

THE LINK

**Summer Worship:
Sunday, 10:00 AM**

**Temporary Offices:
Congregation
Kol Ami
7800 NE 119th St.
Vancouver, WA 98662**

**Minister:
Rev. Jennifer Brownell
[*jennifer@vanucc.org*](mailto:jennifer@vanucc.org)**

**Christian Education:
Kristina Martin
[*kristina@vanucc.org*](mailto:kristina@vanucc.org)**

**Office Administrator:
Kathy Woolley
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**Treasurer:
John Greenauer**

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**

**(Temporary Offices:
Congregation Kol Ami)**

7800 NE 119th St.

360-693-1476

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From Our Pastor



On my second day as your interim pastor, way back in November, Kristina stuck her head in my office.

“What are you doing?” she asked.

“Oh, just rearranging the furniture,” I said. “I want to help the space feel a little more open, but mostly I just really like to move furniture.”

Kristina reminded me of that conversation recently, as we were talking about all the changes we have seen as a congregation in the month since our sanctuary was burned by fire. “I think I know why you are called to us,” she said as she reminded me of that conversation. “Because we need a pastor now who likes to move furniture.”

Even for a person who likes moving, the last month has been packed with an awful lot of change. And yet, the congregation has pulled together and already so much necessary rebuilding work is underway. It is such an honor to be with you during this time of grief, hope and transition, because I have seen how beautifully resilient you are as a congregation. And, I have felt so very clearly the touch of the Holy Spirit on so many interactions and coincidences, large and small.

In case you have not heard this news, because of these new circumstances, the search committee (with the guidance of conference minister Walter John Boris) has recommended to suspend the search for a new pastor, and retain me in a leadership role until the end of 2018. The council approved this recommendation. At the end of that time, we will decide by mutual discernment what is the best direction for the church leadership moving forward. Unlike a regular interim, we may decide together that it is best for me to stay in leadership, or that it is time for me to move on. Either way, I know the Spirit the guide us all, all the way!

Peace,
Pastor Jennifer

Pastoral Relations Committee

The Pastoral Relations committee for 2016-17 consists of the following members: Shirl Zent, Natalie Cantrell, Charley Ross, Diane Ullom, and Sue Benson. This committee will be meeting in July and will be the congregation's liaison for feedback for Pastor Jennifer and of utmost importance, as support for her. Our charges are for taking care for health in the relationship of our pastor and the congregation.

Jeanie Beary Stolle, committee chair

REMEMBERING OUR FAMILY IN PRAYER

Prayer requests for:

**Our sons and daughters overseas,
and the people of the Middle East;**

CONTINUING PRAYER REQUESTS FOR:

Joan Blair
Harriet Anani
Josiah Renner

Birthdays in July

July 01
July 02
July 04
July 07
July 08
July 15
July 18
July 26

Ken Boydstun
Joan Blair
Richard Trefren
Launa Schriock
Tom Yates
Tom Renner
Teresa Everist
Russ Schriock



Fountain of Youth Sunday!

The fountain of youth flows through this congregation! We are blessed with a large number of active members in their 90's. On Sunday, August 7 we will honor these beloved nonagenarians during morning worship at 10:00. Because so many of you are so youthful, we don't always know who you are. If you are church member or friend in your 90's, please contact Connie Oppel at 360-573-8997 so you can be honored on that day.



Worship in July

Temporary Location: Congregation Kol Ami 7800 NE 119th St. 98662

July 3, 2016

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Jennifer Brownell preaching

Infant and Toddler Care available.

Greeters: John and Ellie Bradley

Worship Leader: Jerry Mathis

Ushers: Rory Martindale, Trent Corey and Wayne and Doris Fletcher

Special Music: Patty Yates

July 10, 2016

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Jennifer Brownell preaching

Infant and Toddler Care available.

Greeters: Claudia and Ed Martin

Worship Leader: Virginia Dunbar

Ushers: Dwight Chapman and Carol Pendergraft

Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

Special Music: Doug and Judy Smith

July 17, 2016

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Jennifer Brownell preaching

Infant and Toddler Care available.

