



# ***THE LINK***

**April 2, 2018**

**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ**

**Temporary Location for Worship:**

**The Luepke Center  
1009 E. McLaughlin  
Vancouver, WA**

**Office Location:**

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

***SPECIAL CONCERNS***

Tim Oppel

Joan Blair

Dorothea Johnson

Alfried Goldstein

(Cindy McNally's Mother)

Ray and Patti Jones

Josiah Renner

(Deployed to South Korea)

Rev. Molly Carson

(Conference Minister)

Jerry Mathis

Jean Matthews

Lisa King

## **From Our Pastor**



Since January I've been seeing a physical therapist to help me rehab a stress injury in my left shoulder. At a recent meeting, I noted with some discouragement, that my arm was actually feeling worse. The PT asked me to show him again how I had been performing the exercises he'd prescribed.

"Hmm, I see," he said, watching the demonstration. "Tell me, are you doing this to the point of stretch, or past the point of stretch... to pain?"

Since I want to progress faster, and I thought pushing further would make me better sooner, I admitted I had been pulling my left arm and shoulder past the point of comfortable stretch.

"If you push too hard or fast, you can make it worse," he explained, "I think that's why you're having increased discomfort. Pull back. Don't push. Breathe. Be patient."

I don't know about you, but the lesson about being patient is one I seem to be learning in many parts of my life right now. I see a goal ahead and I want to be there at once. Once I am at a pain-free shoulder, for example, or a rebuilt building, I want to believe that everything will be right again and the time for patience will be in the past. However, what I have learned is that once I get to the goal, there are a whole *new* set of goals before me. I know what I want my shoulder to feel like. We know what it's like to be housed in a building of our own. Those are beautiful goals, but neither a healthy shoulder or a new building represent any kind of finish line. Once we arrive where we are headed, we know that there will be new opportunities to stretch, to learn, to practice patience.

As we prepare to move back into our building, the temptation is to believe that once we have finally achieved this goal, we will have *arrived* and the time for patience will be over. In reality, once we reach that long-awaited day, there will be *new* opportunities for us – to stretch, to learn, to be patient as individuals and as a community.

The days between Easter (April 1) and Pentecost (May 20) are sometimes called Eastertide. During these days, we are encouraged to carry into the world the lessons we've taken to heart during our deepened walk with God during Lent. I'll be looking for ways and places to practice patience. (One good thing about this spiritual practice is that opportunities to be patient abound!) I'll let you know how it goes- and I look forward to hearing from you about how your spiritual practices are taking root and growing, too. In the meantime, don't push, breathe and be patient.

See you in church,  
Blessings,  
Jennifer



**Please RSVP to Randy Franklin by April 15th at 360-818-1277**

**NO GIFTS PLEASE!**

**Donations may be made to**

**MARTHA'S PANTRY C/O 1220 NE 68TH STREET 98665**

## **UPDATE FROM THE FAITH ACTION NETWORK**

We Oppose the Confirmation of Mike Pompeo and Gina Haspel: An Open Letter

The undersigned individuals and organizations urge Senators Cantwell and Murray and all Washingtonians to oppose the nominations of Mike Pompeo as Secretary of State and of Gina Haspel as Director of the CIA.

Mr. Pompeo is not qualified to be Secretary of State:

His repeated Islamophobic statements make him unsuited to represent the United States in global affairs, and his confirmation would be an embarrassment and an insult to all who value religious freedom and diversity. It would also lend support to a growing and dangerous Islamophobic movement within the United States.

His frequent bellicose statements would make it more likely for the U.S. to enter an unnecessary, deadly, and expensive war. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

His support for torture demonstrates that he does not respect human rights and the rule of law.

Ms. Haspel is not qualified to be Director of the CIA

As chief of base at a CIA "black site," she oversaw the use of torture. No one with a history of participation in torture should lead the CIA. Her confirmation would signal a normalization of torture, perpetuate the falsehood that torture was legal and could be made legal again, and encourage future human rights abuses in the agency.

Her participation in the destruction of evidence of CIA torture reveals a blatant disregard for law, transparency and accountability

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**April 29, 2018 at 11 am will be our annual congregational meeting to elect new officers and distribute annual reports.**

## **BUILDING TOUR**

Sunday, April 15 at 11:30 am –  
Just after church!

Come and see the progress in the building at 1220 NE 68th St.  
See you there.

## **SIGN ON INFORMATION (INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP):**

Send email to [info@wsrnat.org](mailto:info@wsrnat.org). For individual signatures, please provide your name, zip code and email. (Please note that we may use this information to inform you of events or actions). For group or organizations signatures, please provide name of group, zip code, email and name of person to be contacted. By sending this email, you agree that your name will be sent to our Senators and that organizational signatures may be publicized. This letter was initiated by the

### **Washington State**

### **Religious Campaign Against Torture (WSRCAT),**

which has worked to end all U.S. torture since 2007. Consistent with the United Nations Convention Against Torture, WSRCAT opposes all torture under any circumstances. SEND SIGN ON INFORMATION TO [info@wsrnat.org](mailto:info@wsrnat.org)

### **Saturday, May 5, 10-3**

Embodied prayer workshop in conjunction with world labyrinth day. Includes time outdoors, rain or shine. Brown bag lunch. Free, but registration is limited to 12 people. RSVP to [Jennifer@vanucc.org](mailto:Jennifer@vanucc.org) with prayer workshop in the subject line. Location – office trailer.

