



Pastor's Message—Rev. Steve King



Beloveds,
By the time you read this, we will have already witnessed through the scriptures and celebrated the resurrection of our

Lord, Jesus Christ. And I have no doubt that it was a wonderful and meaningful experience for all. But as I write this, it is Holy Thursday, and Sunday seems a long way off. Besides being a busy time of planning and writing, it is also a spiritually tumultuous week. As we follow the scriptures from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday, the range of emotions can be overwhelming. But through it all, we see Jesus, steady at the helm. Even in the darkest moment of the crucifixion on Friday, there is hope on the horizon of Sunday morning.

The hope of new life that we see in the words of the Bible isn't just confined to those pages, though. Despite our erratic weather, you see signs of spring and the new life it brings all around us. Likewise, our own church is experiencing signs of growth. We welcomed eight new members on Palm Sunday. We just wrapped up a great book discussion group (and another in the works). The youth helped revitalize the mini forest. Mission and Outreach is planning an environmental awareness event. These and so many things that are in the works are all bringing new life to our own congregation and our community, and I can't wait to see what this next season brings.

Christ is Risen!

Pastor Steve

Pastor Steve's work week is typically Sunday through Thursday. You can easily schedule appointments with him by at his church office by using his Calendly profile

<https://calendly.com/pastorsteve-vucc>.

*The church office is open Tues & Thurs
10 am to 2 pm.*

Vancouver
United Church
of Christ



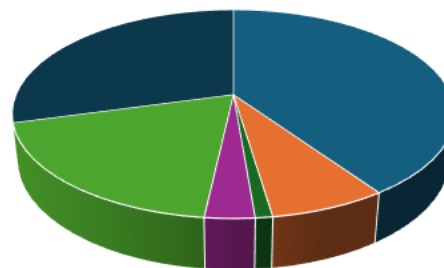
Sunday Worship: 10 am
1220 NE 68th St • Vancouver, WA 98665
www.vanucc.org—info@vanucc.org
(360) 693-1476

TREASURER'S REPORT—STEVE BLOODWORTH

Happy Spring! As the weather turns warmer and the rain stops, there is a lot of activity happening in the life of our church. And with more activity and a full-time pastor, our expenses are increasing as we knew that they would. Although we are now in April, my report is for the month of February, and we had a couple of higher-than-normal expenses during the month. Our electric bill was higher than usual due to the cold snap that we experienced in January. The Pension Board updated their records for the church and our new pastor, and as a result, we were charged double the usual monthly fees. This meant that we had more expenses for the month than income, and we incurred a loss for the month of \$11,664.98. We are still slightly ahead for the year though. As a reminder, I will be away during the month of April, but Chuck Foulke will be filling in for me, making sure that everything gets paid. The numbers for February are below. Thank you for your continued support of Vancouver UCC!

	YTD	Budget
Pastoral Expense	17,467	107,141
Music Program	3,122	26,541
Parish and Worship Activities	458	3,400
Wider Church Mission Support	0	6,300
Christian Education	1,322	8,050
Administration & Operations	8,186	42,921
Building Operations & Maintenance	12,664	102,041
Total Expense	43,219	296,394

YTD Expense



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

SCAM

ALERT

Once again, we have had emails sent out in my name in an attempt to scam members of our congregation. These scammers are trying to take advantage of the close bond of trust that a congregation and its pastor/staff have. We want to make sure that you are not taken advantage of. These emails usually start with something like...*"Hello , Are you less busy at the moment? I have a request and want you to handle it confidentially and discreetly. Let me know if you're available."* **This is a copy of an actual email.**

The typical tactic is to ask you to buy gift cards with the promise of paying you back. They will ask you to scratch off the security covering and send them the numbers. The scam may look a little different at times, but this is the general plot.

Important things to note:

1. I will **never** send a random email asking if you are busy.
2. I will **never** ask you to buy a gift card, especially via email.
3. I will **never** ask you to handle something "confidentially and discreetly" out of the blue. If an email looks suspicious or uses words that sound odd, there is probably a reason for it. If you are not sure about the authenticity of the sender, click on the person's name and it will reveal the actual email address it was sent from. If it comes from one of the following email addresses, you can be sure it came from us; pastorsteve@vanucc.org, leslie@vanucc.org, elizabeth@vanucc.org. If it does not (and purports to come from us), mark it as spam and do not respond. Pastor Steve

Special Offering for April



Do you have a talent, craft, or skill you can share with our youth grades K-12? We are bringing back "Ask the Experts" for our summer youth program during our church services on Sunday mornings. The commitment would be for one Sunday during our church service in the summer. Please let Gina Marquardt know what dates might work for you and your idea by sending an email to CE@vanucc.org.

Examples from past offerings are popsicle stick bridge making, dance and movement, music, how to make slime, cooking, outdoor sports day, etc. The summer program starts on May 26 and runs until our kick-off of the new school year on September 8. Contact Gina Marquardt, Christian Ed at CE@vanucc.org.

