



APRIL

The Link 2020



Earlier this week, our conference minister Rev. Tyler Connolley wrote: *"We now know we'll probably be under "Stay Home Stay Safe" orders during Easter. Will we be able to worship in person on Pentecost? I certainly hope so, but I don't know.*

In the meantime, I find myself holding my breath as I listen to the news. I'm not sleeping as well as I did three weeks ago. As an extravert, I'm feeling the loss of some of the practices that keep me mentally healthy, like social dancing and group meditation.

This is hard. The work we're all doing to slow the spread of coronavirus is hard work. If you're tired, that's because what you're doing these days is

"tough as toenails," as my Aunt Becki would say.

Usually, when we're asked to love our neighbors, we do things that feel good and that have immediate observable results. Not now. In this moment, we're being asked to love our neighbors by disrupting our lives, and we can't see the good we're doing. All we see is the disruption, and the daily barrage of bad news and spreading illness. We have no way of gauging how bad things would have been if we weren't staying at home, because we can't see into that alternate timeline.

Please know that you're doing God's work in this time. By gathering on Zoom, calling your members in assisted living facilities, wrangling the kids, eating PBJ sandwiches—and in all the things you're doing right now to physically distance yourself from others—you are loving your neighbors. Keep it up."

Continued...

Vancouver
United Church
of Christ



Join us for services on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/vanucc/>

www.vanucc.org—info@vanucc.org

Office Hours

The office is currently closed

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

Building Coordinator: Leslie Chapman
Leslie@vanucc.org

Office Admin: Elizabeth Spanning
Elizabeth@vanucc.org

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR CONTINUED...

I am so grateful that he named the biggest difficulty of this time. It's so hard to know if the kind of helping we are being advised to engage in during pandemic is really helping. We are, all of us, acting without being sure of the outcome. Truly, I can't think of a more powerful feeling to carry into Holy Week than this. The crowd yearning for a Messiah. The anger of Jesus in the temple. The betrayal over a family meal. The despair of the crucifixion and the silence that followed. The women going early to the tomb carrying spices to anoint the dead, only to encounter the Living Christ. Confusion, uncertainty and fear were all powerfully present during those days. And yet, so were faith, community and hope. We will make space for all the paradoxes of this week in our communications and virtual gatherings during this time.

Watch your inbox for a daily reading and meditation during Holy Week, April 5-12.

As for Holy Week worship, we will celebrate Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday worship, and Easter Sunday virtually this year. All of these worship experiences will be available on Facebook Live. We are working now on making sure people without Facebook accounts can also stay connected to the community in this way. Watch for more information coming soon!

Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday with virtually real communion. Bring your own bread or cracker and your own juice to your computer this day as we share communion with each other.

Thursday, April 9 – Maundy Thursday

7 pm - A solemn tenebrae service of prayer, which recounts the Easter story, ending in darkness.

Sunday April 12 - Easter

6:30 am - Sunrise service with Bridgeport United Church of Christ. Bring a candle to your computer to join Rev. Tara and I during this quiet and gentle service of worship.

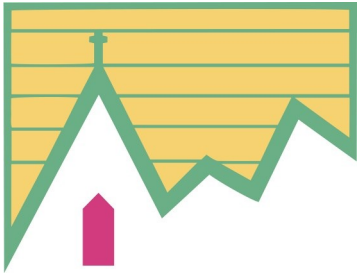
10:00 am - A more festive celebration of worship, celebrating the mystery and joy of resurrection.

Now, more than ever, we need the rituals of our faith. I look forward to "seeing" you soon!
Blessings, Jennifer

Old Laptop Computers Needed With so much church activity taking place online, I'm initiating a project to re-purpose older laptop computers to be made available to people who currently don't have access to computers or smart phones. We can install a basic operating system and easy to use shortcuts for Zoom, Facebook Live and Email, then deliver them to people who can't currently connect with church activities. If you have an older laptop with a webcam that you no longer need (pc, mac or chromebook), please let me know. Also, if you are somewhat tech savvy and want to help with this project, please let me know. You can call me (360-883-8812), send me an email (trefren@comcast.net), or text me (360-910-1513). Thanks for your help!
Richard Trefren

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Update from your Financial Secretary



As of the middle of March, we have a 2020 pledge total of \$210,500.