## NEW TO THE CHURCH?

We will receive new members on April 15, May 20, or June 17. When we receive new members, we welcome those who choose to become an integral part of this community. If you would like to join as a member on one of those days, you will be introduced by a member of the church, affirm your own faith and commitment to Christ and to the church, and be welcomed and blessed by the congregation. It is a simple and joy-filled ceremony! Please let Pastor Jennifer (Jennifer@vanucc.org) or Kristina Martin (Kristina@vanucc.org) know if you are interested in joining as a member.

Both newcomers and seasoned members are invited to one of these two upcoming Saturday gatherings. Childcare is available for both upon request.



## UPDATE FROM THE CENTRAL PACIFIC CONFERENCE

Over the last three weeks, more than 200 people from 31 CPC congregations gathered for conversation, connection, and listening together for how God is moving in and through our conference. Like starlings who move dip, turn, and rise together, we are listening for the murmurings of the Spirit and how the Spirit is calling us to live and move as the CPC today. Who is God calling us to be as the CPC? How can we connect better to each other? What can God do through us that we cannot do alone as individuals or individual churches?

The Board of Directors launched the Starling Project as way to live into our covenant during this time of transition in the conference. Reflective of our church structure, where autonomy rests with our local churches, we want to the hopes, dreams, and yearnings of our members and churches to guide how we move as a conference. Our Designated Term Conference Minister, Rev. Molly Carlson, is helping us move through this time of listening, visioning, and dreaming. It's an exciting time to be part of our conference.

The Starling Project continues in April with online conversations based around affinity groups. During more than ten gatherings around common characteristics or roles such as "Rural Churches," "Musicians," and "Longer-Term Members (30+ years in the UCC)," we will listen to each other's deep gladness, deep hungers, and how God may be inviting us into new movement together. These conversations will take place over Zoom, our web-based meeting platform. Participant from home! All you will need is a log-in code and phone *or* a computer with internet connection.

Detailed instructions about how to use Zoom, registration information, and log-in links will be available soon. In the meantime, check out the list of gatherings and make note of the dates of one (or more!) that work for you.

## Schedule: The Starling Project – Online Zoom Sessions

## The Starling Project

Central Pacific Conference UCC

| <b>DATE:</b>        | <b>TIME:</b> | <b>GROUPING:</b>   |
|---------------------|--------------|--|
| Thursday, April 5   | 6:30 PM      | CPC Ministry Team Members  |
| TBD                 | TBD          | Parents of Younger Children  |
| Monday, April 9     | 6:00 PM      | Rural Churches   |
| Tuesday, April 10   | 6:00 PM      | Elders and long-term members<br>(more than 30ish years in UCC)     |
| Wednesday, April 11 | 6:30 PM      | Newer members<br>(less than 5ish years in UCC)                     |
| Thursday, April 12  | 6:30 PM      | People connecting to ecumenical/interfaith<br>partners             |
| Sunday, April 15    | 12:00<br>PM  | Youth (Teens), Youth Leaders, Young Adults<br>Christian Ed Leaders |
| Monday, April 16    | 6:30 PM      | Musicians  |
| Tuesday, April 17   | 6:00 PM      | Retired Clergy   |
| Wednesday, April 18 | 6:30 PM      | Local Church Pastors   |
| Thursday, April 19  | 6:30 PM      | Church Leaders: Moderators, Treasurers,<br>Deacons, Trustees, etc. |
| Monday, April 23    | 6:30 PM      | Open Session<br>Y'all come   |
| Tuesday, April 24   | 6:30 PM      | LGBTQ community  |

**Saturday, June 2, 10-3**  
**Resistance and Resilience**  
**Resistance and Resilience**  
**An Interactive Walk**  
**through UCC History.**

A fun and hands-on way to learn more about the history of our denomination, the United Church of Christ. Cost of \$20 includes book and lunch (scholarships are available).

RSVP

***HELLO***  
***SPRING***



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, May 20, 2108**

**Pastor's Installation**

**3:00 pm –Installation of Pastor Jennifer, followed  
by celebration reception.**



|          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| April 4  | Trent Corey    |
| April 5  | Patti Jones    |
| April 11 | Ed Evans       |
| April 13 | Shirl Zent     |
| April 19 | Leslie Chapman |
| April 20 | Dori Creamer   |
| April 22 | Anne McNally   |
| April 26 | Karsten Cowles |



With gratitude to our church friends and family, thank you from our hearts for all of the love, compassionate words, and support during these past weeks. First for Ed's illness and surgery and then for the passing of our loving little friend, Stormy. It has been a difficult three weeks and your loving support has meant all the world to us. We are so fortunate to be a part of this caring community.

With love, Ed and Claudia



THANK YOU!

