



August

August 02 Doris Fletcher
August 06 Pat Sutherland
August 10 Rachel Corey
August 10 Scott Jones
August 11 Rowan McLaughlin
August 12 Sharon Sollenberger
August 23 Richard Edwards
August 24 Marilyn Jones
August 28 Bev Boydston

THE LINK **August 1, 2017**

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**

Temporary Location for Worship:

**The Labyrinth
1220 NE 68th ST
www.vanucc.org**

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

SPECIAL CONCERNS

**Joan Blair
Cordelia McBride
Eric Sander
Pam Sander
Carole Elizabeth
Adina Tarpley
Mary Alice Carter
Dorothea Johnson
Darrell Brandenburg**



**From
Our
Pastor**



Poor August. Did you know that this is the only month that does not contain a major holiday? (In the States, anyway. I can't speak for other parts of the world.)

When I first moved to the Pacific Northwest, the holiday-less-ness of August, combined with its hot dry weather used to make it feel like a long uncomfortable month to me. At some point, without even realizing it, I decided to make my own holidays in this month – doing things that I would never do at other times. Some years, I celebrate a women's retreat with friends. One year, I took archery lessons with my son. Several times I've taken a few days away by myself in a new town or area. All of these have been fun in their own way and different from holidays I celebrate at other times of the year.

The lack of proscribed holidays during this month have given me permission to create my own ways of celebrating, enjoying a break in the usual rhythm of things, and being with family and friends. There is nothing to buy, no one to give me a picture of how things "should be done," no expectations to meet the special holiday feeling of childhood. Whatever way I celebrate a non-holiday for a day or two in August is just between me, God, and whichever friends and family happen to come along.

Maybe this is why summer worship under the tent on the labyrinth has been so (somewhat unexpectedly for me at least) enjoyable. Except for a few weeks last summer, I have never experienced worship like this before, so I am freed from expectations and messages about what "should" happen. The golf cart zipping up and the down the hill, the box covering the piano which also happens to double as an excellent altar table, and the visits from birds and bunnies all make Sunday morning feel a little bit like a holiday every week.

How are you celebrating this August? If you have not made a trip to the pavilion under the trees, I invite you to give it try. After all, poor August needs some kind of holiday, and each Sunday with our music, our words and our gathering of friends, we are making our own.

Blessings,
Jennifer



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th, 9 AM- 4PM
ESTHER SHORT PARK**

The **Vancouver Peace and Justice Fair** at Esther Short Park will showcase the hard work and creative spirit of individuals, social justice groups, peace organizations, faith communities, performers, artists, businesses, and environmental activists who are making the world a better place.

Once again, our church is one of the community sponsors. Sign up to volunteer at our table or make sure to stop by during the day for activities, music and inspiration – for free! Grab a picnic lunch at the adjacent Farmer’s Market and enjoy the park all day.

Sign-up sheet available at church or contact Karen Kulm at lk.kulm@gmail.com .

CPC Women, Save the Date! October 6-8

The CPC Women’s Camp will be held on October 6-8, 2017 at Camp Adams. The focus of the retreat will be the work and ministry of the Palestine YWCA.

This year’s Women’s Camp will focus on the events and activities at the Palestine YWCA; how they cope and resist while living in tense political situations

The resource leaders for the weekend are Marcia Gilliland who serves on the CPC Palestine/Israel Network as well as the CPC Wider Ministries Team, and Rev. Jen Doane, also on the CPC Palestine/Israel Network and a member of the board of directors for the national UCC Wider Church Ministries and Common Global Ministries.

The registration fee for the Camp is \$105.00 due October 1st. A down payment of \$65.00 at the time of registration and a balance due on arrival.

Financial is available through the Rev. Anne Smith Educational Fund Grant.

Applications are available in the church office and brochures will be available at worship.

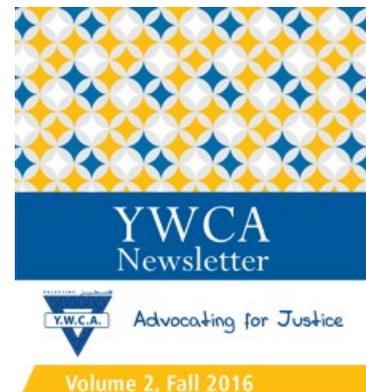
Women’s Breakfast Group

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, August 12th at the Peachtree on Highway 99.

The Women’s Breakfast group meets the second Saturday of every month.



August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Worship on the Labyrinth	7	8 1:00 Membership Office	9 12:00 Communi- cations Office	10 10:00 Prayer Shawl at the office 2:30 Parish Life	11	12 9:30 Women's Bkfst Group At the Peachtree
13 Worship on the Labyrinth	14 7:00 CE Office	15	16	17	18	19
20 Worship on the Labyrinth	21	22	23 6:00 P&F Office	24 7:00 Council Office	25	26
27 Worship on the Labyrinth	28	29	30	31		



Have I got a deal for you. Have you ever wanted to be an usher?

Here is your golden opportunity. There are two permanent slots & two fill in slots available.

The two permanent slots are for the second Sunday of each month.

If the second Sunday doesn't work for you but there is a deep felt desire we can probably work something out. We are a flexible group and would love to have you come aboard.

The two fill in slots would be called upon when one of our scheduled ushers is not available.

Either way you would be most welcomed. I can be reached Sundays at church or at (360) 931-0157 or at olenre1@comcast.net.

In Peace - Ray Jones



Summer Worship on the Labyrinth

During the months of July and August, we are worshipping on our beautiful Labyrinth under a pavilion. We even have a golf cart to transport those who need a little assistance.

Bible 103

Bible 103 begins Sept 13 with two sessions, 10am and 7pm. We have some exciting classes planned, looking at the Old Testament, the scriptures Jesus knew, looking at them through Jewish eyes. We'll also spend a quarter exploring the parables.

The Bible is our sacred text. It got that way because, when people study it, their lives are changed, they are closer to God and they find new possibilities on their spiritual path. Even worship is enhanced. One first time student who took the class last year said, "I'm so glad I took the class. Now, when I hear things on Sundays, I know how they fit together and I don't feel lost."

Don't miss this opportunity. You can still register for this class. *You do not need to have taken previous classes to enroll.* Contact Kristina Martin or Carole Elizabeth at pastorcarolee@gmail.com to enroll.

Thanks,, Carole