

The Link

September 2019



Dear Friends,

Jesus ate with everyone, including people who were marginalized by others. He ate with women and he welcomed children at his table. He ate with tax collectors, who were considered the worst kind of sinners because they collaborated with the empirical forces against their own people.

And, in the last meal he ate with his friends, Jesus shared food even with one who he knew would betray him to his death. As he did so, he offered words not of condemnation but of forgiveness and promise.

Here at Vancouver UCC, we practice an open table at communion. You do not have to follow any particular creed, or profess any specific beliefs to practice communion. You need only to seek the new life that comes in Christ to participate.

When we receive communion, we also receive the forgiveness that Christ promised, and we have the opportunity to extend that forgiveness to others. The first Sunday in September, we will receive communion around shared tables, reminding ourselves that communion is at its root communal.

Receiving communion is an opportunity to be grateful for those moments when we are especially

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Worship: Sundays 10 AM
Office Hours: Mon thru Thurs: 10 AM—2 PM
360-693-1476

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

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

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elizabeth@vanucc.org

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LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR CONTINUED

invited to brush up close to the holy. It is a chance to remember that throughout Christ's life, and even when he was close to death, he ate with those who were excluded by others. It is a place to grateful that even at the end Christ Jesus offered grace and forgiveness to all, including the one who betrayed him. Communion is more than an opportunity to receive Christ's grace and forgiveness with humility and gratitude. It is also an opportunity to extend those gifts to all in our congregation, in our community and in our world.

I look forward to sharing communion with you on Sunday, September 1. See you in church!

Blessings, Jennifer

Encountering Prayer—Beginning Sept 18

There's a new class on prayer this fall, beginning on September 18. We are so excited about this class. We've all had times when prayer seemed difficult, times when it felt like no one was listening. What did Paul mean when he said we should 'pray without ceasing' and how does anyone get any work done that way? Why did the disciples ask Jesus how to pray when they had been good Jews all their lives? Do Pastors ever struggle with prayer (the answer is 'yes!'). Let's explore prayer from a variety of wise sources.

We'll explore prayer in Psalms, listen to Bishop John Shelby Spong talk about prayer. We'll learn the value of new ways to pray by practicing them. We'll learn about prayer ... and we'll pray.

This is a 10 week class that meets on Wednesdays from 10-noon. You don't need to have taken any classes from us before. Everyone is welcome. Come join us! If you want to sign up, there's a list on the Event Table on Sundays or write to caroleelizabeth@comcast.net.

See you there! Carole Elizabeth and Adina Tarpley

Priceless 2020 – Need Stories and Small Group Hosts

We will soon begin our annual stewardship drive for financial pledges to operate our church in 2020. We will be reflecting on the PRICELESS moments and stories that describe what it means to be a part of this church community.

Do you have a "PRICELESS story" you can share in worship, video, or writing? Video may be posted to the church's Facebook page. Your written story can be anonymous if you so note. Contact Megan Dixon in person or email meganmaschmann@msn.com with the details if you have a story you want to share.

We are also recruiting people to host small groups in homes or at church October 27 through November 17 to talk about our PRICELESS church; now and in the future. If you can host a small group, contact Sandy Mathis in person or email sanjermathis@msn.com.

Thank you from your Stewardship Working Group.

COUNCIL MODERATOR'S UPDATE

A Note From Jeanie — Greetings from Long Beach, WA!

I write this as I listen to the ocean roar on our beautiful Washington coast. I'm here with friends for the International Kite Festival and for the reinvigoration I feel when I spend time in nature.

Our church has been active throughout the summer as we feed the spirit of individual members as well as serve in our community. I am grateful for our church's presence at the Pride Festival, serving meals to the homeless in our community, and for our support of immigrants and sharing our faith at the upcoming Peace and Justice Fair at Esther Short Park on September 14. August 18 we celebrated our new covenant with Martha's Pantry and the Metropolitan Community Church of the Good Shepherd. A huge thank you goes out to Leslie Chapman and her team for preparing and serving a delightful picnic lunch to all gathered. A wonderful article was featured in the Columbian, thanks to Ken Rowe. It is posted on the hall bulletin board along with Council minutes, Congregational meeting minutes and other events of interest to our community.

Our church was truly blessed with an amazing gift from the Naselle, WA church. Please see the article by Dan Schnabel. We are collecting member's dreams for using this financial treasure and we pray for guidance in its wise use. We are in the process of sending thank you gifts to the last members of that congregation.

