



# JUNE

*The Link 2020*



Dear Friends,

As we hunker down for a longer haul than we had hoped, I'm taking comfort in poetry, art, and music now more than ever. This poem from Jane Kenyon is

especially speaking to me. In a time when it seems like darkness is falling, I feel so grateful for the blessings of ordinary things. I hope you enjoy it too.

What is bringing comfort to you? Let me know!

Blessings, Jennifer

Vancouver  
United Church  
of Christ



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<https://www.facebook.com/vanucc/>  
[www.vanucc.org](http://www.vanucc.org)—[info@vanucc.org](mailto:info@vanucc.org)

### ***Let Evening Come***

*Let the light of late afternoon  
shine through chinks in the barn, moving  
up the bales as the sun moves down.*

*Let the cricket take up chafing  
as a woman takes up her needles  
and her yarn. Let evening come.*

*Let dew collect on the hoe abandoned  
in long grass. Let the stars appear  
and the moon disclose her silver horn.*

*Let the fox go back to its sandy den.  
Let the wind die down. Let the shed  
go black inside. Let evening come.*

*To the bottle in the ditch, to the scoop  
in the oats, to air in the lung  
let evening come.*

*Let it come, as it will, and don't  
be afraid. God does not leave us  
comfortless, so let evening come.*

Jane Kenyon

## NOTES FROM YOUR COUNCIL MODERATOR—JUNE 2020

### Vancouver First Congregational, United Church of Christ Mission Statement

*"It is the mission of our church to follow Christ in faith and lead the community by example. We worship together with creativity and joy, being rooted in but not root-bound by Christian tradition. We commit ourselves to encourage spiritual growth and loving service to others; reach out to people of all races, backgrounds, gender expressions/identities, and affectional orientation; and work for social justice and peace."*



Summary of our February 29, 2020 Retreat Priorities:

- The Importance of Arts
- Reaching out to the Larger Community
- Working for Social and Environmental Justice
- Envisioning the Future of our Congregation

On May 12, our Council took on a visioning task for how we can "be the church" during this pandemic, utilizing the above two documents. Our leadership definitely met this challenge. With prayer and discussion, each member helped with planning ways that we can provide for the spiritual

and practical needs of our congregation while we continue "in exile" from our beautiful church building. We made plans for everything from expanding our online worship offerings with inclusion of hymns we can join in at home to ways to continue and expand our support of Martha's Pantry. Also, we worked on ways that we can help support families who are struggling with their work needs and teaching their children at home. Our Circles of Care are a new form of 'deacons' with facilitators contacting and praying with individuals in their geographic areas.

Our task groups are committed to maintain a level of excellence in serving our congregation. Each group is meeting to make plans for how we can continue to meet the needs of our members, serve our community, and stay safe as we do that. Our conference minister, Tyler Connoley; our national office of the United Church of Christ; our insurance partners; the CDC; our Washington State Governor, Jay Inslee; and Clark County Health advisors have all provided directions for us to consider as we move forward from our isolation to engaging with others without a cure, vaccine, or end to this coronavirus in sight. With this in mind I quote the national UCC leadership: "We want to send a clear and strong message to congregations who are considering going back to meeting in person: We urge you to wait until ALL safety concerns have been addressed."

We are all in this together, even as we are alone in our isolation. We cannot rush this process. We must prayerfully support each other, reach out to each other using our resources and beautiful spirits. We are people of faith and we know we can "be the church" we're meant to be and we will come out stronger on the other side of this crisis.

Blessed and blessings all, Jeanie

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### Update from your Financial Secretary

Again, I want to thank all of you who have been able to continue submitting donations to the church. This has allowed us to continue paying our staff and our expenses.

Last month we introduced our first electronic giving option with Vanco, our e-giving partner. This option is found on the church's website at [www.vanucc.org](http://www.vanucc.org), where you can click on the red donate button.

