



THE LINK
FOR
September 1, 2018

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

SPECIAL CONCERNS

Joan Blair
Dorothea Johnson
Alfried Goldstein
(Cindy McNally's Mother)
Josiah Renner
(Deployed to South Korea)
Brian Chan
Ken Boydston and Family
Shirl Zent
Jim Ferner

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, September 2

10:00 AM

Worship at 1220 NE 68th Street

Tuesday, September 4

7:00

Christian Education - TBD

Thursday, September 6

7:00 PM

First Choir Rehearsal

TBD

Saturday, September 8

9:30

Women's Breakfast Group at the
Peachtree

Sunday, September 9

10:00 AM

Worship at 1220 NE 68th Street



FROM OUR PASTOR



I love September. I was always one of those nerdy kids who looked forward to school, and I usually always have a fresh-start feeling during this time of year. This year, that feeling is more powerful than ever as we prepare to move back into our re-imagined building.

A couple of updates on staffing and scheduling as we re-settle:

Along with Kathy and Kristina, I have set up an office on the top floor in what was formerly the CE resource room and choir office. While we have a permit to work in this space, we do not currently have a permit to meet or conduct any other business in this space. So, if you want to meet with one of us, we can do so outdoors in the tent, or off the property. Hopefully, this restriction will be lifted soon.

Speaking of Kristina and Kathy, their roles are shifting somewhat. Kathy will continue in her role of greeter and receptionist, as well as bringing her artistic flair to the newsletter, bulletin, and public bulletin boards. Kristina will be scheduling space and assisting the finance team as bookkeeper while she continues her work with membership to develop enrichment experiences for new and seasoned members.

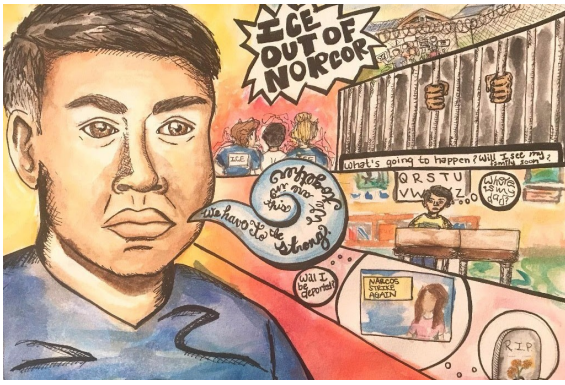
When we do return to our space, you will notice that our office plan is now open concept. If you would like a private conversation, that will be easily arranged, so just let me know.

I remain on a part-time schedule (8/10 of full time), but my days and times will shift slightly. Instead of working a few long days, I'm aiming for working more days but shorter hours. So, I am now available to schedule visits or meetings on Monday through Thursday afternoons, as well as Sundays.

I look forward to the fresh start that this particular September will bring. There are bound to be some rough edges to soften as we re-settle. So, as always, keep in touch!

Blessings,

Jennifer



Alongside our partners at the Rural Organizing Project, we are excited to invite you on a very special pilgrimage from Sheridan to NORCOR.

Español abajo

For one week, rural Oregonians, members of faith communities, immigrant and long-time residents of our state will march together from Sheridan Federal Prison (FCI Sheridan) to the Northern Oregon Regional Correctional

Facility (NORCOR) in The Dalles. Both FCI Sheridan and NORCOR--a regional jail--hold contracts with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), renting beds to ICE in order to lock up immigrants and refugees seeking asylum.

We invite you to join us on a 7-day pilgrimage to demand an end to the 2 ICE contracts in Oregon and to call for dismantling all systems of detention and deportation.

We demand:

- The release of all migrants from incarceration
- An end to the ICE contract at FCI Sheridan
- An end the ICE contract at NORCOR

We call on our neighbors to:

- Vote no on Measure 105 in order to protect Oregon's "sanctuary" law that prevents local resources (like law enforcement) from being used to detain immigrants and refugees living in Oregon.

Our vision is:

- A welcoming community, with the repeal of all laws that make migration a crime and the dismantling of systems of detention and deportation.

Faith communities throughout Oregon have been organizing alongside partners to push ICE out of our communities. In Josephine County and the City of Springfield, organizers ended their jails' ICE contracts. The administrator of NORCOR who expanded the 4-county contract with ICE just submitted his letter of resignation. Asylum-seekers are being released from Sheridan. We have shown up for rallies, interfaith worship services, strengthened sanctuary policies in our cities, and organized rapid response teams to show up at courthouses. And we've won.

We now demand that FCI Sheridan and NORCOR end their ICE contracts. We call upon our neighbors to vote no on Measure 105 to defend Oregon's 30-year-old sanctuary law. We call upon the Trump administration and Congress to end the brutal attack on immigrants and refugees and to repeal all laws that criminalize migration, put people in cages, and separate families every day.