Our council has approved a proposal for a youth director to serve as an extension of our Christian Education as well as lead activities for our older youth. As witnessed by the recent mission trip joyfully led by Pastor Jennifer and Randy Franklin, we have a large contingent of middle and high school youth who are involved and excited to learn more about our church. We are truly blessed to have such a large group of youth to minister. Jennifer and our Personnel Committee will ably interview and hire for this new position. The finance team is working to add this salary into our budget planning.

Another exciting group meeting this summer is a new Stewardship team. We have enthusiastic members to include all of our church community and a schedule for Stewardship as explained in the article on "Priceless" our 2020 campaign title.

Our Central Pacific Conference gathering is scheduled for September 27-29 in Forest Grove, OR. Delegates chosen include: Arlene Arnold, Steve Bloodworth, Pat Sutherland, and myself. Other members of the Stewardship planning team will attend a special workshop on giving generously all day Friday, September 27. Other members of the congregation are encouraged to attend the gathering but only the delegates will be able to vote on the conference business.

Please remember that the Council is your council! We had a heartfelt gathering in July that has helped us plan our mission to the whole church through 2020. 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

CONGREGATION NEWS

NASELLE UCC SHARES GIFT



On July 28, I shared the following presentation on behalf of the recently closed United Church of Christ in Naselle, Washington, where I served as pastor for the past 11 years, with the support and assistance of my wife, Jan.

“The Naselle United Church of Christ was organized in the early 1900’s as a Finnish Congregational Church, and later became part of the UCC, serving the Naselle area as a progressive Christian community for nearly 120 years.”

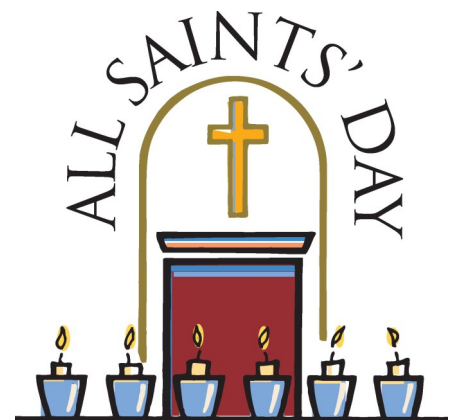
When it became necessary for me to retire as their pastor, (which was due to our declining health, increasing age, the encouragement of our children, and the troubling results of the 2016 election,) the remaining members of the congregation decided it was time for them to close their beloved Church. The formal closure took place this past January 13, at which time they donated the Church building to the local Finnish American organization to be used as a community center, to promote cultural and service programs to benefit the Naselle area. The remaining financial resources of the church are being shared with other local entities, to continue the legacy of caring and service which characterized that congregation throughout its history.

In addition, (and this is the good part for us), they wanted to extend their legacy through a sister United Church of Christ congregation, --perhaps one that had recently suffered a loss, say from a fire..., a congregation that had become the spiritual home for their beloved pastor and his wife..., but especially one that would promote the progressive Christian values that had informed their ministry over the years.

Therefore, on behalf of the remnant of those members, (who wanted to be here in person, but are unable, due to health and distance,) I am honored to present to the Vancouver United Church of Christ from the Naselle UCC, a check in the amount of 40,000 dollars, to be used as this congregation sees fit.” submitted by Dan Schnabel, at the invitation of the Moderator and Pastor

ALL SAINT’S DAY NOTICE

On November 3, 2019, we will hold the All Saint’s Day service remembering members and loved ones that have passed since the last All Saint’s Day service. This is a very meaningful service. **If you know someone that should be remembered in the ceremony that has passed the last year, please let the All Saint’s Day Committee know and that person will be recognized at the service.** If you have any questions, please contact us. Judy Walter, Ruth Hammer



CONGREGATION NEWS

Note From Ed Frank

THANKS
from the
HEART

This church has been a special blessing to me when I went through a very difficult time. Good bye to all of you, my friends.

Update From Ken Rowe: *"I spoke to Ed Frank on Thursday. He said that they were settling in. They have been busy getting their unit arranged. He commented that he was very impressed with the desserts, "you can't believe the dessert selections, chocolate pie, key lime pie, and other delicious desserts." He hasn't had time to organize card game or bean bag baseball.*

Because this is a relatively new facility, and it is not full, as of September 1 they are reducing the monthly charge to residents by \$500 a month."

He wanted me to be sure to that I said hello to everyone thank everyone for their generosity for the gift card.

