



THE

First United Methodist Church • 401 E 33rd Street • Vancouver WA 98663

office@vanfumc.org • 360-693-5881 • www.vanfumc.org

MESSENGER

WE DISCOVER, EXPLORE, EMBRACE, AND SHARE GOD'S BELOVEDNESS



LENT

During Lent, we enter into a season of preparation, self-reflection and repentance when we seek to literally “turn around” and realign our lives and focus toward God. It is a time to give up things as well as take on new life-giving practices, helping us rid ourselves of distractions and our own selfish desires. By doing so, we seek to live and love as more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

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A SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY SERVING VANCOUVER SINCE 1854!



Our Lenten Journey

One of my “bucket list” items is to travel to the Holy Lands. I enjoy seeing pictures of the places where Jesus walked, taught, prayed, and lived, and these pictures help me imagine the settings for various events described in the Bible. Yet one day, I hope to see these places for myself. I expect that some of you have already had the opportunity to visit the Holy Lands. You can imagine the particular setting when you hear or read a scripture passage that references a place where you have been, and you know that visiting the place somehow adds a deeper dimension to experiencing the scripture passage. For many, however, a trip to the Holy Land is not possible and they need to rely on those who have been there to share what has been seen.

This is just one of the reasons I am excited to share Rev. Adam Hamilton’s study this Lent called “The Way, Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus.” Rev. Hamilton is the Senior Pastor at The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection and, in addition to his motivational preaching, he is a prolific author. He speaks and teaches on a variety of faith subjects and many groups in our church have used at least one of his studies. “The Way” contains video that shows many places in the Holy Lands where Jesus traveled.

In “The Way”, Hamilton focuses on the life and teachings of Jesus. He helps those participating in the study do this by using insights from history, archaeology, and the geography of the Holy Land. His video presentations will take us to the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized, to the Judean wilderness where he was tempted. We’ll also travel to Capernaum which was home base for Jesus during his three years of public ministry, to the mountain where Jesus gave his famous sermon, and to the Sea of Galilee where many important events of his life took place.

It may be a while until I actually have the opportunity to travel in the Holy Lands, however, I would like to invite you to journey with me to the Holy Lands this Lent by “Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus.”

We will begin our Journey on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and continue each Wednesday evening through March 21. Dinner will be prepared for us each evening at 6 pm in Jason Lee Hall. Contributions to offset the costs will be welcome, but not required. Childcare will also be available. On Ash Wednesday, we will finish dinner then move to the Sanctuary for an Ash Wednesday Service. On the remaining Wednesday evenings we will stay in Jason Lee Hall for Rev. Hamilton’s video presentation and table conversation about the video and related topics.

Our study will conclude, not on a Wednesday evening, but on Maundy Thursday, March 29. We will again gather at 6 pm to experience a Jewish Seder Meal, which is one that retells the Exodus story through readings, songs, and eating symbolic foods. Many scholars believe that the Passover Meal that Jesus shared with his Disciples prior to his crucifixion was a Seder Meal. On Maundy Thursday, we will also share a potluck meal together and conclude the evening with Holy Communion. Since the Seder Meal is one shared by families in community, children will be welcome to remain for the entire experience.

It is not necessary to make all the Wednesday sessions because each session will stand by itself, however, if you do commit to the entire Lenten experience I believe your faith will be greatly enriched.

I hope you will make plans to take this Lenten journey. I know you will be blessed by doing so.

Jon

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



All 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are invited to join us Sunday, February 11, immediately following worship service. We will meet in the Youth Room for some fun nerf wars! Bring your nerf guns, if you have any, and be ready to learn some new games and have fun with your friends. Please RSVP to Julie Harris julierharris44@gmail.com.

FIRST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

Our next fellowship will be February 9, 10:00AM in Jason Lee Hall. Our guest speaker will be Pat Jollota, Clark County Historian. She brings an in-depth knowledge of Vancouver and Clark County history. Starting this month, we are expanding the meeting to include an invitation to get together for lunch following our meeting. We will be going to Paul's Restaurant. A different restaurant will be chosen each month. Come join us for informative and entertaining session!