Join us for the entire journey, or for a day or an evening. Every day we will walk or caravan and hold community gatherings or public events in the evening. Large events will take place in Sheridan, Portland and The Dalles. Each night we will set up camp in communities along the way (with alternative accommodations as available).

If you would like to join us for all or part of the journey from Sheridan to NORCOR, [fill out an application here](#).

If you or your group or congregation would like to support the march by providing food, housing, transportation, or other volunteer support, or would like to contribute funds, please contact gracet@rop.org

Our partners include: Rural Organizing Project, PCUN, ICE Out of Sheridan, Unidos Bridging Communities, Hood River Latino Network, Gorge ICE Resistance, Gorge Ecumenical Ministries, Causa and others.

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**A NOTE ABOUT
DOROTHY MATHEWS**



Hello All,

I wanted to give you an update on my mother, Dorothy Mathews. Her address has changed, Please note her new address is

**Dorothy Mathews
C/O Lancaster Village
448 Market St. NE Apt 10
Salem, OR 97301**

She has now moved from her regular apartment to a studio in the assisted living facility at Lancaster Village. This was precipitated by a fall she had in mid-July. In this fall she suffered a compression fracture of one of her lower vertebra. As you may know, she has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and although up until this fall she was managing pretty well on her own, this has set her back considerably.

Dorothy's short term memory has almost disappeared, however she does remember the church and the many years she enjoyed attending. Please continue to include her in the newsletters and feel free to call and visit if anyone is in Salem. I am sure she would also appreciate if she was included in your prayers. She is not very happy at this time in her life.

I believe my cousin is planning on bringing Mom to church in Vancouver when you begin services in the new building.

**Thanks,
Janie Mathews**



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!



**Monday, September 17 from 7
-8:30 (location TBD).**

Our plan will be to share easy-to-sing songs we enjoy and sing them together.

Please bring a musical instrument if you play one, 1-2 simple songs to share and learn, and a copy of Sing Out! Songbook if you have one. Songs can be faith-based or not. We'll end the evening with some small treats and conversation.

This might just be a one-time gathering just for fun, or it may lead to further gatherings or even preparing something to teach and sing in worship, depending on the will and energy of the group.

Let me know if you're coming - jennifer@vanucc. Blessings!



VANCOUVER PEACE & JUSTICE FAIR
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 9-4
ESTHER SHORT PARK

We still have open times for those who would like to cover our booth.

You can sign up now!

E-mail Karen Kulm:

Lk.kulm@gmail.com

to claim your time spot.

Set-Up	Karen Kulm Nathan Wu
9-10:30 AM	Karen Kulm Loretta Railing 1 opening
10:30-Noon	Jean Beary Stolle Sandy and Jerry Mathis Jennifer and Youth
Noon –1:30 PM	Dori Creamer Carole Greenauer 1 opening
1:30-3:00 PM	Sharon Sollenberger 2 openings
3:00-4:15 PM	Karen Kulm 2 openings



LEAP TO CONTINUE WITH A NEW CLASS

With a part-time pastor, we are blessed to have a deep bench of lay pastors. This year, a new class of four will be joining the four LEAP (Locally Empowered and Authorized Preachers) graduates, with a total of 8 lay preachers being trained and continuing to offer support and feedback to each other over time. We will all have the opportunity to hear some new as well as some familiar voices from the pulpit. You will have a chance to “meet” each of these preachers in person in a future Link. In the meantime, here is a reminder of the grounding for our LEAP experience, from Ed Martin:

The Protestant Reformation was founded on the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers, which means that each of us is called to ministry through our baptism. Accordingly, there is to be no clergy or laity class distinction in which the clergy has particular access to the divine and laity are the secondary recipients of that access. In the words of Paul: "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, the Reformation was never able to realize the full import of this doctrine. Within the Reformed tradition (the tradition of the UCC), a concern for "learned" ministry evolved into a "professionalized" ministry which, like other professions, implied an academically trained person who provided services to client recipients. As a consequence, all of the gifts and practices of ministry were conflated into one person who was hired to provide religious services. "Spiritual" matters were deemed the bailiwick of the clergy and "practical management" matters were assigned to the laity through work on committees of the church. Little attention has been given to the idea that each of us is called to ministry through our baptism in accordance with the gifts we have been given by the Spirit.

This is the gap that LEAP is helping to fill. So far, it has been a great success, and we look forward to continuing to live out the foundational reformation ideal of the “priesthood of all believers.”

Pastor Jennifer is one of the featured speakers at this event:



in collaboration with



Present



November 1-3, 2018

**Niagara Falls Convention
Center**

& Sheraton at the Falls

Niagara Falls, NY

The United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries, in collaboration with the New York Conference, invites you to join us for the 2018 “Widening the Welcome Conference: Living, Learning, Leading”! This year’s event will be held in beautiful Niagara Falls, NY at the Sheraton Niagara Falls, and the Niagara Falls Convention Center. The conference will begin on Thursday, November 1st, and end after lunch on Saturday, November 3rd, 2018. There will also be an opportunity to register for a Mental Health First Aid class on November 1st. This class, organized with the help of UCC Mental Health Network, is a certificated course, with continuing education credit upon completion.

