

# The Link

# September 2024

## Pastor's Message—Rev. Steve King



Beloveds,  
As I write this, I am sitting on the church deck, enjoying the sunshine and taking in all of creation's beauty. I have been reflecting on all the

adventures that I have been on this summer, both inside and outside of the church. I am also keenly aware of the construction noises that have been ever-present for the last few months.

So, what is the intersection of those two lines of thought? At first, absolutely nothing. But as I consider it more, it occurs to me that both are starting to draw to a close. While there are still a couple more months of camping to be had, the dynamic changes. We will spend less time traipsing along shorelines and hiking trails and more time around the campfire.

At home, the construction project, which has had NE 68th St. closed off for several months, is ramping into high gear, and they are making

good progress. Soon, we will be able to get in and out of our parking lot with ease, and pedestrians will be able to traverse the hill without the fear of being run off the road by cars.

Both of these things mark the end of summer and the return of many members who have been on vacation. And with that, the start of a new school year. As things get settled into routines, I can't help but feel like this is the beginning of an opportunity for growth.

As we move into this new season, I would like to encourage you to consider the people you run into in your lives. Are there folks who you feel need something in their lives? Are there people you know who could benefit from a family of choice and the love of Christ? If the answer is yes, reach out to them. Invite them in. Give them a ride if need be. If no one stands out, ask God to lead you to someone. You never know what impact a simple invitation can have.

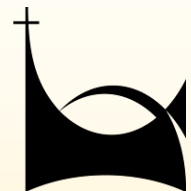
Grace and Peace, Pastor Steve

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

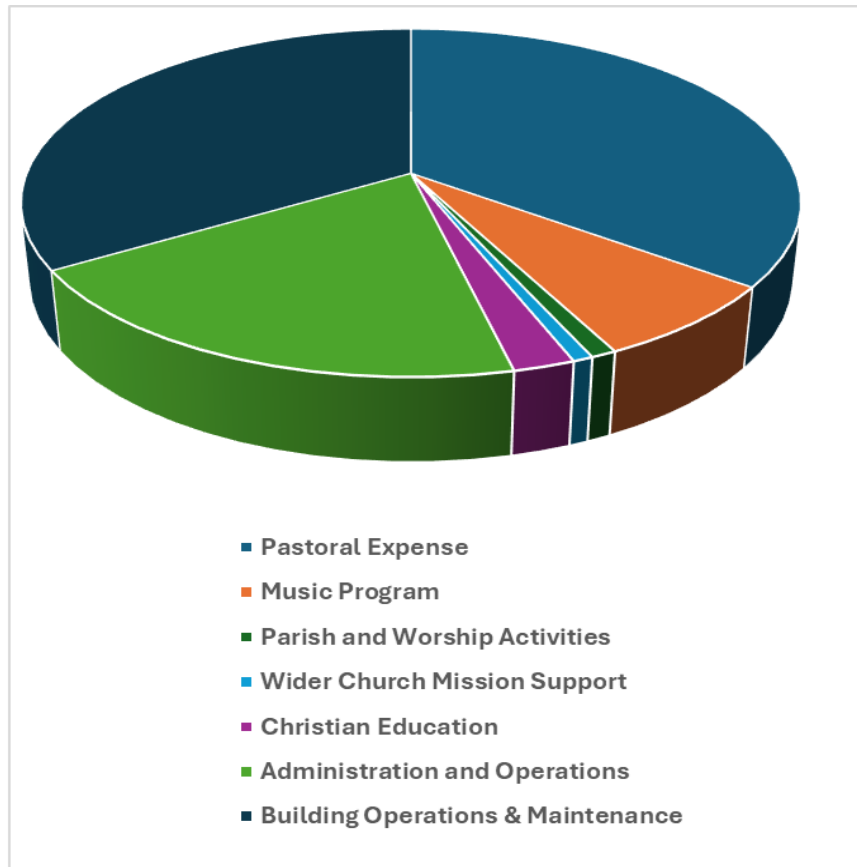


*Sunday Worship: 10 am*  
1220 NE 68th St • Vancouver, WA 98665  
[www.vanucc.org](http://www.vanucc.org)—[info@vanucc.org](mailto:info@vanucc.org)  
(360) 693-1476