Fellowship, Food, and MORE Food!



Few traditions stand the test of time in the Methodist faith like fellowship and food. From potlucks to Wednesday night dinners, where two or more have gathered in his name to nosh on some home cooked delights, there has been fellowship.

Members and visitors to Vancouver First United Methodist Church over the next few months will have ample opportunities to join in fellowship and food with our upcoming Lenten series on Wednesday nights, Mardis Gras treats during the Encore concert, interesting morsels to be served at the Seder supper, an upcoming potluck dinner, and an Easter morning breakfast featuring biscuits and gravy.

Chefs, cooks and good eaters are gathering to prepare such meals. Currently, more than a half dozen folks have signed up to a new "kitchen crew," a team of people that will help prepare the meals and treats that will accompany exciting new traditions at the church. If you would like to be among those on the kitchen team, please email office@vanfumc.org, call the church office at 360.693.5881, or sign up in the office or at the information booth on Sundays.

The current schedule of food and fellowship events includes:

*Dinner preparation for delivery to Discovery Middle School's Culture Night. This will be prepared starting at **noon on Thursday, February 8**, in the church kitchen. We will prepare pulled pork, green beans, corn, mashed potatoes, and a dessert for 150 people.

*Dinner for 100 members and visitors on Ash Wednesday, **February 14, at 6:00PM**. Prep and cooking begins at 3:00PM. After the meal, folks will head to the Sanctuary for the Ash Wednesday service with Pastor Jon.

*Wednesday nights, on **February 21, 28, March 7, 14, and 21, will continue the schedule of 3:00PM, cooking with service at 6:00PM** in Jason Lee Hall. Patrons will take part in the Lenten series in Jason Lee Hall shortly after the meal.

*On the evening of **Thursday, March 29**, the cooking team will assemble a simple, yet powerful, Seder meal complete with symbolic tastes for each visitor such as parsley and salt water, matzah crackers, boiled eggs, etc. Pastor Jon will go through the meaning of the meal. A potluck will accompany this event, as the church will provide the meat, such as fried chicken or meatloaf.





United Methodist Women is a group of women just like you who are organized for mission for women, youth, and children at home and around the world. There are three circles; Naomi Circle meets the first Thursday of the month, Rachel Circle meets the third Wednesday and A.W.A.K.E. Circle meets the fourth Tuesday of the month. All women are welcome! If you are interested in learning more about United Methodist Women or would like to attend any of the circles or events, please contact the church office (360-693-5881 or office@vanfumc.org) and we will be happy to get you in touch with a UMW member for complete details.

United Methodist Women, continuing our mission, turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.



Naomi Circle

Ladies, are you thinking of joining a small, intimate group for a Bible lesson, program, lots of laughing and food? Then come join Naomi Circle on Thursday, February 1, at 10:00AM in the Conrad Room! Anyone interested in attending this circle may call Sheila at 360-696-9558.

A.W.A.K.E. Circle

A.W.A.K.E. Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 23, at 1:00PM in the Conrad Room. Please call Bev Thomas for more information, 360-573-0399.

Rachel Circle

Rachel Circle will meet on Wednesday, February 21, at 10:00AM in the Conrad Room. Please contact Marion Noe at 360-750-5952 for more information.

UMW LEADERSHIP TEAM

The team will meet on Wednesday, February 14, @ 10:00AM in Hesselstine Hall.

UMW QUILTING

UMW quilting day is Wednesday, February 28, at 9:30AM in the quilting room downstairs.

Come to a circle meeting to see which one is right for YOU!

