



MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNCIL MODERATOR—JOHN MARQUARDT

Dear Friends,

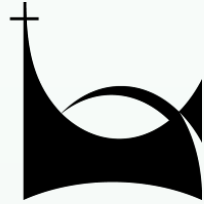
A new year has begun for the Vancouver UCC Council and I am optimistic about the group we have to continue with the Mission of the church. We have several people reprising their roles for another year and we are blessed to welcome our newest Council member, Jerry Mathis. Jerry is filling in Position #4 which will focus on Christian Education. We are very happy to have Jerry join us. There is still an opening for the Vice Moderator position so if you are interested in learning more about that role, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any other member of the Council.

My goals for the Council this upcoming year is to continue our focus on improving communication, continue to examine the three questions passed down from our Conference Ministry of, Who are we, Who is our neighbor, and Who is God calling us to be, and lastly, help shepherd in an interim pastor to aid in our search for a new full-time pastor. We had a productive first meeting, during which we got reports from all of the Council positions and tackled some new business. Minutes of the meeting are available upon request and will ultimately be posted in a public forum.

To improve communication, we will be looking at ways we can directly reach the congregation. Council members are always available to answer questions anyone may have. We will be looking at revamping our website to have more information available online. We will be discussing ways to have information directly available for people when they are physically in the building and keep the congregation up to date in our regular communication portals of the Dove, the Link, and our weekly announcements at the beginning of each service.

The three questions will serve as the basis for a large part of what the Council does this year. They will also be a guiding force in helping our congregation align with a new pastor. Our interim pastor committee continues to make progress towards filling that position. We have reached out to our single candidate to date and will be meeting with him via zoom at our upcoming bi-weekly meeting. We look forward to that being a fruitful conversation. The committee has also received permission from the Council to explore posting for a full-time interim pastor vs a 3/4 time, which is what our initial posting was for. We think this updated

Vancouver
United Church
of Christ



Sunday Worship: 10 am

1220 NE 68th St • Vancouver, WA 98665
www.vanucc.org—info@vanucc.org
(360) 693-1476

The office is currently closed

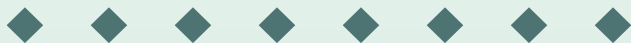
Moderator: John Marquardt
Moderator@vanucc.org

Office Administrator: Elizabeth Spanring
Elizabeth@vanucc.org

Building Coordinator: Leslie Chapman
Leslie@vanucc.org

Financial Secretary: Jan Foulke
Finsec@vanucc.org

Treasurer: Steve Bloodworth
Steve@vanucc.org



The LINK is published the 1st week of each month. The **Due Date** for articles is the **4th Wed.** of the preceding month.

Submissions should have:

- Articles in WORD format or text in the body of an email.
- Pictures submitted as attached jpgs.
- Permission of the copyright holder for all copyrighted materials.
- Send articles toelizabeth@vanucc.org

**MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNCIL
MODERATOR CONTINUED**

posting could yield more candidates for consideration. I know there is a feeling of uncertainty with not having a dedicated pastor delivering the weekly message and I am grateful each and every week for those sharing their talents and spirituality with the congregation as fill-ins.

As a body of Christ, we have a lot to be thankful for. I am thankful for the time and talents of my fellow Council members. I am thankful for the efforts put forth by the church staff to deliver wonderful services and I am thankful for everyone in the congregation that spends time with us on Sunday mornings. I would like to close with a bit of humor. I am a dad and therefore fond of “Dad” jokes. My funny thought for this month is that I only seem to ever get sick on weekdays. I must have a weekend immune system.



IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Ken Kerr, Pastor
MCC of the Gentle Shepherd

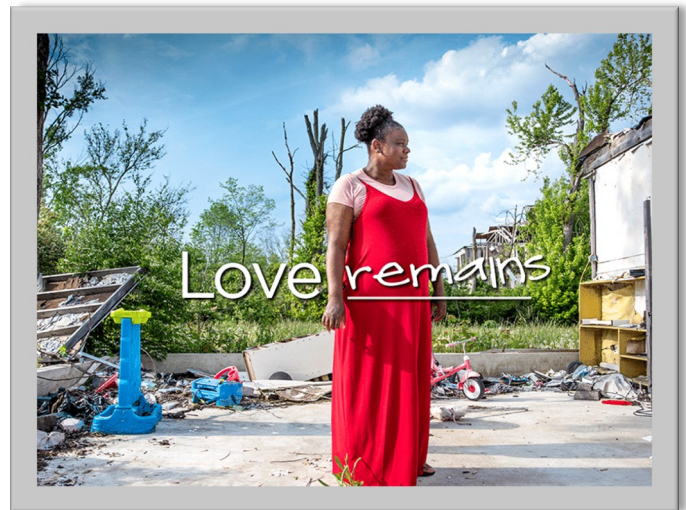
Nathan Klump
Lynn Chan's nephew

The family of Rena Olson
Loretta Railing's daughter

The family of Irma Slocum

Our March 2022 Mission

Emphasis will be One
Great Hour of Sharing



Capital Improvement Projects for 2022

Your Property and Finance team has developed a list of possible capital improvement projects for 2022. The project list is shown in priority order, and we anticipate we will only be able to accomplish a few of these items in 2022. If you have questions or suggestions of items to add to this list, please contact Chuck Foulke at cfoulke17@gmail.com or 360-768-8687.

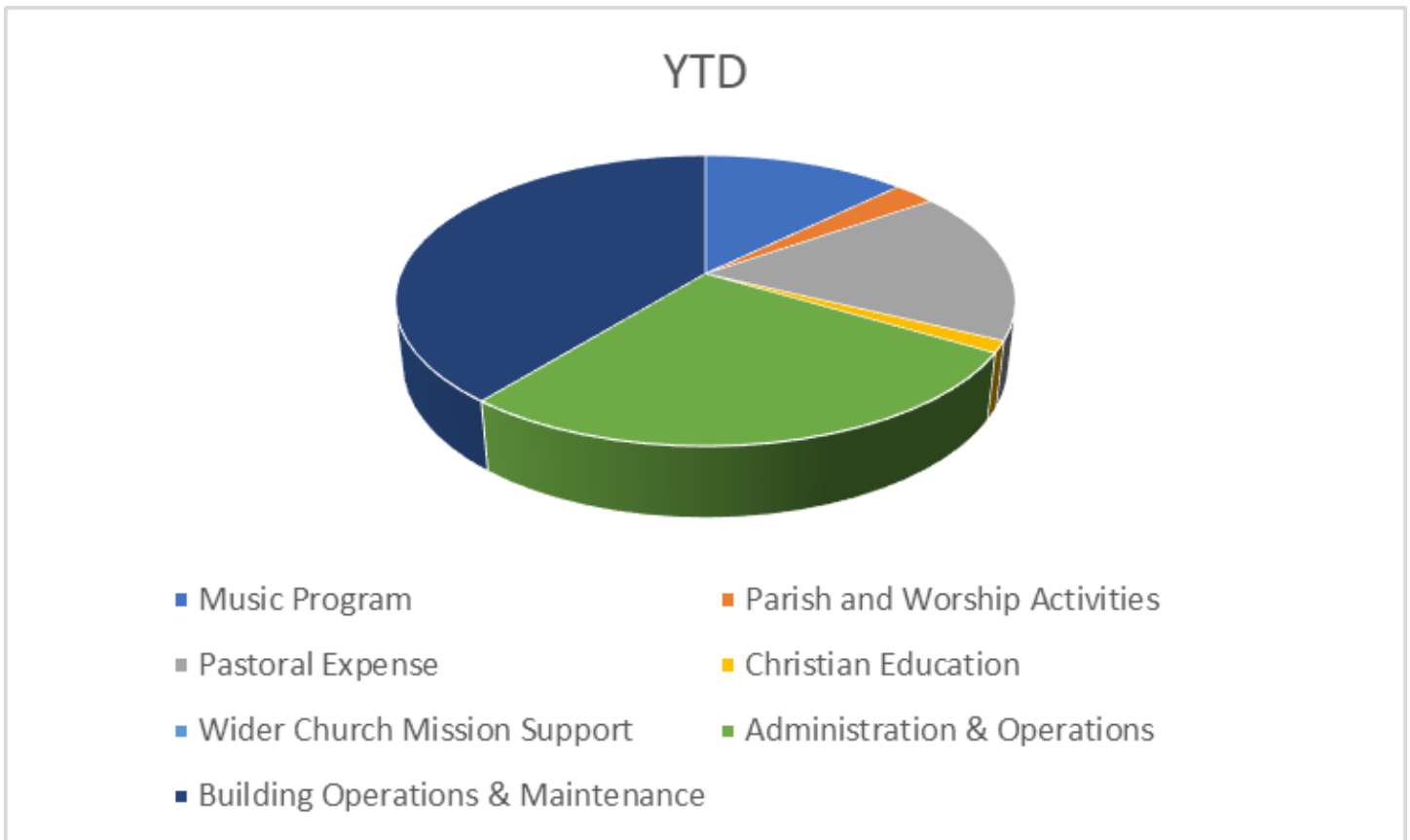
1	Replace Stanley Security with a new security service provider	\$3,800
2	Cleanout/repair stormwater drain lines that date back to 1960	\$5,000
3	Install cabling for new TV's & cameras in the sanctuary to get cables off areas where people walk	?
4	Install enclosed gutters on the Centennial wing to avoid members on the roof to clean gutters	\$7,100
5	Rebuild front landscaping after 68th Street reconstruction (probably not until 2023)	\$2,500
6a	Scrape and re-paint the exterior of the original church building	\$18,000
6b	Sandblast and stain exterior of original church building (paint doesn't last long on cedar siding)	?
7	Resurface parking lot	?
8	Install new curbs around parking lot	?
9	Install security cameras at both ends of upper and lower hallways	?
10	Install security camera at the labyrinth	?