## TREASURER'S REPORT—CHUCK FOULKE

Year-to- Date we have received \$148,510 in income and have had expenditures of \$161,185, thus we have a year-do-date deficit of \$12,675. These deficit expenditures are covered by reserves from prior fiscal years. Looking ahead to August, we will have major expenditures for property insurance, Our Church's Wider Mission, and the pastor's benefits package which will greatly increase our expenses for August, and thus increase our overall deficit for the year.

	YTD	Budget
Pastoral Expense	\$57,000	\$107,141
Music Program	\$11,627	\$26,541
Parish and Worship Activities	\$1,470	\$3,400
Wider Church Mission Support	\$1,162	\$6,300
Christian Education	\$3,546	\$8,050
Administration & Operations	\$31,889	\$42,921
Building Operations & Maintenance	\$54,491	\$102,041
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$161,185</b>	<b>\$296,394</b>





## CALL FOR DELEGATES TO THE CPC ANNUAL GATHERING

The 2024 CPC Annual Gathering will be held over two weekends, September 27-29 and Saturday, October 5. The in-person gathering will take place at the Wild Horse Resort and Casino on the Umatilla Reservation (near Pendleton, OR) beginning with dinner at 6:00 pm on Friday, September 27 and concluding at noon on Sunday, September 29.



The business meeting will be held via Zoom the following Saturday, October 5, from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. Delegates will need to commit to both weekends.

We have had two people volunteer to be delegates and are looking for two more. The church will reimburse the registration fee, but each delegate will be responsible for their lodging and transportation costs and any meals not served as part of the in person gathering, covered by the registration fee.

Please let me, Steve Bloodworth, know as soon as possible if you are interested in attending this year's Annual Gathering as a delegate for Vancouver UCC.



**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**  
**10 am to 2 pm**  
**(360) 639-1476**

**We have a new phone system with  
new numbers!**

**Pastor, Steven King**  
pastorsteve@vanucc.org  
Pastor's Office: (360) 626-9526

**Building Coord, Leslie Chapman**  
leslie@vanucc.org  
Building Coord Office: (360) 626-9525

**Office Admin, Elizabeth Spannring**  
elizabeth@vanucc.org  
Church Office: (360) 626-9524

# Safety TEAM

Sometime this fall, there will be an emergency drill. Please read the Evacuation Maps that are posted in the Sanctuary, Nettie Fries Lounge, by the Elevator (both lower level and main levels.)

- As a reminder, anyone seated (facing the altar) on the left side of the main aisle will exit through the Emergency Doors near the rear of the Sanctuary.
- Those seated (facing the altar) on the right side of the main aisle will exit through the Main Entrance doors.
- The choir will exit through the Main Entrance doors.
- Those who are seated at the tables in the back will exit through the Emergency Exit.
- Once outside, everyone will meet at the Antoinette Agerter Garden in the Southwest corner of the church property.
- The youth and nursery will be guided by Safety Committee members to the Antoinette Agerter Garden.
- There will also be non-committee members to aide members of the congregation that might need assistance.
- If a member is seated next to or near a visitor, please assist them by directing to the appropriate exit. We do this drill to educate everyone about the safety measures that have been in place since the fire in 2016.
- Copies of the Emergency Procedures Manual are throughout the building, as are first aid kits, fire extinguishers, and AED devices.



Please join us on Sunday, September 8 for the Fall Kick-off in Bradford Hall directly after church. We are celebrating the return of Choir and Christian Education from summer break. All ages are invited.

Bring a corn or harvest dish to share. If you have any questions, please email Gina at [CE@vanucc.org](mailto:CE@vanucc.org). See you there!

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## YOUR MISSION AND OUTREACH TEAM ENCOURAGES YOUR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THIS ELECTION SEASON

Several initiatives seeking to repeal recent legislation that supports our values to love and care for our neighbors and the earth will be on the November ballot.

