

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 02/26 • Ash Wednesday Service • 5:30 p.m.
- 02/26 • Lent Supper Series • After service
- 02/27 • Leadership • 6 p.m. (*new time*)
- 03/01 • Holy Communion Service
- 03/02 • Little Acorn Preschool Meeting - 12 p.m.
- 03/04 • Bridges Group decorates the lobby • 9 a.m.
- 03/04 • Lent Supper Series • 5:30 p.m.
- 03/05 • UMW Naomi Circle - 10 a.m.
- 03/07 • United Methodist Women's Soup Derby & Dessert Auction • 5 p.m.
- 03/11 • UMW Leadership • 10 a.m.
- 03/11 • CLARK: Concert Choir Rehearsal • 11 a.m.
- 03/11 • Lent Supper Series • 5:30 p.m.
- 03/11 • CLARK: Chorale Rehearsal
- 03/12 • Little Acorn Preschool Meeting - 9:30 a.m.
- 03/12 • CLARK: Women's Choral Ensemble Rehearsal • 1 p.m.
- 03/12 • CLARK: Warm up and performance • 5:30 p.m.
- 03/13 • First Church Fellowship • 10 a.m.
- 03/14 • CLARK: Concert Choir performance • 6 :30 p.m.
- 03/16 • Little Acorn Preschool Meeting - 12:15 p.m.
- 03/17 • Care Team Meeting • 4 p.m.
- 03/18 • UMW Rachel Circle • 10 a.m.
- 03/18 • Trustees Meeting • 4:30 p.m.
- 03/18 • Lent Supper Series • 5:30 p.m.
- 03/18 • Finance Meeting • 6:30 p.m.
- 03/18 • Little Acorn Preschool Reserve Bethel • all day
- 03/19 • Little Acorn Preschool Reserve Bethel • all day
- 03/19 • Methodist Foundation Meeting • 12 p.m.
- 03/19 • Staff Parish Relations Committee • 6:30 p.m.
- 03/20 • Little Acorn Preschool Reserve Bethel • all day
- 03/22 • UMCOR Special Sunday
- 03/22 • Potluck for Somewhere in Between Group 8 • 11:15 a.m. (will be in Hesseltine Hall this month)
- 03/24 • Little Acorn Preschool Board Meeting • 9:30 a.m.
- 03/25 • Lent Supper Series • 5:30 p.m.
- 03/26 • Leadership Team Meeting • 6 p.m. (open to all)
- 03/27 • Ocean Park Men's Service Weekend (3/27-29th)

SUNDAYS

- 8:15 a.m. Adult Choir Practice
- 9 a.m. Adult Education Seekers Class
- 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School (grades 6-12)
- 10 a.m. Worship Service
- 3:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
- 6 p.m. Bell Ensemble Practice

MONDAYS

- 9:30 a.m. Knitting Group
- 6:30 p.m. Monday Night Leaven Group

TUESDAYS

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Leaven Group

WEDNESDAYS

- 9 a.m. Bridges Coffee & Conversation
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group

SUNDAY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There's a variety of opportunities to serve your church as we head into the Lenten season. Foremost, the church is looking for ushers, greeters, audio visual team, and hospitality servers for Sunday services. If you would like to serve in any of these capacities, sign up at the information booth Sundays, call the church office, or email office@vanfumc.org. A workshop and training for these important positions is planned for March.

CONTACTS

- Senior Pastor | Rev. Bruce Smith
- Program & Facilities Administrator | Gary Carter
- Director of Youth Ministries | Justin Nutting
- Director of Music Ministries | Thomas Rheingans
- Choir Director | Amber Tripp
- Nursery Coordinator | Jenifer Walton
- Treasurer | Michelle Mehl
- Office Administrator | Ginny Sorenson
- Maintenance Technician | Scott Hansen
- Lay Leaders | Evan Hull & John Gentry
- Trustee's Chair | Thomas Musser

**40 Days as Companions
 on a
 Spiritual Journey**

by, Pastor Bruce Smith

What are you giving up for Lent? Is giving something up for Lent an annual practice for you? It is a tradition from the church that is an opportunity for us to remember the sacrificial love of Jesus. In giving something up we are asked to change something so that we might grow closer to God. Sometimes in giving something up we are also able to begin something new.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is on February 26th. The season lasts for 40 days (*not counting the Sundays*). I'm inviting you to read "40 Days with Wesley". Each daily reading will include a prayer, scripture, a passage from Wesley's writings and some questions for reflection. I hope in making use of this resource you will find your faith in our Lord Jesus Christ is enriched. We are also offering an opportunity for you to share in a small group how the daily devotionals are moving you in your faith. So please also join us on Wednesday evenings for a meal, prayers and reflection.