This leaves us with a shortage of \$6,500 to meet our 2020 budget. Thank you to all of you who have given extra already.

Church FINANCES

I wish to appeal to those that are financially able to consider submitting your pledge, or increasing your pledge to your church. Checks can be mailed to the church; or you can have your financial institution send checks.

These are trying times and your church is here to help you through. We are all in this together.

Jan Foulke, Your Financial Secretary

CALLING ALL GARDENERS AND LANDSCAPERS



A D O P T A Flower Bed

Your help is needed! We are looking for volunteers to help maintain the landscape around the church grounds and to work in the church garden. The

landscape work begins now and runs through October. The garden work will begin in June and runs through September.

If you are able to help in any way please contact Chuck Foulke at cfoulke17@gmail.com or by phone at 360-768-8687.

From Your Stewardship Team

One priceless benefit of working with the Stewardship Team is having more opportunities to reflect deeply on what stewardship means and the personal reasons we give financially to our church.

Gary Roberts recently joined the Stewardship Team and shared his thoughts about giving. His personal testimony inspired us and Gary agreed to share it with you in written form as shown below:

“Sharon’s and my stewardship isn’t primarily about supporting a church’s budget. It’s closer to a desire to leave the world a better place than the one we inherited. Although that’s partly about money, it’s far more as well. Still, the unique thing about giving to our church (compared to Habitat, Amnesty International, Friends of the Carpenter, etc.) is that it requires us to let go of the control of “our” money. And we really need to loosen that grip, that obsessing, about money. Otherwise, the pursuit and hoarding of money can become the source of our security and the focus of our lives.

That’s why we’ve pledged to the churches we’ve belonged to. Sometimes we’ve disliked the music, or a sermon, or some of the people, but those are not reasons to withhold our pledge. In our retirement, we are almost tithing our fixed income, and are double-tithing our investments via our estate plan. Not because VUCC, its pastor, or missional commitments are perfect—they’re more human than that. It’s an act of worship, an investment in a better world, and a way of living without letting money become a god before the God we worship – ultimately the source of all the blessings in our life.”—Gary Roberts

We encourage you to reflect on the reasons you give financially to our church. Talk to others about these reasons and you may inspire them. Stewardship Team: Arlene Arnold, Jan Foulke, Gary Roberts, Richard Trefren, & Sandy Mathis

MISSION AND OUTREACH



Martha's Pantry, our building partner, has been serving clients with HIV/AIDS and their families since 1984. Clients are referred by Case Management. However, no one who is in need is ever turned away. Food products are available to everyone in the community.

With the new Covid-9 guidelines, the pantry has adjusted, and the need for donations is greater than ever. Volunteers are providing parking lot service to customers by having customers fill out an order form, then "shopping" for the customer and bringing the order to the car.

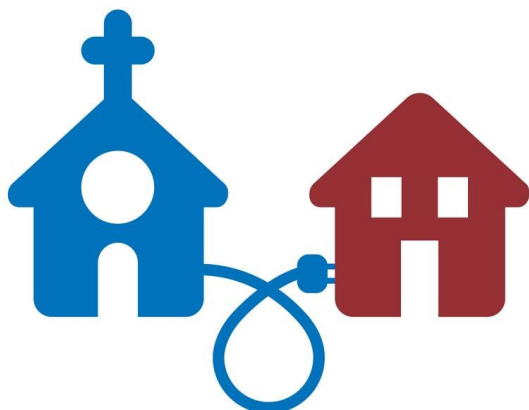
Referred client hours are: Tuesdays 10AM – 1PM

General public hours are: Thursdays 4PM – 7PM

To donate, please write your check out to our church and note "Martha's Pantry" in the memo line.

To volunteer your time, please call 360-695-1480. They are especially in need of volunteers on Thursdays.

