



SPECIAL CONCERNS

Joan Blair
Cordelia McBride
Eric Sander
Alice Rowe
Carole Elizabeth
Adina Tarpley
Pam Sander

JUNE

THE LINK

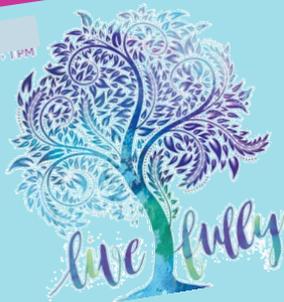
June 1, 2017

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**

**Temporary Location
for Worship:**

**Luepke Community Center
1009 E McLoughlin Blvd.
Vancouver, WA 98663
www.vanucc.org**

**Office Location:
1220 NE 68th Street
Vancouver, WA 98665**



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, June 10th
at the Peachtree
on Highway 99.

***From
Our
Pastor***



When I was a seminary student, I was blessed to have a wonderful mentor. Deanna has been a pastor for several decades and served many churches. She is familiar with all the ins and outs of ministry, and often offered a listening ear, a gentle prayer and wise counsel during the many years I was student. One of the best ways Deanna helped mentor me, though, was through her curiosity. If I mentioned something we were learning in seminary, she would often ask me to tell her more about it and she listened with eager and obvious interest. Although she is herself a wealth of knowledge and experience, Deanna loves learning new things. Her love of learning was one of the great gifts she gave me as a mentor, because she showed me that we are never too knowledgeable or experienced to learn more.

In June, as school lets out, I celebrate with all of you who are dedicated to learning, whatever your age or circumstance. There are many life-long learners in our church community. Van UCC includes graduates of all ages, Bible 102 students, Locally Empowered and Authorized Pastors (LEAPers), and folks learning about race and welcome at a Central Pacific Conference workshop. Some learning opportunities are less formal or intentional. Sunday school teachers often report that they learn from preparing a lesson for the children. Some of us have recently learned more about prayer and meditation. And lots of us have been learning more about building and construction!

Is there something you have been wanting to learn, that you've been putting off for some reason? Maybe its time to give it a try. School's out, but the opportunity to learn is always "in"!

Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer

SUNDAY MATINEE

JUNE 4th

3:00 pm

FRIES AUDITORIUM
WA. SCHOOL for the BLIND

presented by
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHOIR

ENJOY
SONGS
FROM
FAVORITE
MOVIES



Welcome Rev. Carlson!!

The Search Committee of the CPC Board is pleased to announce our new Designated Term Conference Minister, Rev. Molly Carlson. Molly brings great energy and passion to her ministerial work. We are excited about her vision to build connections across the conference and to help us discern how to be conference together in these next few years.

Molly brings over 15 years of ministerial experience including leading two new church starts, pastoring in both interim and settled settings, and work at the regional and national level of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) supporting new emerging congregations and congregations discerning the end of their ministry. Molly is ordained in the Disciples and has full ministerial partnership standing in the UCC. Her most recent leadership is as senior minister of United Church of Christ (Congregational) in Yankton, SD.

Molly is married to Rev. Michael Carlson, a minister and musician. They have two sons, Simon (16) and Adam (13). Molly is an avid knitter and enjoys camping with her family, spending time at the beach, and reading good books.

Molly will begin her Designated Term in mid-August but she will be able to go to Synod on our behalf and lead our delegates, as well as meet with the council of conference ministers.

Rev. Hollis Bredeweg will continue to serve as Consulting Conference Minister until Molly arrives.

The Board thanks our search committee (Jean Avison, Corliss Marsh, Chi Morgan, and Sara Rosenau) for their hard work and discernment.

June Birthdays

June 06	Bert Martin	June 16	Wayne Kamp
June 04	Elias Martin	June 17	Doraine Kohler
June 05	Brenda Houchen	June 18	Kimberly Lewis
June 07	Claude Blair	June 19	JoAnn Kersavage
June 12	Virginia Dunbar	June 20	Marcie Ramberg
June 12	Cindy McNally	June 21	Kevin Ellis
June 12	Allison Schnabel		
June 14	Rory Martindale		
June 14	Sharon Kenoski		

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Portland Pride Festival

June 17 & 18



The Central Pacific Conference UCC churches will march together in the parade on June 18th. Step off time is 11 am, but we will get our exact line up number in June.

We also need volunteers to staff our Conference booth at the Waterfront festival on Saturday & Sunday.

Our booth is D-10.

Sign up today for our booth. Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

- 1) Click this link to see our SignUp on SignUp.com: <http://signup.com/go/BfRLDTW>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like. Be sure to save & confirm your sign up spot.
- 3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.



Mission and Outreach

June Special Offering

Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. To donate: Please make your check out to our church and put "Strengthen the church" in the memo line.