Mission & Outreach would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who helped staff the Winter Hospitality Overflow shelter (WHO) during our shared week with our friends at Kol Ami. Dave Slocum & Judy Enders were once again Core Team Members who worked at the shelter weekly and provided meals weekly. Church members volunteered for multiple shifts, donated warm clothing and helped prepare meals. We hope that next year more people in our congregation will be involved in this expression of **Love For Our Neighbors**.

Although the WHO shelters will close the end of March, the needs continue throughout the year. Please continue helping Dave & Judy with their year-round street ministry by donating time, supplies or money. For more information, please speak with Dave Slocum at church.





## **M&O Special Offering for April: Camp Adams Scholarships**

April showers bring more than May flowers – they also herald the special offerings of April: Camp Adams scholarships for Vancouver UCC’s children and families. We typically describe these scholarships as “camperships” but that’s just a fun way of describing what these scholarships do...help our children attend camp at Camp Adams in Molalla, OR.

At the core of a Camp Adams experience is the nurturing of both the self and the forest. Through jam-packed days, children at Camp Adams explore their faith, develop life-long friendships, and explore 216 acres of temperate rainforest sitting at the confluence of two creeks.

At the end of the week, children go home with something very sacred to them – another week of camp memories. When you donate to the M&O special offering in April, you are playing an important part in making those memories. Thank you very much for your generosity. Your donation changes lives right here in Vancouver UCC!

If you have questions about the curriculum or activities at Camp Adams, please email Kristina Martin ([Kristina@vanucc.org](mailto:Kristina@vanucc.org)). Not only does she have 3 children who are campers, she has also directed the senior week at camp for 7 years. She has witnessed first-hand how Camp Adams changes children’s lives.



Mary Jo Ebel Circle  
Wednesday, April 18th, 1:00 p.m.,  
at  
Judy Walter's,  
4700 NE 25<sup>th</sup> Ct.  
Vancouver WA 98660  
360-693-0393

Our pastor, Jennifer Brownell will be the guest speaker.

All women of the church are invited. Please join us for an informative program and social time.



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

# April 2018

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue   | Wed  | Thu   | Fri                                 | Sat   |
|--|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| <p><b>1 Easter</b><br/> <u>6:30 AM</u><br/>                     Easter Sunrise Service on the Labyrinth</p> <p><u>10:00 AM</u></p> | <p>2<br/> <u>10:30 AM</u><br/>                     Spirituality Group</p>  | <p>3<br/> <u>7:00 PM</u><br/>                     CE</p>  | <p>4<br/> <u>10:00 AM</u><br/>                     Bible 103</p>   | <p>5</p>  | <p>6<br/> <b>Office Closed</b></p>  | <p>7</p>  |
| <p>8<br/> <u>10:00 AM</u><br/>                     Worship</p>   | <p>9</p>   | <p>10<br/> <u>10:00 AM</u><br/>                     Installation Committee</p> <p><u>1:00 PM</u><br/>                     Membership</p>  | <p>11<br/> <u>10:00 AM</u><br/>                     Bible 103</p> <p><u>12:30 PM</u><br/>                     Communica-tions</p>  | <p>12 <u>10:00 AM</u><br/>                     Prayer Shawl<br/>                     Location TBA</p> <p><u>6:00 PM</u><br/>                     Parish Life</p> <p><u>7:00 PM</u><br/>                     Choir</p> | <p>13<br/> <b>Office Closed</b></p> | <p>14<br/> <u>9:30 AM</u><br/>                     Women's Breakfast Group at the Peachtree</p> |
| <p>15<br/> <u>10:00 AM</u><br/>                     Worship</p>  | <p>16<br/> <u>10:30 AM</u><br/>                     Spirituality Group</p> | <p>17</p>   | <p>18 <u>10:00 AM</u><br/>                     Bible 103</p> <p><u>1:00 PM</u><br/>                     MJE Circle<br/>                     TBA</p> <p><u>5:30 PM</u><br/>                     P&amp;F</p> | <p>19</p>   | <p>20<br/> <b>Office Closed</b></p> | <p>21</p>   |
| <p>22<br/> <u>10:00 AM</u><br/>                     Worship</p>  | <p>23</p>  | <p>24<br/> <u>7:00 PM</u><br/>                     Council</p>  | <p>25<br/> <u>10:00 AM</u><br/>                     Bible 103</p> <p><u>7:00 PM</u><br/>                     Bible 103</p>   | <p>26<br/> <u>1:00 PM</u><br/>                     Memorials</p>  | <p>27<br/> <b>Office Closed</b></p> | <p>28</p>   |
| <p>29<br/> <u>10:00 AM</u><br/>                     Worship</p>  | <p>30</p>  | <p><b>Offsite Meetings:</b></p> <p><b>Worship:</b> Luepke Community Center 1009 E McLoughlin</p> <p><b>Spirituality:</b> Vancouver Heights UMC<br/>                     5701 MacArthur Blvd, Vancouver, WA</p> <p><b>M&amp;O</b> 7210 NE 14th Ct. 98665</p> <p><b>Choir:</b> Washington State School for the Blind<br/>                     2214 E 13th St Vancouver WA 98661</p> |  |   |                                     |   |