

The Link



FROM YOUR INTERIM PASTOR—REV. BRET MYERS



Happiness

You seek me on the boulevard, on Wall Street, or the Strip
But sooner would you find me in alleyway, or a crypt
You hope that once you find me, you'll take me to your home
Yet I won't be your servant, for o'er the world I roam

You distance yourself from me with all the wealth you hoard
And though you relish power, your fetish leaves me bored
If you would truly seek me, you'd find control is blind
For I attend to hearts of love, and souls that will be kind

It's not the path of gladness, but sadness, I embark
It's not success, but tenderness, where I tell of life's great art
Your soirées leave me empty, your galas I disdain
But I'll befriend the one who heals another's pain

You cannot own my joy by always seeking more
You'll never possess my peace in buying every store
For I am the fragrance of the grateful giver
I am the freedom dance of the virtuous liver

I give wings to gentleness, and fins to caring deeds
I am sunshine to the lonely, and rain to nurture's seeds
You'll find that I'll be with you when you offer me to others
For I live in those for whom compassion is their druthers

-- Rev. Bret S. Myers, 6/22/2022

MOMENT FROM THE MODERATOR—JOHN MARQUARDT

Hello Friends,

It has been a busy month in the life of the church. Our interim pastor is up and running and has been busy meeting with all the different groups that help guide our church. There have been some changes in the service that Pastor Bret has instituted in an effort to help guide the congregation towards becoming a more progressive church. The feedback has been mostly positive and Pastor Bret has expressed his willingness to discuss these changes or his philosophy with anyone who has questions or is interested in learning more. Please feel free to reach out to him directly if you would like to discuss this in greater detail.

During our June council meeting, we learned that we are doing well overall on our annual budget. Our building usage continues to be high with events booked out for the next several months which provides additional income for the church. We expect to exceed more income from bookings than we had originally anticipated. During this meeting we also said goodbye to one Council member and welcomed in a new one. This was the final Council meeting for one of our long-time volunteers as Richard Trefren and his wife Kristen prepare to move to their new home in New Hampshire. They will both be missed. Richard has been a wealth of knowledge and a mentor to many during his years of service. Our newest member is Gina Marquardt who will be filling in as Position number four and covering Christian Education. She will be working with a few others in the congregation and have a lot of fun things planned for our youth. She has served on Council before and has been active with CE. After a bit of a reprieve from church service, she decided to come back and we are glad to have her.

Council will take a break from meeting in July and the Executive team will still meet to plan out some events for later this year. We will be discussing a retreat for Council members to plan out events for the remainder of this year and into 2023. WE will also be discussing a communication workshop with Pastor Bret that he has hosted in years past. He gave an overview of the material he covers in our June council meeting and there is a lot of good stuff there. More details on the timing and availability of that for the congregation will be available in the weeks ahead. We will also be discussing steps to prepare for the formation of the permanent pastor search committee. There is some work to be done in first identifying who we are as a congregation that is important to do so that we can know what we are looking for in our new pastor. The process will take some time and it is important not to rush ahead and get the cart out in front of the horse, as the saying goes.

We have a lot of fun things planned for the upcoming months and we will hopefully be able to see many of you. We have a picnic planned for July at Hazel Dell Park. This will be a fun chance for us to gather outside of the church building and enjoy each other's company in a fun park setting. Details for the event will be sent out on a postcard. We are also looking to bring back the pet blessing service in August. This is something we have done in the past and a great way to have our four legged friends blessed for the companionship they provide to us. There is a lot of great stuff coming up for our congregation and I look forward to sharing in all of these wonderful experiences with many of you.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Our Special Offering for July is FISH of Vancouver



Feeding Families, Nourishing Children.

FISH started more than 50 years ago when the urgent need for food and community spirit and will came together. They operated from a garage and then a rented church space staffed entirely by volunteers. They now have a full-time staff of three, hundreds of volunteers and serve thousands of individuals each year from their own large food pantry and warehouse at 906 Harney Street in downtown Vancouver. They currently serve nearly 100 individuals and families a day. Like Martha's Pantry, they are a partner agency with the Vancouver Foodbank.

In 2020-21 FISH volunteers donated more than 14,000 hours of service to help ensure food was distributed to hungry families. During the Covid-19 pandemic, FISH continued to safely provide food to anyone in need. Approximately 30% of their clients are children and 25% are elderly – the most vulnerable of our community members.

They believe that food is a basic human right. Hunger stops each day at FISH.



Vancouver Pride's Saturday in the Park event is back, live and in person. The event will be on Saturday, July 9, 10 am until 5 pm at Esther Short Park. We are an event sponsor and will have a booth. Please come to the event and come by our church booth and say hello.

