

# The Link October

## Moderator's Message

Hello Friends,

I have said before how I think we have a lot of really good people in our congregation. Well, guess what, we also have a lot of really good people in our conference.



Last weekend I served as a delegate for our church and attended the Annual Gathering for the Central Pacific Conference of the UCC. The theme for this year was “Be still and go”.

This simple message can have a lot of different meanings, depending on one's interpretation. What it says to me is when I am feeling anxious, uneasy, frazzled, or frustrated, I need to take a moment to calm myself. In this moment, I can take a few deep breaths, say a quick prayer or personal mantra, or reflect on a memory that is soothing. This conscious action will help me break from whatever it was that was causing me to be feeling stressed by taking a moment to be still, and then go. Another way to interpret it might be to take some time before making an important decision to contemplate and reflect on whatever it is you need to do, before moving forward in action. During this time one could meditate, draw from your inner source of power, and gain the strength, wisdom, and resolve to proceed. I would encourage you to think about these four simple

words in your own way and draw from them in whatever fashion suits you best.

The conference itself is spread out over three days. On Friday, they opened with a dinner, we heard some reports, attended an opening worship service, and then finished the evening with an activity.

During the reports on Friday, our church received recognition for being in the top five for donations to the UCC Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and for contributing to all five of the special offerings for the year. We also got shout-outs for years of service from three past ministers who are members of our congregation, Ed Martin, Charlie Ross, and Richard Trefren.



Saturday was the full day of the conference. The day included presentations for budgets from different ministries, electing a new moderator, officers, and committee members, and hearing about three different resolutions that some members of the conference were asking the CPC to officially support. All of this was interspersed with singing, praying, moments of calm and reflection, activities, fellowship, and of course, food. (My favorite was the loaded baked potatoes we had for dinner, yum yum.) The conference concluded on Sunday with a church service that included people from different congregations.

## ...continued Moderator's Message

I was only able to attend the full-day portion of the conference, but a lot was packed into that day. I would encourage anyone interested to attend as a delegate when the church announces they are looking for delegates. It is a chance to step outside of just our congregation, meet new people, and hear about what some other churches are doing. It can also be inspiring to see all of the work being done by so many others to serve the greater good.

As a Council, we did decide that we would likely discontinue the tradition of broadcasting the conference church service in our sanctuary and instead have our regular service on that Sunday, but the service will still likely be available by Zoom link for anyone interested in watching online. The conference is there to support churches like ours and I think the best way to give just a little bit back is to pay attention to the work they are doing and be grateful for the support they give which oftentimes, we aren't even aware of.

John Marquardt



Care Council has received several prayer requests this past month—Marilyn New, the family of June Lasher, the family of Bob New, Ray Jones, Joan Barber, and Marilyn Martinyak. Please send your prayer requests to Lucie at [care@vanucc.org](mailto:care@vanucc.org).



Council is looking for members to serve on a nominations committee for upcoming Council positions. This would be a great way to get involved if someone didn't have the time or presence to fill a position themselves. The committee would likely meet a few times over the next few months to discuss who might be a good fit for certain roles. Having people from outside of the current Council members serving on this committee is a great way to expand on the current views and ideologies beyond those who are currently serving. We would love to hear from those who may be hesitant about getting involved or those who have been around for a while and have a lot of experience with different people but aren't currently engaged in the business of the church.

