

The Link

April 2019



Dear Friends,

Here we are – just about exactly halfway through the season of Lent, the 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter. I did not know until this year that Lent is not a church word, although you usually only hear it in church these days. In olden times, it was just the everyday word for “springtime.” And speaking of Easter, that’s not a church word either. It’s from the name Eostre, a pre-Christian English goddess celebrated in spring time.

I love that the names of our most important season of the year come from words that started far before and outside of the church. It reminds me that the rhythms and themes of this time of year – redemption, reflection, resurrection did not originate in the church, and cannot be contained by it. The need for these things is as deep as our humanity. They live in our bones. We need to experience them with all of our senses. And so every year, as the days lengthen and the growing things start to bud, we yearn for the rituals and rhythms of springtime – so we eat lamb and search for eggs and gather together to remember and remind each other that life comes around every year and death does not ever have the last word.

continued...



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

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Garrison Brownell
jennifer@vanucc.org

Dir. of Membership Exp: Kristina Martin
kristina@vanucc.org

Office Admin: Elizabeth Spanning
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www.vanucc.org

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR CONTINUED

We are halfway through Lent and Easter is coming. It's not too late for you to experience this season remembering that our celebrations spring from our most primal responses to this particular change of season. It's not too late for you to experience this season with your whole body, not just your mind. It's not too late for you to taste, smell, touch, hear and see the season of Lent.

See you in church!

Blessings,

Jennifer



MISSION AND OUTREACH

Cans Help Zambia Students

Your cans and bottles make a difference in Zambia because through Good Samaritan Ministries/Zambia the money is used to buy student desks. This is a ministry our church supports. Aluminum cans, water bottles, beer bottles and other bottles are redeemable and the money adds up. Please rinse them, do not crush cans, and give them to Dave Slocum or Nancy Fite at church or take them to Dave's vet office at 808 NE Minnehaha ST, Vancouver, WA 98665. Any questions, call Nancy Fite at 360.696.0380. Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered for our shared week with Kol Ami at the Winter Hospitality Overflow (WHO) shelter this year!

A special thank you to the volunteers who filled in shifts

all season, and to Dave Slocum and Judy Enders for being Core Staff again and serving food weekly. And thank you Jeff Osborne for helping to coordinate and recruit new members. The men at WHO appreciate your fellowship, food and kindness.



MISSION AND OUTREACH

CAMP ADAMS

MOLALLA - OREGON



Mission & Outreach is excited to offer a special offering during the month of April to support our Campership fund to support Vancouver UCC youth attending Camp Adams. Camp Adams, in Molalla Oregon, is owned and operated by the Central Pacific UCC Conference. A "forest first and kid focused" camp, Camp Adams has been a youth camp and nature retreat for over 80 years. Every summer, our youth have the opportunity to spend a week learning about the forest and their faith at age-appropriate sleep-away camp. Over the years, the children of Vancouver UCC have repeatedly shared that their experiences at Camp Adams are some of the best parts of their childhoods. Please consider supporting the children of Vancouver UCC by supporting the M&O special offering during the month of April. Identify your offering by writing "CAMP ADAMS CAMBERSHIP" on your envelope or check's memo line. The Vancouver UCC's Campership is another way we change children's lives for the better. For more information about Camp Adams, please visit <http://campadams.org/> or ask Director of Membership Experiences, Kristina Martin, for more info.

Pride Begins With You Contest—*Submissions due April 15*

The Portland Pride Festival & Parade is June 15 – 16 at Tom McCall Waterfront Park. The Conference is registering on behalf of all of our churches and all are invited to march in the parade on June 16. **New this year:** thanks to Randy Franklin, Vancouver UCC member, we will have a parade float this year. To make that happen, we are asking for your ideas for theme and design!

We will have a pick-up pulling a small flatbed trailer. This will make the parade accessible to all regardless of ability or age. Youth, and grown-ups of all ages are encouraged to imagine a design. Submit your sketches, pictures, ideas to: jwchair@cpcucc.org by April 15.

