



The Link

November 2018

2019 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Our Stewardship theme this year comes from Isaiah 43:19, "Behold! I do a new thing;" The voice of the Holy One cries across the ages, promising A NEW THING to us here in Vancouver in 2018, as surely as God promised to a people returning from exile in ages past.

As we move into our NEW building, we are built on the structure of the old foundation. So too, are our programs and projects branching out into NEW THINGS even as they are built on the foundation of our tradition and heritage. What NEW THING will God do with and through this CONGREGATION IN 2019?

SIGN UP FOR HOME GATHERINGS
continued on next page



Vancouver
United Church
of Christ

Worship: Sunday 10 AM
www.vanucc.org

Office Hours: Mon thru Thurs, 10 AM-2 PM

Pastor: Rev Jennifer Garrison Brownell
Jennifer@vanucc.org

Dir. Of Membership Exp: Kristina Martin
Kristina@vanucc.org

Interim Office Admin: Elizabeth Spannring
Elizabeth@vanucc.org

SPECIAL CONCERNS

Joan Blair

The Family of Jim Ferner

Dorothea Johnson

Marilyn & Bob New

Connie Oppel

Tim Oppel

Josiah Renner

2019 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN—SIGN UP FOR HOME GATHERINGS



This year our stewardship drive will be held in October and November. Small groups will gather in members' homes and at church. Learn about all that is happening now that we have returned to our church home, to consider the financial needs of the church for the upcoming year, and to respond to your questions and comments.

The gathering meetings will start the week of October 22 and continue through November 11. There are morning, afternoon and evening gatherings to choose from.

Signup sheets will be available after church on Sundays so you can choose a gathering that will fit your schedule. To sign up by phone call Jeff Osborne at (360) 904-5910. Please be sure to sign up and attend a meeting so you aren't left out.



GATHERING SCHEDULE

Thursday, November 1

1:00 PM • Clawson Corner
(at Church)

Thursday, November 8

1:00 PM • Clawson Corner
(at Church)

Sunday, November 4

11:15 AM • Clawson Corner
(at Church)

Sunday, November 11

11:15 AM • Clawson Corner
(at Church)

Wednesday, November 7

7:00 PM • Gina & John Marquardt
7:00 PM • John & Nancy Fite

Sunday, November 18

Gathering-In-Sunday

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Isaiah 43: 2, 19

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you...
Behold! I do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.



The voice of the Holy One cries across the ages, promising **A NEW THING** to us here in Vancouver in 2018, as surely as God promised to a people returning from exile in ages past. As we move into our NEW building, we are built on the structure of the old foundation. So too, are our programs and projects branching out into NEW THINGS even as they are built on the foundation of our tradition and heritage.

What NEW THING will God do with and through this congregation in 2019? Here are just a few of the NEW THINGS (and their firm foundations) that are already in the works.

A NEW worship space and creative ways to worship, built on the foundation of our strong preaching and music ministries.

A NEW storytelling-based Sunday School curriculum called *Godly Play*, built on the foundation of the priority to nurture our children.

A NEW way for our youth to gather for fun and service, built on the foundation of relationships begun in confirmation class last year.

A NEW partnership with MCC of the Gentle Shepherd and Martha's Pantry, built on the foundation of working together for many years.

A NEW exploration of the lives of immigrants and refugees, as we explore becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation, built on the foundation of our

long-time commitment to reaching those in the margins.

A NEW gathering to cook food for the homeless in our astonishing new kitchen, built on the foundation of our thriving outreach ministries along with Friends of the Carpenters, Share House, WHO, Fish and Triple Point Youth Center.

A NEW weekly drop-in Bible study to explore the scriptures coming up in worship, built on the foundation of our yearning to connect with God and one another through thoughtful consideration of scripture.

A NEW way to organize our social groups based on the Art of Hosting and called Oasis, built on the foundation of our strong relationships with one another.