These include repeal of a capital gains tax benefiting education (I-2109), repeal of the climate commitment act (I-2117), repeal of a long-term health care program (I-2124), and repeal of limits on natural gas regulations (I-2066). You can use this link to view these on the Washington Secretary of State website: <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/voters/2024-general-election-voters-guide/2024-initiative-information>

You can learn more on Faith Action Network's webpage <https://fanwa.org/initiatives/> or you are welcome to talk with one of us on the Mission and Outreach Team.

# Sermon Talkback

This will be a chance for you to talk with Pastor Steve about the day's sermon. Whether you have comments, questions, or just want to see what other people thought about it, you are welcome to join us. We will meet at 11:15 am at the tables in the back of the sanctuary. Hope to see you there!

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Hello all.

This year, we will be celebrating the saints of our congregation on Sunday, November 11 during worship. We will again be putting together a video presentation to honor those that we have lost since November of 2023. If you have a family member or friend that you would like us to honor, please email a short bit (three or four lines) of information about the person that we can use to [leslie@vanucc.org](mailto:leslie@vanucc.org). We would need the person's name, date of birth, date of passing, and relation to you. We would also want at least one photograph (but up to ten) that we can place in the video.

So far this year, we know we will be honoring Ruby Frank, Ed Frank, Karen Owen, Charlie Ross, Virginia Ebersole, Patti Jones, and Steve Koykar from MCC. You may honor anyone you wish. Please send the information to me no later than November 1. Thank you, Leslie.

# OASIS Groups

OASIS is our name for social groups who do fun activities together and build friendships and community.

OASIS sign-ups will begin on September 8. You will receive the list of current OASIS groups and Church Service groups that you can join as you arrive. After church, as you get ready to go down to the Kick-Off Brunch and celebration, you will find big sheets for all groups on the hall windows with pens to sign up. They will stay up for two to three weeks, and then we will be off and running.

We all come to church with talents, interests, and passions to make a difference. This is a chance to seriously think about what groups you would like to be a part of that meet your needs and make contributions to you, your family, our church, and our community.

Pat Sutherland

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September 5 . . . Duane Woodworth  
September 10 . . . Wayne Fletcher  
September 13 . . . Rebecca Lewis  
September 17 . . . Ruth Hammer  
September 24 . . . Marvin Benson  
September 26 . . . Joan Barber  
September 28 . . . Adina Tarpley



## Vancouver Peace and Justice Fair

### PEACE AND JUSTICE FAIR-SEPTEMBER 14

We need your help to staff a booth at the Peace and Justice Fair! This is a great community event, and you don't want to miss it.

The Fair will be held at Esther Short Park on Saturday, September 14. We need volunteers from 8 am (set-up) until 4 pm (take-down). There should be plenty of people staffing the booth during event hours (9 am to 3 pm) to give you a chance to tour other booths during your shift.

We especially need commitments for set-up and take-down. This includes transporting materials and setting up the booth (canopy, tables, etc.). Event volunteers will be on-site to guide you.

Please contact Karen Summers to sign up for a shift(s) at [summerslo@comcast.net](mailto:summerslo@comcast.net).

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## SPECIAL OFFERING FOR SEPTEMBER

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. This year's focus is on Mental Health Justice. In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health.

Please indicate your offering is for "Neighbors in Need" by noting this on your check, online donation, or envelope.



Please join us for our next Repair event!

What: Bring your broken household items to be fixed by experienced volunteer fixers – for free!

Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

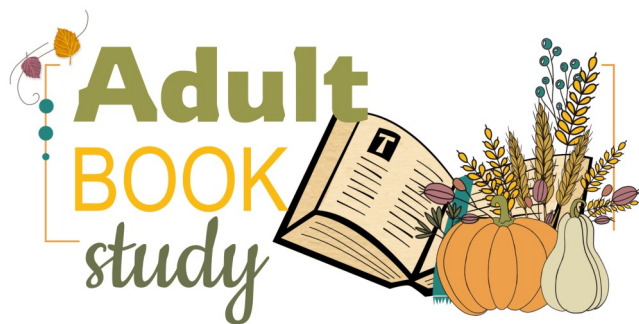
Where: Vancouver United Church of Christ

[Preregister your items here!](#)

What we repair:

- Appliances: toasters, mixers, lamps, etc.
- Vintage radios (Partnered with Northwest Vintage Radio Society)
- Sharpening: knives, scissors, pruners, etc. (We cannot sharpen anything with multiple teeth such as a saw blade, hedge trimmers, or chainsaw blades.)
- Sewing: rips, hemming, mending, zippers, etc.
- Other: jewelry, home decor, etc.
- Wheels: bicycles, wheelchairs, walkers, etc.

**NO** microwaves, gas engines, or holiday string lights! **All items must be small enough to be easily carried by one person**



Wednesday, September 18 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary, we will gather to discuss and share thoughts on our summer reading book, "Braving the Wilderness" by Brene Brown. Hope to see you there! Lynn Chan

# Personal Reflection



As I was going through paperwork from my mother who passed away in 2014, I found this Personal Reflection that she wrote after walking a labyrinth. I hope you enjoy it and will also walk our labyrinth sometime.

“Like life, the path is long and twisting, and it must be traveled in its entirety. There is no shortcut. Sometimes it feels fulfilling; sometimes it feels lonely.

Oh Lord – let my journey be of worth to others. Let it be a journey of love.” Jan Foulke

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](mailto:elizabeth@vanucc.org).



# Pollution Solution

**PLASTIC IS EVERYWHERE** - In a new study of brains, scientists found that the amount of plastic they contained was 50% higher than that in the same study in 2016. It now means that our brains today are 99.5% brain, and the rest is plastic. This study does not inform us about actual brain damage.

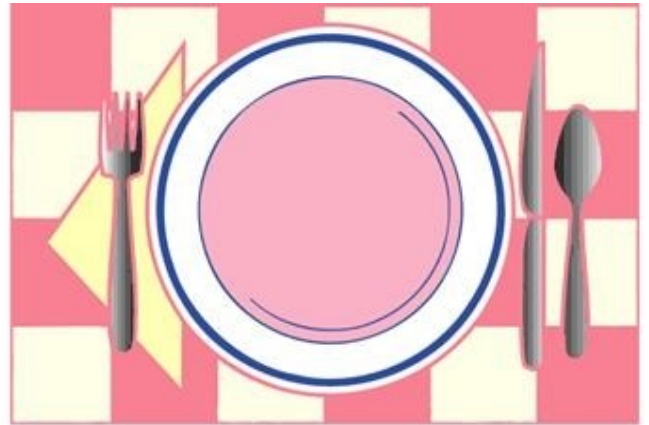
Brains contained 7 to 30 times more tiny shards of plastic than samples from the cadaver's kidneys and liver. These researchers suspect that the brain pulls in the very smallest nano plastics passing the blood-brain barrier, with larger sizes going to other organs. Polyethylene, which is used in plastic bags, films, and bottles, is not biodegradable and is the predominant type of plastic found in tissue samples.

What scientists do know with certainty is that these microplastic particles are like Trojan horses – they carry with them all the thousands of chemicals that are in plastics, and some are very bad actors.

The message here is that we cannot escape plastic, but we can minimize our exposure. Single-use plastic and food and water in plastic are some of the ways you can avoid some of the plastic in our world. Take food out of the plastic wrapping before you cook it or put it in the microwave. Remember that heat accelerates the movement of the microplastics out of the wrapping into the food. Bring your own cup/mug and silverware to your place of work to avoid using plastic cups and utensils. Take the time to assess plastic in your own home and environment!!

You will see soon that, as a church, we will be moving to decrease our use of single-use and other plastics as much as possible.  
STAY TUNED! ~ Pat Sutherland

## NEWCOMER'S



## BRUNCH

TO ALL WHO ARE NEW  
TO VANCOUVER UCC

If you are new and want to know more about our church and possible membership, please plan to come to our **Newcomer's Brunch** after church on September 22 in Bradford Hall.