WELCOME

TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

***Brenda Houchen and Karsten Cowles
1205 SW Kendall Ct
Troutdale, Oregon 97060
503-803-6501
brenda.houchen@yahoo.com***

When I asked Brenda and Karsten for some information about them so I could properly introduce them to the congregation, I got two very brief emails from them. To tell the truth, I wasn't surprised as neither Brenda nor Karsten are ones to chat very much. However, I've been a sneaky listener this past year. According to them, "Brenda Houchen moved from Montana in 1999 to be closer to her sister who gifted her with a niece and nephew. Brenda teaches at Mt. Hood Community College, but her joy comes from exploring all of Oregon/Washington with Karsten and Teaghan." And Karsten says he is "interested in pursuing film and I'm studying that at VSAA. I live in Vancouver, obviously. Also I have 3 cats."

What their emails don't say is that this aunt and nephew duo is amazingly caring and compassionate. They have attended nearly every Sunday since they found us after the fire, even though neither lives near us at all. Their emails also don't mention that both are talented in multiple arts and that both have a great sense of humor.

Please take the opportunity to introduce yourself to both Brenda and Karsten. They will make your Sunday a bit brighter!

***Gary and Sharon Roberts
3118 SE 152nd Ave
Vancouver, WA 98683
360-524-2231
gary@garysharon.com
sharon@garysharon.com***

Please welcome new members, Sharon and Gary Roberts. They come to us after a long sustained membership at Hillsdale Community Church. They now make their home at Fairway Village in Vancouver. Sharon grew up in Beaverton and Gary in Corvallis. They met during their first week as students at Oregon State University. After getting married and graduating, Sharon and Gary entered military life as Gary was commissioned and became a Naval Aviator. Gary completed two tours in Vietnam as a pilot.

On return to civilian life, Sharon and Gary returned to Portland where they raised a daughter and son. Gary entered commercial real estate where he was a successful developer and broker. In 1998, Sharon and Gary accepted a call to UCC headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio. Gary accepted a finance position and helped establish Cornerstone Mortgage (our church lender). From Cleveland they moved to Southern California where Gary headed up church development efforts. In 2012, they returned to our area, settling at Fairway Village.

Gary now devotes his time to supporting justice for returning veterans. Sharon is an expert quilter and avid reader. They have three grandchildren. Their daughter lives in Gig Harbor and their son in Philadelphia where he serves as a UCC minister.

Brian Fick and Randall Franklin
705 Sunset Ridge Dr
Washougal, WA 98671
Brian: 360-747-9187
bf97000@yahoo.com
Randall: 360-818-1277
randallfranklin09@gmail.com

Brian Fick was born and raised in Longview. He has lived in the Southwest Washington area most of his life, except for brief work transfers to Hawaii and Chicago. He worked for Allstate Insurance until his retirement in 2015.

Randy Franklin was born in Kansas City, Kansas. He is next to the youngest of eleven children and six of his siblings still live in the Kansas City area. Randy moved to Portland, Oregon at age 19, moving to Seattle about 10 years later. He worked as a public transit driver for many years and then began studying for his real estate license. He moved to Southwest Washington several years ago after meeting Brian.

Brian and Randy have been together for about 2-1/2 years and they live in Washougal. Brian has a property investment business and Randy is a real estate broker and property manager. They work very well together as a team. Brian has three sons and five grandchildren. One son lives near them in Washougal, so they babysit the grandkids often.

Brian and Randy first visited our church after the fire and worshiped with us at the labyrinth. Both of them attended church as children with family. As adults, they often felt unwelcome or unaccepted at some churches due to sexual orientation bias. They have felt accepted at our church and continue to worship regularly with us.

We are delighted to sponsor Brian and Randy. They joined our racial justice group last fall and contributed greatly to the discussions. Randy cooked awesome ribs for our potluck reunion in January! Please welcome Brian and Randy and get to know them. They are interesting, joyful, and also FUN.

Graduates and Volunteer Teacher Recognition Sunday

Please join me in cheering on the many ways our congregation is filled with learners and lovers of education! On Sunday, June 4th we will celebrate recent graduates and our volunteer teachers during the service and then serve coffee and cake during our fellowship hour. Please take a moment and thank the following people for their commitment to their own educations and the educations of others.

Graduates: Emilee Blair Neyens, Tammy Ross, Sterling Roberts, Brianna Brown, Hayley Larsen, and Esther Gershun.

Teachers: Claudia Martin, Jerry Mathis, Janet Melton, Rachel Corey and Gina Marquardt.

JUNE 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Offsite Meetings: Worship: Luepke Community Center 1009 E McLoughlin Spirituality: 3:00 PM 1st and 3rd Mondays: Home of Michele Holden Bible 102: Salmon Creek Methodist Church 12217 NE Hwy 99 M&O 7210 NE 14th Ct. 98665				1	2	3
4 10:00 AM Worship 3:00 Sunday Matinee Choir Concert	5 3:00 Spirituality Group	6	7	8 10:00 Prayer Shawl onsite 2:00 Parish Life	9	10 9:30 Women's Breakfast Group At the Peachtree
11 10:00 AM Worship	12	13 1:00 Membership onsite	14 12:00 Communica- tions onsite	15 7:00 Mission and Outreach	16	17
18 Father's Day 10:00 AM Worship	19 3:00 Spirituality Group	20	21 7:00 Deacons onsite 6:00 P&F onsite	22 10:30 Memorials Onsite 7:00 Council onsite	23	24
25 10:00 AM Worship	26	27	28	29	30	