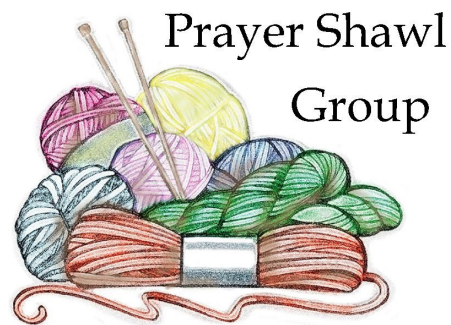
OASIS GROUPS

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 September 14.



Mary Jo Ebel Circle will meet Wed. September 18 at 11 am with a picnic at the Tony Agetar Memorial. Please bring a sack lunch and a lawn chair. Hope to see you there!



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.

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Sunday — August 4, 2019



John Bradley and Elias Martin



John Bradley and Elias Martin



Front, from L to R
Halley Care, Cindy McNally, Anne McNally



Elias Martin serving communion to
Wayne Fletcher

AROUND TOWN



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.

Northwest Regional Women's Retreat *Wade In Water*

November 1-3 at Oregon Gardens,
Silverton, Oregon

For more information about registration and workshops please visit the website www.nrwr.us

The Central Pacific Conference and Pacific NW Conference invite all women to come together at our regional retreat this fall. With the theme "Wade in the Water" to share renewal, spiritual growth and fellowship. Registration can be done online or by mail. The cost is \$175.



CHRISTOPHER AT THE OLD CHURCH

Lunchtime Concerts at the Old Church in Downtown Portland will present Dr. Schindler again on Wednesday, October 9. The concert begins at noon and is free to the public. Christopher will perform piano music of Bach, Fauré, Messiaen and Prokofiev.

Fall Clean Up Day to Beautify our Church Grounds

Clean-up days are scheduled for Friday, Sept. 20 and Saturday, Sept. 21 from 10 am-2 pm. A light lunch will be provided. Activities will include weeding, pruning, trimming, and garden cleanout. A sign-up sheet will be posted in Nettie Fries Lounge. For more info, please contact Chuck Foulke at 360-768-8687.



AROUND TOWN



Though Many Parts, We're One Body

2019 CPC Annual Gathering

September 27-29

Pacific University, Forest Grove OR

REGISTRATION FOR ANNUAL GATHERING IS NOW OPEN

Please consider attending!

<https://cpcucc.wufoo.com/forms/register-for-2019-cpc-annual-gathering>

ADULT - Full Registration = \$125, which includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and Saturday evening banquet.

ADULT - Saturday Only = \$100, which includes Saturday lunch and Saturday evening banquet.

YOUTH, 6th - 12th grade = \$75. Includes housing and meals.

CHILDREN - childcare available for kids through grade 5 = **FREE**

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
presents the

2019 Collins Summit

October 16 @ 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm

<https://emoregon.org/event/2019-collins-summit/>

ABOUT THE SUMMIT

Explore a method of listening at the margins of the global community and in our own lives in order to build resilience and resistance for these times.

In a world of increasing fear and violence, how can we build networks of resistance rooted in our spiritual traditions? A third wave of liberation theology turns to the lived experience of people already facing global violence as a testimony of life in the face of death. These communities draw on emerging and ancient spiritualities that grow out of their contexts. They also share wisdom for our own spirituality.



LISTENING AT THE MARGINS

Ancestral Wisdom,
Spiritual Resistance &
Hope in Times of Trauma

You are Invited

*25th Anniversary
Celebration*

LUTHERAN COMMUNITY
SERVICES NORTHWEST
VANCOUVER OFFICE

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2019

4:30 P.M.- 6:30 P.M.

REMARKS BEGIN AT 5:30

MIX AND MINGLE

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

The Historic Trust Red Cross Building
605 BARNES STREET VANCOUVER, WA 98661



Health. Justice. Hope.

Celebrate

WHERE WE
HAVE BEEN

Learn

WHO WE
ARE NOW

Dream

WHAT IS
NEXT

Dedication of the Labyrinth

Southridge Community of Christ

Sunday, September 8, 5 pm

You are invited to join us for a service of blessing and to walk our new labyrinth!

400 NE 179th Street, Ridgefield, WA 98642



September

BIRTHDAYS

September 2 Sharon Roberts

September 3 Barbara Ahola

September 5 Duane Woodworth

September 8 Dwight Chapman

September 10 Wayne Fletcher

September 13 Rebecca Lewis

September 14 Leslie Lu

September 17 Ruth Hammer

September 26 Joan Barber

September 28 Adina Tarpley

Special Concerns

The Family of Joan Blair

Opal & Dwight Chapman

Steve Hitchens

The Family of Dorothea
Johnson

Bob New

Connie Oppel

Karen Owen

Gary Roberts

Kathy Woolley