What might you need to give up in order to set aside 15 minutes to pray, to read, to reflect on your walk with Jesus? 15 minutes may not sound like much, but it will take some intentionality to have a new daily life practice. Will you give up 15 minutes in the

morning or the evening to spend some intentional time with God?

One of the blessings for me in returning to the Vancouver area is that I have been able to reconnect with my running buddy. We run about once a week. In the time between I know he is running, and if I want to keep up I need to do some work too. The accountability helps, but of course as we jog along the LaCamas trails we also talk about work, family, books we've read, we share our lives making the journey a bit more meaningful.

I pray we will continue to build up the community within the church so that we will be stronger to accomplish our mission to be companions on a spiritual journey to serve Jesus Christ in our local and global community. We will be starting new efforts to bring small groups together. I also ask that you do your best to invite someone to share the journey with you. Have you noticed one who tends to sit alone on a Sunday morning? Could you invite them to join you for lunch after worship? Could you invite them for coffee later in the week? How might you participate in building up the network of companions during these 40 days? \$

Lent • 2020

40 Days

Join us as we make the Lenten journey with 40 days of John Wesley, this during our supper series on Wednesday nights at 5:30 p.m. in Jason Lee Hall starting with our Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 26th.

Lenten Supper Series

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.
Starting Feb. 26th

We encourage you to sign up for the Wednesday supper series at the information booth or with the church office. And for our Ash Wednesday service, you are invited to bring a dish for a potluck supper as the church will provide the protein.

After the Ash Wednesday service, Pastor Bruce will introduce the Lenten Supper Series and the book "40 Days with Wesley."

This engaging daily devotional weaves quotes and excerpts from John Wesley, the father of Methodism, with inspirational readings on faith and prayer from Rueben P. Job, well-known leader in spiritual formation. Each selection offers a simple daily pattern of reflection with a prayer, Scripture, and short readings that make this daily devotional an easy read.

Lenten Supper & Study

Starts February 26th

Ash Wednesday Service

February 26th • 5:30 p.m.

Supper Study Dates

Wed. Feb. 26th
Wed. Mar. 4th
Wed. Mar. 11th
Wed. Mar. 18th
Wed. Mar. 25th
Wed. Apr. 1st
Thur. April 9th

Easter Sunday

April 12th, 2020

8 a.m. Morning Service
9 a.m. Easter Breakfast
10 a.m. Easter Service

VanFUMC will host two Easter Services this year. We begin the day with an early morning service on the southern steps of the church in the outdoors. Then everyone is invited to join for a free friends and family breakfast starting at 9 a.m. Our Easter Service begins at 10 a.m.

Holy Week • 2020



Palm Sunday Service

April 5th • 10 a.m.



Easter Egg Hunt

April 5th • After service



Maundy Thursday

April 9th • 5:30 p.m.



Good Friday Service

April 10th • 5:30 p.m.



Tickets:

Adults - \$12

Children -\$5

(10 & younger)

Saturday, March 7, 2020 • 5 - 8 p.m.

The Soup Derby is one of the United Methodist Women's annual fundraisers. Proceeds support global and local mission projects, including child foster care, Days for Girls, Boys and Girls Club, and others, wherever the need is greatest.

Tickets go on sale Sunday, February 9th. Tickets can be purchased at the Information Booth after service on Sundays, from United Methodist Women anytime, and at the door on March 7th.

What happens at the Soup Derby & Dessert Auction?

Doors open at 5 p.m. The aroma from homemade soups, including everything from chilis to chow-

ders, fills the air. You check out each soup entry -- all entries are labeled, and ingredients identified, so you know which soups you want to sample. After you finish sampling, you pick up a bowl (or two) or your favorites. Salad, rolls, and beverages complete your meal.

You vote for your favorite soup. Based on the votes, the People's Choice Award winners (1st, 2nd and 3rd places) are announced.

Then, Gary Carter puts on his auctioneer hat and hosts the Dessert Auction, which features cakes, pies and other goodies. Will an apple pie be sold for \$60, again?? Will the winning bidders share their dessert with their table mates? It's a fun part of the evening!