The sign up to staff our conference booth at the festival on June 15 from 12-8 pm and June 16 from 11am-6pm will be published in April. We look forward to your help in showing our extravagant UCC welcome to all!



BECOMING IMMIGRANT WELCOMING



What Are We Doing: We are engaging in study, reflection and discussion to discern if our congregation is being called to become Immigrant Welcoming – a designation of the United Church of Christ.

Why Are We Doing This: The General Synod of the United Church of Christ, and our own Central Pacific Conference have passed resolutions calling on congregations to covenant as Immigrant Welcoming. The UCC recognizes the ongoing struggles of refugees and migrants who come to the United States seeking safety, security, freedom and opportunity but instead experience suffering as they fear raids, deportation, and witness their families being torn apart. Our Jewish and Christian traditions honor this text: *When an immigrant resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the immigrant. The immigrant who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the immigrant as yourself, for you were immigrants in the land of Egypt.* (Leviticus 19:33-34)

Jesus said, *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* There is no other commandment greater than this. (Mark 12:31)

Our own mission statement reflects our history of being welcoming and loving to all neighbors. *It is the mission of our church to follow Christ in faith and lead the community by example. We worship together with creativity and joy, being rooted in but not root-bound by Christian tradition. We commit ourselves to:*

Encourage spiritual growth and loving service to others;

Reach out to people of all races, backgrounds, gender expressions/identities and affectional orientations;

Work for social justice and peace.

Why Now: The International Association for Refugees has stated, “The world is in the midst of a long-term refugee crisis.” There are more displaced persons in the world right now than at any time since WWII. So although the needs are greater than ever

Becoming Immigrant Welcoming continued...

before, some of our national leaders are perpetuating myths that our borders are being attacked, that there is a scarcity of resources so they must be hoarded, and that “white culture” must be protected from people of color.

Volunteers from No More Deaths, an Arizona-based aid group, left jugs of water and cans of food in the desert for migrants and were caught, prosecuted and might go to prison. Border Patrol officers routinely dump out jugs of water that are placed by churches and other humanitarian groups in long stretches of desert.

Families seeking asylum, which is a legal act, have been separated and detained at our southern border and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has misplaced files causing many parents to be unable to locate and reunite with their children.

Immigrants in Portland and Vancouver have been picked up by ICE after dropping children off at school, when leaving work, etc. tearing families apart and often being unable to even contact their families for days.

If We Vote To Become Immigrant Welcoming, What’s Next: We will commit as a congregation and as individuals to prayerfully seek a response to the injustices against the immigrants and migrants in our midst, answering the call to love our neighbors. Responses may include educating, advocating and supporting.

Education

We will continue with suggested books, films, and readings on immigration and migration including learning about root causes of the current worldwide displacement of people. We will hear from immigrants and their families in our community and seek to build relationship through worship, service projects and community events.

Advocacy

We will work with local organizations that work for immigrant justice such as Faith Action Network (FAN), Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIrJ), <http://imirj.org/faith-community-resources> , Lutheran Refugee Resettlement Services, etc., to offer public forums on immigration-related issues for the wider community and participate in their legislative actions.

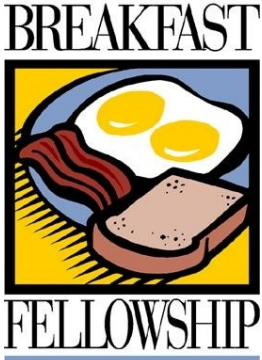
We will bear witness by participating in vigils, direct actions, public events and visits with elected officials.

Accompaniment

We will accompany immigrants *at their request*, to immigration hearings, appointments, and meetings as we are able. We will work with Lutheran Refugee Resettlement Services to continue to provide material support such as Refugee Restart Kits or other financial support.

