



**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
Pam Sander
Dorothea Johnson
Opal Chapman
Connie Oppel**

THE LINK WEEKLY UPDATE

OCTOBER 13, 2017

Sunday, October 15, 2017

10:00 AM

Worship at the Luepke Center

11:00

Congregational Meeting

Monday, October 16, 2017

10:30 AM

**Spirituality Group at
Vancouver Heights UMC
5701 MacArthur Blvd**

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

10:00 AM

Bible 103 at Salmon Creek UMC

1:00 PM

**Mary Jo Ebel Circle at
the home of JoAnn Kersavage**

6:00 PM

Property and Finance in the church office

7:00 PM

Bible 103 at Salmon Creek UMC

Thursday, October 19 2017

7:00 PM

Choir at WA State School for the Blind

Sunday, October 22, 2017

10:00 AM

**Stewardship Sunday Worship
at the Luepke Center**

Congregational Meeting Announced

Dear Members and Friends,

Following worship on Sunday, October 15, we are pleased to announce a congregational meeting, the purpose of which is to vote to call Rev. Jennifer Garrison Brownell as our pastor and teacher.

You will recall that in October 2015, Pastor Jennifer was hired as an interim for a period of eighteen months. The purpose of the interim time is to allow the congregation the time and space necessary between called pastors to prayerfully discern its next steps in calling a new pastor. Generally, interim pastors are not considered candidates for the called position to follow. With the guidance of then-conference-minister Rev. Walter John Boris, a search committee was formed to find the next called pastor.

Then, in May 2016, a fire destroyed much of the building and disrupted the life of the congregation. Over the next month, it became clear that congregation's energies would have to be directed toward rebuilding and reimagining, rather than searching. Again with the guidance of the Central Pacific Conference, the search committee recommended to the council that the pastoral search be suspended, and that Pastor Jennifer's call agreement be re-negotiated from interim to designated term pastor. Unlike interim pastors, designated term pastors may be considered for the called position to follow if, after prayerful discernment, that arrangement is found to be mutually agreeable for both the pastor and the congregation.

In the two years since our common ministry began, we have found our ministry to be even more than mutually agreeable! Both church and pastor have thrived. We believe that God has already blessed, and will continue to bless, our ministry together. The future ahead looks bright as we anticipate moving back to our church home within a few months.

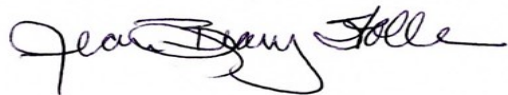
This vote may seem at first glance like it will not make much of a difference in our everyday life together. Pastor Jennifer will continue her schedule of 8/10 time, and will keep her residence in Oregon. However, by entering into this covenant we are agreeing to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit even more deeply and joyfully, and we believe that this can only have a positive impact on our common life. We look forward to the vote on October 15 as a sign and symbol of our commitment, in the name of Christ, to one another as congregation and pastor.

If you have any questions or concerns prior to this vote, please contact Moderator Tom Yates, Vice Moderator Jean Beary Stolle, or Personnel co-chairs Leslie Chapman or Shirl Zent.


Regards,



Tom Yates, Moderator



Jean Beary Stolle, Vice Moderator



Leslie Chapman, Personnel Co-Chair



Shirl Zent, Personnel Co-chair

Trunk or Treat

Sunday October 29th

Immediately following worship

Join us for our second annual Trunk or Treat celebration.

We had so much fun last Halloween that we decided to do it bigger and better this year! Get in on the fun by decorating your vehicle and bringing plenty of goodies so our kids (big and small) can Trick or Treat. This year our church is taking part in the National UCC program "Three Great Loves" and the first phase is "Love of Neighbor". To honor that, we will have a canned food drive along with our Trunk or Treat. Any food donated will go to a local food bank so please give generously.

There will be prizes for the Best Decorated Car, Best Costume for Kids, and Best Costume for Adults.



**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,
October 14th at the Peachtree
on Highway 99.**



Grounds Clean-up Scheduled

Saturday, October 28th at 10:00 am volunteers are needed to help rake leaves, mulch and clean up the grounds at church. Coffee and donuts provided. Please bring shovels and rakes if you have them.



**Food Drive for
Martha's Pantry
Sunday, Oct. 29th**

The United Church of Christ is urging all congregations to take part in a 2 year initiative called **Three Great Loves:**

**Love of Neighbor,
Love of Children, and
Love of Creation.**

In October, one way we will celebrate Love of Neighbor, is by having a food drive for Martha's Pantry. We will do this in conjunction with our Trunk or Treat Sunday on Oct. 29th. So bring your non-perishable food item and "trade" them for a treat!



Mary Jo Ebel Circle

The Mary Jo Ebel Women's Circle will meet Wednesday, October 18th, 1:00 PM at the home of JoAnn Kersavage, 4909 NE 54th Ave, 98661.

All women are welcome!

See you there!!!

**A Wedding Shower for
Brian Fick and Randy Franklin**

When: Sunday afternoon,
October 29, 2017, at 2:30 pm

Where: Friends of the Carpenter
1600 W 20th Street

You are welcome to **bring gifts for the new church kitchen**, gift wrapped or not. A suggested gift list/registry will be available. Please RSVP to Sandy Mathis, sanjermathis@msn.com, or phone 360-574-6052



ALL SAINT'S DAY AND NEWS FROM THE MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

On November 5, 2017, we will hold the All Saint's Day service remembering members and loved ones that have passed since the last All Saint's Day service. This is a very meaningful service. Because we are now worshiping in a new space we've had to make some adjustments. It is a challenge but we hope the service will be just as meaningful as it has been in the past. We will be remembering: Thaddeus Stevens, Marilyn Ross, Vernon Swaim, Mary Alice Carter, and Eric Sander. **If you know someone that should be remembered in the ceremony that has passed the last year, please let the Memorials Committee know and that person will be recognized at the service.**

We will continue to work with family members to make the best possible use of funds that have been donated in memory of a loved one. Because of the fire, we are currently on hold until we know what will be needed after our church is rebuilt and how the families wish to use the funds. All donations will be accepted at any time and we can now see that the rebuilding of the church will be done in early 2018.

We would also like to remind you that all tangible memorial donations must be approved through the church's administrative committees. The Pastor and the Memorial Committee are receptive to ideas and will facilitate the approval process.

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

The Memorials Committee,

Ruth Hammer

Judy Water

Shirl Zent

Connie Oppel

Update on Church Rebuilding

While we wait for the building/construction permit from the county, there is still progress being made on the building. Rick Marye, Senior Project Manager for Belfor Property Restoration reported that Hydro Tech Fire Protection are preparing the fire sprinkler system design. The design will be submitted to the county AFTER the building permit is issued.

Rick met last week with PUD and discussed bringing power into the building. Initially, it was our understanding that that it would be necessary to have a structure outside of the building to house the transformer. The trade-off is that PUD will have access to the transformer room behind Bradford Hall, at all times, so the new electrical gear can be installed in the original location. This is approximately a savings of \$1,500,000!

The electrical inspector was on site last week and it was determined that none of the water supply lines above the electrical room where the switch gear is being located.

Work continues on the roof, removing shingles and installing plywood sheeting over the Sanctuary and choir areas and then wrapping the roof with plastic to keep water out. (See photos).

Work has started on demo of the old switch gear and electrical conduit in Bradford Hall and the existing classroom areas on both floors. New electrical boxes and wiring has also started in the existing classroom areas.

The Re-Imaging Committee continues to meet regularly, as do the Kitchen, Sound and Audio Visual sub-committees. We are now just waiting for the building permit so that we can move to the next phase.

By Ken Rowe