As with most churches the funding for capital improvements needs to come from Operating Reserves, from bequests or memorial gifts, or from a special fund-raising effort. None of these capital projects are funded by our 2022 Operating Budget. Thus far Council has authorized funding for the first two items from Operating Reserves. At the start of the year there was \$96,963 in Operating Reserves.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Time continues to go quickly by! 2022 has started off on a positive note financially. We finished the month of January with an encouraging surplus, thanks to everyone's continued giving. As always, please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached at steve@vanucc.org Thanks for your financial support of Vancouver United Church of Christ.

	YTD	Budget
Music Program	1,978.96	25,423
Parish and Worship Activities	407.90	5,430
Pastoral Expense	2,655.02	88,504
Christian Education	202.86	4,550
Wider Church Mission Support	0	11,132
Administration & Operations	4,262.22	47,184
Building Operations & Maintenance	6,127.02	75,848
Total Expense	15,633.98	25,8071



VANCOUVER UCC MISSION AND OUTREACH UPDATE

At our church's Visioning Retreat last November, we considered the question "Who is my neighbor?"

As an outgrowth of that discussion, the group attending proposed that our current primary outreach work focuses on three areas: homelessness, climate change, and immigrant welcoming. Our M&O team is in the midst of three work sessions to determine our recommendations to the congregation on how to move forward together on these issues. Look for our proposals during April and May.

At the annual meeting on January 30, I presented information about the current boycott of Pillsbury products (General Mills produces Pillsbury products in a factory that is on land stolen from Palestine). This boycott is supported by the national UCC, the Central Pacific Conference, and at least one church in the conference (Ainsworth in Portland). Here is a link to information on the boycott in the [conference newsletter](#): Please let me know your thoughts and any ideas you have about how we might respond as a congregation.

The annual Vancouver Pride Saturday in the Park event is July 9, 2022.



We are hoping to share a booth with our building partners Metropolitan Community Church of the Gentle Shepherd and Martha's Pantry. We need people to help organize our participation. If you can help, please let me know ASAP. Don't be surprised if I call you seeking volunteers!