Let us "...show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels..." Hebrews 13:1-2

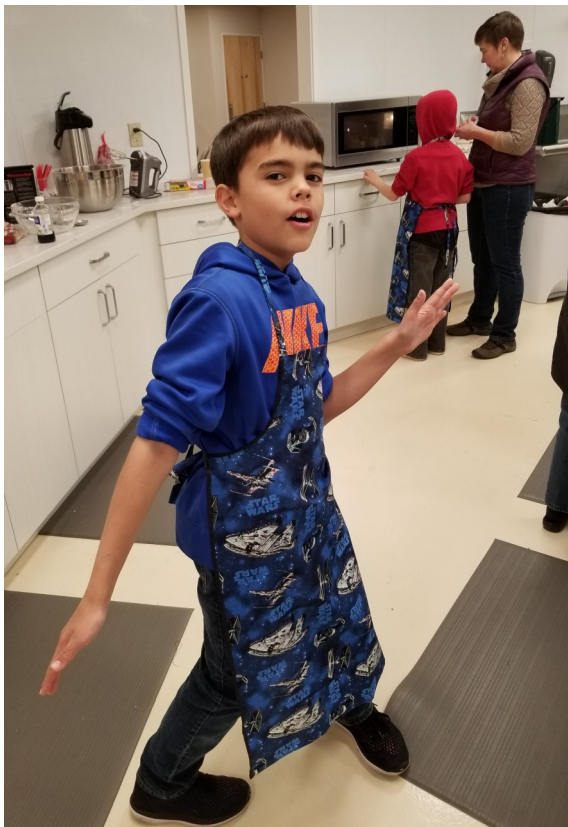
OASIS GROUPS



The Breakfast Group meets at 9:30 AM every 2nd Saturday at the Peachtree Restaurant and Pie House at 6600 NE Hwy 99, Vancouver, WA, 98665. Please join us at the next breakfast on April 13.



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. Please contact Joanie Nelson for more info.



Cooking For the Homeless

Our church has a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers who come together four times a month in fellowship while we help the homeless people in our community.

We prepare meals for about 100 people each week. It's also a great opportunity to get together and visit with friends or make new friends, while providing a great service.

If you are interested in joining us, we will meet in the kitchen at 10 am on Monday, April 8 and April 22 or at 6:30 pm Wednesday, April 3 and April 17. Please join us and you too can have as much fun as Jack does!

Please contact Leslie Chapman for more info.

OASIS GROUPS—MARY JO EBEL CIRCLE MEETING

The next meeting is April 17, and Sandi Mathis will be our speaker. Come, get acquainted, and learn more about members' hobbies and passions. Call Beverly (360) 694-3837, or Connie (360) 567-5528 for details. Ellie Bradley will be our hostess.



Connie Oppel and Dori Creamer

At the March 20 meeting, Dori Creamer spoke about her work with the US Forestry Dept.



The lovely refreshment table arranged by our hostess Joanie



Pastor Jennifer and Ellie Bradley



Attendees enjoying fellowship and refreshments

YOUTH NEWS

April Schedule

April 7—Movie and Potluck, all ages. After church til 1:30 pm

14—ART OUT, grades 8-12, After church until 12:30. Lunch included.

Vancouver Rocks! Paint and hide eggs around the church grounds.

21: Egg Hunt. Gather during church to hide Easter eggs around the church (if it rains) or on the grounds (if sunny) for younger kids to find.

Courageous Middle and Senior High Youth — Ally, Anne, Boean, Cameron, Danya, Emma, Emerson, Milo, Olivia, and Teryn spent a couple hours at the climbing gym as part of an overnight experience at the church around the theme of courage.



"Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, tell me where my flowers iz!"



Hooray, the blossoms of spring are beginning to show in our community! Please share some of your natural beauties with us for Easter

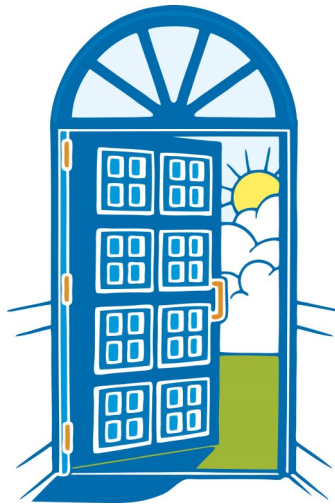
morning. We will be decorating a wooden cross to be used in our 10 am service. We invite you to bring cut flowers April 19 to celebrate Easter Sunday. We thank you!