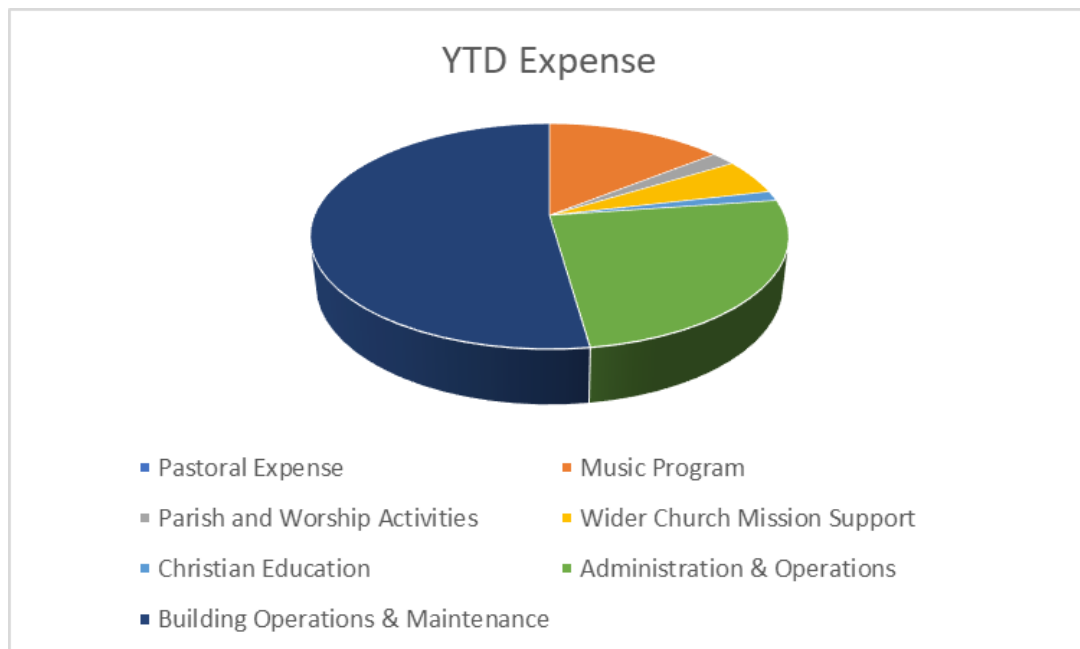
## October 28 Weekend Workshop Saturday, 9 am–noon

The topic will be an in-depth discussion on the heritage of the church and the name of the church moving forward. Our Church is known by several different names and for consistency, we need to settle on one name to identify who we are. The discussion will give people a chance to be part of the process. People will be encouraged to share what the name of the church means to them and learn more about why it is important that we make this change. This is an integral part of the "Who are we" part of the equation that needs to be talked through ahead of the appointment of a new settled pastor. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

## TREASURER’S REPORT—STEVE BLOODWORTH

The rains have returned, the leaves are changing, and the days are getting shorter – fall has arrived in the Pacific Northwest! As we finished the summer months in August, we prepared for the Conference Annual Gathering in Salem by paying our portion of OCWM, Our Church’s Wider Mission. Although our contribution was smaller this year, that payment, coupled with the quarterly property and liability insurance, resulted in a loss of \$2,789.49 for the month. Because of your faithful giving throughout the year, we are still operating with an overall surplus for the year. As we begin to look to the new year and the new Council, please let me know if you think you might like to be our next Treasurer. As always, thank you for your continued financial support of your church! The numbers for August are below:

	YTD	Budget
Pastoral Expense	0	66,466
Music Program	16, 124	25,771
Parish and Worship Activities	2,232	3,630
Wider Church Mission Support	5,774	6,580
Christian Education	1,599	4,150
Administration & Operations	28,258	40,563
Building Operations & Maintenance	59,096	99,729
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>113,083</b>	<b>246,889</b>



# FAITH ACTION NETWORK

*A Partnership for the Common Good*

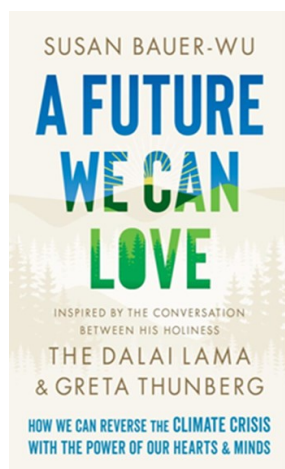
## Faith Action Network (FAN) Cluster Meeting - October 29

Our church will be hosting a meeting for FAN, a state-wide, multi-faith organization advocating for justice. Our cluster includes numerous faith organizations from the Vancouver and SW Washington region. The meeting provides a way to learn about FAN's advocacy work, network with area faith communities, and talk about local concerns.

The meeting will be held in our sanctuary on Sunday afternoon, October 29, from 2-3:30 pm. You can register at this link: [Southwest WA Gathering of FAN Advocates | Faith Action Network PowerBase \(ourpowerbase.net\)](#).

If you have questions, contact Sandy Mathis or anyone on the Mission and Outreach team. Sandy can also register you if you wish.

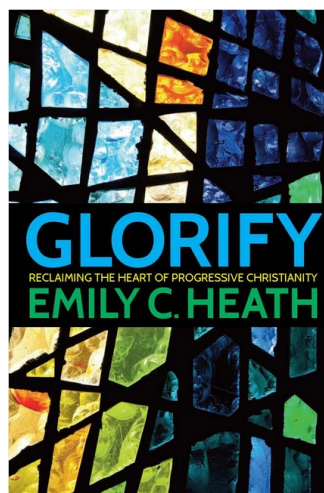
## Discussion Group in the New Year



The book "A Future We Can Love" by Susan Bauer-Wu is on some of our reading lists. There has been talk about gathering a group to meet a couple of times to discuss the book in the new year (January 2024). Please read the book if it interests you.

