



THE LINK

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
(Temporary Location:
Congregation Kol Ami)**

7800 NE 119th St.

360-693-1476

www.vanucc.org

**Summer Worship:
Sunday, 10:00 a.m.**

Minister:

Rev. Jennifer Brownell

Jennifer@vanucc.org

Christian Education:

Kristina Martin

kristina@vanucc.org

Office Administrator:

Kathy Woolley

kathy@vanucc.org

Treasurer:

John Greenauer

From Our Pastor



For a summer trip, I downloaded a couple of novels that have time travel as part of the plot. I don't know about you, but I love imagining time travel. I love following characters as they learn what happens when they change the past, or get information about the future. As I read about other people's adventures, it is always so interesting to imagine what I would change in my own past, or what I would like to know more about in my own future.

Time travel is on my mind because as I write this, I have spent the week going back and forth to the Clark County Courthouse representing the church in a small lawsuit. I'm sure you remember that back in the winter, we opened our property to three unhoused people who were looking for a safe place to stay. Since the fire, the church property has no longer become a safe place for camping and we have asked the folks living on the property to vacate. The campers have been either unable or unwilling to do this, and so we are taking legal steps to get the help of law enforcement in moving the three people elsewhere. This has been a complicated and heartwrenching experience. As a Christian, I feel Christ's call clearly to be in solidarity with the poor and marginalized. And yet, with the asbestos abatement, heavy equipment, and lack of water or electricity, I know that the place we have offered is no longer safe. In addition, we have been disappointed at times by our guests' difficulty in communicating or following through on requests, and it is becoming clear that we need to create a much more rigorous protocol if a program like this is to be successful.

What does all this have to do with time travel? Well, I've been wondering, if we could go back to, say, last December, and start over, what would we do differently? I imagine that would we set different boundaries and guidelines, or partner more closely with a social service agency, or maybe just say no, that we are not able to be a camping site. And yet, even though the ending of this experience is difficult, I do believe that good has come of it – some of our neighbors perhaps gained a measure of safety, security and health they could not have had otherwise. Some of our church family, perhaps, have developed relationships and learned about issues they would not have had to learn about before. If we travelled back and did things differently, those good things would change, too.

Ultimately, time travel is a fun fantasy, but even more satisfying is making use of the experiences we have – the challenging and the delightful – that create our understanding of who we are today. Whether it is as an individual, a church community or a nation the path to growth and strength is an acknowledgement and integration of all the parts of our lives, even the difficult parts. I look forward to seeing what surprises the future will bring, as we continue to learn and grow from all that the past has given us!

Blessings,
Jennifer

UPDATE FROM THE MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

We recently met for the first time since the church fire. The memorial funds currently being held and not designated to projects will remain as is until after the status of the church and rebuilding is known.

Our committee is working on plans for All Saint's Day and what can be done in the Church's rented space this fall. All Saint's Day is scheduled for November 6, 2016. The All Saint's Day supplies are in storage and will be returned to us in the fall. Please remember to inform us if there is someone who has passed in the last year that you wish to have remembered in the All Saint's Day service.

Our committee is also working with Property & Finance to identify memorial gifts that were destroyed or stored as a result of the fire.

We welcome input and questions from you regarding the work of our committee.

The Memorials Committee,
Ruth Hammer
Judy Walter
Shirl Zent

Address Changes:

Ed and Ruby Frank
7808 NE 51st Street Apt. B-120
Vancouver, WA 98662
Desk: 360-896-9140
(Will update at a later date)

Gary and Roberta Moriarty
12704 NW 39th Ave

Hello Friends!

If you emailed me something between July 2nd and 13th and I haven't answered you, please resend your email. We transferred our email systems and mine were lost. Thank you!
~ Kristina Martin

Worship in August

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

August 7, 2016

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

Infant and Toddler Care available.

Greeters: Sue and Marvin Benson

Worship Leader: Leslie Chapman

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

Special Music: Natalie Cantrell

August 14, 2016

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

Infant and Toddler Care available.

Greeters: Diane Ullom and Joy Gerlitz

Worship Leader: Jerry Mathis

Ushers: Dwight Chapman and Carol Pendergraft

Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

Special Music: Lynn Renner

August 21, 2016

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

Infant and Toddler Care available.

Greeters: Natalie Cantrell and Charlie Ross

Worship Leader: Laurie Parafinczuk

Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone

Chuck Foulke and Ray Jones

Special Music: Janet and Rob Melton

August 28, 2016

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

Infant and Toddler Care available

Greeters: Gay Angelos and Daryl DeSilva

Worship Leader: Linda Wear

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

Special Music: Jerry Mathis and Jack Melton



Do You Know?



