



September 3	Barbara Ahola
September 5	Woody Woodworth
September 8	Dwight Chapman
September 10	Wayne Fletcher
September 13	Becky Slocum
September 14	Leslie Wu
September 16	Darrell Brandenburg
September 17	Ruth Hammer
September 18	Molly Wilson
September 24	Mary Alice Carter
September 26	Joan Barber
September 29	Sabrina
	Mauke-Wiswall
September 29	Diane Ullom

# ***THE LINK***

## **September 1, 2017**

**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ**

**Temporary Location for Worship:**

**The Luepke Center  
1009 E. McLaughlin**

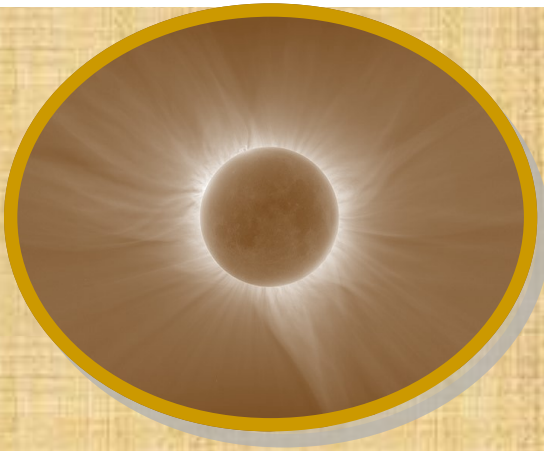
### ***SPECIAL CONCERNS***

**Joan Blair  
Cordelia McBride  
Eric Sander  
Pam Sander  
Mary Alice Carter  
Dorothea Johnson  
Opal Chapman  
Connie Oppel**

### **Office Location:**

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





Unlike my husband, I had no special interest in seeing the eclipse. But he really wanted to make the short drive from our place in Beaverton to a spot where he could see the totality, and he hardly ever asks for anything special for himself. So I said I would take him. We didn't know how bad the traffic would be, so we made plans to leave in the early hours before sunrise.

Which is why Monday, August 21 at what is usually breakfast time, I was lying on my back on a newly mown field at Maude Williams State Recreation Area, south of Dayton. As state parks go, it has nothing much to recommend it except for a fantastic view of the sky, which is what my husband wanted. I helped him set up his camera and then lay back to wait.

Around us, a couple hundred or so other people were in a festival mood - kicking around a soccer ball, playing a guitar, pulling food out of coolers. I watched a hawk circling around and around the field. After a while, put on those dorky glasses so I could see the sun overtaken by the moon, bite by bite. The air cooled and darkened, the shadows shifted and the light yellowed and dimmed.

Then, all eyes were up were up, up, up as the sun slid behind the great dark ball that was the moon. I had really just come along as the driver, to make sure Jeff's wheelchair did not get stuck in the field, to lay out the snacks. But under that circle of darkness and light, the suddenly cold breeze bringing up goose bumps on my arms, I unexpectedly saw the face of the Creator. I tried to help Jeff change his camera lens, as we had arranged, but my hands were shaking so much I almost dropped it. My heart pounded, tears (of wonder? of fear? of joy?) ran down my face. I probably shouted.

Sometime, someone is going to ask you to go along with something they want to do, something they will assure you will be transformative. They may suggest that you go to a march, take a class, sing in public, hike a mountain trail, pray in a new way, or view a total eclipse of the sun. You may be skeptical, or indifferent or afraid. But when they ask, say yes. Who knows? Maybe you too will see God face to face, where you least expect it.



The Spirituality Group is reforming. We plan to meet from 10:30 to 12:30 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month, beginning September 18<sup>th</sup>. The meeting location is yet to be determined. We always welcome new people on their Spiritual journey. For more information contact Ray Jones at 360-601-3773 or [olenrel@comcast.net](mailto:olenrel@comcast.net).

Thank you,  
Jan Foulke



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:lk.kulm@gmail.com).



## **FALL KICK-OFF POTLUCK**

**Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup>**

It has been a fun and fulfilling summer worshiping on our Labyrinth and now it is time to get back into our fall schedule. On Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Luepke Center, we will celebrate the return of the choir and kick off our new Sunday school year.

Following our worship service we will have a potluck and play a few games. Please bring your favorite dish to share. We also ask that you bring any serving utensils needed to serve your dish. Please join us for food, fellowship and fun!

# 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](mailto:pastorcarolee@gmail.com) to enroll.

Thanks, Carole and Adina

## This week Ask the Pastor!

As we gear up for the school year, bring your questions to worship on September 3rd about - well - life, the universe and everything, and we will spend the sermon time answering as many of them as we can.

See you in church!

### *Mary Jo Ebel Circle*

***When: Wednesday, September 20 at 1:00 PM***

***Where: The Tony Agerter Garden  
Onsite by the community garden***

***What to Bring: A lawn chair***

***Discussion: Sharing our summer fun and  
planning our Circle gatherings.***

***All women are welcome!***

***Goodies will be served!!***

### **Martha's Pantry BBQ Celebrating our Volunteers And Donors!**

# BBQ

**Saturday, Sept. 30th  
2:00 PM**

**Vancouver Heights  
United Methodist Church  
5701 MacArthur Blvd.  
Please leave an RSVP message at  
360-695-1480**



# **WHERE'S THE PASTOR ?**

As we head back into the fall, just an update on how and where to find me. I continue my ministry with you at 80% time (a schedule for which I remain heartily grateful, by the way). I try to attend to church business on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays - generally from about 11am to 8pm - and Sundays. Feel free to make an appointment with me on those days by emailing ([jennifer@vanucc.org](mailto:jennifer@vanucc.org)), calling or texting (971-340-6316). For those of you who prefer to drop-in, I am re-instituting coffee shop office hours. Starting Wednesday, September 6, I'll be at the Hazel Dell Panera from 3-5 pm every Wednesday afternoon.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

If you prefer a quick reference to the epic above about when I am free for meetings and pastoral care appointments, here it is in brief:

## **Pastor Jennifer's hours**

**Tuesday 11-8**

**Wednesday 11-8, including Panera office hours from 3-5 pm**

**Thursday 11-8**

**Sunday morning and early afternoon**

# September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Offsite Meetings:</b> <b>Worship:</b> Luepke Community Center 1009 E McLoughlin <b>Spirituality:</b> 10:30 AM 1st and 3rd Mondays: <b>M&amp;O</b> 7210 NE 14th Ct. 98665 <b>Choir:</b> Washington State School for the Blind 2214 E 13th St, <b>All other meetings will be held onsite in the office portable.</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Worship at Luepke	<b>4 Labor Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  7:00 Choir	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  9:30 Women's Bkfst Group at the Peachtree
<b>10</b> Kick-off Worship at Luepke Picnic in the park	<b>11</b>  7:00 CE	<b>12</b> 1:00 Membership	<b>13</b> 10:00 Bible 103  12:00 Communica- tions  7:00 Bible 103	<b>14</b> 10:00 Prayer Shawl  6:00 Parish Life  7:00 M&O  7:00 Choir	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Worship at Luepke Congregational meeting follow- ing worship	<b>18</b>  10:30 Spirituality Group	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  10:00 Bible 103 6:00 P&F 7:00 Deacons 7:00 Bible 103	<b>21</b>  7:00 Choir  CPC Annual Meeting in Pendleton	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Worship at Luepke  →	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  10:00 Bible 103  7:00 Bible 103	<b>28</b>  11:00 Memorials  7:00 Choir	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>