



July *The Link*

Message from the Moderator, John Marquardt

Hello Friends,

It was once said that the best thing you can give of yourself is your time. When I think of this sentiment, I reflect on the dedicated people who regularly give their time in the service of the church. I am grateful for all the work that goes into putting weekly services together, keeping the lights on, and making our church a place where people can feel welcome. It is no easy task. Many in our congregation can attest to that. This weekend will mark the halfway point of the year and as I look back at what has been achieved over the first six months of the year, I see a lot of progress from some dedicated people. We've made improvements to our building and grounds by getting a fresh new coat of paint on the building and adding a mini-forest. We re-established ourselves virtually by giving our website a much-needed overhaul, which was done internally. Our youth have had several opportunities to hang out and have some fun outside of church, as well as give a little something back by donating their time to assist with the mini-forest and helping in Martha's Pantry. We continue to have wholesome services and celebrations of life led by our awesome supply of LEAP Preachers and former pastors, and we did the work as a congregation and in committees, to complete the profile for our next settled pastor, which has been posted. These are just a few examples of people from our church giving something of themselves for the greater good.

As we look to the remainder of the year and beyond, it's a reminder that there are still good

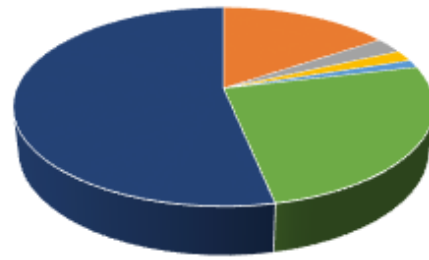
things to come and yet more to do. We have the church picnic on July 16 and the efforts of the search committee will shift to a smaller group who will be tasked with preparing for candidates who apply for our settled pastor position. The members of council will continue doing the work that needs to be done but the realization that several are coming to the end of their terms is starting to weigh heavy. This is where others are needed to pick up where they leave off. We will have open positions for the Moderator, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and some other committee chairs who also serve as key council positions. The church by-laws mandate that these roles are filled by one member for a set term so that the church can benefit from new people coming in, who can offer different perspectives, and individual skill sets. It is crucial for the church to have these roles filled to function. The same people can't be expected to keep doing the same thing. For our church to grow, it has to start from within.

Over the next few months, there will be articles coming out about the different roles that make up the church council. This month, I will say a little bit about being the moderator. The moderator serves as the head of the executive team and church council. Their primary function is to provide general leadership for the church functions and host meetings. They facilitate the annual congregational meeting, monthly executive team and council meetings and any other special meetings needed throughout the year. They may serve as a guide for any issues the individual committees are working through. They are the tie-breaking vote in council meetings, if needed. The moderator is a position where an individual can take as far as they feel compelled to. They can immerse themselves in all the wonderful things happening at the church or hang back and just let people do their thing, and only jump in when asked to do so.

Treasurer's Report—Steve Bloodworth

Summer is in full swing and there are many activities happening around the church. I hope you've had a chance to see the fresh coat of paint on the outside of the sanctuary. Our mini forest is taking shape and is a welcome addition as we honor nature and our environment. The transition between the cold winter months and the warmer summer months has meant lower energy bills and helped contribute to a surplus of a little over \$2300 for the month of May. Thank you for your continued support and for remembering to send in your pledge as you go on vacation this summer. Here are the year-to-date results as of the end of May:

YTD Expense



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

	YTD	Budget
Pastoral Expense	0	66,466
Music Program	10,974	25,771
Parish and Worship Activities	1,807	3,630
Wider Church Mission Support	1,274	6,580
Christian Education	899	4,150
Administration & Operations	17,803	40,563
Building Operations & Maintenance	37,348	99,729
Total Expense	70,105	246,889



- July 4 Richard Trefren
- July 8 Tom Yates
- July 13 Cindy Schnabel
- July 14 Sidney Chan
- July 15 Tom Renner
- July 25 Eli Leavitt
- July 27 Nancy Fite
- July 31 Kaye Kipp

...continued Message from the Moderator

There is currently an open position for Moderator-Elect so it would be an opportune time to get involved. There are still six months of on-the-job training available. For the position of moderator or any other position needed, if you have direct experience that is relatable or maybe you feel like it's time to jump in and learn something new, I urge you to reach out and express your willingness to fill a position. As we are coming up on the fourth of July, I will borrow a line from Uncle Sam and say, "We need you"!