A NEW weekly meditation group in partnership with Vancouver Meditation Connection, built on the foundation of our commitment to ecumenical partnerships in Clark County and beyond.

A NEW commitment to debt reduction which places our mortgage as a regular line item in the operating budget, built on the firm foundation of your generosity and stewardship, that allowed us to end our capital campaign much more quickly than expected. What a wonderful time to be in ministry together.

What other **NEW THING** will God do with us this year? Even now it "springs forth" if we can only perceive it!

ALL SAINT'S DAY SERVICE



On November 4, the **All Saint's Day Service** will be held to remember members and loved ones that have passed since last years' service. We are very happy to be back in our church building to celebrate this meaningful service.

Please contact the Memorials Committee to include others that should be recognized at this service.

We Will Be Remembering:

Ed Bloodworth
Beverly Boydston
Darrell Brandenburg
Jim Ferner

Elfriede Goldstein
Larry Kocher
Cordelia McBride
Barbara Osborne

NEWS FROM THE MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Now that we are back in the church, we will be moving ahead to use the memorial funds. 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.

Monetary donations can be accepted at any time; tangible memorial donations must first be approved through the church's administrative committees. The Pastor and the Memorials Committee are receptive to ideas and will facilitate the approval process. We welcome your input and questions regarding the work of our committee.

The Memorials Committee—Ruth Hammer, Judy Walter, and Connie Oppel

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 3 GREAT LOVES CAMPAIGN



This December we will continue the **UCC 3 Great Loves Campaign** by focusing on love for our refugee neighbors. Refugees are proven victims of persecution that flee their homelands in search of hope, justice and a safe place to raise their families. Vancouver has been receiving between 200-400 refugees per year.

Refugees arrive to the United States with very little and they have to quickly begin their lives over again. **Restart Kits** are a significant part of welcoming and honoring them in Vancouver.

The kits are filled with essential items that give refugees the start of what they need to rebuild their lives here. The hope is that these kits would bring honor to refugees coming to Vancouver, reflect their dignity, while also meeting a very tangible need. We ask that you only collect new items for these kits, and leave the price tag on the item. (Tags will be removed before the family receives them; per regulations the value of items must be recorded.)

Sign-up sheets for the Restart Kits will be available at church beginning November 25. Items are due December 16 at church before worship.

FROM THE DEACONS

We would like to expand our resources for offering rides for those in need. More members of our congregation are finding they need rides to church, to the doctor, the grocery store, and other outings.

If you are able to occasionally provide a ride to members, please contact Alice Rowe at (360) 576-0490 or (360) 989-4398.





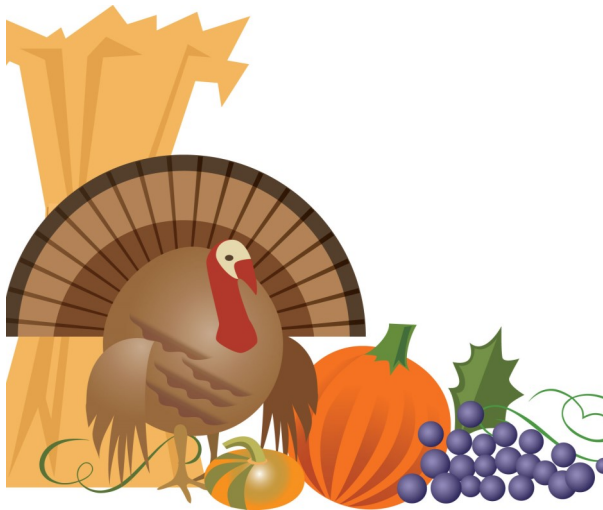
November

BIRTHDAYS

Nov 2 Marilyn Martinyak
Nov 4 Daryl DeSilva
Nov 16 Joanie Nelson
Nov 16 Tyler Corey
Nov 17 Kelsey Ramberg

Nov 18 Opal Chapman
Nov 19 Randall Franklin
Nov 20 Shirley Brandenburg
Nov 29 David Harrington
Nov 29 Jack Corey

OUR FAMILY THANKSGIVING



Following our worship service on Sunday, November 18, we will gather together to celebrate the culmination of our Stewardship Campaign Drive by enjoying a Church Family Thanksgiving. Please join us in Bradford Hall for a delicious Thanksgiving meal and enjoy a wonderful program put on by some talented members of our congregation.