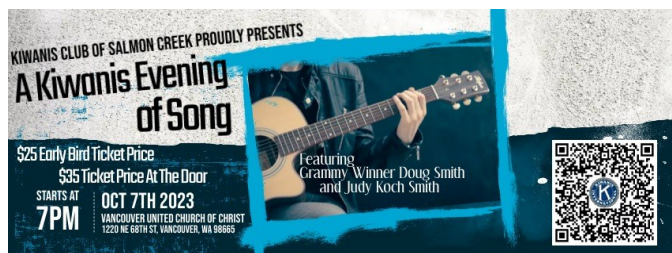
Expect to hear more about discussing it together. Talk to Loretta Railing or Sandy Mathis if you have questions.

## FALL DISCUSSION GROUP



Lynn Chan will be leading a discussion group based on the book "Glorify: Reclaiming the Heart of Progressive Christianity" by Emily C. Heath. The group will meet after Sunday worship starting October 1 for 6-8 weeks.

View the [Free Discussion Guide Here](#). Contact the office at [info@vanucc.org](mailto:info@vanucc.org) for more information and to sign-up for this group.



## Saturday, October 7: 7-9 pm

Join us for a delightful evening filled with music and joy featuring Grammy Winner, Winfield International Fingerstyle Guitar Champion, Doug Smith. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to immerse yourself in the magic of music.

The Salmon Creek Kiwanis are sponsoring this fundraising concert to support children's organizations throughout Vancouver. Among the many organizations that they support are the Boys and Girls Club of Vancouver, Babies in Need, Salvation Army, and Vancouver Drug Court. Tickets are \$25 presale and \$35 at the door. For tickets contact Ken Rowe at [kenerowe@msn.com](mailto:kenerowe@msn.com).





# All SAINTS' DAY

Each year we honor and remember those family members and friends of our congregation who have passed away since our service last November. This year we will celebrate our loved ones on Sunday, Nov. 5.

If you have lost a family member or friend, and would like their name and picture to be included in our special service this year, please email Leslie at [leslie@vanucc.org](mailto:leslie@vanucc.org).

Please include their name, birthdate, date of death and their relationship to you. You may also include a short message about the person. We will create a slide show with any photos you send us. It can be one or many photos. The deadline to submit your information is Oct. 25. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Chapman. Thank you from the Memorials team, Leslie Chapman and Shirl Zent.

The names of people we are honoring so far:

Nita Calvert	Bob New
Dwight Chapman	Kathleen Williams
Jim Fully	Richard Yorioka
June Lasher	Christine Zachary

# Thank you

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE  
PEACE & JUSTICE FAIR**



## Vancouver Peace and Justice Fair

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to those who helped with planning, set-up, take-down, and staffing our booth at the Peace and Justice Fair on September 9. It is a blessing to work together to love God and Our Neighbor.

A big THANK YOU to:

Wendy Wright	Frederick Villahermosa
John Greenauer	Sharon Sollenberger
Carole Greenauer	Brenda Houchen
Jan Foulke	Reba Quastler
Pat Sutherland	Imre Quastler
Randy Summers	John Marquardt
Karen Summers	Marilyn Martinyak
Jerry Mathis	Alona Steinke
Sandy Mathis	Marsha Manning (No Planet B buttons)
Loretta Railing	
Jeanie Beary Stolle	



## Congregational Meeting • Nov 12

*Immediately following worship.*

The purpose of this meeting will be for the congregation to vote on two things.

**The first will be a motion** to approve a single formal name for the church. A name to be used for all matters pertaining to the church will be presented, and the congregation will have a chance to discuss the formal name and then vote on it.

**The second motion** will be a proposal to consider suspending the terms of the current Council members for a period of four to six months, such that the council members whose terms are expiring could continue their service to ensure a smooth transition for a new pastor.



### Greetings from your Financial Secretary!

Happy Fall! This is a good time to slow down and reflect on all the many ways your church helps you through life. Please pray for the search committee as they go about the pastoral search process.

Please pray for all members and friends who are dealing with loss. Know that your church family is here for you. We give gratitude to God that we can worship together.

