

The logo features the word "April" in a large, grey, serif font. To the left of the letter "A" is a small illustration of a vase containing yellow flowers. To the right of the word "April" is a small branch with yellow leaves. Below "April" is the phrase "The Link" in a smaller, brown, cursive font.

April

The Link

Search Committee Meeting

Please join us on Saturday, April 1 from 10 -11 am in the sanctuary. As we work through the process of creating our new Church Profile, we welcome you to observe where we are in the process to keep you well-informed. The search committee has formed three groups to work on the three main categories of the search profile sent to us by the Central Pacific Conference. You may join in with any of the three groups or split your time amongst them as we work our way through the process.

Sunday Worship: 10 am
1220 NE 68th St • Vancouver, WA 98665
www.vanucc.org • info@vanucc.org
(360) 693-1476

Vancouver
United Church
of Christ



Creating a Native Church Forest

A couple of years ago, I read an article in The Guardian about the church forests of Ethiopia. This was about the time that we decided to end our long community garden project. For many years, Ethiopian churches have maintained and protected the forests on their land as a component of their ministry. These mini-forests are the last remnants of a once expansive cover of native trees. In the past 100 years, 90% of Ethiopia's forests have been lost, and these church forests become islands of biodiversity. The Guardian writes: "These forests are proof of the power of spiritual ideas to create sustainable landscapes."

I was inspired by the article. News reports of the loss of tree cover from urban development in the Vancouver metropolitan area underscored my inspiration. I approached Property & Finance and the Church Council with a proposal to maintain our current forest landscape and to create a new mini-forest on the site of the former vegetable garden. The proposal was approved and memorial funds were designated to underwrite it.

Since then, a group of us has been working to research appropriate plants and to create an urban landscape design.

A few weeks ago, we made our first plantings, consisting of an Oregon white oak (aka, Garry oak), two bitter cherries, two shore pines, and one vine maple. We have now purchased most of the additional plants and have started planting them.

On April 22 we will need help putting down a cardboard and woodchip weed barrier during the Spring workday. Please come and help us if you can. If you can, bring a wheelbarrow and shovel that would help, also.

For our weed barrier, we need lots of cardboard boxes. Please save your large brown (not the plasticized ones) cardboard boxes and deliver them to the church on April 22. If you do not have space to store them until then, there is limited space at the church.

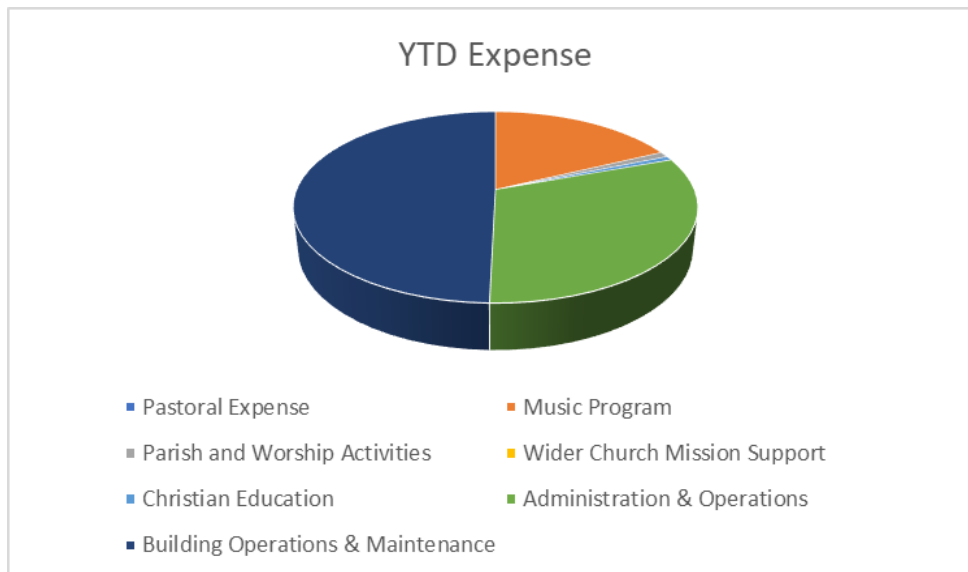


On April 23, we will include an Earth Day dedication of the new forest in the Sunday worship service. Ed Martin

Treasurer's Report—Steve Bloodworth

February was another good month for us, expense-wise. Our expenses remain well controlled. As expected, our electric bill was a little over \$1,000.00 for the month due to the colder temperatures of winter. We added to our surplus, which will help as we head into the spring and summer months. Thank you for your continued support of our church!