Greeters: Jan and Chuck Foulke

Worship Leader:

Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone

Chuck Foulke and Ray Jones

Special Music: Carmen Brantley-Payne

July 24, 2016

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Jennifer Brownell preaching

Infant and Toddler Care available

Greeters: Linda Wear

Worship Leader:

Ushers: Sue Rush, Tom Renner, Doraïne Kohler and Diane Ullom

Special Music: Linda Wear

July 31, 2016

10:00 Worship—A Musical Sermon with Will Lowe

Infant and Toddler Care available

Greeters: Dwight and Opal chapman

Worship Leader: Dwight Chapman

Ushers: John Hannon and John Bradley



ALL CHURCH PICNIC Sunday July 24, 2016 11:00 am at Kol Ami

Contributed by Leslie Chapman

Please join us for our annual picnic on the beautiful grounds at Kol Ami following worship on July 24th. As in the past, Parish Life will provide the hot dogs (kosher all beef this year and no brats) as well as the chips and beverages. We will **potluck** side dishes and dessert. Please keep in mind when planning your contribution that we must adhere to the kosher status of Kol Ami. That means **NO** shellfish, **NO** pork and **NO** mixing of meat and dairy products together.

We will have games planned for kids of all ages and of course the favorite piñata. There is a great fire pit available so what would a picnic be without s'mores. If you would like to bring your lawn chairs, please do, but we will have folding chairs and tables available too.

Please join us for the afternoon of fun and fellowship!

Saturday In The Park July 9th 11am – 5pm Esther Short Park

Saturday In The Park, Vancouver's annual Pride celebration will take place on July 9th and is celebrating its 22nd anniversary! Our church will once again have an informational booth at the event. To volunteer, please contact Karen Kulm at 360-991-5774 or lk.kulm@gmail.com.

This is a free, fun, family friendly day in the park with entertainment, music and plenty of room for picnics with foods chosen from the adjacent Farmer's Market. This is another chance to be a witness in our community for LGBTQ equality and to show our UCC extravagant welcome!



**God makes no mistakes.
You are wonderfully made.
Happy Pride Month.**

God is still speaking.
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

"I will give thanks to You, for I am
fearfully and wonderfully made..."
-Psalms 139:14

Thank You!

Contributed by Diane Ullom

I wanted to take a second to thank those that rallied around to create the "Thank You" card moment. Thank you to Janet Hunter for writing, and for reading, that beautiful letter to Jennifer. Thank you to Daryl DeSilva for helping to write what was written on the cards, and for reading the cards during service. Thank you to Laurie Parafinczuk for agreeing to do two of your beautiful bouquets, and then for finding someone else to do the bouquets when you were unable to be here. Laurie asked Joan Blair to create the bouquets. Joan, in turn, called me on Friday evening, two days before the event, at 7:50pm, to tell me she was going in for surgery, but had managed to get Carole Greenauer to bring in two bouquets. Carole agreed, and brought in two beautiful bouquets.



Dear Community Member,

Restorative justice is a new discipline and conflict resolution paradigm that could positively affect our schools and local community/ The Washington State ACLU has generously offered to share this work with our community. We will be looking through the lens of restorative justice in schools.

We are helping the ACLU come to Vancouver. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn together while building community.

As we look at the big issues, gun violence, sexual assault and consent, the school to prison pipeline, mass shootings, violence against religious and racial groups, it seems imperative to invest in positive teachings that root us and our children into our humanity.

Schools are a powerful place to implement restorative justice. Community based research conducted by Clay Mosher with the Collective for Social and Environmental Justice at Washington State University has highlighted persistent equity issues in our schools. Using discipline rates as social indicators of inequities in education, data show that Vancouver schools have some of the highest discipline rates in the state for African American students compared to their white counterparts. The consequences of the policies of Vancouver schools is contributing to systematic injustice.

Our investment in restorative justice should reduce those rates through community education and action. Typically a top-down approach is used to implement it, but we want to also work from the roots up to move faster. The ACLU is offering to lead this work in the larger community.

On August 2, 2016, 5pm to 7pm, the ACLU will conduct a free community event on restorative justice in Vancouver, WA. While the focus is on restorative justice in schools, the paradigm and skill sets are something everyone needs and can use. Implementing restorative justice in as many places as we can in Vancouver is good for our community.

