

THE LINK WEEKLY
UPDATE
DECEMBER 15, 2017

**First Congregational
United Church
of Christ
Vancouver, WA**

**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
360-693-1476**

SPECIAL CONCERNS

**Joan Blair
Cordelia McBride
Dorothea Johnson
Ron Martindale
Robert Towns**

Sunday, December 17, 2017

10:00 AM

***Let There Be Christmas*
Choir Cantata at the Luepke Center**

Monday, December 18, 2017

10:30 AM

**Spirituality at
Vancouver Heights UMC**

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

11:00 AM

**Mary Jo Ebel Circle at
Sweet Peas Tea House in Battleground**

Thursday, December 21, 2017

7:00 PM

Choir at WSSB

Sunday, December 17, 2017

10:00 AM

***Las Posadas*
A Story for All the Ages
Children's Worship
at the Luepke Center**



Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

There will be opportunities to gather for worship twice on Sunday, December 24th.

In the morning, the children will lead us in a program that helps us explore the many moods of the season – from silly to sacred, from sadness to satisfaction. There are parts for all children who attend that day, so it's an especially good day to invite your family, friends and neighbors to join you in worship. Morning worship on December 24th will be at 10:00 am at the Luepke Center.

On Christmas Eve evening, join your faith community for a very special worship of music and light. As every year, we will hear a familiar story made new each season, we will sing familiar songs of the season, we will light candles as we remember Christ's light continuing to shine in the world. New this year, all will be invited to join in singing the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah. Copies will be provided to all who wish to join the choir in singing this stirring classic. Evening worship on December 24th will be at

9:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 309 W 39th St, Vancouver, WA

It's Christmas Eve and All is Well

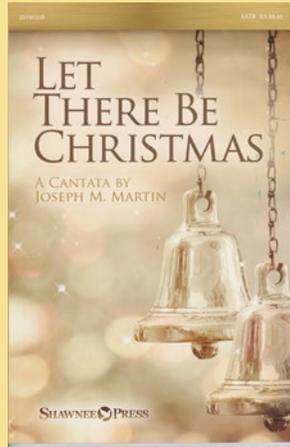


SPECIAL OFFERING: Discretionary Fund

On Christmas Eve we will take our annual special offering that helps those in our church family and community with emergency needs. Our ability to help those in hard times is a true blessing to those who receive it. Just make your check out to our church and put "Discretionary Fund" in the memo line.



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.



Let there be SONG Let there be FAITH Let there be HOPE
Let there be PEACE Let there be LOVE Let there be JOY
Let there be WONDER Let there be GRACE Let there be **CHRISTMAS**

This Sunday, the chancel choir will present their Christmas Cantata “**Let There Be Christmas**” by Joseph M. Martin. The music of this beautiful cantata will be woven through the morning worship service. The congregation will even be invited to sing along to some of your favorite Christmas carols. Join us for worship at 10:00 am and bring your friends. You will love this beautiful service.



Christmas Eve Cookies and Wassail

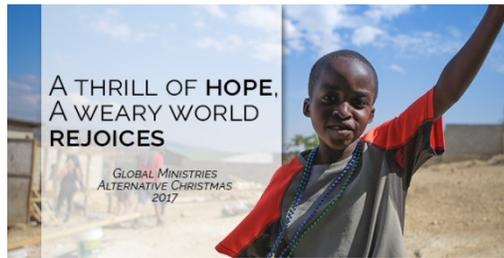
One of the great traditions of our church is enjoying Christmas cookies and wassail after church on Christmas Eve.

This year we will continue that tradition after the

**9:00 pm worship service at Trinity Lutheran Church,
309 W 39th St, Vancouver, WA .**

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.



Alternative Christmas Giving through Global Ministries

Christmas giving is a joy, but some people are harder to buy for than others: Maybe it's Uncle Joe, who never likes the ties you pick out for him, or sweet Aunt Mary, who is downsizing and literally does not need or want one more "thing" to deal with. Global Ministries, the world-wide mission arm of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has a solution called Alternative Christmas Giving. When you donate to Global Ministries through Alternative Giving, they send your loved one a card acknowledging that a gift has been given in his or her honor.

This year, Global Ministries is focusing on our ministry partners in the Caribbean region, so Global Ministries suggests gifts for House of Hope in Haiti. Haiti is the most impoverished country in the Western Hemisphere. House of Hope works with Haitian children who are ensnared in a form of modern child slavery. They are called "restaveks." "Restavek" is a Haitian Kreyol word meaning "one who stays with another." Restaveks are rural children sent to live and work as domestic servants with wealthier families in the capital city, Port au Prince. Even young children are frequently forced to work long hours for only room and board. They are not allowed to attend school, and they are at risk for sexual abuse. House of Hope offers restaveks the opportunity to complete school and learn life-skills and income generating skills.

An Alternative Gift for House of Hope today provides a life-changing impact:

\$25 can provide school supplies

\$50 can provide 120 meals for children—one day's worth

\$100 can provide construction materials to rebuild homes damaged by hurricanes

You can donate to House of Hope through the Global Ministries website at this address:

<https://donate.globalministries.org/alternative-christmas?donateTarget=House%20of%20Hope>

Information is available at this site for donating by mail or phone. For more information, contact Jean Doane at jeandoane@comcast.net.



Building Construction Up Date for week-ending December 15th.

- The underground electrical installation is under way and expect to have inspections complete by week's end.
- Work continues on installation of the fire sprinkler system with the rough-in completed in the education wing, lower level and into Bradford Hall.
- The eyebrow window is under construction and we expect to have plywood sheathing installed and dried in by week's end. Still haven't received quote from glazer about window installation.
- The roof dry-in has begun. It is expected that some shingles will be applied by the weekend (yes, Belfor will be working this weekend, rain or shine). Framing on the lower level (kitchen) is near completion and expect to be starting on the upper level next week.

The Re-Imaging Committee met this past Wednesday to discuss budgets for contents in all rooms including, kitchen, electronics throughout, Sanctuary, Bradford Hall and contents of some of the other rooms that need to be acted upon and making purchasing decisions soon. The committee will meet again next Wednesday with interior designer to discuss color palette for flooring.

At the present time, April 1, 2018 is the current occupancy date.

Ken Rowe



New Year's Eve Brunch

On Sunday December 31st we will have our traditional brunch worship service. We will gather at 10:00 am at **Hometown Buffet** in Vancouver Plaza (by the Target store) located at 7809 Vancouver plaza Drive. We have the banquet room reserved for us. Please join us as we end 2017 and look towards 2018 and getting back into our beautiful new church building.

