



The Link

February 2019

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear Friends,

The dust is finally settling and in some ways it's hard to remember the huge looming project that took so much of our congregational time and energy for so

long – the rebuilding of our church. For so long rebuilding was our goal, our purpose and our plan.

During the past several years, we were slung between the past and the future – carefully preserving that which we could of the past, and looking ahead to a brighter future. We did not spend much time in the present moment - in the

“now” - because we were occupied with things past and things ahead. But with the last loose ends getting tied up, it's a good time to pause, to look around, to take stock, to be in the present moment.

We are in a unique and exciting moment in our congregational life. We are in a reimagined structure, and we are a healthy mix of new folks and old-timers. Now that we have reimagined our building, perhaps we can begin to re-imagine our life together.

For the past couple of years, we have had one common goal and purpose – reimagining and rebuilding. Now without that obvious goal placed upon us unasked, we have a wonderful opportunity. *continued on next page...*

Worship: Sundays 10 AM
Office Hours
Monday thru Thursday: 10 AM—2 PM



Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Garrison Brownell
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LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR CONTINUED

We can discern together another kind of reimagining project. We know that, as a group, we can rise to the occasion to face challenges, to work together, and to create something new.

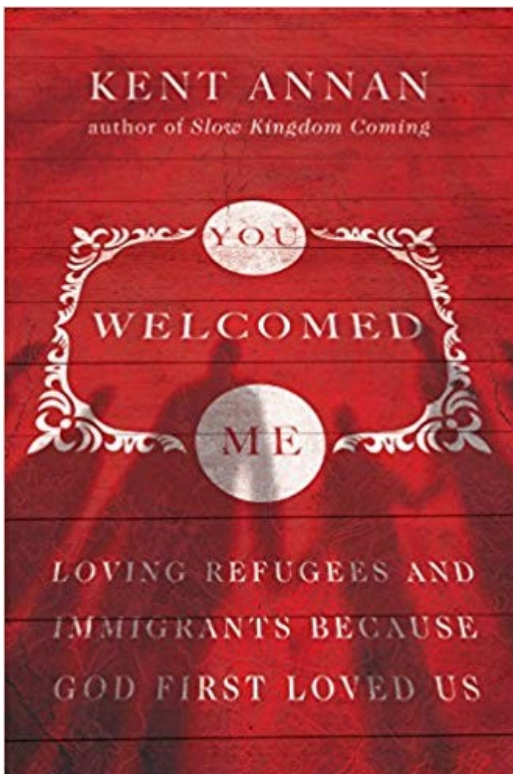
Christ calls us to a transformation of ourselves and the world around us. How will we utilize that knowledge going forward?

It is not yet clear exactly how we are being called, but the need is great. Spiritual and physical hunger are evident all around us. We have Good News to share – how will we share it? I invite you to join me in a period of very intentional prayer and discernment about the next steps for our congregational life together. Ask God to show you and all of us as a congregation where the greatest needs are, and how those needs can be met in a unique way by this gathering of people in this time and place.

It is an honor to be in ministry with you all,

Warmest blessings,

Jennifer



PS: I'm reading [You Welcomed Me: Loving Refugees and Immigrants Because God First Loved Us](#) by Kent Annan, one of the options on our reading lists, as we learn more about becoming Immigrant Welcoming. I thought we might be moved, as I was, by this reimagining of the end of Matthew 25.

My name is Faizah, and I am your sister. When you provide food for me when my family flees the famine in Yemen, you also give food to Jesus.

My name is Yonas, and I am your brother. When you give me clothes when I arrive from Ethiopia in the winter, you also give clothes to Jesus.

My name is Maria, and when you give me water in the Texas desert as I travel to a job to provide for my family, you also give a drink to Jesus.

My name is Ihan, and when you visit me in the detention center where I'm held without my mom, you visit Jesus.

My name is Rahelamma, and I know it's hard to pronounce and my English isn't very good, but when you try your best it sounds to me and to Jesus something like "hallelujah."

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Mission & Outreach February Special Offering is the WHO Shelter

Each winter, St. Paul Lutheran Church hosts the men's overflow shelter with the help of thousands of volunteer hours from people like you. In addition to volunteers, it takes a lot of resources to manage the shelter. We ask that you support this important mission to our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness.



You can make a donation any Sunday in February by making a check out to our church and putting "WHO" in the memo line. Also, don't forget to sign-up to help staff the shelter during our week of service with Kol Ami on March 10-17.

Becoming An Immigrant Welcoming Congregation



As you may know, as a church we have started our journey to attain the United Church of Christ's designation as an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.

This journey includes study, films, discussion, reflection, and for some, direct action. We are inviting all of you to begin the new year with an all-church book read on immigrant and refugee issues.