How can I be part of this evening of food, fun and fellowship?

Buy a ticket for you, your family & friends!

To enter your soup or contribute a dessert, contact:

SOUP: Gwyn Vollmer • 360-694-5100
(lgvollmer@comcast.com)

DESSERT: Nancy Janney • 360-903-5971
(nktownend@comcast.net)

We want to thank our church family for supporting us with the Soup Derby and Dessert Fund Raiser, along with all the soup and dessert chefs! This event will enable us to continue mission with women, children and youth around our world! - Eleanor Sefton.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!!

**Wednesday, April 8th noon-2pm Jason Lee Hall
General Meeting/Luncheon**

Prayer and Self Denial program
"We Rise: Meeting God's Call To Transform Community"

We will have a special guest speaker, Stephen Herndon, a Family Support Specialist. He will be sharing with us **CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY**, whose mission is to develop healthy children, create strong families, build engaged communities, and speak and advocate for children in Clark County..



**TERRY WARLICK
2019 People's Choice
Soup Derby Winner**



First Church Fellowship

Friday, March 13, 2020

Hesseltine Hall, 10 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Steve Holgate

A Brief Biography

A Civil War buff since childhood, Steve Holgate has been portraying Abraham Lincoln onstage, in classrooms and in other public venues for more than twenty years. His audiences have ranged from middle-school students to retirement home residents, and from Oregon to Mexico and Sri Lanka.

"I think it's important for Americans to have a real understanding of who Lincoln was and what he did," Holgate says. "He wasn't a statue or a saint, but a man who struggled as any of us do to find meaning in his life and

work. His ability to transcend his limitations, evolve a vision for the country, and unite the nation behind it is what makes him to this day perhaps our most inspiring figure."

Steve Holgate is a fifth-generation Oregonian who served for several years as a legislative staffer for the United States Congress and the Oregon State Senate before joining the Foreign Service in 1984. While with the Foreign Service, he served in Paris, Madagascar, Morocco, Mexico and Sri Lanka as well as in Washington, D.C. before retiring in 2002.

In addition to his governmental experience, Mr. Holgate has at various times: acted with an improvisational theater group; taught political science at a small college; written as a freelance journalist; worked as a crew member of a barge on the canals of France; served as an overseas correspondent for a Portland radio station; managed two political campaigns; and lived in a tent while working as a gardener in Malibu, California. His first novel, "Tangier," was released this year by Blank Slate Press to favorable reviews. Mr. Holgate resides in Portland, Oregon.

MEN'S SERVICE WEEKEND

Friday, March 27th to Sunday, March 29th, 2020

Please mark your calendar for Friday, March 27 to Sunday, March 29, 2020. The destination is Ocean Park Retreat Center for the second annual MEN'S SERVICE WEEKEND. The event is for men of United Methodist Churches from Clark County and the Pacific Northwest. This is as great time to get to know other men from UMC churches while helping to make Ocean Park the best Christian retreat center it can be. Register online at <https://opretreat.org/retreats> The weekend will include time for fellowship and time for work doing the many needed jobs to prepare the camp for the new season. The projects include a range of abilities so all may participate. The projects

identified so far include updating exterior lighting, improving the ocean view looking out from the Sea Breeze Lodge, trail clearing, challenge course clearing, and the interior painting. Rain or shine, inside or outside, whatever the weather provides, we will have great work to do.

There is a \$40 fee to cover the cost of meals for Saturday and Sunday. No one will be turned away. If cost is a concern, contact Brandon Scheer, Camp Director. Last year we had a great working retreat and this year should be even better. Please register soon so planning and supplies can be obtained. If you have any questions, contact Tom Musser at 360-607-3472.

Youth MISSION

Last year, Justin Nutting and Amber Tripp took our youth on a mission trip to Seattle. They helped the community with outreach services providing food for the homeless and various "yard work" environmental projects.

