



The Link

November 2019

Dear Friends,

Here are a few words to inspire you from *Mission Moments, United Church of Christ*.

Hold on to Faith

Surely the end is near. Violence runs rampant. Consumerism holds a culture in thrall.

The people listen to the words of the leaders and struggle to discern which are true. Sound familiar? As it was for the church in Thessalonica, so it is for us today.

But hear the voice of Jesus calling and saying, “I am the way.”

You may hear, my friends, that the end is near. You may hear that this one is the Messiah,

or that one is the Savior. Don’t let yourselves be stirred or shaken. Do not believe everything you hear or see. Be calm and discerning. Don’t let anyone fool you.

And listen for the voice of Jesus, calling and saying, “I am the way.”

You may be tempted to put your trust in this celebrity or that one,

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

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LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR CONTINUED

a certain candidate or the opposition, one charlatan or another.

These may seem to us to be gods, but they are not. God will reveal these exalted ones for who they truly are – flesh and blood like you and me. Just listen for the voice of Jesus, calling and say, “I am the way.”

How do we know the voice that we hear is indeed the voice of Christ? First of all, be grateful.

Give thanks to God whenever you can. Then, remember this. You are God’s beloved child.

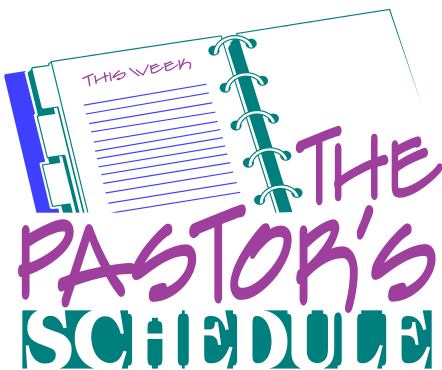
You are called for such a time as this. so stand firm in the truth.

Listen! the voice of Jesus, calling and say, “I am the way.”

Be comforted in your heart and be strong in your spirit, knowing that you are held in Christ’s embrace.

See you in church,

Jennifer



Connecting with Pastor Jennifer

Lots of my work takes me out of the building. If you are looking for me, I am in the office Monday and Wednesday from 10 am-2 pm and available Monday through Thursday for scheduled appointments and meetings.

We are learning and growing together in Bible study on Wednesday at noon or Spirituality group (first Mondays at 10:30 am and third Mondays at 7:00 pm) - drop by! You can also find me in the cloud by following me on Facebook. See you in church! Jennifer

MISSION AND OUTREACH

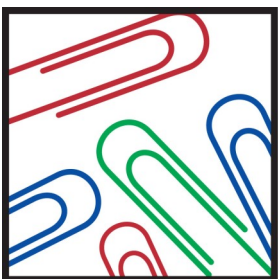


REFUGEE RESTART KITS

As an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation, we collaborate with our community partner Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW), the only federally funded refugee agency in Clark County, on special projects. 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 us 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, but the value of items must be recorded per regulations.)

Sign-up sheets for the Restart Kits will be available at church beginning November 17th. **Items are due on December 15 at church.** Gift cards can be delivered ahead of time in a clearly marked envelope. Questions? Contact Karen Kulm at lk.kulm@gmail.com.



Office Hours

While we usually here a little early and we often stay a little later — the official hours are: Monday through Thursday
10 am—2 pm

Please come to the upper entrance and we'll buzz you in!

COUNCIL MODERATOR'S UPDATE—NOTES FROM JEANIE FOR NOVEMBER 2019

Greetings and Blessings!

As we enter into that “most wonderful time of the year”. I’m reminded that what’s most important is to be grateful for ALL of my blessings! Pastor Carole Elizabeth reminded us in our “Encountering Prayer” class, we are called to bless everyone/everything around us. Hard as that may be for all aspects of our lives, the practice is a blessing in itself.

I was a blessed to represent our congregation at the Central Pacific Conference annual gathering in Forest Grove a few weeks ago. It was so inspiring to see and hear about the joys and projects the churches throughout Oregon, southwest Washington, and western Idaho. The work being done from the very smallest of churches to the largest congregations throughout our denomination is heart warming. We shared in small groups and listened with all of the group to leaders and especially to our newly elected conference minister, Rev. Tyler Connelly. He encouraged each of us to continue to “wonder”, to be receptive and listen to our community to really participate in both worship and activism.

