

january

The Link 2020



LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR



How well do you like new things? Sometimes we choose new things, other times newness is thrust upon us. However we feel about new things in general, I feel like it's safe to say that most of us prefer the change we choose over the change that we do not.

In the last couple of months, I've experienced many new things, most of which I probably would not have chosen. I had to purchase a new computer (with a new operating system) after I learned that the price of fixing my old, damaged one came with twice the replacement cost. I signed up for new insurance when my old insurance expired and with new insurance came a new doctor and new dentist. I bought a new-to-

me car when my old car was rear-ended on the freeway by a person who apparently had a seizure.

And, courtesy of that accident, I also received a new, temporarily slower brain, when my old fast model was negatively affected by concussion. Change happened here at Vancouver UCC with staff changes in both the church office and at Martha's Pantry. *continued....*



Worship: Sundays 10 am
1220 NE 68th ST • Vancouver, WA 98665
(360) 693-1476 • www.vanucc.org

New Office Hours
Tuesday thru Thursday: 10 am—2 pm

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

Office Admin: Elizabeth Spannring
Elizabeth@vanucc.org

Building Host: Leslie Chapman
Leslie@vanucc.org

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR CONTINUED...

And change continued in my circle of family and friends as people close to me experienced both the challenge of serious illness and the joy of new birth.

As the change piled up, I found myself disoriented and disgruntled. As a person who claims to enjoy new things, even I found a limit to the number of new experiences I could easily embrace.

With secular New Year and our Christian celebration of Epiphany, those of us who have felt a little sucker punched by change lately have an opportunity to take stock — to look back on what has passed and ahead to what is possible. This is our chance to look the changes of the past year in the face and see them for what they are — an inevitable if uncomfortable part of life and growth. It's also a chance to look ahead and think creatively about the changes that we might face in the coming year. How do we want to meet those changes? What will our response be?

Some people make resolutions at this time of year. I usually make one or two myself. I find resolution-making to be very consistent with my spiritual practice. Because, really, resolutions are just intentions, right? And doesn't the Christian life ask of us that we live as intentionally as possible in following Christ's way?

This year, I'm tempted to make a resolution that the only change in my life will be change I can choose. But that's a temptation I'm trying to resist. Because my REAL resolution is to face change as gracefully as I can, even (or maybe ESPECIALLY) when the changes that come are not ones I would have chosen.

Let me know how your resolution-making is going. And in the meantime, I look forward to seeing you in church!

Many blessings,

Jennifer

PS: Speaking of change, we'll be experimenting with new office hours in the coming months. The office will be open 10 am-2 pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Tuesday and Thursday I am available for meetings, visits, and appointments starting at noon and into the evening. Wednesday, I'll have regular office hours from 10 am-2 pm. Mondays I will be working from home on reading, writing, and research.



NOTES FROM YOUR COUNCIL MODERATOR — JANUARY 2020



We welcome in the new decade with 2020! I write this as I review the past year and prepare for family and church celebrations of our Savior's birth. It is a most sacred time of year. We have been blessed with wonderful music, stories, and inspiration provided by our choir, children, and pastor this Advent season.

This past month has been a very busy one. Our Stewardship team finished the campaign for financial pledges, and our Property and Finance team has been working to create our 2020 budget.

Also in this timeframe, our dear Kristina Martin had decided to leave her position with the church. We will miss her caring devotion to our congregation, as well as her organizational skills and writing talent.

The Personnel committee and Property and Finance have worked with Pastor Jennifer to come up with a temporary plan for filling some of Kristina's duties with extra hours for Leslie Chapman, Elizabeth, and volunteers. The plan will be reviewed within the next three months. This also leads to a change in office hours to Tuesday through Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm starting in January 2020.

Jennifer and I formed a committee to discuss options for using the \$40,000 gift from Naselle, WA. We will be working on a process to utilize suggestions from the congregation. These ideas will be presented at our retreat on February 29 at the church. Please plan to

attend this retreat to work on our mission and guidance for our church's future directions.

A nominations committee interviewed members of the Council to create a roster of officers and representatives for the January Annual Congregational meeting ballot. Please plan to attend that meeting on January 26. We will be voting on the 2020 budget as well. Thanks to Richard Trefren, Pat Sutherland, and Ruth Hammer for working on the nominations.

