



The Link

SEPTEMBER 2022

PASTOR'S CORNER—REV. BRET S. MYERS

Greetings Vancouver UCC family!

Starting September 12' we'll be having sessions to get us to know each other better as church family. I call these intentional spiritual growth sessions "**Heart and Soul Gatherings**" for we share important aspects, events, and epiphanies in our lives with others which have affected our spiritual perspective, while also hearing the stories of others in our faith family. What a beautiful way of getting to know each other better! There will be sign-up sheets as you enter the sanctuary, for you to designate when you can attend. I can't wait for these blessed times together!

September will be a **restart for our Education and Music ministries**. We'll have a **Rally Day on Sunday, September 18** to kick off these ministries that we will begin again after summer. Mission and Outreach (and any other committees that wish to) will be setting up tables to give you information on their plans for the coming year.

The first Sunday in October, the 2nd, will be World Communion Sunday! We will be doing it up special this year with breads and juices from all over the world being served! To symbolically connect with our siblings all over

this earth, we'll be asking you to contribute making (or buying) breads and juices from different continents on our wonderful earth. This quickly becomes a favorite service for many members, not only for the unity it accentuates with all humanity, but also for the wonderful breads and juices we continue to eat during our fellowship hour! Don't miss this meaningful service! Let me know if you are willing to provide any breads or juices for this unique communion service.

Fall Hikes: If you would like to join the pastor for a hike, walk, or saunter through a favorite park or natural area, please let him know times you would be available. It is a lovely time to be outside.

The Central Pacific Conference Annual Meeting will be September 23-25 in Eugene, OR. Pastor Bret and four lay delegates (Brenda Houchen, Kaye Kipp, and John & Gina Marquardt) will be attending. We also have room for one youth delegate. Others are welcome to come to the event as guests – either in person, or online. We will stream the worship service from Eugene for our own service on September 25th. More details to follow.

Blessings,
Pastor Bret

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



LET'S SING!

You're Invited to Join

Van UCC Chancel Choir !

Calling all singers who are interested in participating in music and worship during Sunday morning and special holiday services!

Whether you have only sung in the car or in the shower, at karaoke events among a group of friends, in a high school choir years ago, or have had years of choral/vocal experience, your presence is wanted.

The Chancel Choir welcomes and invites you to join us weekly in the Sanctuary for Thursday evening rehearsals, beginning with our first rehearsal on **Thursday, Sept. 8 from 7 - 8:30 pm.**

If you are curious or want to check out what we are all about, feel free to come watch or join right in, bringing your mask along for the journey.

Email Sterling Roberts, Music Director, at sterlingroberts2014@gmail.com, if you have any questions and we hope to see you soon!



GODLY PLAY

Please join us September 18 for Kick-off / Rally Sunday. We will have a "bring your favorite childhood dish" potluck after church in Bradford hall.

Kick-off Sunday is the start of our Fall Godly play program. Godly play is the curriculum we use for our elementary classroom. The focus of Godly play is to tell a story from the Bible, then ask the children what they noticed from the details, props, characters, etc. through wondering questions. Those observations and insights are validated by the teacher. It isn't about what the teacher thinks is important, it is what the kids feel, notice and see that is emphasized. This encourages the kids to explore and use critical thinking.

The elementary classroom is for kindergarten through 5th grade but we are flexible to include younger kids who are ready to listen and older kids that still enjoy the stories and are not ready to go to youth group/middle school yet.

There is art time after the Godly play story. This can be free art time or a planned activity. We also follow Godly play for classroom setup and will have two adults in the classroom, one having the doorkeeper position which welcomes each kid and provides an extra hand as needed and one teacher who is presenting the Godly play story and the art project for that week. We have a rotation of teachers who fill both roles that the kids will get to know. All adults in the classroom have a current background check. So excited to see everyone on September 18!

Gina Marquardt, CE@vanucc.org.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



Central Pacific Conference Annual Gathering 2022 & Youth Assembly September 23-25, 2022

Every year we come together from churches in southern Washington, Oregon, and southern Idaho during the last weekend of September. We gather to discern and conduct the business of the Conference, meet with old and new friends, and learn and worship together.

After a very successful online Annual Gathering in the fall of 2021, which **significantly increased participation from across the Conference**, the CPC Board of Directors decided that we would alternate how we meet annually. In UCC General Synod years (every other year), we will meet online, which allows our local churches to fund participation in the national UCC gathering. In non-Synod years, we will meet in person with hybrid online participation at locations throughout the Conference.