You’re hearing more about our 2020 Stewardship campaign. The committee has been incredibly creative and thoughtful. Several members of the committee attended a special training as part of the CPC annual gathering. I participated in a short discussion and was very motivated to consider year round generosity as it applies to our church family. My “priceless” experiences at Vancouver UCC include treasured memories from my marriage in our sanctuary, my sons’ baptisms, Christian education, women’s fellowship and support during and following my husband’s death. I serve today as your moderator because of my devotion to the best of what we can be which I have experienced in immeasurable amounts.

Please welcome our new youth director, Bre Hanan. I am excited to expand our youth program both in Christian Education and Youth Groups to the older children in our congregation.

We are in the process of evaluating our new Council representative organization. Please contact the representatives of any group you participate in to offer feedback. We are preparing for the Congregational Meeting and elections to be held in January 2020. Leslie Chapman will have completed the full terms allowed under our bylaws as our clerk. We thank Leslie for her work beyond the call of duty in that position for many years. If you are interested in being the clerk for our council, please contact me. It is a fun way to get involved in the Council especially if you are an avid note taker (like I am!).

Please remember that the Council is your council! We are in the process of organizing an all church retreat to work together with the whole congregation. This is an exciting opportunity for everyone to be involved in our future planning to “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.

Breathe in Love, Breathe out Gratitude!

Jeanie Beary Stolle

Jtstolle@comcast.net

CONGREGATION NEWS



Stewardship Drive

Over the next few weeks, you will be hearing about the church's budget needs for 2020 and the things that make our church **PRICELESS**. By early November, you should receive **a letter and a pledge form** to return to the Financial Secretary with your commitment. If you don't receive it, or you need a replacement, please contact the church office. **Small group gatherings** are planned to provide more detailed information and to answer your questions, beginning on October 29th. You may sign up for a gathering after church or contact Sandy Mathis at sanjermathis@msn.com. **Several people will be sharing** in various ways what it means to be part of this **PRICELESS** community. The Stewardship Drive will end with a **Celebration and Thanksgiving** program and meal after worship on November 24.

Date, Time, Host & Location

Wednesday, Nov 6, 2 pm
Ed & Claudia Martin
Clawson Corner

Sunday, Nov 10, 11 am
Arlene Arnold
Clawson Corner

Tuesday, Nov 12, 2 pm
Virginia Dunbar

Sunday, Nov 17, 11 am
Ruth Hammer
Clawson Corner

Thanksgiving Dinner



Following our worship service on Sunday, November 24, 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.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS



Meet **Amy Cresto**! She loves to cook! Ah we have some great opportunities in that direction.

She's also a marathon runner. Last year, she ran a half-marathon, the 10-mile Couve Clover run, and the Hood to Coast Relay. You go girl! She and her husband have a site at Camper's Hideaway at Lake Merwin. They are close to lake so they can fish, kayak, and just enjoy the view.

Amy collects Princess Diana memorabilia. A great way to be reminded about how our lives can make a difference. Amy loves dogs? Currently, they have a little dog, Pupp, a female dachshund. I'm looking forward to getting to know Amy better at the upcoming women's retreat! We're so glad you are a part of our church, Amy. Arlene Arnold

Bob New son of Kathleen New and brother of Fred New, was baptized in our church as a youngster. He attended Warner Pacific College as a music major, where he met his wife, Marilyn. (They have 1 daughter and 1 grandson.) He graduated Portland State in computer science and then went on to receive his masters in computer science from U. of Washington. He worked as a software engineer for 35 years. His hobbies include: music, photography and a research project. (He is trying to make computers understand the human language). He is a "techy"!

Jennifer Garrison Brownell grew up in the Midwest in a family with several generations of ministers as mentors. She earned a masters of divinity from Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry. She has been our pastor since November 2015, leading us through fire, tent worship and back into the light of our reimagined sanctuary. Before this, she served churches in SW Portland and Seattle. Besides being our pastor, she is an author, including contributing to the UCC Daily Devotionals; is "mom" to son, Elijah, and partner of Rev. Tara Wilkins.