Announcements during Sunday church services have been a discussion point as long as I have been a part of a church family (my lifetime!). Yet they are critical to keeping the congregation informed of events that are important to the life of the church. Members need to be informed about the activities they can participate in as well as to serve all of the missions of our church. We will continue to announce the revisions and additions to the written schedule before the invocation and call to worship.

Brenda Houchen has volunteered to make a box to add written announcements before each Sunday service. We will be alternating among Council officers to make the announcements for a month at a time.

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 throughout the new decade to come.

Jeanie Beary Stolle — Jtstolle@comcast.net

MISSION AND OUTREACH

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>



JEAN MATTHEWS MEMORIAL

The memorial service for Jean will be held January 18, 2020, at 2 pm, with a reception in Bradford Hall immediately following.



On **Sunday January 26, 2020** we will have a congregational meeting following worship. The purpose of this meeting will be to vote on the proposed 2020 budget and to vote on the slate of officers and representatives to Council. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan on attending this important meeting. Leslie Chapman, Clerk



Update on Pledges:

As of December 26, 2019, we have received 81 pledges, totaling \$205,900, for next year's operating budget. This is \$50,600 below our goal of \$256,500. If you have not yet submitted your pledge form, or if you are able to increase the pledge you already submitted, please do so by notifying the Financial Secretary, Jan Foulke. Pledge data is needed to prepare a budget for calendar year 2020. This proposed budget will be presented to the congregation for a vote January 26.



"Priceless 2020" As the annual campaign seeking pledges to fund operating expenses for the year 2020 comes to an end, there are many people to thank. These include those who presented Stewardship Moments during worship, those who produced and appeared in videos, those who hosted small group gatherings, those finance representatives who presented information, the office staff who supported the efforts, and the members of the Stewardship Team (Arlene Arnold, Steve Bloodworth, Megan Dixon, Jan Foulke, Sandy Mathis, and Richard Trefren). Most of all, thanks to you who pledged to support our church in the new year. YOU are PRICELESS.



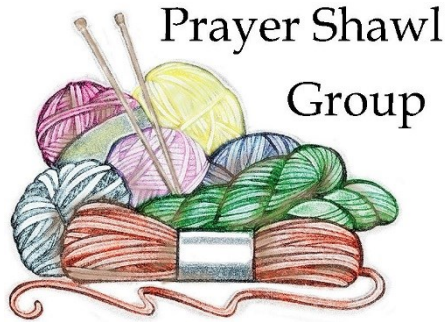
Beginning January 2, 2020, the new office hours will be:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

10 am—2 pm

The office will be closed Mondays.

OASIS GROUPS



Prayer Shawl Group

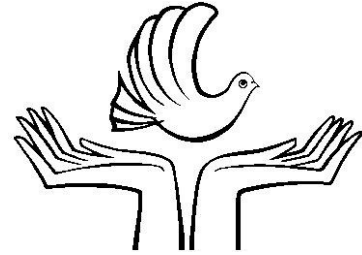
The Prayer Shawl Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at 10 am in Clawson Corner.

All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us for our next meeting January 9. Please contact Joanie Nelson for more information.

Mary Jo Ebel Circle

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 15 at 1 pm in Clawson Corner. Please contact Beverly Crossman for more info.

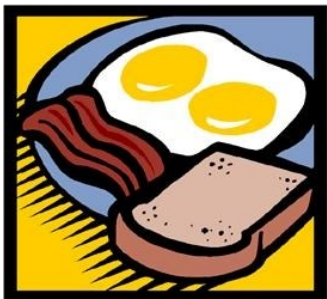
Spirituality Group—New Meeting Time



The Spirituality meeting dates and times have changed. We are now meeting 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 still meeting in Clawson Corner and look forward to seeing all who wish to attend. Questions? Please contact Ray Jones.

BREAKFAST



FELLOWSHIP

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 January 11.

FAITH ACTION NETWORK
A Partnership for the Common Good

Interfaith Advocacy Days 2020

In Olympia - February 6

In Spokane - January 25
In 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

YOUTH CORNER



A few of us in front of the oranges, from left to right: Amelia, Danya, Boean, Emma, Ally, and Bre at the bottom left

For the holidays, Martha's Pantry supplies folks in our area with Christmas Boxes —boxes complete with everything you need for a fancy Christmas dinner— and our youth group was given the opportunity to help set that project up.

