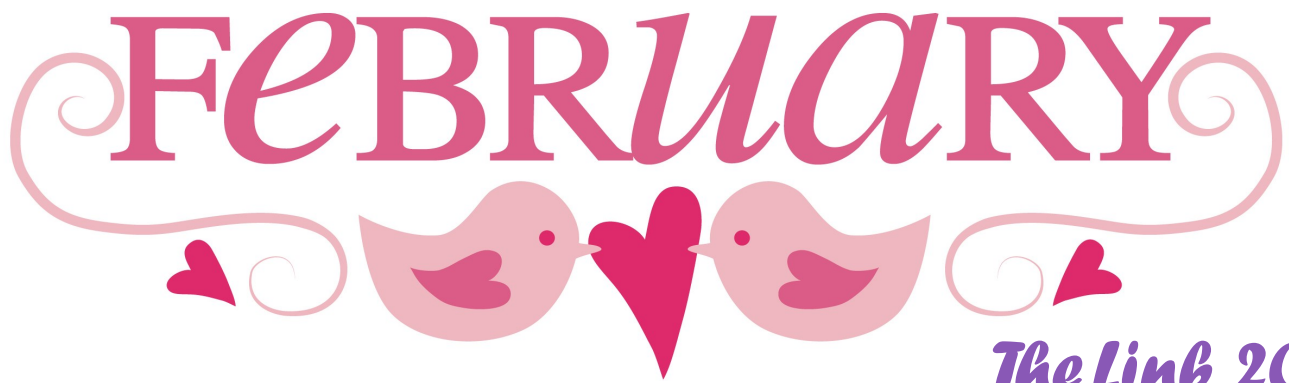


# FEBRUARY



*The Link* 2020



Dear Ones,

More than twenty centuries ago, a writer named Tertullian described his Christian community and what made them distinct from the people around them. The group's money, he wrote, was collected and used "to support and bury poor people, to supply the wants of boys and girls destitute of means and parents, and of old persons confined now to the house; such, too, as have suffered shipwreck; and if there happen to be any in the mines or banished to the islands or shut up in the prisons...But it is mainly the deeds of a love so noble that lead many to put a brand upon us. See, they say, how they love one another (for they themselves are animated by mutual hatred). See, they say about us, how they are ready even to die for one another (for they themselves would sooner kill)."

From the very earliest days of Christianity, care for one another and for those who suffer the most in our communities has been, as Tertullian said, our "brand." No matter how the communities around us behave toward one another, as Christians we have been called to be different - and that difference is shown by our love for each other and how that love is enacted in directly caring for one another.

*continued...*

Vancouver  
United Church  
of Christ



Worship: Sundays 10 AM  
[www.vanucc.org](http://www.vanucc.org)—[info@vanucc.org](mailto:info@vanucc.org)

#### **Office Hours**

Tues-Thurs: 10 AM—2 PM

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Garrison Brownell  
[Jennifer@vanucc.org](mailto:Jennifer@vanucc.org)

Building Coordinator: Leslie Chapman  
[Leslie@vanucc.org](mailto:Leslie@vanucc.org)

Office Admin: Elizabeth Spannring  
[Elizabeth@vanucc.org](mailto:Elizabeth@vanucc.org)

## LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR CONTINUED...

For many years here at Vancouver UCC, our care for each other was led by the Deacons. Deacons are an ancient part of Christian life, too, described in the Bible as those who serve the community with acts of caring, generosity and love. In ancient days, as in ours, Deacons were held in high esteem and had an important leadership role in the congregation, perhaps because they exemplified the Christian “brand” of loving care.

The Deacons are vital to our life as a congregation. Do you know someone who you think would be a faithful deacon? Or maybe you feel called to serve in this role of caring and leadership? During Lent (this year, the month of March) Tom Yates and I will teach a class together from the United Church of Christ, “*Called To Care*” that will prepare and support those who wish to take on the joy and responsibility of becoming a deacon, so that we may continue to show the world “how they love one another.” Registration for the class, which will be every Sunday in March from 7-8:30 pm, will open during February. Please pray about this opportunity and let me or Tom know if you are interested.

See you in church!

