



Dear Friends,

In the scripture reading coming up on August 11 (Luke 12:32-40), Jesus gives several commands to his disciples and followers. Are you looking for a way to pray in these dog days of summer? Give this a try. Pick a week during the month, and spend each day trying to put these commands into practice. Ask yourself which (if any) seem easy and obvious, and which (if any) seem too difficult to undertake.

**MONDAY:** *“Do not be afraid.”*

The passage begins with what is perhaps one of the most often repeated commands in the Bible, “do not be afraid.” Why do you think this is such a common greeting in the Bible? Consider the things you fear. Are there any fears that you might be ready to outgrow or put behind you?

**TUESDAY:** *“Sell your possessions and give to the poor.”*

You may have heard it said that what you own ends up owning you. How are your possessions coming between you and a deeper relationship with God or neighbor? What would it take for you to give of your own abundance to someone who has less than you?



Worship: Sundays 10 AM  
Office Hours: Mon thru Thurs: 10 AM—2 PM  
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## LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR CONTINUED

**WEDNESDAY:** *“Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail.”*

In this passage, Jesus invites you to put your confidence in God’s promise, rather than the false promises heaped on you by advertisements and media. What do you put your confidence in? What would it take for you to know that you could rely on God?

**THURSDAY:** *“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning.”*

Sometimes an opportunity to serve God or neighbor passes by just because we are not expecting such an opportunity to arise. How can you prepare for service’s call, and how can you respond to it when it comes?

**FRIDAY:** *“You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”*

Just as we sometimes miss an opportunity to serve, so too do we miss opportunities to recognize the face of Christ. Can you think of a time that you recognized Christ when you were not expecting to?

In the United Church of Christ, we often say that we take the bible “seriously but not literally.” How does reading this passage in this deliberate way, over the course of a week, help you take the Bible more seriously? Are there are other passages you might want to approach this way? How can slowing down in your Bible study help you slow down in the rest of your life?

Enjoy these last, slow days of summer, and I’ll see you in church.

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### **Update from Safety Committee**

#### **Ken Rowe**

You may have been hearing about the Church Safety Committee, particularly since the false smoke alarm went off a couple of weeks ago.

Those of you in attendance that day should know that everyone cleared the building in five minutes. The nursery was escorted out very quickly by a parent that has volunteered to perform that task. There were people checking the lower level of the building and walking the perimeter of the building. Well done, everyone.

Please note, that on October 12 the committee will be conducting a First Aid, CPR and AED (automated external defibrillator) class. There are thirteen members already signed up. There is room for a total of 20. Anyone who is interested may contact Pat Sutherland or Ken Rowe. If this class fills up with members of the congregation or from Martha’s Pantry, arrangements will be made for a second class.

There will more information coming so everyone will be aware of the complete plan.

## COUNCIL MODERATOR'S UPDATE



### ***A Note From Jeanie*** **August 2019**

Greetings from Montana!

My time with my sister and cousins took me to Flathead Lake. It is a beautiful place for sharing memories and creating new ones.

I hope this summer brings you peaceful days with your family and friends! I certainly feel blessed surrounded by loved ones in God's creation!

I want to thank Brenda Houchen, Leslie Chapman, and Kristina Martin for leading the congregational meeting as well as answering questions on July 14. The proposal passed to change our policy to allow for limited alcohol serving for rental events in our Bradford Hall. I am confident that the policy is very cautious and will be managed well in the future. Our church is beautiful and this will allow more of our community to experience our welcoming environment.

Our church council had a retreat on Saturday, July 27. Kristina Martin led us in exercises for a variety of styles of meeting, decision making, and planning called "the art of hosting" to be implemented by our new "work/task groups" in the future. We also worked on our schedule of events for the coming year. I am looking forward to working with our dedicated leadership team! Look for future articles about our Council members. Please remember that the Council is your council! We want to be available to you to help our congregation "be the church". May the blessings of this community echo throughout our gathered experience, and may the peace and love of Jesus be in all our hearts.

Peace and Blessings, Jeanie Beary Stolle  
Jtstolle@comcast.net

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### ***An Apology:***

As your financial secretary, I apologize for the email that was sent out with your quarterly *Financial Giving Statements* on July 19. It was sent out by me (not Elizabeth) and had an incorrect sender address. Also I did not update the contact information.