Finally, our M & O Leadership Team would welcome additional members. Our current members include Alona Steinke (primary focus: Environmental Justice) David Slocum (Homelessness), Gary Roberts (Just Peace Church), Juan Monje (Latino Issues), and Marilyn Martinyak (Immigrant Welcoming). We would welcome anyone interested in helping guide our mission and outreach work. We particularly need to fill some gaps in our team, including someone to represent our commitment to Racial Justice, and someone to represent our commitment to being an Open & Affirming Church, focusing on LGBTQ issues. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:00 pm. Please consider joining us. You can connect with any team member for more information. *Richard Trefren for the M&O Leadership Team*

Pastoral Care—Until the time an interim pastor is called, please address pastoral care needs to anyone on the pastoral care team: Richard Trefren, Sandy Mathis, or Sue Benson. There are many within our church community able to assist during this time of transition and the pastoral care team will ensure needs are met. Prayer chain requests can be sent to Sandy Mathis by phone or email at sanjermathis@msn.com.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Is Your Pledge Up To Date?

Kudos and thanks go out to those of you who have pledged for 2022! Your contributions make sure that this church can continue its work to fulfil our mission statement.

If you have not pledged, but wish to, just email me at finsec@vanucc.org. Together, we can make a difference. Thank you, Jan Foulke, financial secretary.



Are you a Fred Meyer Customer? Whenever you use your Rewards Card when shopping at Freddy's, you will be helping our organization earn a donation.

If you do not have a Rewards Card, you can sign up for one at the Customer Service Desk of any Fred Meyer store. Rewards Customers still get the Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates. This is a separate program and in addition to these other benefits. To sign-up [Re-enroll or link your Rewards Card now.](#)

To choose your charitable organization search for **First Congregational United Church of Christ**—make sure to select Vancouver, WA! Our account number is #EC214 if you would like proceeds to come to our church. Thank you!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 2	Cory Saum-Blystone
March 4	Eric Pykonen
March 4	Patricia Yates
March 6	Cameron Pykonen
March 8	Christi Brittain
March 15	Emma Schnabel
March 16	Steve Bloodworth
March 18	Amelia Murchison
March 21	Alice Rowe
March 23	Ed Frank
March 26	Nita Calvert
March 26	Sharie Lewis
March 30	Kathleen Williams

Help Wanted—Sending Cards

Thank you to the many people who already send notes to people in our church community to recognize birthdays, offer get well wishes, or reach out in this way at other times. In addition to these notes, we are looking for a couple of volunteers to send cards during an assigned 10-day period each month on a recurring basis. This typically involves sending 3 to 6 cards each month. If this is something you are able to do, please call Sandy Mathis at 360-574-6052 or email sanjermathis@msn.com.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Dr. Schindler in Live Stream and Bach-a-Thon



March 16, at noon: Our organist and pianist Christopher Schindler will appear in a live-stream lunchtime concert from the Old Church Concert Hall in downtown Portland on Wednesday. Works by Mozart, Beethoven, Liszt, and Debussy will be on the program. Link to the concert is: <https://www.theoldchurch.org/lunchtime-concerts/>

On Sunday, March 20: Christopher performs in a pre-recorded video presentation from his home of Bach's Italian Concerto as part of the 2022 virtual Bach-a-Thon presented by the Portland Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Access info will be forthcoming.

Sunday, March 13



Changes are Coming!

While our search for an interim pastor continues, there is a need for communication between Council and staff. Council has therefore approved the Personnel Committee to be the committee to interact with staff.

The committee plans to meet monthly, and more if necessary, to support the day-to-day activities of the staff and in turn will keep Council and congregation apprised of staff goals and accomplishments.

The committee will also provide communication to the congregation regularly. Communication this past year has been under the guidance of Membership. It was the Council and Personnel committee's feeling there was a need to make internal and external communication a priority between staff, Personnel Committee, and congregation. *Personnel Committee: Brenda Gaston, Steve Bloodworth, Ken Rowe, and Pat Sutherland.*



Ed Frank's 100th Birthday!

On March 23, Ed Frank will celebrate his 100th birthday. His wife, Ruby will be 101 two months later on May 25. You are welcome to send best wishes to them. Their address is:

One New Ballas Pl. #132
St. Louis, MO 63146