A Series About Our Church's History by Shirl Zent

Summertime brings out a whole new world in the life of the church. Let's start out June with Vacation Bible School (VBS). I alluded in a past article that we had many young couples in our church (30/40 years ago). Along with young parents, we usually have young kids. We would have a week long VBS. 9-12. Monday thru Friday, PreK thru 6th grade, rain or shine. It was usually held at Hazel Dell Park. I usually taught 1st or 2nd grade and in just my class I had 20/25 kids. So you can imagine how many we had totally. The older kids and parents volunteered with nature walks, music, stories, food and anything else that needed to be done. One year it rained SO HARD that we had story time UNDER the picnic table instead of AT it. We also had a nature craft of finger painting...with mud. One little girl informed me in no uncertain terms that she was NOT going to do that and get dirty. I assured her that was just fine and shortly she asked if she could do it with one finger...and you can guess what happened after that. She had a great time! It was a wonderful week...full of fellowship and fun and we all looked forward to the next year when we could do it again.

About the same amount of years ago, our church owned some property. I think it was somewhere near Lake Merwin. It was not waterfront property but up in the hills in a wooded area and had a stream running thru it. There were walking trails and a clearing where we could build a campfire. Some of us did some overnight camping there with our families. However, I can't find anyone still in the congregation who can remember this. We only had the property a couple of years before we sold it, but we had a lot of fun at the time. If you DO remember this, please let me know so I can get the facts straight.



Congregational Meeting August 28 Following Worship

This meeting will focus on the architecture and timeline for the re-building of First Congregational UCC in Vancouver. We will meet with the architect and review the results of the survey regarding the needs of our new building. Please attend.

Anticipating the Next Move

We hope to be moving into the mobile offices onsite during the first part of August with an actual "we're back" date of August 15th. There are a couple ways you can help...packing up the week of the 8th and moving and/or unpacking the week of the 15th. Please contact Kristina at kristina@vanucc.org if you can help. Thanks in advance



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The purpose of the prayer shawl ministry is to share God's love with those in need of comfort when suffering from pain or grief as well as those celebrating the joyful times of life. All are welcome to attend the meetings and knitting or crocheting not required. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 10 AM and on August 11 we will be meeting at Kol Ami.

Judy Walter has generously offered her home as a place to store completed and blessed prayer shawls. If you know of anyone who would appreciate having one, please contact any member of the ministry.

Gay Angelos.
Nita Calvert
Beverly Crossman
Mary Ellis
Kaye Kipp
Kathleen Williams
Doraine Kohler

Joanie Nelson
Connie Oppel
Lou Orthmeyer
Judy Walter

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
Charlotte Warren
Josiah Renner
Trixie Stowell

Birthdays in August

August 02	Doris Fletcher
August 10	Scott Jones
August 10	Rachel Corey
August 12	Sharon Sollenberger
August 14	Pat Finley
August 24	Marilynn Jones
August 23	Richard Edwards
August 28	Bev Boydston

Bible 102 Starts September 14th!

Bible 102 is just around the corner and it looks very exciting. Here's a taste of what we have in store!!!!

We'll spend our first quarter in the Hebrew Bible when we explore ten Genesis narratives in some very different ways. We'll also learn a new model for interfaith dialogue and for Bible reading.

During second quarter, we'll explore recent archaeological discoveries in Israel, both in text and tel. Like archaeologists of the Bible, we'll learn how to excavate a text. As we pair these two disciplines, the world of Jesus opens up in a new way.

Third quarter we'll look at the development of early Christianity and the diversity of thought in the 1st two centuries. We'll also spend some time looking at parables as time permits. Those early Christians will be our teachers.

How can we understand our future as a congregation if we don't know who we are? How can we know who we are if we don't know who we've been?

Our year in Bible 102 promises to introduce new information to all of us, lead us to live out our faith and guide us into a much richer Christian life.

We begin on Sept 14th. We'll have two classes with the same basic information. We're including more discussion this year, so that will be different in each class:

Wed 10am-12

Wed 7-9pm

Carole Elizabeth and Adina Tarpley will team teach using power point, imagery and videos as well as lectures and discussions. You may sign up on Sept 4th or 11th at church or get your name in earlier by writing to pastorcarolee@gmail.com. **Class size may be limited due to space.**

Welcome
Henry Arthur Fite

Henry is the new son of
Lawson Fite and Kate Sharaf
and baby brother to Esther
who is thrilled.

Also thrilled are
grandparents,
John and Nancy Fite.

Henry weighed in at
8 lbs. 6 oz. and
and 20 1/4 inches.



CONGRATULATIONS!