2019 Youth Group Mission Reflections

"It was a great experience to make memories and do service work. I enjoyed all the work I did for others."
- Jordan

"It was a really good mission. I loved making new friends and doing great service work."
- Grace

"L.A.S.T was a humbling experience that I will never forget. I enjoyed getting the chance to work with homeless people and other youth."
- Melody

"L.A.S.T was an amazing experience this year. I learned so much and did new things each day. Most of what I did was weeding, but it benefited everyone who need it. I love helping, and this helped me go on this path."
- Anonymous

"OSI this year was breathtaking. I loved that everyone we helped got a fresh hot meal. I will do whatever it takes to help in so many different ways. It was a very touching experience for me."
- Sydney

2020 YOUTH MISSION



NEW ORLEANS, LA PORTLAND, OR

"L.A.S.T was an awesome experience. I enjoyed feeding the homeless of Seattle, as well as clearing blackberries."
- Logan

"I enjoyed helping people such as the homeless. I was able to help feed the homeless and make food twice."
- Yasha

"It was a great trip with lots of chances to do good for others. We thank you all for the support."
Jack

APRIL 18TH

Our annual Youth Auction is slated for Saturday, April 18th, at 5 p.m. in Jason Lee Hall at Vancouver First United Methodist Church.

This year's theme is Mardi Gras, as our senior high youth will be taking their mission to New Orleans, Louisiana. The middle school youth will be taking part in mission work in Portland outreach centers.

Sign-up for tickets to the auction and dinner soon in the church office, at the information booth on Sundays, or by emailing youth@vanfumc.org. If you have anything to donate for the silent auction, please contact Youth Director Justin Nutting or Jen Walton. A list of accepted items for auction and procurement forms will be available in the church office.

See you there April 18th!

MISSIONS THAT BLOSSOMED FROM VANFUMC

2020 Scholarships

Scholarships From:

The Vancouver First United Methodist Church

These are scholarships for students of our congregation, and is administered through a scholarship committee with the VanFUMC Trustees.

The 2020 scholarship applications are in process, and will be available on our website by March 1st.

The completed applications are due by April 1, 2020.

Please submit your application, essay, personal resume, scanned transcript and scanned letters of recommendation to: scholarships@vanfumc.org or printed out and mailed to First United Methodist Church, 401 East 33rd St., Vancouver, WA 98663.

Scholarships From:

The Vancouver First United Methodist Foundation

The Vancouver Methodist Foundation provides scholarships for high school graduates, nursing students and for seminary education. The high school scholarships are for Clark County high school graduates pursuing higher education. The application form is available at all of the high school Counseling Centers; from the Foundation at vanmethodistfoundation@gmail.com, and from the FUMC website. Questions can be directed to:

Jennifer Walton atjcw Walton47@hotmail.com.

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY APRIL 1ST.

Successful applicants will be celebrated during the June 7th Sunday worship service.

- **CHARLES ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP:** The Foundation offers a Charles Anderson scholarship through the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington. Eligible recipients must be a member or the child of member of FUMC, have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and be a full-time currently enrolled college student. Applications are available via an email to Jennifer Walton, jcw Walton47@hotmail.com and **due by April 30th.**
- **NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS:** Nursing scholarships are offered for students in Clark College's nursing program. Contact Bill Owen at beaaowen@gmail.com for information.
- **SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIPS:** Seminary scholarships are offered for students pursuing a seminary education. Contact Dean Lookingbill at d.lookingbill@comcast.net for information.

- **PINOY VAN-PORT MINISTRIES**
- Pursuing Peacemaking Without Limits
- Matt.5:9 Relaunching

- Young Adults: Bi-weekly @ Monday Evenings (5:45-7 p.m.).

- Whether you are a young adult or young at heart, you are welcome to join us for food, fellowship, Book Study and lively discussion. You are never too late in spiritual formation or just nurturing through each other's life journey. Location: TBD each time-a restaurant, mall, park or library meeting room. Contact Lyn Rush 360-936-9206 pinoyvpm2017@gmail.com.

- **Little Acorn Preschool**
- Little Acorn had a successful 2020/21 registration! We do still have space in our Firefly 2.5 year old class, as well as our Dragonfly, Butterfly and Busy Bee PM classes for next year. We had a wonderful turn out for our Art Show and Family Appreciation breakfast. This year, we partnered with local artists, who joined classrooms and helped students create incredible works of art!! We proudly displayed our collaborative pieces in Jason Lee Hall, while families had a chance to eat, socialize and learn about the artistic process that students experienced. Our staff and students are sure ready for some sunshine, come on Spring!!! *Katie Coop, Director*
- *Note: Check out the preschool website as they have several fundraisers throughout the year to help raise funds for preschool scholarships and school equipment maintenance.*

March Birthdays

Aaron Rasmussen
Agnes Ekeya
Alexandra Storey
Alice Highley
Brandon Bowen
Brian Young
Cavin Ortega-Miller
Christian Selig
Debbi Schultz
Debbie Wilmington
Dennis Short
Diana Estep
Edwin Kraft
Eric Bacon
Gerald Ellis
Gordon Meyer
Hope Ortega
Jan Gist