The second electronic giving option is found by adding the GivePlus App on your smart phone. Enter our church name (Vancouver United Church of Christ) and you are taken to the church's donation page where you are asked to create an account. The app will retain this information for the next time you login. Here you also have the option of donating by credit card or from your checking/savings account. You can set up a one-time donation or a reoccurring donation. If using a credit card, there is the option of paying to offset the cost of the processing fee (2.75%). We encourage you to do this to minimize expenses for the church.

We will always accept checks mailed to the church if you wish to continue giving in that manner. Thirdly, for anyone who wishes to text their donation, you may use GivePlus Text at this number: 833-619-0911.

Thank you to those who have already given electronically! Our hope is that by offering electronic giving we can make supporting our church's mission easier, not only for our members and friends but for our community.

Give it a try! The Monthly Mission Emphasis for June is Triple Point. Should you have any questions, contact me at 360-787-8832 or at [finsec@vanucc.org](mailto:finsec@vanucc.org). Jan Foulke, Financial Sec.

### How Can You Help the Climate?

Our church now has a "Green Team" headed by Pat Sutherland. Anyone is welcome to join.

Before the church closed due to the coronavirus, we met and decided to include climate change in the Green Team agenda. Church members Don and Alona Steinke have been working hard on this issue. You can receive Don's newsletter by emailing him at [crvancouverusa@gmail.com](mailto:crvancouverusa@gmail.com).

While you are self-isolating, there are things you can do to help the climate. Here are three suggestions.

1. Write letters to the Columbian asking the City Council to adopt a greenhouse emission target. Here is an example letter which Don wrote—<https://www.columbian.com/news/2020/mar/14/letter-city-should-take-stand-for-climate/>.

The Columbian has a limit of 200 words for letters. Include your address and daytime phone number. They will print only the city. Avoid facts unless you provide a source document. Send letters to: The Columbian [letters@columbian.com](mailto:letters@columbian.com)

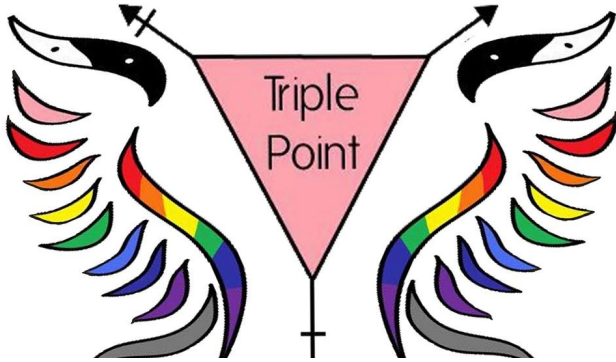
2. Sign the following petition and post on Facebook also: <https://act.sierraclub.org/actions/Washington?actionId=AR0244418>. The petition will be forwarded to the council when the time is right.

3. Make your comments known to the City Council. Public comments will be taken remotely. Here is the link to the City Council meetings: <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/citycouncil/page/city-council-meetings>

Don and Alona thank you. The climate thanks you. Join the Green Team by emailing Pat Sutherland at [pesuther@msn.com](mailto:pesuther@msn.com). Nancy Fite, Green Team member

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

A LIFE CHANGING  
EXQERIENCE



### June Special Offering Triple Point Youth Program

For the last several years, our church has supported the wonderful Triple Point program. This is a support program for local LGBTQ+ youth in our community. During this time of pandemic, your gifts to this program can literally save lives. Stephen Herndon, Program Facilitator, explains:

*What if your community support outside of your family stopped overnight?*

*What if you were a young person and your family did not accept you for being LGBTQ?*

*What if you identified as LGBTQ and your family didn't know?*

*Triple Point provides support groups for LGBTQ+ youth 11-18 years old and has been going strong for 21 years. A pandemic hit and our lives were put on hold; our support systems were unavailable for our youth. Although there are many supportive families, sadly there are many that are not.*

*As the Triple Point program facilitator, these youth are on my mind daily and I hope that they are all getting along at home. Hopefully soon we can all come back together, gather, eat snacks, and talk about the way things 'were' during these times.*

