

Vancouver  
United Church  
of Christ



## *The Link*

October 1, 2018

Vancouver United Church of Christ (First Congregational)

1220 NE 68th Street, Vancouver, WA 98665 360-693-1476 [www.vanucc.org](http://www.vanucc.org)



### ***SPECIAL CONCERNS***

Tim Oppel

Joan Blair

Dorothea Johnson

Connie Oppel

Josiah Renner

Marilyn and Bob

New

Jim Ferner

## ***We are so blessed!***

Due to the heartfelt giving of so many, our church is now able to use our building once again!

Thanks to the Reimagining committee for its untold hours spent planning and meeting with the congregation to share ideas and work towards the goal of making a new home for us.

We have truly risen out of May 25, 2016's ashes! It is only through everyone's patience, collaboration, and contributions that we now have a sacred place for our use, as well as to share with our community.

### **Work Day Wednesdays**

Are you free during the day and looking for a way to serve the church? Starting Wednesday, October 3 from 1-3 pm, every Wednesday will be a work party. Help fold bulletins, set up in the classrooms and sanctuary, do small cleaning projects, etc... See you there!



**From  
Our  
Pastor**



One of my favorite books of prayer these days is John O'Donohue's *To Bless the Space Between Us*. As we re-enter the building, and all the both NEW AND FAMILIAR rhythms of autumn, I found great hope and comfort from this blessing. Maybe you will too.

"For A New Home"

May this house shelter your life.  
When you come in home here,  
May all the weight of the world  
Fall from your shoulders.

May your heart be tranquil here,  
Blessed by peace the world cannot give.

May this home be a lucky  
place,  
Where the graces your life  
desires  
Always find the pathway to  
your door.  
May nothing destructive  
Ever cross your threshold.

May this be a safe place  
Full of understanding and  
acceptance,  
Where you can be as you  
are,  
Without the need of any  
mask  
Of pretense or image.

May this home be a place of discovery,  
Where the possibilities that sleep  
In the clay of your soul can emerge  
To deepen and refine your vision  
For all that is yet to come to birth.

May it be a house of courage,  
Where healing and growth are loved,  
Where dignity and for-  
giveness prevail;  
A home where patience of  
spirit is prized,  
And the sight of the destina-  
tion is never lost  
Though the journey be diffi-  
cult and slow.  
May there be great delight  
around this hearth.  
May it be a house of wel-  
come  
For the broken and dimin-  
ished.



May you have the eyes to see  
That no visitor arrives without a gift  
And no guest leaves without a blessing.



**Mission offering October '18**  
 The Neighbors in Need Offering, which we will receive throughout the month of October, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. One third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries. Neighbors in Need helps make a Just World for All possible. For this to occur, it needs your support.

Envelopes are available for this offering.

# FALL CLUSTER GATHERINGS



**October 21, 2018  
 2-4PM**

**First Congregational Church,  
 Vancouver  
 1220 NE 68th St.  
 Vancouver, WA 98665**

*Join faith communities throughout Southwest WA as we connect and discuss each community's current work and advocacy. Through partnership, we will begin strategizing for the 2019 legislative session.*





October 1	Gratia McTigue
October 2	Dave Slocum
October 2	Gina Marquardt
October 9	Gary Roberts
October 11	Virginia Ebersole
October 12	Amelia Martin
October 13	Milo McTigue
October 17	Kristina Martin
October 17	Irene Edwards
October 17	Dashel Wilson
October 18	John Greenauer
October 20	Ellie Bradley
October 23	Ray Jones
October 25	Jeff Osborne
October 26	David Everist

We have a new re-imagined logo!  
Thanks to the creativity and talents  
of Jeff Brownell,  
we are blessed to have a logo to  
match our new church profile.

Jeff describes it as:



Introducing the "Godly Play" curriculum for our Sunday school education program. Several members have been trained as teachers and are very excited to implement this program with our

children.

### What is Godly Play?

Children have an innate sense of the presence of God. The Godly Play approach helps them to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. Based on Montessori principles and developed using a spiral curriculum, the Godly Play method serves children through early, middle and late childhood and beyond. Godly Play is offered every Sunday at 10:15 for 1-5th grades. Join us!

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- ◆ The open door of welcoming
- ◆ The backbone of the Ichthyse fish
- ◆ The rising sun and rainbow
- ◆ Representation of the building and it's changes

If you are interested in becoming a member of the church, are new to the United Church of Christ and want to learn more, or just want to brush up on the fascinating history of our denomination, join Pastor

# NEVER STOP LEARNING

Jennifer for a romp through the history of the UCC on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 6:30 -9:30. Interactive and enjoyable, this class is a great chance to deepen your understanding of what makes the UCC unique, as well as get to know some fellow church members. Class is limited to 10, so register early in person in the office or to [kathy@vanucc.org](mailto:kathy@vanucc.org).

## Behold! I Do a New Thing!



As we look ahead to 2019 in our re-imagined building, we will continue to be re-inspiring, re-energizing and re-newing. **Behold! I Do A New Thing!** is the theme of our annual stewardship campaign during which we raise funds necessary for our operation, and reflects the energy and inspiration of our return to the building. Like last year, we will again be hosting house meetings, which will be our opportunity to share our hopes for the future, ask questions, and consider our financial gifts to the church in 2019.

If you are interested in hosting a gathering at your home or in our church building, contact Jeff Osborne ([jeffo@pacifier.com](mailto:jeffo@pacifier.com) or 360.904.5910).

## Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 28 at  
11:30 am.

Decorate the trunk of your car and bring candy or small gifts to hand out, or come in costume to trunk or treat from car to car! There will be a costume parade during the children's time in worship that day.



## Trunk or Treat

Parkrose UCC is having an Oktoberfest celebration on October 6th, from 4-7 pm.

Please see <https://www.parkroseucc.org/oktoberfest> for ticket information.

## Save the date!

Making your holiday plans with family and friends?

There will be two services on Christmas Eve (Monday, December 24).



4:00 pm - Godly Play based worship focused on families and children. Including lighting of candles.

10:00 pm - Christmas Eve candle-light service. Followed by our traditional Wassail. See you there!

Also new this year: Longest Night Service on Friday, December 21 at 7:00 pm. A meditative service of healing and hope on the longest night of the year.



# What Do You Think?

The wait is finally over and after more than two years we are back in our own space. The journey has been interesting to say the least but we have found that it has made us stronger.

This Fall there will be opportunities to share your reactions as we explore both the familiar and the new. Council is interested in hearing your comments and reactions as we settle back in. Look for the **"My comments as we reoccupy our church..."** sheets and share your thoughts on paper, then place it in the offering plate or drop it in the office or mail it back to the church. An overview of the comments will be reported in the Link later this Fall and Council will review them as part of its planning process for the future.

Jeff Osborne on behalf of Council

## Introducing Oasis Groups

We've been nomads for a couple years, but we're back home. It's time to settle in and find a place within our home to connect with others who share your interests in social outings or small group discussions.



We are calling our small groups Oasis groups—a place to refresh yourself in fellowship or study. On October 14th



right after church, we are having an open house highlighting the various small groups that meet regularly. We will have one person there from each group to answer questions and encourage people to sign up. There's no long-term commitment—just come when you can. We have ideas for some new groups and would love to find someone to take them on—wine tasting, trivia, theater-going, new restaurant dine-out, etc. We would love to have you volunteer to lead a group. Please contact Pam Osborne, Membership Chair. ([posborne430@gmail.com](mailto:posborne430@gmail.com) or 360.904.5902)