 18 years old. It is what some participants call their “second home” where they can get to know other queer youth to develop lasting friendships. Triple Point is not only where participants can be proud of their sexual orientation and gender identity, but support others in the same.

Triple Point is a place where participants get to meet supportive peers but also straight and queer supportive adults, agencies, and community to help remove isolation and barriers of discrimination. Participants are able to develop leadership skills and have access to free mental health services.

Triple Point is located at 1112 Columbia in downtown Vancouver. To learn more about volunteering, providing dinner/snacks or becoming a member of the Queer Youth Advisory Board: Email [triplepoint@chs-wa.org](mailto:triplepoint@chs-wa.org) or call 360-695-1325 ext. 4217.



**Vancouver Spring Summit**  
**June 4<sup>th</sup> 1 – 3 pm**

FAN's advocating faith communities across Washington State come together during our ANNUAL SPRING SUMMITS to talk about the issues we care about and to discuss our advocacy plans for the future. Our congregation has been a member of FAN for 6 years.

**The 2017 Vancouver Spring Summit will be held at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.** There will be speakers, food, a free will offering for a local charity, a chance to network with other social justice congregations, and a chance to vote on the issues you would like FAN to focus on to create lasting change. More details to follow, so save the date!

**New Contact Information  
For Pat Degerstedt**

Pat Degerstedt  
c/o Mark Degerstedt  
4151 Calhoun Dr.  
Huntington Beach, CA 92649



**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, May 13th at the Peachtree on Highway 99.



**FILM SCREENING:**

**Wednesday, May 17, 2017  
At the Kiggins Theater  
1011 Main St. Vancouver**

Doors open at 5 PM  
Screening at 6 PM

Join local community members and organizations for a screening of National Geographic's *Gender Revolution*. Stay after to hear from local leaders and how you can get involved in creating a safer Southwest Washington for our transgender community

THE INTERFAITH COALITION OF  
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

# Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

## *Creating Sanctuary, Enkindling Hope*



**Thursday, May 18th, 2017  
8-9:30 am**

First United Methodist  
401 E 33rd St, Vancouver, WA 98663

PLEASE RSVP TO  
[SWWA.INTERFAITH@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SWWA.INTERFAITH@GMAIL.COM)



## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - Cinco de Mayo SPECIAL EVENT

Authentic Mexican Food by Anahi Sanchez - to go/eat in following worship  
(and help Anahi work to raise funds for vital surgery)

STREET TACOS - Carne Asada (steak) \$1.75 – made on site following worship



Al pastor (pork)  
Pollo (chicken) \$1.75  
(choice of green or red sauce or mole)

TAMALES – \$16/dozen - Al Pastor  
(pork)  
Pollo (chicken)



BURRITO - \$7.00 ea. (LARGE!) Chicken, Pork, or Steak  
Burrito has rice, beans, meat of your choice, onion and cilantro inside

STREET TACOS

Tacos come with onion, cilantro, lemon and individual salsa

SALSA - qt. \$5.00

RED SAUCE, GREEN SAUCE, or MOLE SAUCE – qt. \$5.00

Call Anahi directly to place your orders IN ADVANCE - [\(360\) 984-9619](tel:(360)984-9619)

[Send a Facebook message to Tamales Lady and More](#) OR

EMAIL Patty Yates at: [phunnygurl07@yahoo.com](mailto:phunnygurl07@yahoo.com)

# May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>  3:00 Spirituality Group	<b>2</b>  7:00 Choir	<b>3</b>  10:00 Bible 101  7:00 Bible 101	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Worship Confirmation	<b>8</b>  7:00 CE Church office	<b>9</b>  7:00 Choir	<b>10</b>  10:00 Bible 101  12:00 Communications Church office  7:00 Bible 101	<b>11</b>  10:00 Prayer Shawl Church office  7:00 Parish Life Church office	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  9:30 Women's Breakfast Group At the Peachtree
<b>14</b> Mother's Day 10:00 Worship	<b>15</b>  3:00 Spirituality Group	<b>16</b>  7:00 Choir	<b>17</b>  10:00 Bible 101  7:00 Bible 101	<b>18</b>  8:00 Interfaith Prayer Breakfast First Methodist 401 E. 33rd  7:00 M&O	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10:00 Worship 11:00 Cong. Meeting with Architects	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  7:00 Choir	<b>24</b>  6:00 Prop and Fin. Church office	<b>25</b>  6:15 1st year Prayer Vigil on on the church grounds  7:00 Council, Church office	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:00 Worship Kristina Speaking	<b>29</b> <b>Memorial Day Office Closed</b> 3:00 Special Spirituality Group Tea	<b>30</b>  7:00 Choir	<b>31</b>	<b>Offsite Meetings:</b>  <b>Worship:</b> Luepke Community Center 1009 E McLoughlin  <b>Spirituality:</b> Home of Michele Holden  <b>Choir:</b> WA State School for the Blind 2214 E 13th St,  <b>Bible 102:</b> Salmon Creek Methodist Church 12217 NE Hwy 99		