If you would like the opportunity to work in our beautiful new and glorious kitchen, we are looking for four or five volunteers on Saturday the 17th, at noon to do the prep work and cooking of some of the meal. A few volunteers are also needed to help serve lunch on Sunday as well as volunteers to help clean up afterwards.

If you are a willing participant in the fun, please contact Leslie at (360) 910-0020 or haydnmacgrandma@gmail.com. Blessings, Leslie Chapman

JOAN BLAIR TEA

Dear Church Family,

What an honor to have our kitchen named after me. Thank you so much for celebrating me with that beautiful tea and having so many attend. I have been an active participant in the kitchen since the 1960's, helping Agnes during the Thursday night dinners.

Over the years I remember baking apple pies for the Clark County Fair and helping Jim Warren with Maundy Thursday dinners. As I look around the new Joan Blair kitchen and Bradford Hall space, I see endless possibilities for our members and the community. I could have not have gone through my cancer ordeal without you, my church family. It has been 5 years and my cancer is back but because of you and my faith, I am feeling peace in my heart and comfort in my soul. Keep those prayers and cards coming. I love all you and feel very grateful and blessed to have you in my life.

Warmly, Joan Blair



AVAILABLE SOON! NEW LOGO SHIRTS AND VESTS!



Our church honored the Re-imagining committee with gifts of vests and shirts with the new church logo. Many thanks to Jeff Brownell, our designer, for his beautiful creation!



We would like to offer these items for purchase to the rest of the congregation and friends. We will be taking orders for shirts and vests throughout the month of November and they will be available for Christmas gifts early in December. The price range is from \$25-\$50 depending on the item ordered. We will have order forms available starting after services on Sunday, November 4th.

CONSIDER QCD AS PART OF YOUR RMD FROM YOUR IRA

by Jeff Osborne, Financial Secretary

Huh? This article is for those of us who have reached or are fast approaching **70½** years of age.

What follows is my best understanding of changes wrought by this year's tax law changes. Don't take any of this as gospel, but do contact your financial advisor if you want more information.

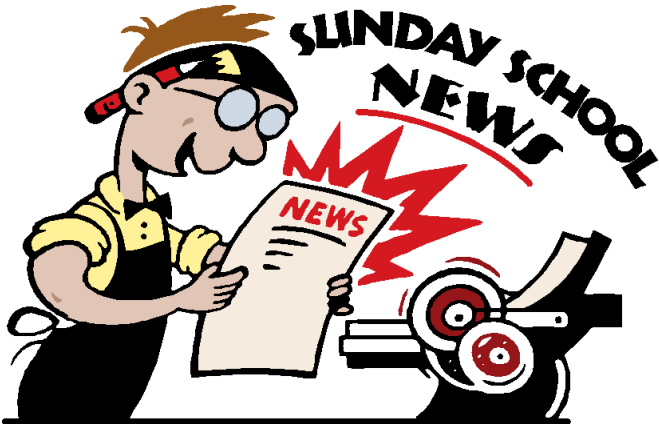
Reaching **70½** is the time when we are required to start drawing from our **IRA** accounts. Each year calculations are made to determine our **Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)**. Usually when you withdraw funds from your IRA it is counted as regular income for you and you pay taxes on it at the end of the year.

With the new tax law the standard deduction has been increased to the point that many of us will no longer gain an advantage by itemizing deductions, like your contributions to the church.