Thank you for your continued financial support of this church and its mission work! Jan Foulke, Financial Secretary

## Save the Date!

Ed and Claudia Martin are hosting a benefit concert for Martha's Pantry, October 20 at 7:00 pm.

Please help us spread the word by posting the following announcement on your Facebook page.

### A Benefit for Martha's Pantry

**October 20, 2023: 7 PM**

Vancouver United Church of Christ  
1220 NE 68<sup>th</sup> St, Vancouver, WA

Suggested Donation: \$20 per person  
(\$40 per family)



### A Gentle Lilt

### A Rhythmic Rag

### A Musical Journey Through Time

### With Rick Yramategui

Selections from: Bach, Brahms, Debussy, Joplin, Pachelbell, Ravel, and Yramategui.

With Guest Artist Richard Gellman on Clarinet Rick is a UCC minister, pianist, composer, and teacher living and working in Monterey, CA. He currently serves as Minister at Carmel Valley Community Chapel and plays for services at Temple Beth El in Salinas, CA. Rick teaches Ragtime for the Road Scholar program and music appreciation courses for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. He has participated in the Oregon Bach Festival Composers Symposium in Eugene, and the European American Musical Alliance in Paris. A member of the Monterey County Composers Forum, he has studied composition with Conrad Suza, David Conte, Phillip Lasser, and Benjamin Boyle.

# October Events

- 1** Glorify Discussion Group • 11:15 am–12:15 pm: Sanctuary
- 5** Choir Practice • 7–8:30 pm: Sanctuary
- 7** Kiwanis Concert: Doug & Judy Smith • 7–9 pm: Sanctuary
- 8** Glorify Discussion Group • 11:15 am–12:15 pm: Sanctuary
- 10** Personnel Meeting • 1–2 pm: Clawson Corner
- 12** Prayer Shawl Meeting • 10–11 am: Clawson Corner  
All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us. Please contact Judy Walter for more info
- 12** Choir Practice • 7–8:30 pm: Sanctuary
- 15** Glorify Discussion Group • 11:15 am–12:15 pm: Sanctuary
- 18** Property & Finance • 5:30–7:30 pm: Nettie Fries
- 19** Mission & Outreach Meeting • 11 am–1 pm
- 19** Choir Practice • 7-8:30 pm: Sanctuary
- 20** Martha's Pantry Benefit Concert • 7 pm: Sanctuary
- 22** Glorify Discussion Group • 11:15 am–12:15 pm: Sanctuary
- 24** Council Meeting • 7–9 pm: Nettie Fries/Zoom
- 26** Choir Practice • 7-8:30 pm: Sanctuary
- 28** Weekend Workshop • 9 am -12 pm: Sanctuary
- 29** Trunk or Treat • 11 am-12 pm: Sanctuary
- 29** Glorify Discussion Group • 11:15 am–12:15 pm: Sanctuary
- 29** Mission & Outreach FAN Event • 2–3:30 pm: Sanctuary

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 Spanning  
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.



- October 2 . . . . . Gina Marquardt
- October 2 . . . . . Dave Slocum
- October 11. . . . . Virginia Ebersole
- October 12 . . . . . Amelia Martin
- October 12 . . . . . Caroline Murphy
- October 12 . . . . . Wendy Wright
- October 17. . . . . Kristina Martin
- October 18 . . . . . John Greenauer
- October 19 . . . . . John Fite
- October 20 . . . . . Ellie Bradley
- October 20 . . . . . Brenda Orique
- October 23 . . . . . Ray Jones
- October 26 . . . . . Greg Saum-Blystone
- October 27 . . . . . Barbara Harris





October 29, 2023 • 11 am–12 pm  
Van UCC Upper Parking Lot



## JOIN US FOR OUR TRUNK OR TREAT!

All youth, from our younger kids to high school youth are invited! Treat bags will be prepared for each vehicle to distribute to kids. Interested in decorating your vehicle? Register your Trunk at [CE@vanucc.org](mailto:CE@vanucc.org) by Wed, Oct 25. Please be ready in the parking lot by 10:30 am on Oct. 29.

If you would like to donate funds to purchase the goodies, please mail a check to the church or donate online and write "Trunk or Treat" on the memo line. You may also donate candy, pencils, stickers, coloring books, or small non-food items that will be added to the bags. Please bring your items to church by Oct 22 or drop them off at the church office Tues or Thurs between 10 am-2 pm.