Parish Life Ministry

Enter Please!

During the week, please use the main Sanctuary entrance. And it's okay to park in the upper lot!

Push the buzzer, let us know who you are, and we can unlock the door from the office. Our regular office hours are Mon—Thurs 10 am—2 pm. Thank you and we'll see you soon!



Bring a basket and be ready to hunt for Easter Eggs, just after church on April 22. Grades 6-12 will hide the eggs for our younger friends to find!

Attention Ushers

It seems we have a shortage of ushers every Sunday. If you are scheduled to usher and can't make it or don't know when you're scheduled or don't want to usher any more please let me know! If you are not currently an usher and would like to serve the church in this simple yet important way, let me know that too! Blessings,
Ray Jones 360-931-0157

Building Host Update

As our building usage has continued to grow, our need for a responsible person, with a very flexible schedule, who lives close by, and is willing to assist, has been very apparent. Fortunately Leslie Chapman has agreed to fill this void for us! In addition, she has a PIC health card which will accommodate Health Dept. requirements for outside groups serving food to the public. Thank You Leslie!

It's Back!

What?

The (annual) Maundy Thursday dinner

Where?

Bradford Hall

When?

April 18, at 6 pm followed by a communion service in our sanctuary

Cost?

FREE! tickets will be available starting on March 31
Choice of either beef or lamb entries



Maundy Thursday is April 18, and we will again have our traditional Lamb Dinner prepared with love by Carole & John Greenauer, and Pam & Jeff Osborne. Parish Life is looking for people willing to volunteer to be servers and also form a clean up crew.

If you are willing to give a short amount of your time please contact Leslie Chapman at 360-910-0020 or via email at haydnmacgrandma@gmail.com.

Tickets will be free this year and will be available following worship. Please see Leslie to get your ticket. We will also have a beef option in addition to the lamb dinner. Dinner is limited to 80 people so get your ticket soon.



Memorial Service For Joan Blair

Joan passed away peacefully on March 25 surrounded by her family.

Her memorial service and reception will be held here Sunday, April 14 at 2 pm.

First Quarter Pledge Statements

During the first week of April, first quarter donation statements will be emailed or sent to everyone who made a pledge to the operating budget for 2019. Statements for those who did not pledge are distributed only at year end.

If you have a question about your pledge status or about the first quarter statement, please contact me.

Jeff Osborne, Financial Secretary



April BIRTHDAYS

April 3.Trent Corey
April 4Arlene Arnold
April 5Patti Jones
April 11Ed Evans
April 12. Jerry Mathis
April 13 Shirl Zent
April 19 Leslie Chapman

April 20Dori Creamer
April 22 Angel Caraballo
April 22 Anne McNally
April 26 Karsten Cowles
April 29 Ed Martin
April 30Pam Osborne

AROUND TOWN



Carole Elizabeth Service Dog Project

The Vancouver Metro Sunset Rotary Club, in association with the Advisory Council, will help collect funds for Carole Elizabeth and Ezra, her diabetic service dog-in-training. As a 501(c)(3) association, the Advisory Council (EIN 91-1767045) will collect, and then distribute the funds. (Your donation may be tax deductible, please check with your tax professional.) Checks can be made out to: **Advisory Council**, memo: Service Dog Project and delivered to John Fite.



April



Sunday, April 14 — Palm Sunday

10 am: Workshop with special guest, Lewis River Dixie Band
Children's Palm Parade

Thursday, April 18 — Maundy Thursday

6 pm: Lamb Dinner
7-7:30 pm: Worship

Friday, April 19 — Good Friday

7 pm: Ecumenical Service of Worship with Choral Anthem

Sunday, April 21 — Easter

6:15 am: Sunrise Service on the Labyrinth
10 am: Worship Service
11 am: Egg Hunt

Special Concerns

The Family of Joan Blair

Michelle Esposito

Steve Hitchens

Dorothea Johnson

Marilyn & Bob New

Karen Owen

Gary Roberts