We are excited to come together at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Eugene, Oregon. (1050 E. 23rd Ave, Eugene, OR 97405).

Please plan to celebrate Sunday morning worship on Sunday, September 25 at 10 am at First Congregational UCC in Eugene. All are welcome to attend worship in person. A livestream of the service will also be offered so we can worship together across the spiritual landscape of the Central Pacific Conference.



Prayer Chain

The monthly newsletter will now include prayer requests that have been distributed to the prayer chain during the most recent month. This will enlarge the circle of prayer for these prayer requests.

The prayer chain consists of about 20 people who have committed to regular prayer for those in our church community and who receive an email after prayer requests are made. If you want to be added to the prayer chain, please let Sandy Mathis know.

Prayer Needs

- Patti Jones, who was in the hospital.
- The family of Joan Barber's mother, Ruth Young, who died recently.
- The family of Joan Barber's relative, Greg Ginning, who died recently.
- Arianne Kerr, sister of Dani Mogstad, who is recovering from a serious injury.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Church COUNCIL

Why is leadership so important to the functioning of the church? Leadership members help guide the church and make important decisions on behalf of the congregation. They help the church reflect the values of the UCC Pacific Conference, and be a resource of faith, comfort, and hope.

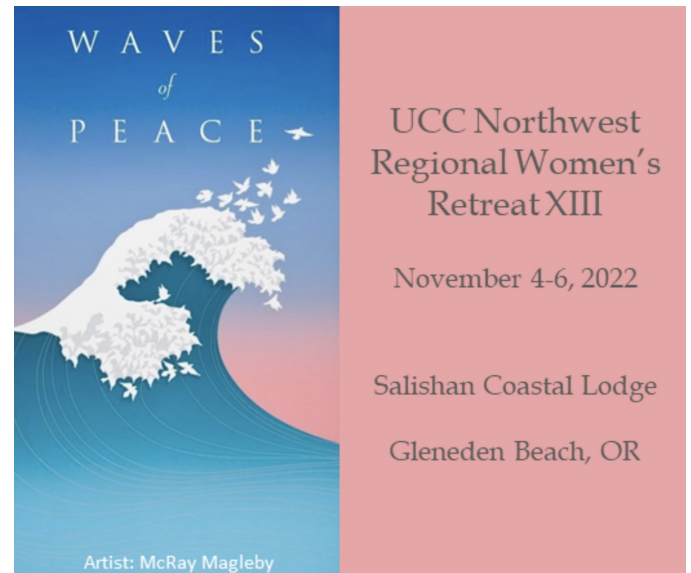
We currently have two leadership positions that need to be filled: Moderator Elect and Mission/ Outreach Board. Please consider being part of the leadership teams. For more information, contact John Marquardt at moderator@vanucc.org.



We are looking for two nursery attendants for Sunday mornings starting in September. The time would be 9:30-11:30 am or when the kids have been picked up. Usually, we look for older teens that can drive so getting to church isn't an issue. They will need to pass a background check. Please send resumes to Pastor Bret at Pastor@Vanucc.org and Gina Marquardt at CE@vanucc.org

Stewardship CAMPAIGN

The Stewardship Committee is also looking for an additional team member to help with the upcoming commitment campaign. If you are interested contact Jan Foulke at finsec@vanucc.org.



Women of the United Church of Christ and their friends gather again to celebrate and renew old friendships, make new ones, and connect with their spirits and hearts.

For this retreat we are traveling to the Oregon Coast, hence our theme, "Waves of Peace". After the past couple of years, it seems we could all do with an infusion of peace for our souls and spirits. We are excited to be gathering at Salishan Lodge in Gleneden Beach.

Visit the [Women's Retreat Website](#) for more information.

Vancouver
United Church
of Christ



Sunday Worship: 10 am

1220 NE 68th St • Vancouver, WA 98665
www.vanucc.org—info@vanucc.org
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The office is currently closed

Interim Pastor: Rev. Bret S. Myers
Pastor@vanucc.org

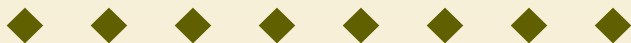
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The LINK is published the 1st week of each month. The **Due Date** for articles is the **4th Wed.** of the preceding month.

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.



September 2 Sharon Roberts
September 3 Barbara Ahola
September 5 Duane Woodworth
September 8 Dwight Chapman
September 10 Wayne Fletcher
September 13 Rebecca Lewis
September 17 Ruth Hammer
September 24 Marvin Benson
September 26 Joan Barber
September 27 George Etter IV
September 28 Adina Tarpley