Please send any questions or express your commitment to Cecelia Towner: BLMVWA@gmail.com

Sunday School Over the Summer From Kristina Martin

Families of 1st Congregational - because our wonderful volunteers get the summer off from teaching Sunday school, children have a few options over the summer. The nursery is available for our youngest children. Older children may either stay in the sanctuary with their families, or they may quietly color with Kristina and listen to the service with her. On communion Sundays, the children will come back into the sanctuary to take communion with their families. Summer is a great time to be a church together!



Messy Church is a Thing!

This summer, CE and Pastor Jennifer is excited to worship with you in new and exciting ways! Please come to church and experience MESSY CHURCH in August. We will meet on August 7, 14, and 21st from 5:00 until 6:30 pm. These services will be designed for all ages and will end with a shared meal. Just think, you can still golf in the morning and worship that night! What a great, albeit messy idea!



Do You Know”

A Series About Our History by Shirl Zent

As we look at the “re-imaging” of our church, I am looking back at the past and how we were at the beginning here on the hill. Of course, my memories only cover MY life here so I will welcome your memories also.

We began here in the early '60s under the leadership of Ted Hastings. We had a lot of young families at that time so we formed a “couples club.” We did a lot of good things and a lot of fun things. By the time Bill Graham arrived we had about 20 couples in the group. One of our favorite things was the progressive dinners we had in the Christmas Season. We went to three or four homes for various courses and ended up at someone's home or in Bradford Hall where we partied and had a White Elephant exchange. These “gifts” were so atrocious or gross or just plain hilarious. I won't even share what some of them were except to mention one...the cast from a broken arm. Some were better, some not so much! During Bill's time here we had sensitivity groups and diversity training and would you believe I even taught a sex ed class? Don't ask and comments to me only please. One day Bill asked me if I would be the church secretary so I worked 3 mornings a week (I loved part time). The office was where the choir room is now and where we store the music was the pastor's office. The stairway that comes up from the outside, just to the east of the office was a major entryway, besides the sanctuary. I would sometimes turn while at my desk and there were people standing there, just dropping in! A little unnerving at times. We had a Head Start program in Bradford Hall...moms and small children. I became a part of their support group. The moms worked with their kids and then fixed lunch. One day, two of the moms came upstairs and asked if I could help them. They had the menu for the week and didn't know what that day's lunch was, they had never heard of it and could I help them fix it. I finished my work and went downstairs and gave a “cooking lesson”...it was creamed tuna over toast. I loved working with them. Everything else upstairs was pretty much open. The sanctuary and a big hallway extending north to the windows. The Cabinet decided they would like to put in a wall and make a room for meetings. Bill Graham liked to build...so he put in the wall. When he got to the windows, he asked my help and I held the windows while he puttied them in. And so begat the Nettie Fries Lounge, named after the wife of Emil Fries, owner of the Piano Hospital and a long time church member.

We also did weddings. People would just show up or call and schedule an appointment to get married. They did spend a little time with Bill before he married them. I totally remember two of the weddings especially. The first one was a lovely black couple who showed up with their little boy, about five or six months old. I got to hold the baby during the service in the sanctuary. The baby grabbed a handful of my blonde hair and just stared at me the entire time...never making a peep. A most memorable event. The other wedding was a couple who came in and the bride had a friend with her to be her maid of honor. The groom had no one, so I was asked to be the witness and stand up for the groom. Did that not make the “best man”?

Ah memories, they are what you make them.

JULY, 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship	4 Kathy Vacation Kristina at Camp Adams Office Closed Independence Day	5	6	7 10:00 Memorial Judy Walter 6:30 Re- Imagining at Kol Ami	8	9 9:30 Women's Breakfast Group at the Peachtree
10 Worship	11 6:30 CE Offsite	12 1:00 Membership Alice Rowe 6:30 Parish Life At Kol Ami 6:30 Re- imagining K A	13	14	15	16
17 Worship	18 7:00 Spirituality At Karen Owen's home	19 7:00 Diaconate At Kol Ami	20	21 6:00 M&O At Kol Ami	22	23
24 Worship Church picnic	25 Jennifer at CPC Conf.	26	27 6:00 P&F At Kol Ami	28 Council at KA	29	30
31 Worship						