If you have any questions, please contact Jan Foulke at [finsec@vanucc.org](mailto:finsec@vanucc.org).



## BEING AN IMMIGRANT WELCOMING CONGREGATION

“While every refugee’s story is different and their anguish personal, they all share a common thread of uncommon courage – the courage not only to survive, but to persevere and rebuild their shattered lives.” – Antonio Guterres, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees

### Refugee Facts:

There are 68.5 million people around the world who have been forcibly displaced – the highest level of displacement since WW II.

Every minute, 20 people leave everything behind to escape war, persecution, or terror.

Among the forcibly displaced, there are 25.4 million refugees, 40 million people displaced in their own country, and 3.1 million asylum seekers awaiting determination on refugee status.

Syrians now comprise one of the largest groups of refugees worldwide, making up 24.8% of the 19.9 million refugees under the mandate of UNHCR.

### **How can I help?**

Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) is the designated agency to help with refugee resettlement in Clark County. Refugees arrive here with literally only the clothes they are wearing and maybe a few personal items. They need to find an apartment, furnish it, fill out paperwork, enter employment programs, register children for school, etc. LCSNW assists with these needs.



LCSNW also has an *Immigration Counseling and Advocacy Program* that helps reunite families through immigration legal advocacy and assistance. They have Immigration Counselors and an Immigration Attorney on staff.

Donate Gift Cards from Winco, IKEA, Target, or Fred Meyer to Lutheran Community Services NW. Enclose a note saying “Vancouver R&P”. To make a cash donation, make checks payable to Lutheran Community Services and write “Vancouver R&P” in the memo line. Mail to LCSNW attn.: Mindy Johnston, 3600 Main St., Suite 200, Vancouver, WA 98663.

Volunteer to be an ESL tutor. Prior experience in ESL or teaching is necessary. The minimum commitment is 6 months, meeting at the student’s home for 3 hours per week. Contact 360-787-4726.

Volunteer to help with transportation. Help a newly-arrived refugee family get to appointments, learn how to navigate and use public transportation. Contact 360-787-4726.

Volunteer to be an International Foster Care Family. Catholic Community Services of Western WA is recruiting families who want to help unaccompanied refugee children. You will be provided with training, support, and financial assistance. Contact 360-213-2431.

Advocate by keeping up with local, state, and federal legislation. Our WA State 2019 legislative session is over. Several immigrant related bills passed including the Keep WA Working Bill (5497) which protects local law enforcement from having to cooperate with ICE raids or illegal arrests.

Also the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Program (5438) establishes an office in the Employment

## BEING AN IMMIGRANT WELCOMING CONGREGATION CONTINUED...

Security Department for H-2A temporary agricultural workers who are key to much of our state's economy.

Our congregation is a Faith Action Network (FAN) member and they help facilitate our legislative advocacy. [www.fanwa.org](http://www.fanwa.org).

The Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIrJ) in Oregon, is our partner in keeping us informed on local vigils, rallies, etc in Oregon and SW WA [www.imirj.org](http://www.imirj.org).

Join the Justice and Peace Action Network of our denomination [https://www.ucc.org/join\\_the\\_network](https://www.ucc.org/join_the_network) to get legislative action alerts and a newsletter on many issues including immigration.

Donate to help our neighbors who have entered the country and are now being detained pending processing, especially separated families and unaccompanied teens. RAICES has two specific funds you can contribute to: The families Together Fund <https://www.raicestexas.org/donate/families-together-fund/> and The Unaccompanied Children Fund <https://www.raicestexas.org/unaccompanied-children-fund-leaf/>

Follow our church Facebook page for information and for local action alerts and our Conference Justice & Witness Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CPCUCCJusticeandWitness/>

## MISSION AND OUTREACH



Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with our church booth at **Vancouver USA Pride in the Park!** Once again our booth was very popular with the community as we shared our extravagant welcome and unconditional love. Happy Pride!



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

**9 AM—4 PM - ESTHER SHORT PARK**

**SAVE THE DATE!** Activities include music, poetry, vendors, and children's activities. Food of all kinds will be available next door at the Farmer's Market.

Our church is again sponsoring a table and we would love to have your help in telling the community about how we are involved in peace, justice, and trying to make our world a better place. Join us in the park for a fun day! To volunteer for our table, sign up at church or email Karen Kulm at: [lk.kulm@gmail.com](mailto:lk.kulm@gmail.com).

