



THE LINK

FOR

JULY 2, 2018

SPECIAL CONCERNS

Joan Blair

Dorothea Johnson

Alfried Goldstein
(Cindy McNally's Mother)

Josiah Renner
(Deployed to South Korea)

Chris Skyke

Sunday, July 1

10:00 AM

Communion Worship

1220 Ne 68th Street

THE OFFICE IS CLOSED THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 8

10:00 AM

Worship

**Vancouver UCC
Congregational**

1220 NE 68th Street

Vancouver, WA 98665

360-693-1476

**From
Our
Pastor**



July Jubilee!

During July, we are invited to take a deep breath and to enjoy the many gifts of summer and our community. We will be worshipping as usual, but other than our Sunday gatherings from worship, praise and song, during the month of July we are suspending all meetings for business. In biblical times, the year of Jubilee was a time to celebrate as debt obligations were lifted. It was a time of joy and ease for people, as pressure that had built up over many months was relieved. We have accumulated a time debt! Many meetings have filled our calendar. For this month, we wipe that time debt clean.

After a particularly busy season in the life of our congregation (and many, many, meetings!) we are all invited to find other ways to gather and enjoy each other's company. Maybe you want to gather around a sport, an activity, a meal, a conversation or for prayer. Whatever you decide, invite a few people from our church community, maybe people you haven't spent time with before, to join you. And let me know how it goes!

I will be beginning the July Jubilee with two weeks away, returning to worship with you all on July 15. Jeff, Eli and I will spend the first week with extended family. The second week I will undertake a silent retreat at a Benedictine women's monastery in Olympia. I know I will return to you with stories to tell, and I look forward to hearing from you, too.

**Blessings,
Jennifer**



Hello Friends of Vancouver United Church of Christ!

As we anticipate our move back into our beautiful and reimagined church we have more and more projects in which all members of the congregation can participate to make our move-in process run smoothly. There will be rooms that will need to be cleaned, boxes to open and items distributed throughout the entire building, decorating of rooms and even some teams of shoppers to replenish what was lost in the fire. We are making a list of people that are willing to help when the time comes to do the fun part of getting back in the church. If you would like your name added to the list please contact Leslie Chapman at 360-910-0020 or via email at haydnmacgrandma@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome to help out, including the youth. If you have limitations on what you may not be able to do, please let me know and we can use your help on smaller tasks. We do not have exact dates yet but as projects come up, I will email or call you with what help is needed.

Thank you for your patience for the last two years. Now let's have fun filling our church with love as we join together in moving HOME!



Mission & Outreach July Special Offering

“Friends of the Carpenter” is a faith-based day facility that provides safety, structure, and purpose for the vulnerable in our community. It began 20 years ago as a vision of simple welcome and personal interaction between volunteers from local churches and the vulnerable. Wood items are made at the Friendship Center, but the main product is relationships--helping people see themselves as people of worth.

Visit the Friendship Center, located at 1600 W 20th Street in Vancouver, open Monday through Friday. The 2nd Chance Thrift Store, located at 52nd St. and St. Johns Blvd, is open Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed at both locations. You can learn more at <http://friendsofthecarpenter.org/>.

Our church officially sponsors Friends of the Carpenter. Your donation contributes to this sponsorship and helps meet the needs of this local ministry. You may write a check to the church and note “Friends of the Carpenter” on the memo line.

Let me know if you have questions, Sandy Mathis, Friends of the Carpenter Church Liaison

IMMIGRANT WELCOMING CONGREGATION

In the wake of the news regarding the immigration crisis in recent weeks, I have received many requests asking “what we can do.” One action we could take as a congregation is to considering designating ourselves an “Immigrant Welcoming Congregation”. Here is an excerpt from a UCC document about Immigrant Welcoming. You can find the rest of this guide at <https://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/ucc-immigrant-welcoming-congregation-2018.pdf>

"The Journey toward becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation involves multiple study and reflection sessions. The issue of immigration has become one that defines what kind of society we will become and whether the politics of xenophobia and fear will succeed. Developing a reservoir of resources and knowledge for a congregation to make an informed decision takes thoughtful and diligent work. It is best to keep everyone engaged in the process and part of the dialogue. Church Councils, Boards of Directors and administrative bodies should be encouraged to attend the gatherings, as should the youth and young adults. The programs should be aimed at the entire congregation rather than focusing just on a mission or outreach board.

At the end of the process it is hoped that the congregation will affirm an “Immigrant Welcoming Congregation” statement that has been written by the congregation. To get to that point it is best to do the ground work and get as many people involved in the education process. As with the Open and Affirming process, it is important to develop a thorough process and then trust the people and the process--once people are engaged and educated things begin to fall into place.

