

# The Link November

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## **Moderator's Message**

Hello Friends,

We have some work to do. The Council has been busy getting things set up for next year and we will need input from the congregation.

This month we will have an important congregational meeting on Sunday, November 12, and we need to have as many people attend as possible. At the congregational meeting, there will be four motions put forth for vote.

- The first motion will be to determine if the candidate the search committee has brought forth should become our new settled pastor. This requires a 75% YES vote to pass.
- The second motion will be to amend the bylaws to add the positions of Assistant Financial Secretary and Assistant Treasurer to Council. This requires a 75% YES vote to pass.
- The third motion will be to temporarily suspend for four to six months the election for Financial Secretary and Treasurer. This vote just requires a majority to pass.
- The fourth motion will be to establish the legal name of the church. This requires a 75% YES vote to change the legal name.

## **Motion #1 – Call Agreement for Our Next Settled Pastor**

The search committee has been diligently working towards this for the past seven months and they have made a recommendation to the Council to bring the vote to the congregation.

The candidate has been invited to serve as Officiant for the November 12 worship service so the congregation can hear them directly and a general bio will be available for the candidate ahead of that day. The search committee is excited about this candidate and feels like they will be a great fit for the congregation as we look to the future.


## **Motion #2 – Add Assistant Financial Secretary and Assistant Treasurer positions to Council**

These assistants would be supporting and training with the current Financial Secretary and Treasurer. They would serve as back-up to the primary persons if they are unavailable, as well as transitioning to the primary position the following term.

## **Motion #3 – Temporarily Suspend Elections for Financial Secretary and Treasurer**

These two positions are at the end of their term, and both have agreed to stay on for the next four to six months. The Council feels like there is a lot in transition now and if we were to get a settled pastor within the next few months, having a majority of the council positions also being filled by newer members might be a lot of adjustment, all at the same time. If we vote on a new pastor, and the assistant positions, we are not making so many changes all at once. It will allow a pastor to learn the ropes with the current Council and give time to train a new assistant financial secretary and treasurer.

## **Motion #4 – Official Church Name Determination**

This motion involves the official name of the church. Our church is currently registered under or known by many different names. 

## ...continued Moderator's Message

For business reasons and a sense of identity, we should have one official name to use with local, state, and federal agencies.

During the workshop on October 28, there was a discussion in regards to the many names the church is using. The main thing Council wanted was for the opportunity for people to have input on the name. If you did not attend this workshop, there will be time for discussion of this motion at the congregational meeting. I understand the name of the church is important to people and my hope is that we can all move forward as one body in Christ.

I believe that the people of the congregation are the treasures of the church. There is so much knowledge, spirit and faith in this group to fill several treasure chests. These are the riches we need to keep us going. As was said in Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."



I have said it before and I will say it again, a big thanks to our current Council members for their willingness to carry on. That being said, we are still looking for new people to fill Council positions that are at or past their term limits.

We will be putting a nominations committee together in the next couple of weeks and would love to have some members of the congregation fill in a couple of spots on the committee. If you are interested in being on the committee or joining Church Council, please don't hesitate to let that be known. We would love to have you.

~ John Marquardt  
moderator@vanucc.org



This month we begin our annual pledge drive. With this pledge campaign, *Giving Thanks*, we want to recognize what this church has been through and how we have held strong. Look for your pledge materials later this month and after review, we hope you will pledge your support for your church in 2024!

Join us for our kickoff potluck to be held after church on Sunday, November 19, turkey and gravy will be provided!

*Thanks be to God! Your pledge drive team ~  
Jan Foulke, Jean Beary Stolle, John Fite,  
John Greenauer, Lynn Chan, Sandy Mathis*

## PRAYER list...

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

Please pray for: Ken Kerr; the family of Kathy Fazio, Virginia Dunbar's daughter; Marilyn New; Pat Sutherland; Kristina Martin's mother Linda Wagner; Norma Lee Priel; Steve Koykar; and Leslie Chapman's cousin Jonathan Hylton.

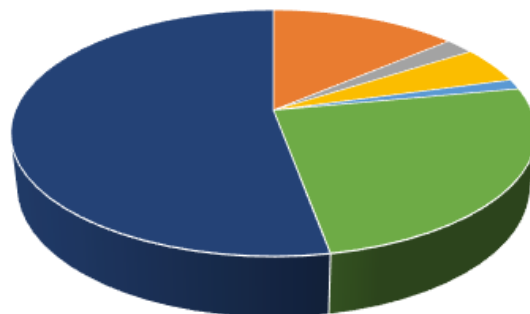
Please send prayer your requests to Lucie Murchison your council representative for Care at [care@vanucc.org](mailto:care@vanucc.org).