## CONGREGATION NEWS

*In addition to many other groups that occasionally use our beautifully reimagined building, we share our building daily with Metropolitan Community Church of the Gentle Shepherd and Martha's Pantry. This sharing is more than a rental, it is a covenant - meaning that we recognize God as another partner in these relationships. A group comprised of members of both churches and the pantry meets regularly to strengthen our covenant. One of the groups first tasks was the creation of this covenant statement, which has been ratified by the boards of the three organizations. Join us on August 18 for a joint worship at 11:00 am as we celebrate this covenant together with our partners.*

### **Covenant between First Congregational United Church of Christ Metropolitan Community Church of the Gentle Shepherd & Martha's Pantry Vancouver, Washington**

In both the United Church of Christ and the Metropolitan Community Church, we believe that **covenant** is a cornerstone of faith and action. Covenant is a relationship with at least three partners, because one of those partners is always the Holy Spirit.

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Metropolitan Community Church of the Gentle Shepherd and Martha's Pantry enter both joyfully and solemnly into the following **covenant with one another**:

We will support one another's ministries and programs with prayer, time, and resources as we seek to serve God in our city, state, region, and world. We will rejoice in each other's successes and mourn with one another's losses. We will strive to show the world a model of the reign of God by truly being partners, not competitors.

We will communicate clearly and honestly, engage in healthy conflict when it is necessary, speak the truth in love, and listen intently to one another. We will bring good intent to all interactions. We will bring trust of each other to all our interactions, and strive to encourage the vibrancy and growth of that trust through our interactions.

We will both respect and enjoy the benefits of the sacred space that we share. We will leave common-use spaces as we find them and we will respect the privacy and sanctity of exclusive-use spaces. We will work together to maintain and improve this space, each of us contributing as we are able of our time, talent, and treasure.

We will seek to create in and among various Christian communities a better understanding for the need for a common Christian witness, and to foster greater cooperation among all people of faith.

We will cultivate and encourage a sense of partnership and wonder that makes the ministry and outreach present in the sacred space we share greater than the sum of its parts.

We celebrate the opportunities and challenges that are before us, and we welcome the presence of the Holy Spirit as a partner in this endeavor!

## CONGREGATION NEWS

### Fred Meyer Reward Update



From April 1 to June 30, 7 Households donated a total of **\$40.43!**

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

### Cans Help Zambia Students

Your cans and bottles can make a difference! 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. Any questions, call Nancy Fite at 360.696.0380. Thanks!

## OASIS GROUPS



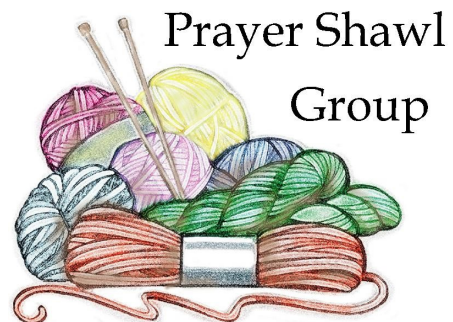
### Cooking For The Homeless

Our dedicated group of people cooking for the homeless are still hard at work! We would like to invite you to join us for

some great fellowship while we prepare food to serve 125 meals a week for our community.

On Wednesday, August 7 & 21, we will meet at 6:30 pm, and Monday, August 12 & 26, at 10 am. Throughout summer and into fall, we will continue meeting on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 10 am. If you have any questions please contact Leslie at 360-910-0020.

If you are unable to join us, donations are always welcome. Simply write "Cooking for the Homeless" on the memo line of your check or on an envelope. With your generous donations, along with a partnership with Martha's Pantry, we are able to provide 500 meals a month.



### Prayer Shawl Group

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.

### 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 August 10.





# August BIRTHDAYS

August 2 . . . . . Marjorie English

August 2 . . . . . Doris Fletcher

August 6 . . . . . Pat Sutherland

August 9 . . . . . Jan Schnabel

August 10 . . . . . Rachel Corey

August 10 . . . . . Scott Jones

August 16 . . . . . Angela Hill

August 24 . . . . . Tatumn Eversole

August 24 . . . . . Marilynn Jones

## *Special Concerns*

The Family of Joan Blair

Opal & Dwight Chapman

Steve Hitchens

The Family of Dorothea  
Johnson

Bob New

Connie Opper

Karen Owen

Gary Roberts

Kathy Woolley