2ND ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF AND HO DOWN

Saturday March 3

United Methodist Women of First Church invites everyone to our second annual Chili Cook Off and Ho Down! We are looking for some outstanding Chili makers and invite back last year's contestants to compete again in a bigger and better cook off. There will be a pie auction again and we are looking for homemade pie bakers, hoping to have a large variety of pies. Please contact Nancy Janney (360)903-5971 or the church (360)693-5881, if you would like to make chili and compete in the cook off or make a pie for the auction. There will be great entertainment and fun for all as last year's attendees can attest to. The cost is the same \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids under ten. The time is 5:00PM - 8:00PM. Please come for delicious chili and fun. Tickets will be available at the Information Booth, starting February 11, and every Sunday thereafter. You may also pick up your tickets from the church office and UMW members. SEE YOU THERE, YEE HAW!



It's time to register for the 2018-19 School year!! We will have open registration on 2/2 at 9:30. If you know of a preschool aged little one that is looking for preschool, please have them check us out!

We will have our S.T.E.A.M. Family Fun Night on Thursday 2/23. Students and siblings will get to explore, create and navigate their way through different STEAM themed activities.

We hope everyone stays healthy as we head into Spring. Our students cannot wait for some sunshine!

Katie Coop
Director

EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE!

The sale of Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate is coming to an end. Thanks for helping support small farmers across the world! There will be a "Going Out of Business" Sale on Sunday, February 11, before and after the service. All items will be significantly marked down. Come stock up on your favorites or try something new!

February 2018 Calendar

Weekly Recurring Events

Sundays 4, 11, 18, 25

8:15 Choir Rehearsal
9:00 Children's Sunday School
9:00 Seekers Class
9:00 Youth Sunday School
10:00 Worship
10:30 Children & Youth Choir Rehearsal
3:30 MS Youth Group

Mondays 5, 12, 19, 26

9:30 Knitting Group
6:30 Monday Night Leaven Group
7:00 Troop 525 (cancelled 2/19)

Tuesdays 6, 13, 20, 27

9:30 Irish Leaven Group

Wednesdays 7, 14, 21, 28

9:00 Bridges
10:30 Staff Meeting
**6:00 Ash Wednesday & Lenten Fellowship & Supper
2/14 - 3/21**
6:30 HS Youth Group

Other February Events

Thursday 1

10:00 Naomi Circle
11:30 Clergy Cluster

Saturday 3

7:30 The Curious Savage play

Sunday 4

2:00 The Curious Savage play

Thursday 8

6:00 Family Culture Night
Discovery Middle School

Friday 9

10:00 First Church Fellowship
7:30 The Curious Savage play

Saturday 10

7:00 Encore Concert Series
"Cafe' Du Monde"
7:30 The Curious Savage play

Sunday 11

11:15 Club 345
11:30 New Member Class
2:00 The Curious Savage play
3:30 Not Your Momma's Group