Christian Education News

We are looking for a youth group coordinator who enjoys being with 6th-12th graders. This is a volunteer position. The coordinator would plan social and service outings each month. We are looking for someone with a UCC background. There would be bi-yearly social outings such as camping and skiing. The ultimate goal is to provide spiritual and emotional support for the kids in our youth group while having fun. If you or someone you know might be interested please contact Gina at ce@vanucc.org

Although summer has just started we are planning for the fall. We could always use more teachers in the elementary classroom for ages 5-5th grade teaching Godly Play and teachers for 6th-12th grade in the middle school/high classroom. The middle school/high school curriculum is based on our church's lectionary calendar and open discussions as the kids have questions. If you are interested or would like more information please email Gina at ce@vanucc.org. Please note that the youth group coordinator and all teachers will have to pass a background check and the youth group coordinator will need to pass a driving background check.

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 open Tuesdays & Thursdays
10 am—2 pm*

Moderator: John Marquardt
Moderator@vanucc.org

Office Administrator: Elizabeth Spannring
Elizabeth@vanucc.org

Building Coordinator: Leslie Chapman
Leslie@vanucc.org

Financial Secretary: Jan Foulke
Finsec@vanucc.org

Treasurer: Steve Bloodworth
Treasurer@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 to elizabeth@vanucc.org.



Pride In the Park Booth - July 8

Vancouver UCC, Martha's Pantry, and Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) will be staffing a booth together at Esther Short Park on Saturday, July 8.

We need your help to staff two-hour shifts from 8 am (includes set-up) until 4 pm (includes take-down). We plan to have four or more people staffing the booth during event hours (10 am to 3 pm) to allow both coverages at the booth and a chance to tour other booths during your shift. It will be a FUN event. Please contact Sandy Mathis at sanjermathis@msn.com or phone 360-574-6052 to sign up for a shift(s).

Faith Action Network

Our church has long been a part of the Washington Faith Action Network (FAN). FAN partners for the common good by advocacy through state legislative action and other ways. Our church attended the Spring Summit held in SW Washington on June 4 (hybrid Zoom/in-person). FAN will have a booth at Vancouver's Peace and Justice Fair on September 9.

A few wins in the 2023 state legislature were requiring a permit to purchase firearms, prohibiting shut off of customer utilities during extreme heat, and increasing the rental assistance program. Reauthorization of the federal Farm Bill is coming up. You are encouraged to contact your senators and congressional representative to prioritize food assistance funding in the Farm Bill. If you have questions, contact Sandy Mathis or visit FAN's website <https://fanwa.org/>



Care Council has received several prayer requests this past month—Ray Jones, Joan Barber, Bob New, Marilyn Martinyak. If you are not on the prayer circle list and would like to be, please contact Lucie Murchison.

Sandy Mathis has kindly forwarded prayer requests but for future requests please send them directly to Lucie at care@vanucc.org.



HELP CREATE FUN AND COMMUNITY!
As your Representative for Membership, I have proposed assuming responsibility for "Hospitality". It seems a good fit with my other responsibilities and council agreed. But, this is not something I can do without a good group of people who are willing to join in. I believe we can enjoy this and help our church build a stronger community. I have reviewed all the things that Parish Life did over two years as a starting point and have Kaye's agreement to work jointly with the Worship Committee on many events that have both worship and fun/social/community building parts. CALL OR EMAIL PAT TO JOIN IN!

JULY EVENTS

- 4 Independence Day—Office closed
- 5 YMCA Summer Camps • W-F, 8 am–3 pm: Bradford Hall
- 9 LGBTQ+ Discussion • after church in the back of the sanctuary
Carole Greenauer will host a conversation on our LGBTQ+ friends and neighbors.
- 10 YMCA Summer Camps • M-F, 8 am–3 pm: Bradford Hall
- 11 Personnel Meeting • 1–2 pm: Clawson Corner
- 13 Prayer Shawl Meeting • 10–11 am: Clawson Corner
All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us. Please contact Judy Walter for more info.
- 13 Mission & Outreach Meeting • 11 am–1 pm: Sanctuary
- 16 Church Picnic • 10 am: Hazel Dell Park, West Pavilion
- 17 YMCA Summer Camps • M-F, 8 am–3 pm: Bradford Hall
- 18 Youth Group Service Project • 5–7 pm: Martha's Pantry
- 19 Property & Finance • 5:30–7:30 pm: Nettie Fries
- 25 Council Meeting • 7–9 pm: Nettie Fries/Zoom
- 31 YMCA Summer Camps • M-F, 8 am–3 pm: Bradford Hall



Sun, July 16, 2023: 10 am

Hazel Dell Park - West Pavilion

No in-person or zoom worship service this day

- **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.**
- **Games and prizes for all ages!**
- **Offer a ride/need a ride?**

Please contact Randy Franklin at 360-818-1277 to organize.