## TREASURER'S REPORT—STEVE BLOODWORTH

The days are turning colder, and the rains have returned here in the Pacific Northwest, while the work of the church continues in Vancouver. We paid some of our annual expenses during the month of September, such as the Conference Delegate's expenses for the CPC Annual Gathering, one of our Copyright and Streaming services and our annual maintenance on our fire sprinkler system. All of these things are in the budget. However, because our contributions and building use income were a little lower for the month, our expenses exceeded our income, and we had a loss of just under \$1,000.00. We do still have a healthy surplus overall for the year. Thank you for your continued support of your church! Please let me know if you have any questions. The numbers and graph are below.

	YTD	Budget
Pastoral Expense	0	66,466
Music Program	17, 154	25,771
Parish and Worship Activities	2,666	3,630
Wider Church Mission Support	6,031	6,580
Christian Education	1,662	4,150
Administration & Operations	31,361	40,563
Building Operations & Maintenance	66,087	99,729
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>124,961</b>	<b>246,889</b>

YTD Expense



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

# We've Missed You!

You are missed! Even when you are on Zoom for worship, your church misses seeing your face and hearing your voice.

As part of the changes made to worship that have included a time for *Sharing the Peace of the Lord*, the council is asking if you would be willing to have your name shared via microphone. We are envisioning something similar to a shoutout, such as "we share the peace with John, Jane, Suzy, and Linda who are worshipping with us on Zoom today."

Eric has offered to collect the names of those who sign in. If you are uncomfortable with this type of shoutout, let Eric or anyone on council know. You can use the Chatbox on Zoom on Sundays when you sign in, or you can text a council member whose phone number you have (if you don't use a laptop or don't use the Chat feature). We respect your privacy, but we want to include as many of you as we can. Peace be with you. ~ Brenda Houchen



## **Please Join the Worship Committee**

on November 25 at 10 am for the "Hanging of the Greens" in the sanctuary. Kick off the Advent season with some Christmas music, hot apple cider, and Christmas cookies.



Congregation Kol Ami is asking for support for their church as many of their congregation is affected by the war happening in Gaza. They are planning on having an Interfaith Worship Service on Wednesday, November 22 at 7 pm at Kol Ami. We were asked to participate in the service along with many other churches and we have agreed to participate.

As most of you know, Kol Ami used to hold their services in our church for many years. When we had the fire in 2016, they were the first people to contact us and offer us any assistance we needed. What we are now asking of this church is for you to attend the service on November 22nd and show your support for the members of Kol Ami. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Chapman at [leslie@vanucc.org](mailto:leslie@vanucc.org).



The Safety Committee has announced a First Aid, CPR, and AED training class starting at 9:30 am on November 18 via Zoom. The class will be approximately three hours long. Faye Zepeda, the instructor, has added some first aid information that has extended the training session. Anyone who took the class in October 2021, will need to take this class to keep their card up to date. A sign-up sheet will be in the Sanctuary on the back table.





At our last meeting Beverly Crossman reminded us that it has been 14 years since the Prayer Shawl Ministry started. To date we have given out over 400 shawls. Connie Oppel and Joanie Nelson started the group and were our leaders for several years. We miss both of them.

A shawl can be given to someone for many reasons. Shawls have been given to new members, confirmands, and to those who have experienced illness, loss, etc. If you want to give a shawl to someone who needs some comfort or joy, please contact us.

We currently have a good supply of shawls and most are in the cabinet in Clawson Corner; baby blankets are also available. Shawls can be picked up Sun. after worship and during office hours Tues. & Thurs. 10 am–2 pm. Judy Walter (360-693-0393) also has a few shawls at her home. Please contact Leslie Chapman or Lucie Murchison to arrange a different pickup time. We also have a supply of needles, yarn and other accessories available if needed.

It doesn't matter if you don't knit or crochet, our meetings are open to anyone who might want to come to visit, have coffee and get to know one another better. Also, if you are a knitter/crocheter and can't attend meetings, feel free to donate your projects if you'd like to support us. We meet the second Thursday of each month at 10 am at the church. Blessings to all and thank you for supporting the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

~ Judy Walter and the Prayer Shawl group



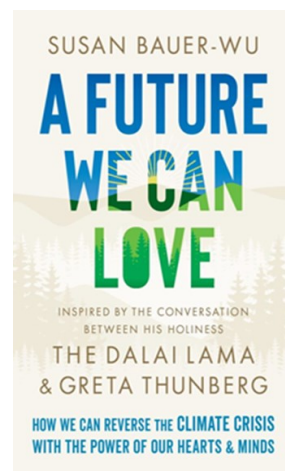
As you may know, in the last 2 1/2 years there has been a large influx of immigrants from Afghanistan and Ukraine. [Lutheran Community Services Northwest](#) (LCSNW) has contracts with the federal government to help refugees to resettle in Vancouver.