	YTD	Budget
Pastoral Expense	0	66,466
Music Program	4,451	25,771
Parish and Worship Activities	221	3,630
Wider Church Mission Support	0	6,580
Christian Education	175	4,150
Administration & Operations	7,711	40,563
Building Operations & Maintenance	12,364	99,729
Total Expense	24,922	246,889



As your financial secretary, I want to thank you all for your support of the mission work of this church! And thank you youth for your collection of change for **One Great Hour of Sharing!!**

As we look ahead, watch for your quarterly financial statement coming out in April. Let me know if you have any questions about electronic giving. I am glad to help. This is a stress-free way to give year-round.

Wishing you all a blessed Easter. Jan Foulke, Financial Secretary



Chapman Memorial Service

A Celebration of Life service for Dwight and Opal Chapman will be held on Sat, April 8, 2023, at 11 am. A reception will follow the service. [Join via Zoom.](#)

Spring Outdoor Cleanup



Come help spruce up the church grounds on April 20, 21, and 22 from 8:30 am until noon. Questions? Please contact Chuck Foulke.

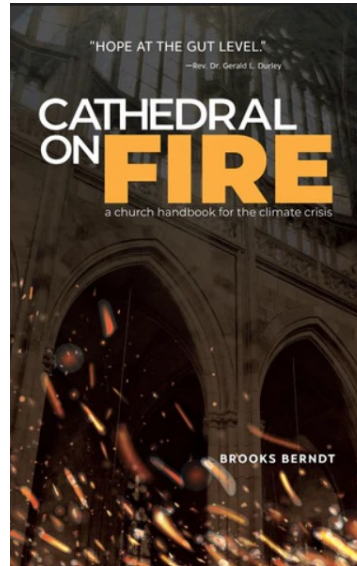
Camp Adams Registration

Our Central Pacific Conference church camp is located in Molalla Oregon. Registration for this year's summer camps opened on January 15. There are camps for ages K-12th grade. Many of our church members and their kids have attended camp and enjoyed it.

- Taller and smaller K-3rd grade
- Genesis seekers 2-4th grade
- Discoverers 5-6th grade
- Sojourners 7-8th grade
- Exodus 9-12th grade.

For more information or to register go to campadams.org. If you have any questions about the camp feel free to ask Gina or email CE@vanucc.org.

Book Group Starting April 16



We will be discussing the book *Cathedral on Fire*, by our former pastor, Brooks Berndt. We will meet Sundays following worship, starting April 16 through Pentecost, May 28. Books will be available at no cost to participants. We look forward to being inspired by the way churches can help with climate justice. Contact Sandy Mathis if you'd like to join the group.

The Prayer Shawl Group meets on the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting is April 13 at 10 am and all knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us. Please contact Judy Walter for more info.



If you're interested in joining the Prayer Circle to pray for our church community, please contact Lucie Murchison at care@vanucc.org.

The following requests were sent to the prayer circle in the past month.

Please pray for:

- Marilyn New, whose brother just passed away.
- Joan Barber, for her aunt Barbara Mardesich who has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma.
- Leslie Chapman and family for the passing of her father Dwight.



Easter Egg Hunt

All kids are welcome to participate in an Easter egg hunt during class time on Easter Sunday.

APRIL EVENTS

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| <p>1 Search Committee Meeting
10-11 am: Bradford Hall</p> <p>3 Taizé Group
7-8 pm: Clawson Corner</p> <p>8 Chapman Memorial Service
11 am-2 pm: Sanctuary</p> <p>9 Easter Sunday Service
10-11 am: Sanctuary</p> <p>9 Easter Egg Hunt
During Class Time</p> <p>10 Taizé Group
7-8 pm: Clawson Corner</p> <p>11 Council Meeting
7-9 pm: Nettie Fries</p> <p>13 Prayer Shawl Meeting
10-11 am: Clawson Corner</p> <p>13 Mission & Outreach Meeting
11 am-1 pm: Sanctuary</p> | <p>15 Search Committee Meeting
10 am-12 pm: Nettie Fries</p> <p>17 Taizé Group
7-8 pm: Clawson Corner</p> <p>19 Property & Finance
5:30-7:30 pm: Nettie Fries</p> <p>20 Spring Clean-up Starts
8:30 am-12 pm Thurs/Fri/Sat</p> <p>21 MP Community Dinner
6-7:30 pm: Bradford Hall</p> <p>23 Lenten Series
11 am-12 pm: Sanctuary</p> <p>24 Taizé Group
7-8 pm: Clawson Corner</p> <p>29 Search Committee Meeting
10 am-12 pm: Nettie Fries</p> <p>30 Lenten Series
11 am-12 pm: Sanctuary</p> |
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- April 3 Trent Corey
- April 3 Robert Haverkate
- April 4 Rebekah Martin
- April 5. Patti Jones
- April 11. Ken Gaston
- April 11. iLana Levinson
- April 12. Jerry Mathis
- April 13. Shirl Zent
- April 19 Leslie Chapman
- April 20. Dori Abernathy
- April 22. Angel Caraballo
- April 22 Anne McNally
- April 29 Ed Martin
- April 30 Pam Osborne