*My hope is that they are connecting with each other and now that we have our 'Virtual' Triple Point groups going weekly, that they will join us online to share what has been hard, what has been good and what they wish for in the future. These youth are our future and our hope. And when this has passed, when we can see each other again, I hope that we open our hearts, minds and arms to these precious youth. Thank you for your continued support over the years and the work you all do for our community. With love ~ Stephen*

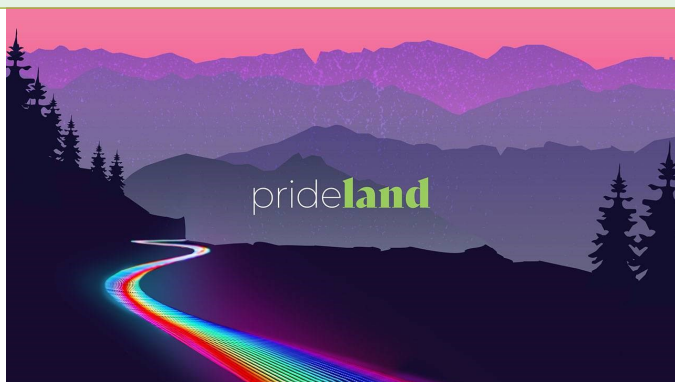
**To support this incredible organization, make out your check or on-line donation to our church and note "Triple Point" in the memo line.**

### CALLING ALL GARDENERS AND LANDSCAPERS

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.



## JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH



PBS is celebrating LGTBQ+ Pride Month with the launch of PRIDELAND, a new one-hour special and short-form digital series following host and actor Dyllón Burnside (from FX's "Pose") on a journey across the South. The six-episode short-form series will launch on *PBS Voices*, a new documentary-focused YouTube Channel by PBS Digital Studios, beginning Tuesday, May 26. A one-hour companion special, also hosted by Burnside, will premiere on Friday, June 12 at 9:00 p.m. ET ([check local listings](#)) on PBS, [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org) and the [PBS Video App](#).

PRIDELAND, produced by [Tiny Horse](#), opens a window into the world of modern-day LGBTQ+ life in America. The series highlights authentic personal stories brought to life through Burnside's curious, exploratory lens. As an LGBTQ+ advocate, he guides viewers into the South's various LGBTQ+ communities, connecting with people of different locations backgrounds, experiences, and points of view.



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. The Stonewall Uprising was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States.

In the United States the last Sunday in June was initially celebrated as "Gay Pride Day," but the actual day was flexible. In major cities across the nation the "day" soon grew to encompass a month-long series of events. Today, celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposia and concerts, and LGBTQ Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world. Memorials are held during this month for those members of the community who have been lost to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally.

<https://www.loc.gov/lgbt-pride-month/resources/>

*The office is currently closed*

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Garrison Brownell  
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# JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 3 . . . . . Bert Martin	June 13 . . . . . Sterling Roberts
June 4 . . . . . Elias Martin	June 14 . . . . . Rory Martindale
June 5 . . . . . Brenda Houchen	June 17 . . . . . Doraine Kohler
June 7 . . . . . Claude Blair	June 18 . . . . . Kimberly Lewis
June 7 . . . . . Liam Holden	June 19 . . . . . JoAnn Kersavage
June 12 . . . . . Virginia Dunbar	June 20 . . . . . Marcie Ramberg
June 12 . . . . . Cynthia McNally	June 21 . . . . . Jeff Schnabel
June 12 . . . . . Allison Schnabel	June 26 . . . . . Lynn Chan

## ***Special Concerns***

The family of Jim Crossman  
 The family of Jean Matthews  
 The family of Carol Pendergraft  
 The family of Sue Rush  
 Joan Barber  
 Carole Elizabeth  
 Wayne Fletcher  
 Brenda Gaston

Steve Hitchens  
 Janet Hunter  
 Jerry Mathis  
 Connie Oppel  
 Karen Owen  
 Gary Roberts  
 Kathy Woolley



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