



## Pastor's Message



Hello Beloveds!

It has been a busy first two weeks on the job, but it has been wonderful. Everyone has been so gracious and welcoming. My family and I feel so blessed to be able to enter into this new ministry with nothing but warmth from our new community. Our deepest thanks to everyone.

In the short time I have been here, it has become abundantly clear what a caring and active community this is. God is obviously working in this congregation, and I sense there are great things in our future. I have already met so many people with skills and talents, and I know there are a lot more I haven't seen yet. I hope that over the next few weeks, I can meet with each of you and learn more about you and where you see our church headed.

Shortly, I will be setting up office hours for drop-in appointments and an option for making time for appointments with me one-on-one. I hope to have those set up in time for the next publication of the Dove. Stay tuned!

Again, thank you for a wonderful first couple of weeks. See you all this Sunday at the brunch!

~ Pastor Steve

## UCC WESTERN REGIONAL YOUTH EVENT—JUNE 23-27, 2024



Join hundreds of UCC Middle and High Schoolers from the eight UCC Conferences of the western half of the United States. We're gathering at California State University - Long Beach for a few days of workshops, service projects, music, worship, an adventure day at Disney and more!

- Sunday - Arrive & Evening Worship
- Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday  
Three days of Workshops, Service Project and an adventure day at Disney.
- Thursday - Morning Worship & Depart
- Registration costs are still being finalized (somewhere around \$600) and will include housing, meals, and admission for one day at Disneyland. More info coming soon.
- Ages of Youth: This event is open to youth currently in 6th grade through currently in 12th grade (2023-24 school year).

QUESTIONS?

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Rev. Wally Hoeger

[whoeger@firstchurchlb.org](mailto:whoeger@firstchurchlb.org)

Please contact Gina at [CE@vanucc.org](mailto:CE@vanucc.org) for more information.

# January Events

- 4** Choir Practice • 7–8:30 pm: Sanctuary
- 8** Safety Committee • 6–7 pm: Zoom
- 9** Personnel Meeting • 12–1 pm: Nettie Fries
- 9** Church Council Meeting • 7–9 pm: Nettie Fries
- 11** Prayer Shawl Meeting • 10–11 am: Clawson Corner  
All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us. Please contact Judy Walter for more info.
- 11** Mission & Outreach Meeting • 11:30 am–1:30 pm: Sanctuary
- 11** Choir Practice • 7–8:30 pm: Sanctuary
- 17** Property & Finance • 5:30–7:30 pm: Nettie Fries
- 18** Choir Practice • 7–8:30 pm: Sanctuary
- 23** Church Council Meeting • 7–9 pm: Nettie Fries
- 25** Choir Practice • 7–8:30 pm: Sanctuary
- 28** Annual Congregational Meeting • 11:15 am–2:15 pm: Sanctuary



# YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

## Greetings from your Financial Secretary!

I want to thank all of you who have returned your pledge card with a pledge for 2024!

This is a very busy time of year. If you have not yet submitted your pledge, please take a moment to do so and bring it with you to church or mail it to me. You can also email your pledge to me at [finsec@vanucc.org](mailto:finsec@vanucc.org). This will help us with budgeting for the new year.

Also, thank you for giving to the monthly mission offering. Those funds are greatly appreciated by the organizations we support!

~ Jan Foulke



**Sunday, January 28**

**11:15 am–12:15 pm: Sanctuary**

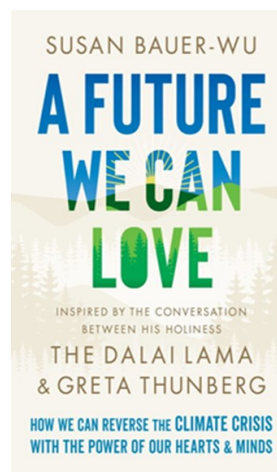
Please plan to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting after worship.



## Holiday Food & Gift Cards

Thank You for your generous donations during the November Special Offering. We were able to help four family units by providing gift cards/ food boxes to them. Thank you also to Leslie Chapman and Martha's Pantry for helping with the food boxes. From Congregational Care.

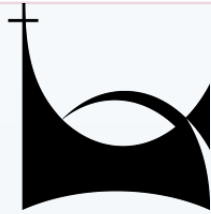
## Discussion Group in the New Year



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.

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 to 2 pm*

**Pastor:** Steven King  
PastorSteve@vanucc.org

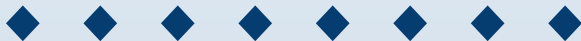
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The LINK is published the 1st week of each month. The **Due Date** for articles is the **4th Wed.** of the preceding month.

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.



# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1 . . . . . John Fite

January 3 . . . . . Ken Rowe

January 6 . . . . . Lisa King

January 7 . . . . . Charles Ross

January 22 . . . Danya Marquardt

*Happy New Year*



SING UNTO THE LORD  
*a new song;*  
FOR HE HATH DONE  
*marvelous things.*

PSALM 98:1, KJV