Tuesday 13

1:00pm Church Finance
Task Force Meeting

Wednesday 14

Ash Wednesday
Happy Valentine's Day
10:00 UMW Leadership Team
6:00 Trustees

Thursday 15

12:00 Methodist Foundation
6:30 SPR

Sunday 18

11:15 Club 345

Monday 19

President's Day
Office Closed

Tuesday 20

9:30 LAPS Board Meeting

Wednesday 21

5:30 LAPS Family Fun Night
6:30 Finance Team

Thursday 22

4:00 Congregational
Care Team
6:30 Leadership Team

Friday 23

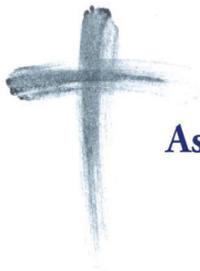
6:30 Novel Theology

Saturday 24

7:00 Story Space Worship

Sunday 25

11:15 SIB Potluck



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

WEDNESDAYS
6:30PM - 8:00PM
YOUTH ROOM

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

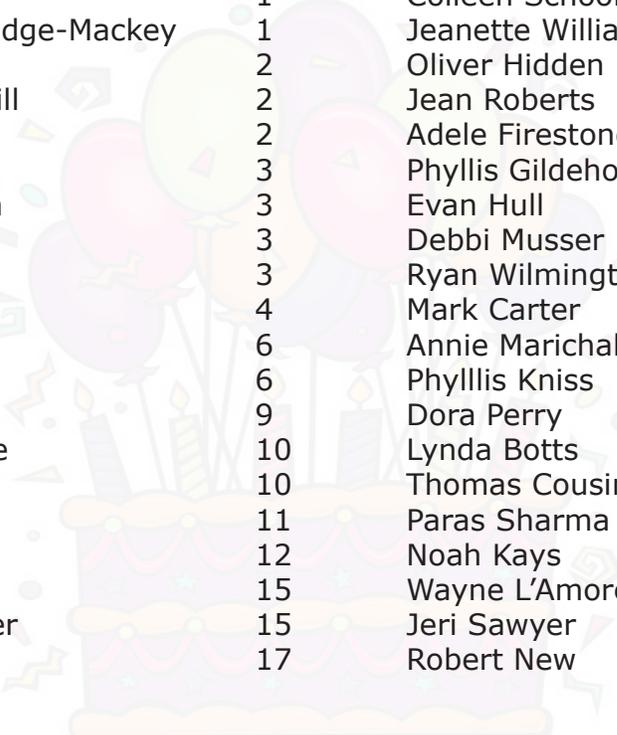
9:00AM ~ YOUTH ROOM
Grades 6th through 12th

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAYS
3:30PM - 5:00PM
YOUTH ROOM

February Celebrations

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Graham Shaw	1	Colleen Schoonover	19
Teagan Wooldridge-Mackey	1	Jeanette Williams	20
Sharon Brown	2	Oliver Hidden	21
Dean Lookingbill	2	Jean Roberts	21
Emily Smith	2	Adele Firestone	21
Marcia Hidden	3	Phyllis Gildehous	21
Erma Patterson	3	Evan Hull	22
Joanne Ruzek	3	Debbi Musser	22
Sara Willcox	3	Ryan Wilmington	22
Martha Palmer	4	Mark Carter	23
Riley Friauf	6	Annie Marichalar	23
Sydney Friauf	6	Phyllis Kniss	24
Nicole Younger	9	Dora Perry	24
Lorraine LaFave	10	Lynda Botts	25
Shivani Singh	10	Thomas Cousino	25
Ed Waldrop	11	Paras Sharma	25
Ashley Singh	12	Noah Kays	26
Betty Evens	15	Wayne L'Amoreaux	27
Earnest Spencer	15	Jeri Sawyer	27
Noah Thomas	17	Robert New	28

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



Bob & Char Robinson	14
Len & Diane Satterfield	21
Jim & Christy Bayly	24





Wednesday mornings 9:00am

HELP WANTED

We need your help. If you haven't been downstairs in a while, Hesselstine Hall and the hallway in front of it have a new floor. Now it needs paint and some book sorting to complete the transformation. Saturday, February 3, starting at 9:00AM, we will paint the walls. Bring your brush, roller and help us paint your church. This is a great time to get to know others while making a difference. On Wednesday, February 7, we will remove the books from the library shelves in Hesselstine. The books will be cleaned, sorted and replaced on the shelves in order. Some books need to be discarded, as do some of the old VCR tapes; and the library can once again be a great resource once it is put back together in a usable manner.

Please, we need your help. This is truly a task where many hands will make light work. If you aren't able paint, sorting can be done while sitting down. We'll provide coffee and refreshments! "A spiritual gift is given each of us so we may serve."

Thank you.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

Living alone and being lonely are not the same thing! Recent studies show that 18% of seniors live alone while 43% report feeling lonely on a regular basis [Ann-Marie Botek in The Elder Loneliness Epidemic]. The Care Team continues to maintain relationships with our homebound church members and reminds them that they are indeed valued! These team members pray regularly for our seniors and visit them frequently; they reach out by telephone to check in and send notes reminding them that they are not forgotten.

Join with us!! If this ministry of compassionate presence and encouragement is something you are interested in providing, please contact Mary Lookingbill at 360-597-8045 or email at m.lookingbill@comcast.net for more details.