However, there is a new wrinkle to consider. A **QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution)** will allow you to send a portion of your **RMD** directly to a qualified charitable organization, *e.g. Vancouver UCC, without having it go through your hands and incurring a tax liability at the end of the year.*

Pam and I are considering using a **QCD** to fulfill our pledge to the church as well as contributions to other charities next year. We will be talking with our financial advisor about the details. You, too, may want to talk to your financial advisor about this new wrinkle to see if it applies to you.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CORNER



Sunday School Update

For the month of November only, Holy Communion will be on the second Sunday of the month, November 11. Also for the month of November only, there will also be Godly Play offered the same day as communion. So feel free to work out with your family whether it is better to stay in worship or attend class that day.

November 11 we will also be rolling out a new, enriched experience for youth in the middle years. 5th, 6th and 7th graders will be invited to begin in the Godly Play room with the Bible story for the week, then the class will divide into two for age appropriate activities.

Saturday November 17 at 2:00 PM— NEW DATE! Middle Years Youth Group (grades 5, 6, 7) Bowling Party. Thanks for your patience as we settled on a date for this event.



Christmas Pageant!

Children and youth of all ages are invited to participate in the Christmas Pageant. There are speaking and non-speaking parts. Our script this year is called "Don't Freak Out" and is funny and fun. Speaking parts rehearsal on November 18, right after church. Rehearsal for all on December 1, time TBD. Then, join us in worship on December 2 for Christmas Pageant, Advent Festival and very special communion service.

OASIS GROUP INFO

Interested in joining an OASIS Group? Please contact:

Performing Group

Harriet Walker (503) 314-0299, harrietcleo@yahoo.com

Theater Group

Pam Osborne (360) 904-5902, posborne430@gmail.com

Spirituality Group

Ray Jones (360) 931-0157, olenre1@comcast.net

Wine Tasting

Tom Renner (360) 772-3569, thomassr.renner@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Group

Joanie Nelson (360) 254-5419, joaniehnelson@gmail.com

Mary Jo Ebel Circle

Bev Crossman (360) 694-3837, Jim.beverly@comcast.net

Sunday Brunch Group

Doraine Kohler (360) 694-3510, dkohler17@q.com

Wood Working

Ed Frank (360) 573-3848

Writer's Group

Robin Oakman (360) 839-0915, robinoakman@gmail.com

Cooking for the Homeless

Leslie Chapman (360) 910-0020, John Greenauer (360) 608-3674

Movie Group

Sandi Mathis (360) 852-4261, sanjermathis@msn.com

Morning Book Club

Alice Rowe (360) 989-4398, alicemrowe@gmail.com

Pinochle

Ed Frank (360) 573-3848

Daytime Card Group

Joan Blair (360) 281-9987, jcblair99@msn.com

Women's Saturday Breakfast

Connie Oppel (360) 567-5528

SAVE THE DATE!

NOVEMBER

SUN, NOV 4

All Saints Day Memorial Service

WED, NOV 7

Work Day—10 AM-2 PM

SUN, NOV 18

Thanksgiving Baskets—Items due

Thanksgiving Dinner—11:15 AM

DECEMBER

SUN, DEC 2

Children's Christmas Program

SUN, DEC 16

Restart Kits—Items due

FRI, DEC 21—7 PM

Longest Night Service

MON, DEC 24—4 PM & 10 PM

Christmas Eve Service



**Sun, Nov 4
DST Ends 2:00 AM**

**Ballots Due
Tues, Nov 6**



Sun, Nov 11

*(Observed) Mon, Nov 12
Church Office closed*

Around Town

*Celebrating God's Abundant Blessings with
Dan Miller*

Hymnfest and Organ Concert
Sunday, November 4: 3 PM
Memorial Lutheran Church
2700 E 28th St
Vancouver, WA 98661

Vancouver United Church of Christ is a progressive Christian church serving Clark County and SW Washington. You are welcome regardless of where you are on life's journey. We are Open and Affirming, a Just Peace church, and are in partnership with the MCC of the Gentle Shepherd and Martha's Pantry.

Vancouver UCC • 1220 NE 68th ST • Vancouver, WA 98665 • www.vanucc.org