CONNECTING



Circles of Care

In this unprecedented time, we are taking actions to stay as connected as we can, and *Circles of Care* is an important part of that covenant of connection. We are putting together groups called *Circles of Care* from Vancouver UCC that can check in on one another throughout this crisis and provide mutual support to each other.

We are hoping to decrease isolation, and to make sure that everyone is getting their

spiritual and personal care needs met. This is an evolving situation and we don't know yet what the needs will be. But for the moment, we are imagining we will check on each other regularly by phone to decrease isolation, run errands or offer other help to each other, or pray for each other or share other spiritual care practices.

If you would like to be part of a Circle of Care and have not received a call from another church member about a group forming in your neighborhood, please email jennifer@vanucc.org.

COUNCIL MODERATOR'S UPDATE—NOTES FROM JEANIE FOR APRIL 2020



I took this photo as I left the church following our last worship service in the building on March 8. I was transfixed by the winged creature perched on our cross and felt a sense of presence that we were being watched over, a very comforting feeling. I share it with you now as a reminder that even in these very unusual and frightening times, we are not alone, we are always in the presence of the God's loving care. As our second stent in exile in just a few years, we can prove again that we are the church with or without a building!

Our council has banded together meeting frequently in the last month. We had a very productive meeting shortly after the retreat and worked on summarizing the parts of our created tree from that gathering. We are in the process of compiling the priorities for the future that we will be presenting to the congregation.

Obviously, we've had to change how we meet and our priorities for the next month or so. We

took the warnings seriously about physical distancing and are only meeting via technology since the 14th. We know how critical it is to remain socially and spiritually connected so hope you are taking advantage of the Sunday Facebook Live worship meditations as well as Pastor Jennifer's Facebook Prayer Practices during the weekdays. We know not everyone is able to access social media and that is being addressed in our "Called To Care" group meetings weekly with Tom Yates and Jennifer. I am very pleased with the response of members willing to facilitate small circles of care during these trying times. We will have more information and follow up soon.

The Council decided to continue to pay all of our staff in the interim and keep up maintenance of the building. That means we still have bills to pay and want everyone to continue sending in their pledges. Our finance staff is monitoring the mail and electronic transactions weekly so we can keep our obligations up to date.

Please remember that the Council is YOUR council! You are invited to attend our meetings as a guest even via Zoom at this time. Meeting minutes are also posted on the bulletin board and may be requested in the interim. Please keep our officers and representatives aware of your concerns and needs in our community.

Let the hawk in this photo remind you that we are not alone in our "isolation". We are beloved children of God! We will take this Lenten season more seriously and celebrate our risen Christ, even if not in our beautiful building!

Blessed and Blessings all, Jeanie
Jean Beary Stolle Jtstolle@comcast.net

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

WE HAVE A WINNER!

Even though the St. Patrick's Day potluck was cancelled, three people posted their hats on Facebook: Jeanie Beary Stolle, Leslie Chapman, and Kaiya Crosby. Ultimately, the winner was Kaiya for her unique St. Patrick's Day creation! Thank you all for your participation, and be thinking of what masterpiece you can come up with for next year. ----Nancy Fite, membership



Congratulations, Kaiya!!!
Kaiya is the daughter of
Shannon Willis and Mike
Waszazak.



Jeannie Beary Stolle



Leslie Chapman: Mine is a flashing headband
because hats are too hot and I was going to
be serving food.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 3. Trent Corey	April 19 Leslie Chapman
April 3. Robert Haverkate	April 20 Dori Abernathy
April 4 Arlene Arnold	April 22 Angel Caraballo
April 4 Rebekah Martin	April 22 Anne McNally
April 5 Patti Jones	April 26 Karsten Cowles
April 12. Jerry Mathis	April 29 Ed Martin
April 13 Shirl Zent	April 30 Pam Osborne