The Widening the Welcome Conference is built around the UCC’s vision for disability inclusion throughout the United Church of Christ. Offered workshops will bring attendees enlightenment in various areas including; Accessibility & Inclusion (A2A), Advocacy, Christian Education and more from invited speakers and organizations. There will also be a discussion panel, consisting of people from different perspectives within the UCC, to bring awareness and insight on living with a disability and into the fullness of service to an accessible, inclusive and loving God.

Invited speakers include: Exec. Minister for Justice and Local Church Ministries- Rev. Traci Blackmon, Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice- Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, Still Speaking Devotional Writer- Rev. Jennifer Brownell, and keynote speaker, UCC General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer.

The event is sure to be an uplifting and rewarding experience! Please see below for the link to online conference registration, with the help of our friends at the UCC NY conference, as well as a link to the Sheraton for Widening the Welcome hotel rates/reservations.

Event Schedule at a Glance

Thursday, November 1 -- Sheraton At The Falls

Registration for Widening the Welcome will be open for those attending the Mental Health First Aid training. Cost= \$50 (includes meals, workbook and certificate of completion) Early evening, meet for a Hospitality Hour to enjoy heavy hor d'oeuvres prior to kicking things off with the Welcome & Announcements. Followed by Opening Worship lead by [Rev. Traci Blackmon](#). We'll wrap things up with the first Small Groups session.

Friday, November 2 -- Convention Center The day will begin with Breakfast service, then Registration, followed by Morning Devotions and feature speaker, [Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund](#). After a short break, we will begin the first of three Workshops sessions. We'll enjoy a luncheon together, followed by Workshops Session Two, and then the second of the Small Groups Sessions. Later in the afternoon Friday, there will be a Panel Discussion on living & worshipping with disabilities. After which, a Sabbath Break is scheduled before the Friday night Banquet. At the Banquet we will hear from keynote speaker, [UCC President & General Minister, Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer](#). Afterwards we'll have an opportunity to visit at Hospitality Time.

Saturday, November 3 — Convention Center Our last day of the conference will start with Breakfast service and then Morning Devotionals. We will hear from featured Speaker, UCC Still Speaking Devotional writer, [Rev. Jennifer Brownell](#). Then after a short break, we'll begin the last of the workshops, Workshops Session Three. Afterwards we'll meet for lunch and then share Closing Worship and Communion, with Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund preaching.

Registration Fees: Full event (Nov. 1st-3rd) **\$200** prior to Oct 1st, \$225 after Oct. 1st

Friday only, including Banquet (Nov. 2nd) **\$125** prior to Oct 1st, \$150 after Oct. 1st

Mental Health First Aid **\$50** includes required workbook, breakfast and lunch.

[Click here to register online.](#)

[Click here to print registration form to mail in with your check.](#)

Hotel: Sheraton Niagara Falls, event rate is **\$99** (plus taxes/fees) per night. Please check with hotel on local transportation and travel information.

[Click here to make your hotel reservations online.](#)

Construction Update for Week of August 26, 2018

- The new fire alarm panel is complete, tested and called in for Fire Marshall Inspection. Now scheduled for Thursday August 30
- We passed final inspection of phase 1 of the project.
- The fire sprinkler inspection is set for next week depending on the pump installer's schedule. The Fire Marshall made this request.
- The security fence has been removed.
- The new chairs are delivered and are in the Sanctuary.
- Carpet is done in the Sanctuary except for the ramps.
- Part of the railings have been delivered and installed.
- Paint on the front has been completed and touch up continues on the interior.
- Toilet partitions are being installed and expect to have the complete by Friday.
- We've started punch list items and continue to work on them with John Greenauer.

The HVAC contractor has a meeting with Clark County on Thursday to try and find out exactly what they need for the Kitchen Hood to get it pushed through.



September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <u>Kathy</u> 10:00 Worship	3 <u>Vacation</u> Labor Day Office Closed	4 7:00 CE	5	6 7:00 Choir At the Pythian Home	7 Office Closed	8 9:30 Women's Bkfst Group At the Peachtree
9 Kick off 10:00 Worship	10	11	12	13 10:00 Prayer Shawl TBD 6:00 Parish Life TBD 7:00 M&O TBD	14	15
16 10:00 Worship 2:00 Darrell Brandenburg Celebration	17 10:30 Spirituality TBD	18	19 1:00 MJE Circle TBD 5:30 P&F	20 1:00 Memorials TBD	21	22
23 Worship 4:00 Rededication of the church and Celebra- tion	24	25 7:00 Council TBD	26	27	28	29
30 Worship					↓	