Jan Maaske
Jerry Burson
Joseph Rocha'
Kenneth Budnik
Locke Landis
Love Miller
Malcolm Storey
Marcus Ekeya
Margene Qualls
Memphis Wooldridge
Nancy Wikstrom
Olivia Highley
Patricia Roe
Paul Manney
Peter Sagar
Robin Ruzek
Ronald DeLisle
Sarah Shoemaker

Scott Femling
Scott Sawyer
Sean Peck
Sharon Wyle
Sheila Leonhardt
Vicki Hall
Vili Kaumatule
Wilson McKibben
Yen Ortega

March Anniversaries

Tom & Debbi Musser
Randy & Pat Broeckel
Michael & Julie Harris
Paul & Linda Lewis
Ike & Agnes Ekeya
Bill & Elizabeth Owen

Prayer List

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 prayer chain.

Ankit A.

Billy Pond

Lorraine Dix

Lawrence L.

Pat Swanson
David Morrison

Joyce Kleinschmidt

Mike & Michelle M.

Marion Noe and her sister Susan

Steve and Nancy Rasmussen & the family of Jerry Rasmussen

The Family of Mary Lou Richeson





AN INTERVIEW

by Debbi Musser

Deone Washington

This month's interview is with Deone Washington. Deone is a one of our newest members of our congregation. He joined the church in October 2019. He is temporarily living at The Oaks at Timberline, which is across the street from the church. He is recovering from surgeries from a logging accident. While he was recovering, he would watch all the people coming and going from our church. He noticed that they all looked happy. He thought to himself, I want to get some of that, but I wonder if they will accept me.

He asked a neighbor who attends our church if they would accept him, and she said yes, and gave him a big hug. He said our congregation is accepting, loving and kind. He said that our congregation shows more joy in our church than he has seen anywhere. He said that the love the church shares with him has made him stronger. He enjoys listening to Pastor Bruce, the choir, and the magnificent piano music.

Deone was born on a military base in San Diego, CA. He has two older brothers named Albert and Otis. His father, Albert Washington, was in the Navy for 29 years. In the 1950's and 60's, Deone and his family lived in several places wherever the military sent them.

His mother's side of the family were sharecroppers. They followed wherever the crops were. He has lived in Longview, WA, Portland, OR and Lafayette, Indiana.

Deone's grandmother, Victoria Freeman was the first African American to live in Longview. Today there is a park named after her in Longview. Due to the racial issues of those times, the African American's were segregated to live on one street in Longview. They grew their own crops and raised beef and dairy cattle. Deone lived in a 4-story log house that his great grandfather had built. Deone also spent a part of his childhood with his other Grandmother Fontinouin Lafayette, Indiana.

Once his father retired from the military, the family moved to Portland where his father worked as a foreman for the Veterans Hospital warehouse in Vancouver. His mother, Elizabeth Washington got a job with the University of Oregon Medical School in Portland. This is now what we call Oregon Health Sciences University. Racial issues still existed then, and African American women were not allowed to be a nurse. She was only allowed to work as a candy striper. Eventually times changed so she studied to be a Licensed Vocational Nurse. After many more years of hard work she received her Registered Nurse

degree and in time she became the Director of Nursing. Today Elizabeth is now in her early 90's and lives in Southwest Portland.

Deone has five children and nine grandchildren who all live within the Portland/Salem/Vancouver metropolitan area. Deone enlisted in the Marine Corps and

served time in Vietnam. He spent 6 years in the military from 1970-76. A highlight for him each year is that he and his fellow veteran buddies get together for a reunion.

As a teenager Deone is proud of the time that he spent as a member of the Hawks Drum and Bugle Corps. The members were from all over the Northwest. They traveled to competitions all over the United States and

were even invited to march in President Nixon's inaugural. As an adult he became a big brother mentor for the bugle corps and basketball teams.

If you haven't already been blessed to hear

Deone sing he has a beautiful singing voice. He has been a soloist at FUMC. He began his singing career when he was five years old by singing in his childhood church. Deone believes that the beauty of his singing voice is not from him, but God who is speaking through him. I must agree, he can move you to tears with his God given talent. §

“Deone believes that the beauty of his singing voice is not from him, but God who is speaking through him.”