We are hoping that existing Oasis book groups will choose some of these books, or you can form your own book group. We have recommendations suitable for adults, young adults, youth and children.

Copies of some of the books will be available to examine at church, as well

as brief synopses of each book. All books can be purchased online or at Powell's Books.

Adult: Welcoming The Stranger: Justice, Compassion & Truth by Matthew Soerens & Jenny Yang

You Welcomed Me: Loving Refugees & Immigrants Because God First Loved Us by Kent Annan

Love Undocumented: Risking Trust in a Fearful World by Sarah Quezada

Young Adult: The Newcomers: Finding Refuge, Friendship & Hope in an American Classroom by Helen Thorpe
Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite With His Mother by Sonia Nazario

Picture books: The Journey by Francesca Sanna

Two White Rabbits by Jairo Buitrago
Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey by Margriet Ruurs

Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration & Separation by Edwidge Danticat

CONGREGATION NEWS



On January 27, we celebrated Kathy Woolley's retirement after 19.5 years as our church administrator. Thank you Kathy for your years of dedicated service. We look forward to seeing what the next chapter will be for Kathy and her husband Dick!

Proposed Changes to Bylaws Building Use Policy to Include Wine & Beer

A policy change to allow rental groups the option to serve wine and beer is being discussed by Property & Finance and Council.

Groups would provide:

- (a) evidence of insurance naming the church as insured,
- (b) a licensed bartender and
- (c) their own wine and beer. Beer and wine would be served by the glass and would only be allowed in the building on the day of the event.

If you want to provide input to these discussions please see a member of either group or write to Tom Yates, Moderator.

Fred Meyer Reward Update



From 01-Oct-2018 to 31-Dec-2018
5 Households donated
a total of **\$32.74**

If you need help signing up for this program please contact Ken Rowe. Please note our new ORGANIZATION NUMBER IS EC214.

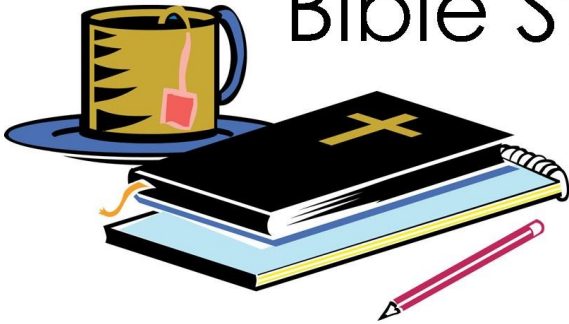
LOVE

Love is *patient,*
love is *kind.*
It does not *envy,*
it does not *boast,*
it is not *proud.*

1 Corinthians 13:4

LUNCHTIME BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR JENNIFER

Lunchtime Bible Study



Please join us for 45 minutes of prayer and conversation about the scriptures we will be featuring in the upcoming worship services. We will be using a method based on an African study technique. Bring a bag lunch if you'd like. Coffee and tea available.

Every Wednesday at 12 noon, beginning February 6 and continuing until Easter!

FAITH ACTION NETWORK

A Partnership for the Common Good

Faith Action Network, FAN, is an interfaith organization that advocates for social and environmental justice in legislature in Olympia.

They schedule an annual citizen's lobby day in the legislature. This year it is February 14.

FAN rents a nearby church and provides workshops in the morning in various breakout groups.

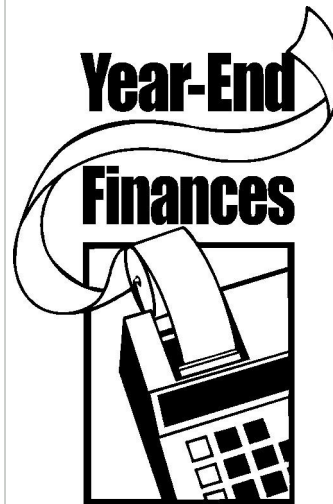
There is a small registration fee of \$15 for expenses and materials.

If you'd like more information about the FAN legislative agenda and to register, go to the [FAN website](#).

Don and Alona have participated for several years.

Don and Alona Steinke are organizing ride sharing. They would leave the Vancouver area around 7 am, send them your phone number if interested.

Don Steinke <crVanWash@gmail.com>



2018 Year-End Statements

Statements showing contributions to the church in 2018 were emailed/mailed on January 24. Please check your statement against your own records.

If you didn't receive your statement, or need a printed copy or have questions please contact me at 360.904.5910. Jeff Osborne, Financial Secretary



OASIS GROUPS

Prayer Shawl Group



Are you interested in learning how to knit or crochet? We'd love to have you join us on Thursday, February 14 at 10 am in Clausen Corner. Let's start Valentine's Day by spreading our love to others with a prayer shawl.