We will share information about our church, our spiritual journey in coming to this church, our church history, and answer any questions you may have. After the brunch meeting, we will set the date for Membership Sunday.

If you are interested but cannot come to the brunch, please contact Pat Sutherland or Pastor Steve. Otherwise, please RSVP, as we need to know how many we are feeding. If childcare is an issue, then contact Pat Sutherland or Gina Marquardt.

You can email me at [membership@vanucc.org](mailto:membership@vanucc.org) or find me at church every Sunday. Blessings to you all! Pat Sutherland







## Property & Finance Update

Here is a photo of the renovated roof over the main entrance, Nettie Fries Lounge, hallway and restrooms etc, to the double doors near the stairs. This renovation has a 20-year warranty and was placed on the existing roof membrane avoiding the cost of demolition and disposal. Funding for this project came from the Kathleen Williams bequest.

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## HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REDUCING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

### Instant \$9000 State EV rebates for low-to-middle income residents, by Don Steinke

On August 1, 2024, the State of Washington launched its *Instant EV Rebate Program* for low-to-mid income residents. Residents may also qualify for additional instant Federal rebates of up to \$7500.

The State requirement depends on:

- household income
- lease vs purchase
- new vs used

The Federal requirement depends on:

- household income (less restrictive than the State requirement.)
- your tax liability
- lease vs purchase
- domestic content (but not if leased)
- new vs used



Caution 1: If you cannot plug in where you sleep, your first question should be: Where can you charge conveniently and affordably? Quick charging, such as at Walmart or Vancouver Plaza, usually costs 4 times as much as it would cost if you slow-charge where you sleep or work. Heavy duty infrastructure is expensive.

Details: <https://waevinstantrebates.org/>

<https://waevinstantrebates.org/rebates-qualifying-evs/#qualifying-evs>

<https://waevinstantrebates.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/WA-EV-IR-Dealer-List-v240802.pdf>

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2024/aug/01/13-clark-county-car-dealerships-participate-in-states-new-ev-instant-rebate-program-for-low-income-drivers/>

# September Activities

Sept 3 – Worship Meeting • 7-8:30 pm, Sanctuary

Sept 5 – Mission and Outreach • 10 am-12 pm, Sanctuary

Sept 5 – Confirmation • 6-7 pm: Multi-Age Room

Sept 5 – Choir Practice • 7-8:30 pm: Sanctuary

Sept 7 – Virginia Ebersole Celebration of Life • 2-4:30 pm: Sanctuary, Bradford Hall

Sept 8 – Kick-Off Sunday Potluck • 11 am-1 pm: Bradford Hall

Sept 9 – Safety Committee • 6-7 pm: Zoom Meeting

Sept 10 – Personnel Meeting • 12-1 pm: Clawson Corner

Sept 11 – Confirmation • 6-7 pm: Multi-Age Room

Sept 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

Sept 12 – Choir Practice • 7-8:30 pm: Sanctuary

Sept 14 – Charlie Ross Memorial Service • 2-5 pm: Sanctuary, Bradford Hall

Sept 18 – Property & Finance • 5:30-7:30 pm: Nettie Fries

Sept 18 – Book Discussion Group • 7-8:15 pm: Sanctuary

Sept 19 – Choir Practice • 7-8:30 pm: Sanctuary

Sept 21 – Clark County Repair • 10 am-12 pm: Bradford Hall

Sept 21 – Ed and Ruby Frank Memorial Service • 2-5 pm: Sanctuary, Bradford Hall

Sept 22 – New Member's Brunch, Bradford Hall • 11 am-1:30 pm: Bradford Hall

Sept 24 – Council Meeting • 7-9 pm: Nettie Fries

Sept 25 – Confirmation • 6-7 pm: Multi-Age Room

Sept 26 – Choir Practice • 7-8:30 pm: Sanctuary