We spent a Sunday afternoon moving boxes of potatoes, stuffing mix, oranges, sparkling apple cider, and all kinds of goodies from Martha's Pantry into Bradford Hall. We unpacked it all and set it up assembly-line-style for the next team of volunteers, who would do phase two of the boxing. It was really cool for me (Bre) to see the youth step up like

this. I saw a lot of great strategizing, hard work, and having fun all around. Special thanks to Martha's Pantry for this opportunity, to parents for coordinating and driving your offspring to another thing during this wild time of year, and to all our youth who came out to help. This is what showing up for our community looks like, and I'm proud of everybody.

If you are (or are the parent of) a youth in 5th-12th grade, and want to be involved with things like this in the future, please shoot an email to bre@vanucc.org so I can make sure you get the info for future events.



ED FRANK—HONOR FLIGHT TRIP

Ed Frank, who recently moved from Washington state to the Trinity Springs assisted living facility in Oxford along with his wife, Ruby, enjoyed a busy day in our nation's capital as he saw the various war memorials dedicated to veterans of all eras.

"It was pretty great," Frank said late Wednesday night after returning to American Legion Post 347 for a Welcome Home ceremony. "It wasn't as strenuous as I thought it would be."



Frank served in the Navy and was stationed aboard the USS Montpelier (CL-57), a light cruiser that was commissioned in 1942 and participated in several campaigns in the Pacific Theater. He also served in the Armed Forces Induction Station and in officer's training and ROTC.

Early Wednesday afternoon, Frank's daughter, Villager Jackie Kramme, said she was thrilled that her father was getting to take part in Honor Flight.

"I'm really excited and happy for him," she said. "I'm just glad he was able to do this. He's such a go-getter," added Kramme, who said her father acts more like a spry 80-year-

old than someone just three years shy of 100. "I'm sure he's having a great time," she added. "He's never met a stranger."

Frank's guardian on the flight, Army veteran Ron Kaissling, could attest to that. "It was a fantastic day," he said. "I was trying to keep up with a 97-year-old who's unbelievable. He had more women hugging his neck," the Village of Freedom Pointe resident added with a chuckle.

Villager Debbie Diroff, a longtime Villages Honor Flight volunteer who served as second in command behind Flight Director Rob Hempel, called Frank an unbelievable person and said she thoroughly enjoyed getting to know him.

"He was spry and sharp as all get-out," she said. "He was just a joy to be with all day." Diroff said it was obvious that Frank was having a great time. "He loves to talk to people and he's just a very likable person," she said. "He never napped on the plane and he was go, go, go."



ED FRANK—HONOR FLIGHT TRIP



Wednesday's trip marked Villages Honor Flight's fourth and final flight for 2019. Most of the veterans who made the trip served during Korea and Vietnam. Frank and two others served during World War II and many others served during the 1940s, 1950s, the Berlin Crisis and the Cold War.

All told, 20 served in the Army, 13 in the Navy, six in the Air Force and two in the Marine Corps. They came from Altoona, Astor, Clermont, Fruitland Park, Jacksonville, Leesburg, Mount Dora, Ocala, Oxford, Summerfield and The Villages.

Villages Honor Flight serves Central Florida veterans from Citrus, Lake, Marion, Putnam and Sumter Counties. Each veteran has a volunteer guardian to assist him/her. The trip is free for veterans, while guardians and staff pay their own way. The organization has flown more than 1,400 veterans since its first flight in May 2012.

Villages Honor Flight will conduct a flightless mission on Nov. 23 for veterans who cannot manage the airline flight to Washington, D.C. For more information, veteran and volunteer applications, go to www.villageshonorflight.org. Villages-News.com





- Jan 3. Ken Rowe
- Jan 7 Charles Ross
- Jan 18 Allison Kocher
- Jan 22. Danya Marquardt
- Jan 24. Dorothy Mathews
- Jan 28 Judy Dahlen
- Jan 31. Martin Borcharding



SPECIAL CONCERNS

Joan Barber
 The Chapman Family
 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