Please welcome **Brenda Orique**. If you have met Brenda before you know she introduces herself with Brenda Orique and Orique rhymes with Unique. Brenda was born in the San Joaquin Valley near Fresno and lived in California until she retired. She spent 40 years as primary school teacher with over 30 of those years in Lake Tahoe, California. About ten years ago, Brenda took a vacation to the Portland area and decided to cross the river and visit Vancouver. She decided then that she would eventually retire to Vancouver. Two years ago, Brenda moved to Ridgefield. As she was at the realtor office to sign house papers, she saw a rainbow over the office and knew she was home. Brenda found our church by reading about our journey after the fire. She was impressed to learn how we refused to let the fire stop us. She visited our website and loved that we were a congregation that welcomed all. That was something she was looking for in her new church. On her first visit to church, she knew it was the right place because Jennifer opened the service talking about all being welcome. Please take the time to get to know this unique lady Brenda Orique.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Marilyn New—We are blessed to have Marilyn in our congregation! She and her husband, Bob, have been married for 43 years and are the proud parents of Aimee, and grandparents of Sam. Last summer Marilyn shared with us a hint of her passion for art when she displayed her calligraphy and handmade books. In her books, Marilyn modifies paper before transforming it through calligraphy and artistic embellishments. They are truly one-of-a-kind works of art! That artistry was honed over the years as a practicing artist as well as calligraphy teacher at PCC. In addition to paper arts, Marilyn is an avid knitter and crocheter (she's currently working on a shawl) and musician. She plays several instruments and sings - if you are lucky, she might share with you her favorite hymn, *Be Thou My Vision*. And, her secret power is being an animal whisperer. She once owned a mustang named Socks and was known to be a good horsewoman and cattle herder. Please take a moment and get to know Marilyn - you won't be disappointed!



Special Concerns

Joan Barber
The Family of Joan Blair
The Chapman Family
Wayne Fletcher
Steve Hitchens
Janet Hunter

Jean Matthews
Sue Rush
Connie Oppel
Karen Owen
Gary Roberts
Kathy Woolley

OASIS GROUPS

Cooking for the Homeless Oasis Group

We have a great group of volunteers who gather every week to cook meals that Dave Slocum and Judy Enders take out on Sunday evening to serve to those less fortunate than us in the community. Currently, they are serving a hot meal for about 125 people every single Sunday as well as 40-50 more breakfasts at the day shelter on Wednesdays. We are making the dinners for them to serve right here at church. We would like to invite you to join us if you would like to contribute to this valuable program. With our partnership with Martha's Pantry we are able to access food so that our weekly cost to make all of this delicious food runs about \$15.00 per week (that's 12 cents per meal). If you are unable to help us cook, we would welcome any donations to help offset the cost. Simply put your donation in the offering plate marked for Cooking for the Homeless. For further information, contact Leslie at 360-910-0020 or email haydnmacgrandma@gmail.com.

Our schedule for the rest of this year is ...

Monday's from 10:00 am to noon

November 11

November 25

December 9

December 23

Wednesday's from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

November 6

November 20

December 4

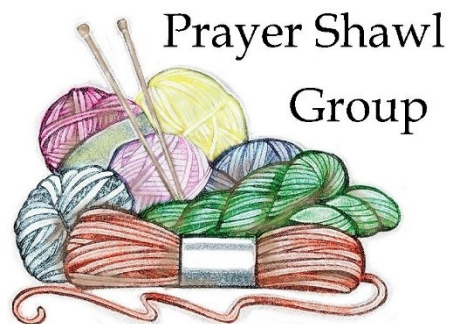
December 18

Mary Jo Ebel Circle will meet Wednesday, November 20, 1-3 pm in Clawson Corner.



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 November 9.



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

Bre Hanan has joined us as our new Youth Coordinator and is excited about supporting the middle and high schoolers of our community. What we're rolling out soon: monthly service projects for youth to support the local community, Sunday school, and youth groups (middle school and high school will each have their own group). In October we had our long awaited Zipline adventure at Skamania Lodge and it was a blast.





November

BIRTHDAYS

November 2 Marilyn Martinyak
November 4 Daryl DeSilva
November 13 Breanna Hanan
November 13 Gertie Hettman
November 16 Tyler Corey
November 16 Joanie Nelson
November 18 Opal Chapman
November 19 Randall Franklin
November 20 Shirley Brandenburg
November 20 Oliver Holden
November 22 Natalie Cantrell
November 25 Claudia Martin
November 26 Patty Todd
November 29 Jack Corey
November 29 David Harrington