FINANCE

We're off to a great start!

The books have been closed for 2017 and we again ended the year in the black! Our Treasurer reports that we had a cash carry-over of about \$10,000. In addition, we did not need to pull the money we had budgeted to use, if needed, from our dedicated funds. Adding to this good news, our 2018 pledges now exceed the amount pledged for 2017, and the anticipated revenue from our newly remodeled rental properties puts us in a balanced budget position.

Your Finance Team is grateful to everyone who supported the ministry of the church in 2017. We are particularly thankful for both to the folks who were steadfast throughout the year in maintaining their financial commitments, and to the folks who worked extremely hard to catch up with their commitments. Thank you to everyone who invested their time, talent, along with their treasure to support the important ministry we are doing through Vancouver First.

One thing we would invite you to consider as we move further into 2018 is establishing a recurring contribution to the church. We have the capacity to receive automatic deposits from your bank account through our partnership with Vanco Services. With automatic contributions, you are able to remain current with your commitments and the Church benefits because the seasonal summer slump in contributions becomes less dramatic.

Sign-up for automatic contributions is available through the church's web site and our Treasurer would be delighted to help you in getting that set up.

Thanks again for giving the church a good start for this new year. You are a blessing!

Your Finance Team

THANK YOU

*Vancouver 1st UMC,
Thank you for your faithful completion of shared giving for connectional ministry. Paying 100% demonstrates your desire to impact lives world wide. Blessings on your ministry in the coming year!*

Brant Henshaw
Conference Treasurer

THE MESSENGER

Vancouver First United Methodist Church, 401 E 33rd St, Vancouver WA 98663

STAFF

MINISTERS...ALL WHO FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST

PastorJon Short
Program/Facilities Administrator....Gary Carter
Director of Youth MinistriesJustin Nutting
Director of Music Ministries....Thomas Rheingans
TreasurerMichelle Mehl
SecretaryBecky Baxter
CustodianBud Stoensescu
Nursery CoordinatorElizabeth Janney
Lay LeadersScott Sawyer, Dean Lookingbill

LIFE CENTER PARTNERS

Story Space ...Casey Banks
Pinoy Van-Port ...Lyn Rush
Project Transformation ...Rachel Neer, Sean Crews
Little Acorn Preschool ...Katie Coop



Happy Valentine's Day

IN OUR PRAYERS

Judy Johnson
Wayne L'Amoreaux
Mary Lou Richeson
John Roberts
Joan Rasmussen
Dolores Dearborn
Bill Morris Family
Don Short

Mindy Ludolph
Rhoda Laws
Lorraine Dix
Anne Harrison
Pat Swanson
Margaret & Cecil Golden
Sue Bottemiller
Dave Smith

We also keep in our prayers all of those in our church family who are recovering from illness, residing in long-term care homes, and those who are on our email prayer chain. If you would like to be added to the email prayer chain, please contact Pastor Jon, Mary Lookingbill or the church office.

First Church extends prayers for all who are representing our country in the Armed Forces. We will continue to hold them in our prayers.



Thank you for having the
Heart of a Servant!

A special "Thank You" to Mary Lookingbill, Jim McGinnis, and the entire Congregational Care Team for their healing and comforting care to the members of our church who are ailing, grieving or can't be with us in the Sanctuary on Sundays.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

1 Peter 4:10

You all truly have the heart of a servant!

OUR MISSION

We are companions on a spiritual journey, engaging minds, transforming hearts, and empowering hands to serve Jesus Christ in our local and global community.

“Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus”



LENT

~Wednesday Evenings~
Lenten Fellowship and Supper
February 14 - March 21 @ 6:00PM
Jason Lee Hall

One of the titles that early Christians used to describe themselves was “Followers of the Way.” These early believers used this language to help others understand that following Jesus meant following a particular “Way” of living. Pastor Jon will be leading a study during Lent that takes a closer look at “The Way” of Jesus. Rev. Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection uses his travels in the Holy Land in “The Way” video series to help us better understand this Way that Jesus lived, so that we might be more faithful in the Way we live.