Immigrants arrive with very little. LCSNW relies on churches to donate restart kits which, in their totality, cover all the basics needed to live in a furnished apartment.

In mid-October I asked our congregation to support our Immigrant Welcoming mission by signing up to purchase items for three restart kits: two different kits for the kitchen and one for babies. If you would like to help, please sign up on November 5. All items need to be brought to church on November 12. Thanks so much.

~ Marilyn Martinyak

## 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.



## Congregational Meeting • Nov 12

*Immediately following worship.*

The purpose of this meeting will be for members of the congregation to vote on four important motions. Please see the Moderator's Report on page 1 & 2 for more info. Questions? Email John M. at [Moderator@vanucc.org](mailto:Moderator@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 meet 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 that have a lot of experience with different people but aren't currently engaged in the business of the church.



## OASIS MOVIE GROUP RESUMES

Our first outing, ironically, will be a Christmas Concert.

What: Oregon Repertory Singers "Glory of Christmas"]

When: Sunday, December. 3, 2023

Time: 4 pm

Where: First United Methodist Church,  
1838 SW Jefferson St • Portland, OR. 97201

Even if you are not interested in joining the movie group, you are welcome to join us at the wonderful ORS Christmas concert. This is a popular concert, so you need to buy your tickets soon. [Tickets are \\$25, \\$35 or \\$45](#)  
Read more about the concert [HERE](#).

Afterwards we will eat dinner at Gustav's in Vancouver. Please let me know if you will be dining with us. Any questions, call Nancy Fite.



**Thank you to everyone** who participated in the Trunk or Treat! Gina Marquardt, Christian Education

# November Events

- 2** Choir Practice • 7–8:30 pm: Sanctuary
- 3** Fall Cleanup Day • 9 am–12 pm: Church Grounds
- 7** Glorify Discussion Group • 11:15 am–12:15 pm: Sanctuary
- 9** Prayer Shawl Meeting • 10–11 am: Clawson Corner  
All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us. Please contact Judy Walter for more info
- 9** Choir Practice • 7–8:30 pm: Sanctuary
- 10** Fall Cleanup Day • 9 am–12 pm: Church Grounds
- 11** Fall Cleanup Day • 9 am–12 pm: Church Grounds
- 12** Congregational Meeting • 11:15 am–12 pm: Sanctuary
- 14** Personnel Meeting • 1–2 pm: Nettie Fries
- 15** Property & Finance • 5:30–7:30 pm: Nettie Fries
- 16** Mission & Outreach Meeting • 11 am–1 pm: Sanctuary
- 16** Choir Practice • 7–8:30 pm: Sanctuary
- 19** Giving Thanks Kick-off Potluck • 11:15 am–1 pm: Bradford Hall
- 21** Choir Practice • 7–8:30 pm: Sanctuary
- 22** Interfaith Worship Service • 7 pm at Kol Ami
- 23** Thanksgiving Day • *the church office is closed*
- 25** Hanging of the Greens • 10 am–1 pm: Sanctuary
- 28** Church Council Meeting • 7–9 pm: Nettie Fries
- 30** Choir Practice • 7–8:30 pm: Sanctuary

Vancouver  
United Church  
of Christ



*Sunday Worship: 10 am*

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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.



*The office is open Tuesdays & Thursdays  
10 am to 2 pm*

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- Nov 2 . . . . . Marilyn Martinyak
- Nov 4 . . . . . Daryl DeSilva
- Nov 13 . . . . . Gertie Hettman
- Nov 16. . . . . Tyler Corey
- Nov 19 . . . . . Randy Franklin
- Nov 20 . . . . Shirley Brandenburg
- Nov 20 . . . . . Oliver Holden
- Nov 22 . . . . . Natalie Cantrell
- Nov 25 . . . . . Claudia Martin
- Nov 26 . . . . . Patty Todd
- Nov 29 . . . . . Jack Corey
- Nov 29. . . . . Karen Kulm



November 5  
Daylight  
Saving  
Time Ends  
Sun @ 2 am