Vancouver UCC Church Picnic Sunday, July 10, 2022 Directly after worship until 3 pm



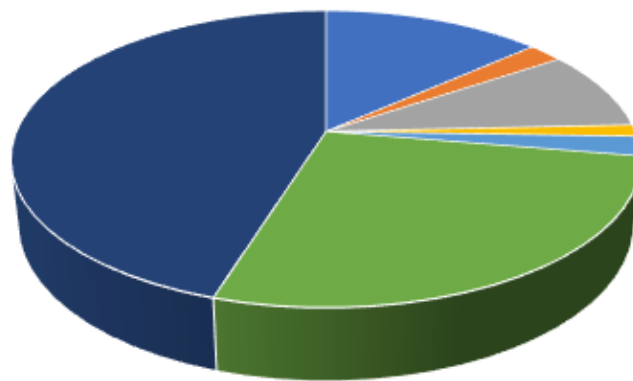
- Please bring a picnic dish to share. Coffee, tea, lemonade, and water will be provided.
- Go green, bring your own reusable plates and utensils! (Paper plates and utensils will be available.)
- Picnic tables are available or bring your own folding chair.
- Field games and kids activities!
- If you need to arrange a ride, call Sandy Mathis at 360-574-6052.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our expenses in May continued to be well controlled. Expenses for the month totaled \$44,786.74, which resulted in a slight loss for the month of \$1,744.37. We do still have an overall surplus for the year, however. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thanks for your continued generous support! Steve Bloodworth, Treasurer

| | YTD | Budget |
|-----------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Music Program | 10,0078 | 25,423 |
| Parish and Worship Activities | 1610 | 5,430 |
| Pastoral Expense | 6,490 | 88,504 |
| Christian Education | 956 | 4,550 |
| Wider Church Mission Support | 1596 | 11,132 |
| Administration & Operations | 20,0376 | 47,184 |
| Building Operations & Maintenance | 33,853 | 75,848 |
| Total Expense | 74, 961 | 25,8071 |

YTD Expense



- Music Program
- Parish and Worship Activities
- Pastoral Expense
- Christian Education
- Wider Church Mission Support
- Administration & Operations
- Building Operations & Maintenance

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Report from your Financial Secretary:

As of June 30, 2022, we have received 55.8% of our budgeted pledge income. We have received 51.3% of our total budgeted income for the year.

Thank you to everyone for their support of this church and its mission work!!

Jan Foulke, Financial Secretary



The Family of Don Walter

Ken Kerr, Pastor
MCC of the Gentle Shepherd

Nathan Klump
Lynn Chan's nephew

The Family of Shirl Zent's Daughter,
Cathy Zent



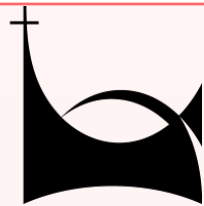
On Sunday, July 24, we will honor and say goodbye to Richard and Kristen Trefren during the worship service. There will be a special coffee hour gathering afterwards.

Please plan to join us in celebration of the many ways Richard has served this church!



If you would like to be on the email chain for Hiking group please email Gina Marquardt at ginajohn96@yahoo.com

Vancouver
United Church
of Christ



Sunday Worship: 10 am

1220 NE 68th St • Vancouver, WA 98665
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(360) 693-1476

The office is currently closed

Interim Pastor: Rev. Bret S. Myers
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Building Coordinator: Leslie Chapman
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Treasurer: Steve Bloodworth
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Moderator: John Marquardt
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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 to elizabeth@vanucc.org.



July 4 Richard Trefren

July 8 Tom Yates

July 13 Cindy Schnabel

July 14 Sidney Chan

July 14 Janet Hunter

July 15 Tom Renner

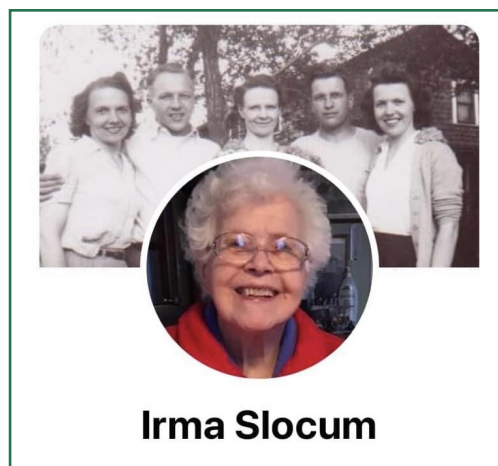
July 25 Eli Levinson

July 27 Nancy Fite

July 31 Kaye Kipp



The Memorial Service for Irma Slocum will be held Saturday, August 13 at 11 am. A potluck in Bradford Hall will follow afterwards.



Irma Slocum