Special Concerns

Joan Barber
Jeremy Chapman
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

THINGS TO DO WHILE PHYSICAL DISTANCING



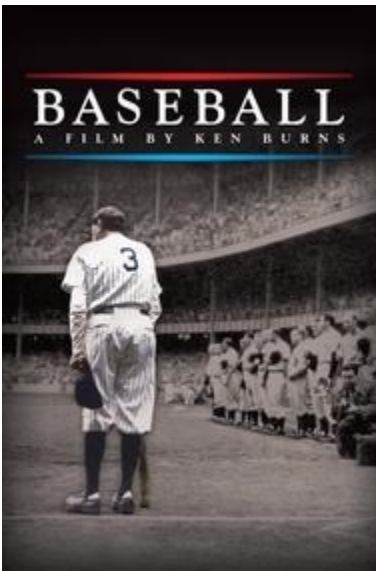
NFL Game Pass is offering complimentary access until 5/31/2020. You can replay NFL games from 2009-2019.

<https://gamepass.nfl.com/packages?redirected=true>

If you don't already have one, you'll have to create a NFL account; no credit card info is required.

PBS is reshowing "Baseball, A Film by Ken Burns."

<https://www.pbs.org/show/baseball/>



popular culture, and the unfolding of the national pastime."

"The story of Baseball is the story of America. It is an epic overflowing with heroes and hopefuls, scoundrels and screwballs. It is a saga spanning the quest for racial justice, the clash of labor and management, the transformation of



<https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams>



TUNE IN TO A WEB CAM

Be delighted by the antics of our sea otters or mellow out to the hypnotic drifting of our jellies. With ten live cams to choose from, you can experience the wonder of the ocean no matter where you are.

The Metropolitan Opera

Nightly Opera Streams, March 30–April 5

New York's Metropolitan Opera House will broadcast events as part of its "Live in HD" series. They'll start at 7:30 p.m. ET and be available on the homepage, metopera.org, for 20 hours.



GROCERY STORES WITH SPECIAL HOURS FOR SENIORS AND OTHER AT RISK SHOPPERS

Here are a few local grocery stores advertising special hours for Seniors and other at risk shoppers. Please note that Costco and WinCo may meter the number of shoppers allowed in the store at one time. Check out store websites and Facebook pages to keep current with store hours and days.

ROSAUERS
SUPERMARKETS



Senior and At-Risk Shopping Days

Tuesday, **Wednesday**, and Thursday | 7 am - 9 am

Safeway and Albertson's stores across the state are expanding their 'senior' hours to 6-9 am on Tues & Thurs and also installing temporary check-stand plexiglass "sneeze guards".



Special shopping hours for customers who are pregnant, have a comprised immune system or are 60 and older. 8 am-10 am Tues & Thurs.

Fred Meyer

Exclusive Shopping for Seniors 60 & Older
7am–8am: Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs.

WinCo
FOODS

SENIOR HOURS & EMPLOYEES, TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Effective the week of March 21st, 2020, WinCo will offer a temporary special shopping hour for Seniors (60+), Vulnerable Populations and WinCo Employee Owners from 6-7:30AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please observe social distancing guidelines.

Please note that entry into the store may be metered to allow for social distancing and to follow guidelines. This means that you may experience a wait in line before being able to enter the store, please dress accordingly for possible time outside and observe social distancing at all times, including while in line.

COSTCO
WHOLESALE

SPECIAL OPERATING HOURS* FOR MEMBERS AGES 60 OR OLDER

Until further notice, Costco warehouses will open from 8 to 9 am Tuesday through Thursday for members ages 60 and older, and for those with physical impairments. The pharmacy will be open, but the Costco Food Court will be closed during these hours.

Takeout and Delivery List from the Vancouver Chamber of Commerce

(Last updated: March 25, 2020)