Pastor Jennifer

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### Your 2020 Church Officers and Council Representatives



Moderator: Jean Beary Stolle, [jtstolle@comcast.net](mailto:jtstolle@comcast.net)  
Moderator Elect: Brenda Houchen, [brenda.houchen@yahoo.com](mailto:brenda.houchen@yahoo.com)  
Past Moderator: Vacant  
Clerk: Dori Abernathy, [stinkie62@gmail.com](mailto:stinkie62@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Steve Bloodworth, [steve@vanucc.org](mailto:steve@vanucc.org)  
Financial Secretary: Jan Foulke, [jfoulke44@gmail.com](mailto:jfoulke44@gmail.com)



Position 1: Chuck Foulke, [cfoulke17@gmail.com](mailto:cfoulke17@gmail.com)  
Position 2: Karen Kulm, [lk.kulm@gmail.com](mailto:lk.kulm@gmail.com)  
Position 3: Eric Pykonen, [eric@pykonen.com](mailto:eric@pykonen.com)  
Position 4: Gina Marquardt, [ginajohn96@yahoo.com](mailto:ginajohn96@yahoo.com)  
Position 5: Allison Kocher, [ankocher76@gmail.com](mailto:ankocher76@gmail.com)  
Position 6: Ken Rowe, [kenerowe@msn.com](mailto:kenerowe@msn.com)  
Position 7: Pat Sutherland, [pesuther@msn.com](mailto:pesuther@msn.com)

## COUNCIL MODERATOR'S UPDATE—NOTES FROM JEANIE FOR FEBRUARY 2020



My heart filled with joy following the positive response at the Annual Congregational meeting. No comments were

made about further budget cuts, only faith expressed that we can meet the financial budget which pledges fell short of meeting. There were even immediate offerings to fund our budget. The final result of the vote gives us a budget for the first quarter of the year, to be addressed further into the new year. Thank you all for attending the meeting, approving the slate of officers and voting to fund our 2020 budget.

We offer sincere gratitude to the officers who are leaving our Council this month. Rev. Dr. Tom Yates spent many years as our Vice Moderator, Moderator and finally the last 6 months as our Past Moderator. His calm devotion to our church has been a rich blessing to us. Richard Trefren is handing over the reigns of Treasurer to Steve Bloodworth. Steve has been attending Council meetings and meeting with Richard to provide a smooth transition. Richard served many terms as Treasurer and now deserves some time off!

Leslie Chapman is our all around "church support system" wrapped up as our "go to" person. She is ending several terms as our Clerk and is spending more time as our

building monitor and supplying extra support in the office. Dori Abernathy will be taking over as Clerk of our Council. If you ever want examples of loving volunteers you have it in these individuals!

We have a group meeting now to set procedures and gather ideas for the use of our generous \$40,000 gift from the Naselle church dissolution. Brian Fick and Chuck Foulke have agreed to chair this group. Other members include: Jerry Mathis, Daryl DeSilva, Bert Martin, Rev. Dan Schnabel, Eric Pykonen, Brenda Gaston, Pastor Jennifer and myself. We are hoping to have some options to present to the Congregation at the All Church Retreat on February 29.

Please plan on attending the retreat to re-imagine our mission as we spend the day together. Please remember that the Council is YOUR council! Meeting minutes are always posted on the church bulletin board and all officers and representatives look forward to receiving any feedback you might have. Together, we are the body of Christ, doing the work 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. May the Lord help us to always give with Love.

Blessed and Blessings all,  
Jeanie Jean Beary Stolle  
[Jtstolle@comcast.net](mailto:Jtstolle@comcast.net)

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

### February Special Offering is the WHO Shelter

Each winter, St. Paul Lutheran Church hosts the Winter Overflow Shelter (WHO) for men 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 weeks of service with Kol Ami on February 20-23 and March 4-8. Please speak to Karen Kulm or Dave Slocum if you have any questions.



### Volunteer Now

The cold weather has kept the WHO shelters full with overflow beds. Please donate men’s socks, gloves, hats, thermals, and underwear. You can give your donations to Dave Slocum at church.

**Sign up now for WHO.** Once again we are partnering with our friends at Kol Ami to host at the St. Paul Lutheran Church site men’s shelter. Sue Meyer (Kol Ami) and Karen Kulm (VanUCC) are the Coordinators.

If you sign up now, you can get your preferred “job” as a host, or a food or supply provider. Remember, mature youth 10 and above can sign up to help – 1 youth per adult.

**New this year:** Instead of 1 volunteer week, we are scheduled for 2 half-weeks. The dates are: Feb. 20 to the morning of Feb. 23 and March 4 to the morning of March 8. If you are a seasoned “veteran” please invite a new person to serve with you and share in this meaningful experience. Volunteering is easier than ever this year by using SignUp.

### Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. **Click this link** to go to our invitation page on SignUp: <https://signup.com/go/pqqfCYV>

**Make sure the calendar is** on February or March to find the shifts available during our shared week shifts.

2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp.)

3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots. **Make sure to save and confirm.** SignUp will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy! Note: SignUp does not share your email address with anyone. Need more information? Speak to Dave Slocum or Karen Kulm. Here is a link to the WHO Volunteer Information: <http://whoprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/WHO-2019-Intro-JS.pdf>



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH



The month of February is a time of reflection of history; a tribute to those who have overcome suffering and injustice; and praise for a powerful and sustaining God. From the Amistad to the presidency, the United Church of Christ is forever entwined in the history of a people who stood with courage and pushed forward with faith. The Church House honors this rich legacy each February through worship, education and events. Join us in celebrating an empowering history that defines us not only as people of color but as people of faith.