...It is our conviction that each community which challenges itself to embrace the Immigrant Welcoming process is a community open to the dialogue God initiates within our current time and context. We also recognize that in each community, the nature of this dialogue will reflect that community's unique relationship with God. For this reason, we do not present a one-size-fits-all process. We do not dictate what becoming Immigrant Welcoming looks like....

We are open to learning and teaching, advising and listening, accompanying and cheering your community along on its journey towards affirming itself as Immigrant Welcoming. Our prayer is that on this journey we come to a greater understanding of that very abundance of life that we find together in Jesus.”

Do you feel called to gather with others to educate ourselves about the immigrant welcoming process? If several people express interest, I will gather a group (after our July Jubilee!). Are there other ways you are called to act? Be in touch.

Blessings,
Jennifer



Central Pacific Conference



Interested in learning more about the UCC?

Consider attending the Central Pacific Conference Annual Meeting.

The meeting is **Sept 28-30, 2018 in Pendleton** and all members of the conference are encouraged to attend.

There are two ways to participate:

One way is as a visitor. Visitors are welcome to participate in any part of the gathering to the extent you are interested.

This is a great way to network and to learn more about the work of the church. The other way is as a delegate. Delegates are church members who vote on behalf of the congregation and are expected to attend all the business sessions of the gathering, as well as a new delegate training. We will elect delegates at a congregational meeting on August 26.

The church will pay a portion of your participation if you attend as a delegate. Visitors pay their own way. Registration is usually around \$150. This is including meals but not including hotels, which each person arranges on their own. Let Tom Yates know if you are interested in attending as a delegate or a visitor so we can prepare our roster for the upcoming congregational meeting.

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ATTENTION CPC YOUNG ADULTS – Justice opportunity in Palestine – October 8-15, 2018

Our CPC Mission Partner, YWCA of Palestine, will host an international leadership conference. **We seek a delegate to attend as representative of our Conference.** This is a life-changing opportunity for a young person age 18-30. Young women or men of CPC may apply. We seek a delegate able and willing to share her/his experience and insights upon return. We hope a delegate will display concern for Palestinian justice work and will network with others within CPC in pursuit of justice.

The CPC Wider Church Ministry Team has designated a grant of \$1,000 toward expenses incurred by the selected delegate. Deadline for application is July 23.

CONFERENCE TITLE AND FOCUS: “Youth Participate and Youth Decide: Towards Freedom and Justice” will take place October 10-14, 2018 (arriving in Palestine October 9). Location is The Red Crescent Society, Ramallah, Palestine. These dates include a Witness visit October 10-11 and the Conference October 12-14. [See www.ywca-palestine.org for details and registration materials.] A CPC delegate would likely depart October 8 and return October 14 or 15 (depending on airline arrangements). There is also the option to remain in Palestine additional days (at added cost) to participate in the JAI Olive Harvest Program, “Keep Hope Alive,” which concludes October 23. This is the same program in which our CPC Mission delegation will be participating. [See www.jai-pal.org for complete details of olive harvest.]

The YWCA international conference is hosted in partnership with YWCAs globally and in co-




New Ceiling in Bradford Hall

Construction Update Week of June 25-29

- Fire sprinkler passed ceiling inspection in Bradford Hall.
- Shower pan in the new shower area passed inspection and 24 hour water test. Tile installation has started.
- Electrical ceiling inspection passed in Bradford Hall. Carpet in the conference room is flowing into the lounge.
- All cabinets are on site with the coffee bar portion installed
- Painting in the Sanctuary has started
- Parts of the scaffold have been removed in the choir area.
- Sub flooring in the lounge area and restrooms is complete and ready for carpet and sheet goods.
- Flooring keeps trickling in and is being installed as we get it.
- The deck has had primer and coating installed.
- Kitchen Hood is still in review with the county but we're starting installation of brackets
- Railing shop drawing review in progress.

The Re-Imagining Committee met Wednesday, June 27.

July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Office Worship 10:00 am	2 Closed 10:30 am Spirituality at Heights UMC	3	4 	5	6	7
8 Worship 10:00 am	9	10	11	12	13	14 9:30 am Women's Bkfst Group Peachtree
15 Worship 10:00 am	16 10:30 am Spirituality at Heights UMC	17	18	19	20	21
22 Worship 10:00 am	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Worship 10:00 am	30	31	Ministries and Committees are on hiatus in July Spirituality Group: Vancouver Heights UMC 5701 MacArthur Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98661			