Welcome Our New Members!



From L-R: Steve and Rebekah King, Kyler and Kristen Bounds, Ashley and Jeremy Wiedrick, Lynne and David Smith.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Our Christian Education team is working on another book discussion group that will meet once a month, beginning April 28 after worship.

We will be working through “Compassion in Practice: The Way of Jesus” by Frank Rogers Jr. If you have any questions please contact Lynn Chan at lynnmmrenner@gmail.com or Pastor Steve at pastorsteve@vanucc.org.

As a good primer for this series, the author will be moderating an upcoming panel on cultivating compassion comparing Christian and Buddhist approaches.

This panel is sponsored by the Global Compassion Coalition. Rev. Dr. Aizaiah G. Yong, Assistant Professor of Spirituality for Claremont School of Theology will be one of the panelists alongside leaders from the major programs researching the cultivation of compassion in the United States.

The panel is free of charge and will occur on April 22 at 9:00 pacific time. You can find more information and register [HERE](#).



Prayer Shawl Group

The prayer shawl ministry has been part of the church for many, many years! We meet every second Thursday of the month at 10:00 am in Clawson Corner. This has been a long-standing ministry dedicated to providing hand knitted or crocheted shawls for comfort for those in need. We have shawls and baby blankets that are blessed by our pastor when finished by the dedicated craftspeople.

We are open for all to come to our meetings to work on a shawl or just to visit, many of our members just come monthly for company and visiting, all are welcome to come. If you are new or have questions, it's a great place to get answers and ideas. Yarn is available along with patterns and knitting needles or crochet hooks.

Unfortunately, due to life circumstances and the need for shawls, the supply has dwindled considerably. This will eventually be rectified but it does take time to craft these.

Currently, if you need a shawl, please contact the office, Pastor Steve, Judy Walter, or myself to verify if one is available.

Lucie, Congregational Care

The Prayer Shawl Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at 10 am in Nettie Fries. The next meeting is April 11 and all knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us. Please contact Judy Walter for more info.

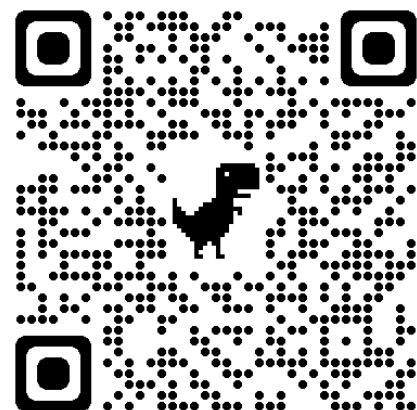
Fundraiser



Mark your calendars for a delightful fundraiser on May 5. We will be selling tickets, starting April 7 directly after church—\$15 for lunch and \$5 for chips and salsa to go. Invite friends and family, then join our youth May 5 after church in Bradford Hall for authentic homemade savory and dessert tamales, chicken taquitos, refried beans and rice, Mexican street corn, and tostos. We will have vegetarian and vegan options. We will also have handmade chips and salsa to purchase to take home. Contact Gina at CE@vanucc.org for questions.



Here is the QR code for our donation page. Easily navigate to our website to learn how you can give electronically!





Installation

Please save the date! On Saturday, June 8, 2024 we will install Rev. Steve King as our pastor. More details to follow soon.

SAVE THE DATE – On Sunday, May 5 at 2 pm, in the sanctuary, there will be a service to celebrate God's creation.



A panel of local experts will provide information and answer questions. The community will be invited. More information will follow. If you have questions, please contact Mission & Outreach.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- April 3 Trent Corey
- April 11. Ken Gaston
- April 12. Jerry Mathis
- April 13. Shirl Zent
- April 15 Steve King
- April 19 Leslie Chapman
- April 22. Angel Caraballo
- April 29 Ed Martin
- April 30 Pam Osborne

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.

April Events

April 4 – Choir Practice ▪ 7-8:30 pm: Sanctuary

April 8 – Safety Committee ▪ 6-7 pm: Zoom

April 9 – Personnel Meeting ▪ 12-1 pm: Clawson Corner

April 10 – Installation Planning ▪ 7-9 pm: Nettie Fries

April 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

April 11 – Mission & Outreach Meeting ▪ 11:30 am-1:30 pm: Sanctuary

April 11 – Choir Practice ▪ 7-8:30 pm: Sanctuary

April 17 – Property & Finance ▪ 5:30-7:30 pm: Nettie Fries

April 18 – Choir Practice ▪ 7-8:30 pm: Sanctuary

April 23 – Council Meeting ▪ 7-9 pm: Nettie Fries

April 25 – Choir Practice ▪ 7-8:30 pm: Sanctuary

April 28 – Book Discussion Group ▪ 11:15 am-12:30 pm: Sanctuary