### View a Documentary

In his new six-hour PBS series, [Africa's Great Civilizations](#), Henry Louis Gates, Jr. takes a new look at the history of Africa, from the birth of humankind to the dawn of the 20th century. This is a breathtaking and personal journey through two hundred thousand years of history, from the origins, on the African continent, of art, writing and civilization itself, through the millennia in which Africa and Africans shaped not only their own rich civilizations, but also the wider world. Check your local PBS station for times. Also available on [iTunes](#) and [Amazon](#).

## AROUND TOWN

### INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAY

Faith Action Network's **Interfaith Advocacy Day** in Olympia brings to our elected leaders the voice of compassion and justice. On Interfaith Advocacy Day, you will be able to:

- Join workshops that will break down the issues on FAN's 2020 Legislative Agenda
- Learn how to most effectively advocate in today's legislature
- Meet with advocates from your legislative district to prepare for your legislative visits
- Meet with your legislator! Once you register, FAN will set up an appointment for you and others from your district

FAITH ACTION NETWORK  
A Partnership for the Common Good

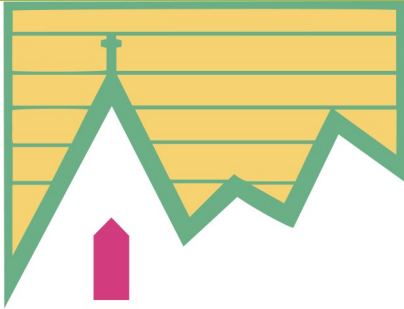
Interfaith Advocacy Days 2020

Spokane - January 25  
Olympia - February 6  
Yakima - February 8

Join advocates in your legislative district to bring voices of compassion and justice to our elected officials

(206) 625-9790 | fan@fanwa.org | www.fanwa.org

## UPDATE FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY



# Church FINANCES

Several members have approached me asking why our pledge income is lower this year.

On the plus side we had seven new pledges totaling \$10,260, and 37 pledges were increased by \$17,680.

We lost \$2,380 from pledges that went down, and lost \$37,482 from people who pledged in 2019, but did not pledge in 2020. That left us with a deficit of \$19,662.

I wish to appeal to those that are financially able, to consider submitting your pledge, or increasing your pledge to your church.

Jan Foulke, Your Financial Secretary

### 2019 Year-End Statements

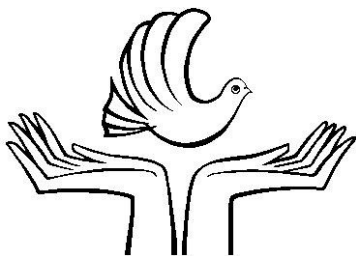
Statements showing contributions to the church in 2019 were emailed/mailed on January 24.

Please check your statement against your own records. If you didn't receive your statement or have questions, please contact Jan Foulke, Financial Secretary, at 360-787-8832.



## OASIS GROUPS

**Spirituality Group** meets on the 2nd & 4th



Tuesdays of the month. The 2nd Tuesday meeting is at 7:00 pm and the 4th Tuesday meeting is at 10:30

am. We are meeting in Clawson Corner and look forward to seeing all who wish to attend. Questions? Please contact Ray Jones.

**Mary Jo Ebel Circle** meets on the 3rd Wed. of the month in Clawson Corner. Please contact Beverly Crossman for more info.

**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 information.

**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 February 8.



### **Webpage Design Help Needed!**

The Vancouver UCC Communications Team is looking for someone with knowledge and experience in website design and development. This individual would be asked to work with the communications team during the development phase, and to help the church transition to a new website design and webpage management system. This could be a short-term position, however someone with these web development skills would also be a welcome addition to the communications team's ongoing work. Interested? Please contact Ken Rowe or Richard Trefren.



### **All Church Visioning Retreat**

February 29, 9 am-3 pm

Here in our beautifully re-imagined space. Lunch provided. All ages.

Where are we heading as a congregation?  
What are our passions and hopes - collectively and as individuals?

How can we live out those passions and hopes in the world? Join us for a day of imagining and visioning.



### ***Special Concerns***

Joan Barber  
Opal Chapman  
Carole Elizabeth  
Wayne Fletcher  
Brenda Gaston  
Steve Hitchens  
Janet Hunter

Jerry Mathis  
The family of Jean Matthews  
Connie Oppel  
Karen Owen  
Gary Roberts  
Sue Rush  
Kathy Woolley



# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

## *February 2020*

**Sunday, February 2**

Ground Hog Day

**Wednesday, February 26**

Ash Wednesday

**Friday, February 14**

Valentine's Day

**Saturday, February 29**

All Church Retreat

**Monday, February 17**

President's Day Observed