This Ash Wednesday service will start a weekly Lenten Fellowship Supper each Wednesday through March 21, at 6:00PM. On February 14, we will start in Jason Lee Hall for a light supper, then move to the Sanctuary for Ash Wednesday Service. The following five Wednesday fellowships and suppers will take place in Jason Lee Hall. We hope you will stop by during Lent (2/14 - 3/21), for supper and table conversation about being followers of “The Way.” A free will offering will be received to off-set the cost of the meal and childcare will be provided.

Palm Sunday
Sunday, March 25
Worship 10:00AM

Please join us on Palm Sunday for a celebration of the Easter Season. We invite the children of the church to process into the Sanctuary waving palms to open this special worship service.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, March 25

After worship service, the children will join together for our annual Easter Egg Hunt, rain or shine! All children are welcome - please remember to bring your baskets for collecting the eggs!

Maundy Thursday
Seder Supper with Communion
March 29 @ 6:00PM
Jason Lee Hall

In Hebrew, the word Seder means order. A Seder Meal is a Jewish ceremonial meal that follows a particular order and commemorates the Hebrew Exodus from Egypt. It includes special readings, singing, and eating symbolic foods. Many scholars believe that the Passover meal that Jesus shared with his Disciples prior to his crucifixion was a Seder Meal. A Seder Meal is a family meal that is shared in community so all ages are encouraged to participate. Our Seder Meal will also include a potluck and conclude with sharing Holy Communion.

Easter Services
Sunday, April 1

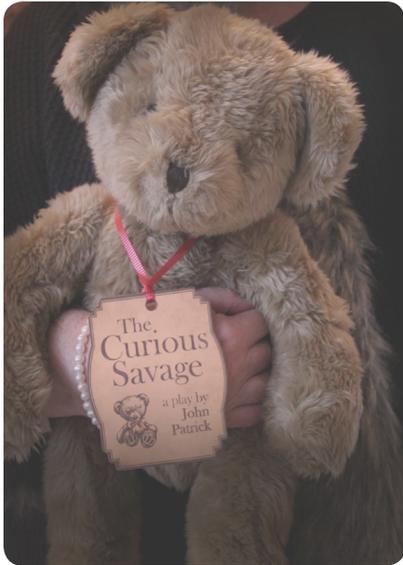
Sunrise Service 6:30AM

VanFUMC, outside the South side lobby doors
Light breakfast to follow the service

Easter Worship Service
9:00AM & 10:30AM
Sanctuary

THE CURIOUS SAVAGE!

*A comedy about
money and greed!*



February
3rd @ 7:30pm
4th @ 2:00pm
9th @ 7:30pm
10th @ 7:30pm
11th @ 2:00pm
Jason Lee Hall



The FM Players

The FM Players presents its next show, "The Curious Savage." Mrs. Savage, who has just inherited \$10 million, is placed in The Cloisters, a sanatorium, so her stepchildren can get the money. In The Cloisters, Mrs. Savage meets five social misfits who help her in thwarting the greedy stepchildren from getting their hands on the money. This delightful comedy features some familiar and new faces. Tickets are on sale now at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3225597>. You may also pick them up in the church office or at the door for the outrageous price of \$5.00!

ENCORE CONCERT SERIES *CAFE' DU MONDE*

Saturday, February 10th 7:00pm



The concert series makes a stop in the French Quarter at the Cafe' Du Monde for a variety of music styles!

- European
- Latin American
- African-American
- Dixieland
- Rag-Time
- Swinging Blues
- Classical Pyrotechnics
- Music of...
Louis Moreau Gottschalk



Enjoy authentic New Orleans Beignets and Chicory Coffee!

*This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors for a free and very entertaining concert!
Donations are always accepted and appreciated.*

Please share this flyer with your family and friends!

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