The Prayer Shawl Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at 10 am in Clawson Corner. All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us. Contact Joanie Nelson for more info.

"Shawls ... They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify."

— Janet Severi Bristow, 1998

2019 marks 21 years for the [Prayer Shawl Ministry](#), founded in 1998 by Janet Severi Bristow and Victoria Galo. The two met while attending Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut. They joined together with the idea of combining a love of knitting and crochet with the desire to reach out to those in need of comfort as well as joy.

The Writers Group meets after worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. All genres are welcome. We share ideas and encouragement.

Sometimes we write, sometimes we read, and we always sympathize with writer's block! Please contact Robin Oakman for more info.



The Performance Oasis Group

Will be performing for the Church Ladies Mother's Day Tea in May. Brush up on your talents so you can participate. If you would like to participate email Harriet at

harrietcleo@yahoo.com. Harriet says "otherwise it will be a ONE GIRL SHOW and you don't want that!"



The Wine Tasting Group had a nice, private wine tasting at Stavalaura Vinyards Sunday, January 20 A great time was had by all. Afterwards a few of us went to the casino for dinner.

OASIS GROUPS

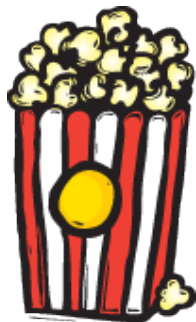


The wonderful people that participated in cooking for the homeless prepared enough food to provide over 200 meals to those in the homeless community during the month of January. We will be cooking again on Wednesday February 6 and 20 at 6:30 pm or on Monday February 11 and 25 at 10 am. Please join us for a great time while we do so much good for our community. All are welcome.



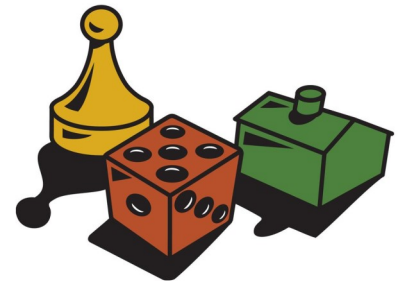
The Theater Group met on January 27 and attended the Sunday matinee of *Dial M for Murder* at the Lakewood Theater in Lake Oswego.

In January, the movie group saw *On the Basis of Sex*, about Ruth Bader Ginsberg's early career. Another outing is planned for February. Please contact Sandy Mathis for more information.



Day Time Game Group

Last month we enjoyed an afternoon at Nancy Fite's home playing farkle, rummicubes,



and five crowns. Please join us at Virginia Dunbar's home for more fun and friendship on February 19. We laugh, play, eat and laugh some more! Contact Joan Blair 360-573-6505 if you have any questions.

Mary Jo Ebel Circle will meet January 20, at 1 pm at the home of Connie Opal. If directions are needed, please call Connie Opal or Ruth Hammer. All women are welcome.

AROUND TOWN

Christopher Schindler Recital

Sunday, February 10, 3 pm

Vancouver UCC Sanctuary

Admission: *free-will offering

*\$10 suggested



Program

Mozart—Sonata in C major, K.309

Beethoven—Sonata in E major, Op 109

Liszt—Mephisto Waltz No. 1z

Debussy—Etude no. 10;
Clair de lune, L'Isle joyeuse



Special Concerns

Joan Blair

The Family of Jim Ferner

Wayne Fletcher

Steve Hitchens

Dorothea Johnson

Marilyn & Bob New

Connie Oppel

Tim Oppel

Josiah Renner



February BIRTHDAYS

Feb 3.	David Macko	Feb 16.	Cynthia Haverkate
Feb 6.	Jay Palmer	Feb 21.	Brian Fick
Feb 12.	Carole Greenauer	Feb 21.	Simon Melton
Feb 14	Barbara Potter	Feb 25	Don Walter
Feb 15.	Stephen Hunter	Feb 28	Brenda Gaston

MARTHA'S PANTRY

Come Join us in celebration of the many amazing volunteers and donors that support Martha's Pantry

February 8, 2019
6:30—8 pm

Music, Food and Fun
Silent Auction

R.S.V.P to 360-695-1480



**Thanks
to Our
Volunteers!**

February



Saturday, February 2
Ground Hog's Day

Tuesday, February 5
Chinese New Year—the Year of the Pig

Sunday, February 10
Christopher Schindler Recital

Thursday, February 14
Valentine's Day

Monday, February 18
President's Day—Office Closed



FYI—
In case of snow the office will
follow the Vancouver School
district's schedule.