Barlow's Public House | barlowsbrewery.com
Be Well Juice Bar | bewelljuicebar.com
Beaches Restaurant & Bar | beachesrestaurantandbar.com
Big Town Hero | bigtownhero.com
Billygan's Roadhouse | billygansroadhouse.com
BrickHouse Bar & Grill | vancouverbrickhouse.com
Burgerville USA | burgerville.com
Café Yumm! - Cascade Park Plaza | www.cafeyumm.com/cascade-park-plaza
Camas Meadows Golf Club | <http://www.camasmeadows.com>
Carol's Corner | facebook.com/CarolsCornerCafeVancouver
Chandelier Bakery | chandelierbakery.net
Chick-fil-A Cascade Park | vancouvercfa.com
Chuck's Produce & Street Market | chucksproduce.com
Crave Grille | cravegrille.com
Delish Thai Restaurant | delishthai.business.site
Dulin's Cafe | dulinscafe.com
Elements | elementsvancouver.com
Firehouse Subs | firehousesubs.com
Foode Cafe & Catering | foodefresh.com
Gray's at the Park | graysatthepark.com
Java House | m.facebook.com/Java-House-149731701726259/
Joe' Crab Shack | joescrabshack.com
Killa Bites | killabites.com
Krispy Kreme | kremeworks.com
La Costa | lacostavancouver.com/aboutus.html
Laughing Planet | laughingplanet.com
Leonardo's Pizzeria | leonardospizzeria.com
Little Conejo | littleconejo.com
Little Italy's Trattoria | little-italys.com
McDonald's | mcdonalds.com
Mill Creek Pub | millcreekpub.com
Nom Nom Restaurant | nomnomnw.com
Papa Murphy's Pizza | papamurphys.com/
Perfect Dish Delivery | perfectdishdelivery.com
Rally Pizza | rallypizza.com
Red Lobster | redlobster.com
Relevant Coffee | relevantcoffee.com/
Rocky's Pizza | bgwa.com/rockys.htm
Round Table Pizza | roundtablepizza.com
Say Ciao | Say-Ciao.com
Shari's Cafe and Pies | sharis.com
Thai Orchid Restaurant | thaiorchidvancouver.com
The Heathman Lodge & Hudson's Bar & Grill | heathmanlodge.com
The Rock Wood-Fired Pizza & Spirits | therockwfp.com
Vancouver Pizza | vancouverpizza.net
Who Song & Larry's Mexican Restaurant | whosongandlarrys.com



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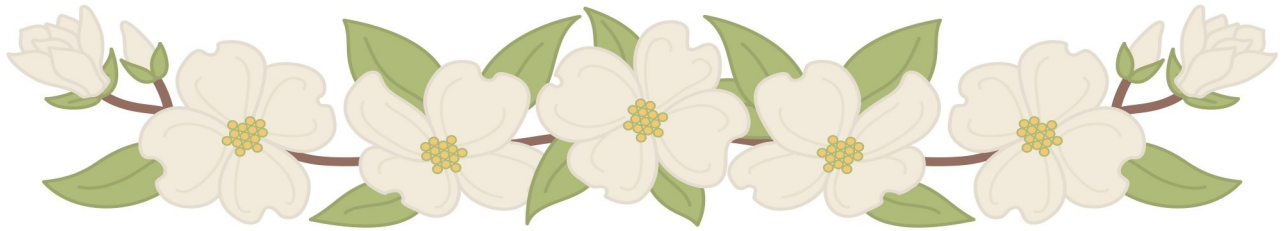
Coloring Pages

Find more coloring pages at crayola.com



Crayola Easter Egg Surprise





BACKYARD SCAVENGER HUNT

primary playground

-  Find 3 kinds of leaves..
-  Find something yellow.
-  Name a bug that is red.
-  Find 2 sticks.
-  Find something that smells good.
-  Name something you see in the sky.
-  Find something that is round.
-  Find something that grows that is green.
-  Find a bird.
-  Find 3 different colored rocks.
-  Find something purple.
-  Find a bug.





SPRING SCAVENGER HUNT

- 🌸 Find a yellow flower.
- 🌸 Find 3 different shaped leaves.
- 🌸 Find something that is red.
- 🌸 Find a spider web.
- 🌸 Find something that flies.
- 🌸 Name 2 things you see in the sky.
- 🌸 Find something that is long.
- 🌸 Find something that grows that is green.
- 🌸 Find 2 birds.
- 🌸 Find some water.
- 🌸 Find something purple.
- 🌸 Find something that crawls.

primary playground

